

European Adventure—

My Autumn "Vacation"

by James Green

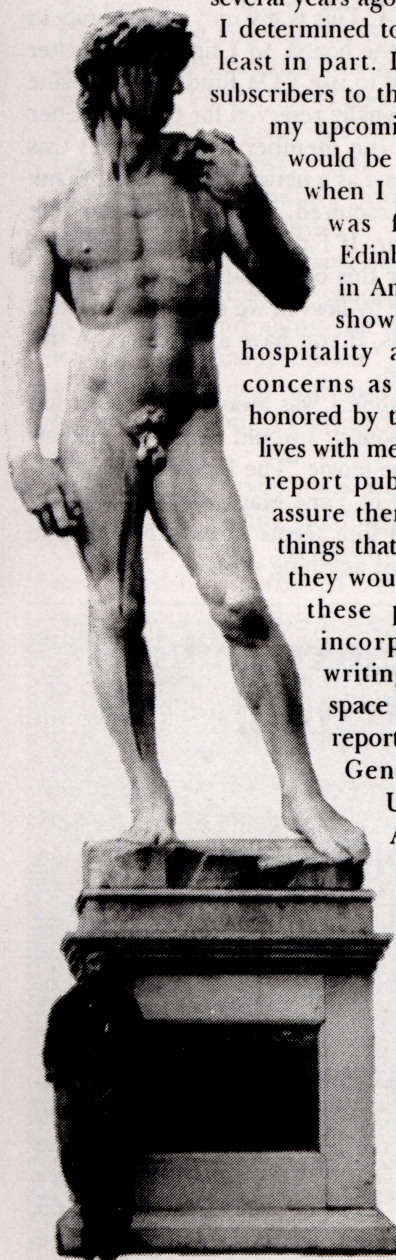
If you read the last issue (#25, October '93,) you know that when it was being sent out, I was travelling in western Europe. My trip was mostly vacation, planned with a good friend several years ago. But at nearly the last minute, I determined to make it a "business" trip, at least in part. I contacted a few European subscribers to this Newsletter, telling them of my upcoming travels and asking if they would be interested in getting together when I passed through their cities. I was fortunate to have Jay in Edinburgh, Scotland, and Jeremiah in Amsterdam respond. Both men showed me and my friend great hospitality and shared some of their concerns as men and as FTMs. I was honored by their willingness to share their lives with me. While I don't feel I can really report publicly about them, I wish to assure them both that I remember the things that they told me, the things that they would like to see emphasized in these pages, and I will try to incorporate those ideas into my writings as I go along. But as my space is limited this issue, I want to report especially on my visit with the Gender Team of the Free University Hospital in Amsterdam.

I wrote in advance of my visit to Jos. Megens, Coordinator of the Gender Team, and asked if I could visit them at the Hospital when I was in Amsterdam, explaining that I only wanted to introduce myself and to have the opportunity of meeting anyone on their staff who would have the time to spend with me. I was honored to be welcomed by Mr. Megens, who provided me with copious

amounts of literature about their program and research, and who introduced me to Dr. Kuiper and Dr. Hage.

Dr. Kuiper is one of 3 psychologists working with the Gender Team along with 2 psychiatrists. The program has treated about 1300 TSs, receiving about 150 applications each year, and performing about 40 FTM surgeries annually. The average age of applicants is 20 years. Long-term follow-up through the program is optional, but they will be performing a study of all applicants from June of 1991 through 1996, presumably hoping to establish some benchmark data. Candidacy for FTMs is determined through a series of 5 to 10 psychiatric sessions and "many tests." Once the team has agreed that the applicant will be a successful candidate, they authorize hormone therapy. Visits to the psychologist or psychiatrist take place every 3 months due to high volume. Dr. Kuiper said candidates must wait one year for top surgery, but they may have their oophorectomy "whenever." He stressed that it is important for TSs to "confront the dark side: the loneliness, the lack of fulfillment of expectations." Dr. Kuiper said that he tries to steer people away from surgical sex reassignment if at all possible, looking for creative, individual solutions to gender dysphoria and the connection between sex and gender. "Some people do lead double lives," he said. He also said, "The effects of FTM transition is more generally positive (than MTF results), except for frustration about the inadequacy of the penis." Some of the problems he cited were self-centeredness, and the urging of immediate acceptance followed by anger when immediate acceptance isn't forthcoming. "Loneliness is a cause for regret," he noted. He pointed out that "It is impossible to ignore the past. The treatment is not a goal, but a means for self-actualization." I wholeheartedly agree.

Dr. Hage came directly from a surgery to meet me. He was very complimentary about this Newsletter and the Group we have, and I certainly appreciated his interest and acknowledgment. He and I discussed his approach to genital reconstruction and the history of the procedures. We often think of Denmark as the birthplace of sex reassignment, or perhaps there were bizarre experiments during the Third Reich of Nazi Germany, and we often think of the concept of FTMs being an afterthought, but Dr. Hage told me that the Russians began FTM procedures in the 1930's, and England's Sir Harold Gillies spoke about FTM as well as MTF possibilities from the start of his research. Gillies performed the first documented FTM genital reconstruction in 1948. Dr. Hage himself recommends metaoidioplasty as "an elegant surgical solution." This procedure was developed concurrently and independently by Dr. Laub in the U.S. and by Dr. F.G. Bouman, Dr. Hage's predecessor in Amsterdam. The major difference between Laub's technique and the Bouman technique is that Laub emphasizes sexual function as a



The author posed for a street artist- nice likeness?! photo by Marcy Sheiner

Autumn Adventure *continued*

priority, while Bouman emphasized a urethral priority. Dr. Hage's contribution to this work is documented in his book, *From Peniplastica Totalis to Reassignment of the External Genitalia in Female-to-Male Transsexuals*, reviewed in FTM Newsletter issue #20.

FTMs in The Netherlands have a real advantage because the State medical system picks up the cost. People can come from other European countries, and they do come from Rumania, Albania, Yugoslavia; but they are not taking visiting patients from the United States. Even in Amsterdam, there are people who do not think the State should be paying for sex reassignment surgery, so Dr. Hage says they have to keep a low profile. The Gender Team works with many groups to provide education, but Dr. Hage feels it is too risky to push the envelope too far for fear of having State funding restricted. As for legal rights for TSs, just like in California (and many other U.S. States) they can have legal status in the new sex if they have completed treatment, carry the diagnosis of Transsexual, and cannot reproduce. Dr. Hage is a young man, and his research and techniques, plus his respect for us as a population deserving care, could lead to surgical advancements in the future.

Also, while in Amsterdam I had the pleasure of meeting Anna De Nijs, maker of excellent silicone genital prostheses for FTMs. Because of space limitations, I'll include more about Ms. De Nijs and her products in the next issue, but you can get a preview if you have a copy of Hage's book mentioned above: her work is described therein.

So, that was the extent of the "business" portion of my trip. I also visited, for pleasure, Ireland, Norway, Copenhagen, Paris, Rouen, Chartres, Giverny, and Le Mont-Saint-Michel, Milan, Venice, Florence, Rome, Athens, and the Greek islands Corfu and Syros. One thing I'd like to report is that traveling as a man is very different than as a woman, even as an androgynous one. And many people expressed concern regarding how I would handle my injection materials with respect to baggage checks at international borders. I can report that I had no difficulty whatever. I carried enough syringes for the two months and one 10cc vial of testosterone enanthate. I also carried a written note from my doctor stating that I was her patient and was authorized to carry these materials. I never had to produce the note. No one ever examined my backpack, and no x-ray examination ever caused any alarm. I also didn't have any problems dealing with urination without a urethral extension: throughout Europe most public restrooms have "cabinets," and it is very common for men to use them as opposed to the "pissoir" without prejudice. If you've worried about international travel for either of these reasons, don't fear.

While I was away, many of you responded to my appeal for funds in the October issue. Thank you all. The 1993 Financial

Report appears elsewhere in this issue, and it shows us in a good position to start the new year. With luck, we'll keep up the same level of donations throughout the year.

One development that occurred in my absence was that I was appointed to a seat on the Board of Directors of the IFGE (International Foundation for Gender Education). The seat I was appointed to fill is a limited term, expiring this March. I've been nominated in the current election for a 3-year Board term beginning in March, 1994. But while I'm on the Board now there is only one meeting I can attend as a voting Director, and that's this January 15, 1994, at the Foundation headquarters in Wayland, MA. This is my only opportunity to have some real visibility on the board, so I figured I'd better take it; but to do so, I've had to use FTM funds for my plane ticket. FTM funds are traditionally reserved for the Newsletter and networking efforts. If the membership approves this emergency expense on my part as a networking effort, I thank you, and I assure you that, if required, I will repay the amount during the course of the year. If I receive sufficient negative feedback for using funds for this organizational purpose, we will write a provision into the by-laws (if we ever write by-laws) prohibiting such use of funds. If you have an opinion on this matter, please write or call me.

One thing came and went while I was away, and no one has had the slightest comment about it: I would really like to know if anyone saw and or liked the movie "The Ballad of Little Jo." Billed in the August 30 issue of Time Magazine as "Little Sex Change on the Prairie," this film seems to have been a true tempest in a tea pot. Did I miss anything at all?

FTM Resource Guide Now Available

The FTM Group has pooled its resource lists and is now pleased to make available a 26 page guide to Gender Self-Help and Rap Groups, Gender Information and Education Groups, Gender Programs, Medical Service Providers, Professional Societies, Public Speakers on Gender Issues, Publications and Newsletters, and Vendors of Prosthetic Devices. The guide also includes a suggested reading list of books about transsexualism, crossdressing, medical and legal aspects of transsexualism, and biographies of FTMs. The Guide is available for \$3.00, postage paid. Any profits from the sale of the Guide support the *FTM Newsletter*. Periodic additions or corrections to the Guide will be published in the *FTM Newsletter*, and the *FTM Resource Guide* will be re-issued each June. **To order your copy, send \$3.00 check or money order (payable FTM) to FTM Resource Guide, 5337 College Ave. #142, Oakland, CA 94618.**

FTM Crossdresser Murdered

by Jordy informatics

This one isn't pretty. There's been a brutal murder in Nebraska involving one of our own. Details, mixed with opinion, and unfortunately prejudice, are trickling in, but the gist of the situation is this: Brandon Teena (nee Teena Brandon) a passing FTM, popular with the girls, was outed in the press, and subsequently raped and murdered by two men who had known him as "he" before the outing.

The story first appeared in the straight press in early January as a filler item, and an article on the case has been published in the SAN FRANCISCO Bay Times of January 13. Expect fiery letters in the queer press, talk show appearances by Brandon's girlfriends, and a made-for-TV movie.

Brandon's murder is raising questions in Nebraska, across the country, and in my own mind about the bizarre ways in which "inappropriate" gender identification is dealt with in both the hetero and homosexual sectors of society.

In Nebraska, two men were so horrified at having their eggshell-thin sense of masculine self threatened by a perceived interloper in all-boy land, that they punished the intruder with rape and death. Rape, of course, is the traditional method of punishment for unruly women. Martin Hiraga, of the NGLTF says "There is some speculation that Lotter and Nissen did this to 'prove Teena was a woman.'" This is important to note because it speaks directly to the issue of the power to self-define. Brandon defined himself as a man. The "real men" of Richardson Co., Neb, disagreed with him, and got in the last word.

Pat Phalen, of Citizens for Equal Protection, says "We are trying to combat the concentration in news reports around here on the crossdressing aspect, which is clouding the issue." Crossdressing is not clouding the issue, crossdressing is central to the issue. Brandon did not identify as a lesbian, but as a man, and his attire was a crucial factor, along with his haircut, name, and mannerisms, in creating the initially successful impression that he was just one of the boys. Again, this speaks directly to the issue of the power to self-define. Brandon is no longer here to tell the well-meaning citizens to let him decide

for himself what to call himself in this world.

Mindy Ridgway, writing for the Bay Times, consistently refers to Brandon as "she," and quotes Terry Person of CUAUV saying "Basically, the people down in that county are trying to bury the fact the woman was a lesbian." But the woman wasn't a lesbian. The "woman" lived full time as a heterosexual man, and was passing as just that until his genetic femaleness was reported in the local press. Once more, this speaks directly to the issue of the power to self-define.

There has been a lot of controversy in the queer community recently over whether the term transgender should be included on mastheads in the gay/les/bi press, and in the official names of freedom day parades. Nevermind that these

parades commemorate a riot started by a handful of queens and a butch dyke in a suit. In the women's community, debate rages over who and what qualifies as a woman. Nationally, the brouhaha is over the inclusion of transgendered individuals in the Clinton administration's proposed health plan. Locally, it's in the upcoming decision by the San Francisco Human Rights Commission about whether or not to include us in protective legislation.

Brandon Teena was not killed because *she* was a Lesbian, *he* was killed because *he* was transgendered. This is neither more or less horrific than if he had been killed for lesbianism, but it is different. If the murder of Brandon Teena fuels legislative test cases on human rights, perhaps his death will not

have been futile. If the queer community makes of Brandon a martyr to a cause, so be it. But if he is to be canonized in any way, it should be done in such a way that respects his right to self-definition. Brandon's brand of transgenderism placed him, paradoxically, both in and out of the closet. Because he passed, he could assimilate. His girlfriends weren't lesbians; his pals were "other" guys. His death was directly related to other people refusing to let him define himself for himself, and go his path in peace. Self definition as lesbian, as anything, can be empowering, but to have that same definition forced upon one against one's will is disempowering.

The queer community is looking to Nebraska, and I'm looking to the queer community to have respect for the memory of Brandon Teena, and allow him what the thugs in Nebraska would not: his right to self-define.



Brandon Teena

Illustration courtesy of Transsexual News Telegraph

What's in the News?

FDA Approves Testosterone Patch

October 12, 1993, in the *San Francisco Chronicle*: "...Alza Corp., the Palo Alto (California) company that pioneered the development of the \$1.4 billion-a-year transdermal patch business, said yesterday that it has received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration to begin selling its Testoderm Patch."

"Although some may be wondering why the world needs more of a hormone many associate with male aggressiveness, the Alza patch actually is designed to minimize mood swings among men who suffer from a relatively rare medical condition known as hypogonadism.

"Hypogonadism has a variety of causes, including cancer of the testes or pituitary gland, which requires surgical removal of one of these organs. It is also caused by a genetic condition called Klinefelter's Syndrome, in which males are born with an extra X chromosome.

"The symptoms of the disease, which affects about 150,000 men in the United States, include not only reduced sexual activity but also persistent fatigue, depression, and an inability to grow body hair and develop muscles.

"The current treatment—testosterone injections every two to three weeks—can cause wide mood swings, from aggressiveness and euphoria in the days after an injection to depression and lethargy as testosterone levels in the blood decline.

"Alza's patch is designed to minimize those mood swings by keeping testosterone at more normal levels. The cloth patch, which is applied daily to the patient's scrotum, delivers the hormone into the blood stream and mimics the body's own fluctuations of testosterone over a 24-hour period.

"...Although the initial market for Alza's patch is small, doctors and financial analysts say it could grow dramatically by the end of the decade, because of growing evidence linking low testosterone levels with bone and muscle loss in older men.

"Testosterone levels decline naturally in men over 40. The use of testosterone patches could become a common treatment for osteoporosis among elderly men.

"Meanwhile, some observers worry that the patch may be misused. Testosterone is one of the anabolic steroids that athletes use to build muscle and improve performance. It is listed as a "controlled substance" by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the FDA.

"But Linda Atkinson, Alza's associate director of clinical research, said she doubts that the patch will be used illegally, because it requires many patches to get the effect of a single shot of testosterone.

"You would have to put a lot of patches all over the body to get the blood levels where you would want them," Atkinson

said. "It would be easier to inject it."

"Nonetheless, she said, "I'm sure it will be tried," adding that Alza, like other steroid producers, is taking steps to prevent unauthorized use of its latest patch."

In a related communication from Dr. Sheila Kirk, IFGE Division of Medical Liaison and Research, dated August 5, 1993, it was revealed that a controlled study of FTM individuals using testosterone patches to be marketed by another manufacturer may be conducted in cooperation with the manufacturer and the Free University Hospital in Amsterdam. If this study proceeds and we are informed of the results, we will publish them in this Newsletter. This patch product is not anticipated to be available to the public until sometime in 1995.

Further on the Testosterone front

Wall Street Journal, November 29, 1993—James M. Dabbs Jr., a psychology professor at Georgia State University in Atlanta...collected some 2500 saliva samples—from murderers, ministers, lawyers, farmers, the rich and poor, men and women—then measured testosterone levels in the specimens.

"He is interested in exactly how abnormally high levels of the hormone affect human behavior... The reason for the spit test is it is easily administered, much simpler than a blood test requiring needles, and could be done on you by your boss in the office, much as polygraphs and personality tests, for better or worse, are used in the workplace... The National Science Foundation...provides about \$50,000 a year for his work.

"In women, relatively small amounts of testosterone are produced by the ovaries and adrenal glands. In men, the hormone is produced by the testes. The average woman has a testosterone level of about 1 to 2 nanograms per deciliter of saliva, while most men fall in the 8 to 10 nanogram range. (A nanogram is a billionth of a gram, while a deciliter equals about half a cup.) According to Dr. Dabbs, a violent female prisoner typically shows a slightly elevated testosterone reading—about a 3 or 4—while a violent man usually exhibits a substantial increase over the average (a 17 or more). Ministers typically fall in the 5 to 6 range.

"So who has all the testosterone? Dr. Dabbs' researchers have found high levels of the hormone in, among others, attorneys, prisoners, cold-call salespeople and the unemployed. On the low end of the scale are ministers, farmers and most white-collar managers.

"Dr. Dabbs, who got his doctorate from Yale in 1962, has written about 20 scholarly papers on testosterone and is highly regarded in the field, doesn't make wild claims that testosterone causes certain men to commit crimes. The causation of behavior is very hard to pin on a hormone found in all men. Dr. Dabbs merely looks at correlations. And meanings aren't always clear. The hardest-charging executives

continued on page 7

Networking

Dear FTM,

I would like to thank you for publishing my letter in issue #24, July 1993. I know it is kind of late to thank you for your effort, but at the time I was in Indonesia for 3 months, and was out of contact for a while. With this letter, I would like to thank these following persons: Jason Cromwell, Jamie Lek, M.A. Sadiqi, and "A Brother" for their letters of support. I am sorry I have not written to them sooner, but I will. I really appreciate their attention, and may their lives be blessed. Through this letter, I also hope to hear from Jamie Lek. It was too late to write him before he moved to London. Therefore, I hope he can give me his new address in London. My address is still the same: 918 Carriage Hill Dr., Athens, OH 45701, USA. Once again, thank you for helping me. It is a tremendous help for me to know that there are people to support. I have been out to my mother for almost half a year now. It is not easy for both of us. But, we are working things out. Hopefully, we can maintain our good relationship forever. Sincerely, Louis Information

Dear Friends,

I have just been looking through one of my "Boys Own" mags and saw your address. I thought that it would be nice if we could contact someone in the USA who wants an English pen pal, maybe to exchange any relevant news on the TS front from over here. I am a 52-year-old FTM TS. I've been living in the role since I was 17. I have a partner, Georgina, who has been living with me as my wife for the last 27 years. We have a small group of TS friends who come to our house most weeks for a chat and a drink. We see mainly couples, but there are two single guys in their 30's—one who is looking for a girlfriend! Thanks, Christian Identifying Information Redacted Kent Information ENGLAND

Identifying Information Redacted

"SWM interested in exploring with an FTM who is currently on hormones. I'm a nice guy and I promise you a fun time!! Please calling Information Redacted voice mail—please leave a message. Thanks. Looking forward to hearing from you."

Dear FTM,

I am new to the FTM community. My name is Valeta, but you can call me Mouse. Currently, I am starting my psychotherapy to start hormone treatment. I am a functioning transsexual, in a male-oriented city job. I was wondering if anyone has been in this situation: Random drug testing and taking hormones, and how you went about it legally and socially at work (gossip). Also, I live in Chicago and it's hard to find FTM organizations. Does anyone know of any or how I can get in touch with someone here or anywhere to help me. I would like to talk to more "people" to find out personal experiences, good and bad. Doctors can only tell you so much. I need Help in Chicago. Mouse Identifying Information Redacted Chicago, IL Information Redacted [Mouse, testosterone doesn't usually show up on random drug tests for cocaine, marijuana, or hallucinogenic drugs, which are usually what's being sought, unless your job is one in which widespread steroid abuse

is suspected, such as among construction workers and heavy equipment operators. If you are worried, you might want to consult your physician regarding disclosing your medical condition in such a way that it won't throw up a red flag (agonadism, absence of testicles, is a diagnosis that might work, unless you were hired as a female.—ed.)

FTM,

Thanks for hanging "out" there for me. I finally found a job, and am caught up on my debts now. I'm seeing a therapist on occasion. I would like to hear from post-op FTMs out there who have surgery by Biber, Gilbert, or in the Netherlands. I'd like to know all you can tell me. I'm also interested in corresponding with pre- and post-op FTMs, as well as women who know they can enjoy the TS experience. Write to: E. Identifying Information Redacted NY Information Redacted

Identifying Information Redacted NY Information Redacted

Dear FTM Readers,

Surely, it cannot be true that I am the only techno-geek in the FTM world. Why is it, then, that I can find nobody of a like mind on the internet? I have a heap of big, sprawling and mildly annoying ideas about how to make the information highway work to our benefit. Drop me some E-mail at

Identifying Information Redacted We can have some meaningful synchronous communications. Virtually, Vern Information Redacted

Dear FTM,

I am writing in hopes that someone in the Wisconsin area will reply. I probably would be better off to stay in the midwest—at least for the time-being. I am very interested in moving to Madison, WI, only two hours from where I live now. At one time I did correspond with some FTMs in Milwaukee, but I am very embarrassed to say that I have misplaced addresses and phone numbers—I hope to hear from you again! Also, I would like to thank 2 special people in Oakland who got me out of a pickle of a situation. You know who you are. Thanks again. Please write to: Mary Identifying Information Redacted Cascade, ID Information Redacted

"Feminine, professional woman, 40, seeking FTMs and transgendered people for friendship, possible relationship. Write to: Information Redacted Columbus, OH Information Redacted

Dear FTM,

I would like some FTM or MTF pen-friends from the States who would like a British FTM pen-friend from England. Anyone interested, please write soon as I might be moving to a different area. I hope to hear from any FTM members soon.

Many Thanks, Mr. Karl Identifying Information Redacted

Identifying Information Redacted London, Information Redacted ENGLAND

"33-year-old gender dysphoric female, still unsure of her sexuality, seeks friends to share, offer support, and maybe, even maybe, find romance together. I'm intelligent and honest, unattractive and very heavy, more hirsute than any "real" man, lost in a world of gender-identified people. Can I be myself with you? Please write Lacy Identifying Information Redacted

Identifying Information Redacted MA Information Redacted

All Shades of Gray

by Jamie Information R

It was with no small amount of excitement that I went to Sydney recently. Aside from all the usual holiday activities, I also attended the second annual FTM conference. Jasper Laybutt (with the help of Sydney's Gender Centre) had put together a full day's programme of talk and information, followed by a close-up look at some of Sydney's night life. The Gender Centre (formerly known as Tiresia's House) is the closest thing to a one stop shop I have ever seen. It is a small, unassuming house in the suburb of Petersham where a person can find support, counseling, and a wide variety of resources easily available. They also run a couple of houses with medium to long term accommodation for any "tranny" needing a place to live during their gender change.

The programme for this year's conference was much more informal than it had been last year. We introduced ourselves and gave a brief history of our gender change to that point. Of the eight of us that attended this year, only one was yet to start his own process. The rest of us were at various stages of change from hormone therapy through to phalloplasty.

The main points we covered were relationships, sexuality, surgery, sex, the different ways we were dealt with in Queensland and New South Wales and the various devices we used to overcome the missing areas of our anatomy. Much of what we discussed was very personal and private. At times it was only something another FTM could really understand. There is no way I could explain how empowering it is to sit and talk with my brothers about common problems and the variety of ways we have used to overcome those problems.

Aside from the physical change itself, the most problematic area seemed to be our relationships. Some of us had been in lesbian relationships at the time we first "came out." For some of the boys, their relationships had broken up immediately because their lesbian partner could not bear the thought of being even the tiniest bit heterosexual. For others, the breakup had happened once their physical change had become obvious. For some, they had begun their relationships after their changes were more pronounced. Although they found these relationships very validating, they were also vulnerable if those women (or men) left them. They would feel it was because they were not "real" men (meaning "having no penis"). This can be devastating to our emerging masculinity. There were also other problems due to the direct effects of testosterone therapy. Side-effects such as mood swings, aggression/depression, increases/decreases in our sex drives and a general inability to completely verbalize what is

happening in our own minds.

Not all our discussions were so serious, however. Showing off the various devices used as crotch fillers generated a great deal of laughter. This included one very over-sized device one brother brought in from the States. Two others described their attempts to design and make a home-grown phallus that would be cheaper than anything found overseas.

After a break for lunch, the "tough" question of the day was asked: What is a man? For most of us, the struggle to define this very fundamental question has filled many an introspective hour. As we went around the room the same answer seemed to come up again and again. Being a man was not about having a penis, deep voice, or hair on our faces. It was about how we felt about ourselves. Our manhood was not in our bodies (though it is nice), but in our behaviour. And the behaviour most acceptable to us is simply being ourselves.

Around mid-afternoon, representatives of the Gender Centre and the TLC (Transgenderist Liberation Council), as well as some of our partners, turned up to join in on the discussions. The Gender Centre people gave us a run down of the services available through them. They also made it clear that the partners of transsexuals were welcome at the Centre as well. At the

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end of the day we headed back to our various homes to change and meet up again at the Leichhardt Hotel. A couple of hours at the hotel gave us a chance for more personal discussions with various people. It was also an opportunity for our partners to talk about some of the difficulties of being with a transsexual. From there it was off to Oxford Street and some of the nightclubs of Sydney. I later heard that one of the boys had not gotten home until 10:30 the next day!

The conference this year was quite a success as it gave us a chance to put names and faces together, sometimes for the first time. Being able to laugh (and cry) about our experiences also helped make it a good day. Going through a gender change can be a very isolating experience, and sharing our ups and downs with others who truly understand is an empowering time. Many thanks to Jasper Laybutt for all his hard work in putting together the conference, and to the Gender Centre for helping him. Thanks also to everyone who attended and shared with the rest of us the things they have learned whilst going through their own process. I must say a special thank you to those partners who came along. They have to put up with a great deal from us, often on their own, and yet they hang in there simply because they love us.

[Jamie is the new editor of B.W.B.B (Boys Will Be Boys) bi-monthly newsletter out of Australia.—ed.]

SF Transgender Clinic Opens

Tom Waddell clinic serves TS/TG community

by Jordy Information

The city of San Francisco is funding a shoestring tranny clinic at 50 Ivy, or 50 Lech Walesa - the alley has two names like so many of us. It's a smallish city backstreet, tucked between Van Ness and Polk and Hayes and Grove. A glowing yellow sphere marks the entrance of the place. It's a dive.

Up earthquake -damaged stairs to the second floor for the weekly soap opera. Blood is drawn, histories taken, and chit-chat's made in the waiting room with the tenderloin girls who make up the bulk of the clinic's patients. There is a there there.

The main purpose of the clinic is to provide peripheral health care to the transgendered community. Dr. (Barry) Zevin started the place to address what he saw as a startling negligence on the part of the medical establishment for providing good follow-up care for transsexual/transgendered patients.

Inside, the clinic's small, crowded, busy and a bit confused. It's an atmosphere of controlled chaos; a visitor gets the impression of a lot going on with minimal resources.

In the six weeks since the clinic's opened, I've had three appointments. I've had my weight taken, (I've gained fifteen pounds of bone and muscle) my blood pressure monitored, and my cholesterol checked. My kidney and liver functions have been noted and annotated. I've been prescribed Retin-A for my skin and injectable Testosterone Cypionate for my continuing transformation.

In that time also, the clinic's gotten more organized,

...Continued from page 4

often exhibit only average or low levels of testosterone, Dr. Dabbs remarks.

"But Dr. Dabbs and his associates have observed an apparent link between elevated testosterone and acts of violence... Dr. Brian Gladue, a senior scientist at the American Psychological Association, says "Correlations are clues—but they're not the case...You can make a case for any type of behavior and men, and you can make the case that men have a lot of testosterone."

"Still, the 55-year-old (Dr. Dabbs) says he won't quit until he understands precisely how testosterone affects human behavior, a field of research with enough sex appeal to attract foundation grants. "I'm guided to some extent by where the money is," Dr. Dabbs concedes."

busier, and the staff's gotten better with pronouns. The clinic is helping fill a serious need for health care in our community, and the staff should be commended for doing a good job in trying circumstances, and providing quality health care with humor and good will where it is so desperately needed.

For more information contact:

Mary Information,ifying Information,Read or g Information F

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME

by David Ventura Loeb and David W. Brown

Nolo Press, Berkeley, 1991

Book Review by Cal

How to Change Your Name, published by Nolo Press, discusses the legal issues and processes involved in a name change. It goes into step-by-step detail and is written in a simple outline format which is easy to follow.

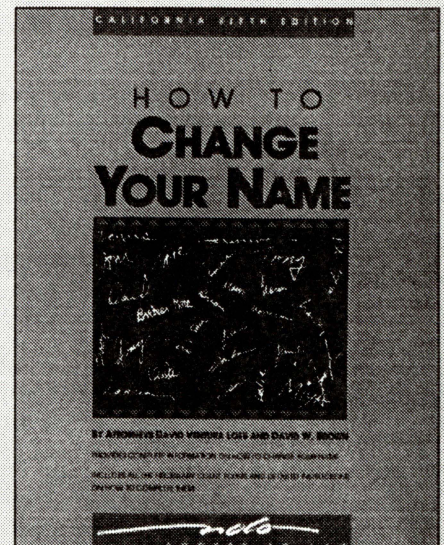
Attorneys/authors

Loeb and Brown have also included all necessary court forms used in the process, along with instructions on filling them out.

The book begins by discussing the two possible methods for changing one's name. They are the "usage" and the "court petition" methods. I was interested to

learn that by using the usage method, one can legally change one's name simply by using one's chosen name in all areas of life. The book details how to get birth certificates changed, and also deals specifically with issues of getting name and gender changed on legal documents for those who have undergone sex-reassignment surgery. Issues of divorce as well as changing a child's name are also addressed. Finally, the authors conclude with a short chapter on how to do your own legal work and how to find additional help if you need it.

How to Change Your Name is one of those self-help books you will definitely find handy to have around. You couldn't find a simpler or more clearly written book on the subject anywhere.



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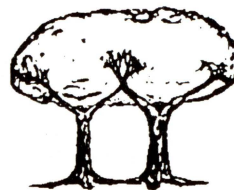
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MALEBOX

Dear FTM,

I had the pleasure of attending the support meeting held on 11/14/93. I was a member of FTM when Lou was alive, and after Lou passed on I somewhat lost interest. My life was forever changing, being a post-op of 10 years, and I felt it was time to go deep into the woodwork. I never gave myself the chance to come back to the meetings. But I'm glad I attended this meeting for many reasons. It gave me a chance to see a few old faces I had known from the early days of FTM, and to meet new ones. I listened to the feelings, thoughts, and concerns, and once again felt I wasn't the only one with these wild things running through my mind. That grounded me and it felt good.

Most of all, it gave me the sense of unity. We are all different individuals with different lifestyles, but the bottom line is...we are all "one in brotherhood" with a meaningful purpose. You guys are great...keep up the good work.

Toni and I will be relocating to Nevada in January, '94. And I'm content to know you'll be there for each other.

Farewell to my brothers. I hope your lives will be all that you have dreamed they would be, and that you find all the happiness and success possible. And no matter what may come your way, stand strong with the courage to be yourselves, be true to yourself, step-by-step, one day at a time.

I'll stay in touch by mail. I'd really like to stay on the mailing list, and I'll write with my new address. Thanks. You will be missed. Also, my best to James Green.

Your brother, Brian M.

Dear FTM,

I just finished reading "In His Own Words" by Taylor [redacted] It's bizarre how closely related his story is to my own, right down to this words: "I'm going to be a boy scout." Taylor—bro, you sure you're not my twin brother? You probably even knew what it felt like to realize you could no longer go without wearing a shirt. I personally was devastated, and knew God hated me for sure.

Yes, I know what you're thinking: do I believe in God. Well, up until a couple of years ago I was a sworn agnostic. I blamed God for my misfortune and I suppose I still do. After all, it was his mistake that put me in the wrong form. It would be really interesting to find out how and if any other FTMs have or do feel like myself. What changed in those 2 years? My age. For whatever reason, the older I get, the more I believe in God.

Up until about 6 months ago (3 months on hormones) I haven't been a contented individual. Now it's just a matter of time before I become outwardly the man I have always been. I constantly check my face and body for new hair growth. Right now I'm still at the peach fuzz phase, which of course only I can see since I need to plaster my face into the mirror to see it. I go through the same things as many younger men first seeing signs of facial hair, like: "If you look at my face in this

direction, under that kind of light, bingo! Can't you see it yet? You're blind! It's right there, SEEEEE!"

I'm proud of my peach fuzz, and now it's even longer. I just wish it would hurry and grow faster and darker (it's blond or white right now) so I can change my Social Security and ID. I don't want my picture taken until I look completely male, so I'm hanging on. But no problem in reality, since I've been known as Ben most of my life, outside the ID thing and stuff.

I do have questions, however: How does one go about getting a court order to change one's name? Where do I go, whom do I speak to, will it cost me anything, and how much?

I've written before. Maybe you recognize the name Ben Pike. I'm a body builder. I've written to James Green for input and information. He was a great help and answered some direct questions for me. By the way, James, thanks lots, dude.

I first started writing before any treatments or psychoanalysis had taken place (lack of information was the basic reason). I later wrote a letter praising the FTM Newsletter for publishing in #23 the address and such of Michael Maine, who became my psychologist. In #24 you printed the letter. I want to thank you all. Michael was the best and gave me resources that have made me a happy and contented man. Michael, if you're reading this, Thanks lots and I'm still waiting for you to write to me and tell me about that top surgery place in Ohio and/or Portland, whichever it was. I'm still interested, and I'm doing quite well now.

By the way, muscle growth has been outrageous and I didn't think my muscle growth could get any better than what it was—man, was I wrong. I'm glad and thankful that I've always been into training and working out.

I have another question regarding surgeries: Do the doctors want all the money at once, or are they willing to bill a client?

I'll keep in touch with my progress, since I feel many others can benefit from my experiences and perhaps even help me with input I don't have. Anyone can feel free to write to me at the address below.

Ben [redacted] Identifying Information Redacted Identify CA [redacted] hformatic
[Ben: The best resource for name changes in California is the book "How To Change Your Name" published by Nolo Press. It is widely available and reviewed in this issue. If your local bookstore doesn't have it they can order it for you. Also, most surgeons require that fees be paid in advance of surgery. You can always try to negotiate other arrangements, but don't count on being successful. Keep saving, and best of luck to you. —James (ed.)]

Dear FTM,

In November, I will publicly speak on transsexualism for the first time. I have turned down opportunities to speak in human sexuality and abnormal psychology classes because it has seemed to me that the focus of these classes misses the point of the experience of transsexualism. Theirs seems to be an interest in the phenomenon of transsexualism, definitions

Malebox *continued*

and explanations that lead to a path of clinical assessment understanding. But in my life, it has been the transsexual transformation process that has had much more significance for me. Transsexualism has been the springboard for tremendous personal and spiritual growth. When I was asked by a friend, who is an old testament theologian, to speak to one of his classes entitled "God's Reign and Personal Transformation," I felt very honored and validated in the significance of the growth I have experienced.

Preparing to speak to a roomful of seminary students has given rise to some serious reflection, reviewing the past 4 to 5 years of my life. I have changed so much! Not only physically, but even more, mentally, emotionally, spiritually. In all these areas, I do not look the same! The transformation process has led me to myself. I was like Rip Van Winkle stuck in an enchanted sleep. Today I am awake, vibrantly alive, life energy snapping and crackling off me as though I have just come out of the clothes dryer! How was it possible for me to move from a person in complete agony, horrified to have found myself what "they out there" would call a transsexual, full of anger and shame, cursing my God for cursing me, desiring to die...to a person that has embraced my transsexuality, followed my heart to find wholeness, feel blessed by my God, and am more alive than I have ever been?!

The answer is Community. This is a letter of thanks to that community that reflected back my image with love and acceptance. Sometimes it was just a knowing nod of the head. Sometimes it was the willingness to listen to me on the phone, many times calling me back on their own phone bill. It was being glad I came to a meeting even when at first I was so angry, and taking me into their homes. It was the people that rallied around me when I went in for upper surgery, offering transportation and caregiving...

It was not easy at all for me to surrender to my need for Community! I was always making my stands alone, not needing anybody! I used to believe it was weakness to need another. Now I understand that connection to a community is my strength.

Some of these people, the "old guys," I have not seen around at the meetings for a while. I understand the healthiness of moving on into the World Beyond, of establishing other, varied communities. I miss you guys! Thank you for investing in my life. I would not be where I am at today without your loving generosity and willingness to extend yourselves so much. Your friendships have touched me profoundly.

I turn around and I see so many new faces, "new guys," some just starting out. Wow! I am one of the "old guys" now! It is grace that gives me the opportunity to pass on the gifts I received from the others before me. They are not gifts to be held onto. Thank you for allowing me to share in your transformations!

Transformation is a song of which transsexualism is only one verse. Best wishes to all of you as you sing your journeys of Most High Adventure!

Chris

[Chris, you are proof of the maxim that you get out of something that which you put in. Thank you for all the energy and goodwill you have brought to our community. —James (ed.)]

Dear FTM,

"I really believed I was a TS..." I have always felt male and began getting therapy as a TS—FTM—many years ago; but I always felt there was a genetic or at least a physiological reason for how I feel. I was studied and told nothing about how I had been surgically "realigned sexually"—made female as a young child. All the Doctors knew and hid from me my physical identity. I am a true hermaphrodite, and a rare form, too. I was born completely both male and female. Luckily, my male genitals were attached inside my abdomen and I can be as male as I like; it's my legal right. I am going to be physically male as I feel in my soul because it is illegal to decide for a child what sex they should be and to alter them surgically. I am suing for damages to at least pay for reconstructive surgery. I hope my letter prompts people to get tested. Yes, it is rare, but NOT impossible—I AM. Don't let them tell you "you have a menstrual cycle so you can't be male" or "you don't have a problem with amino acids found in fruits so you can't be a hermaphrodite." I don't have an intolerance to the amino acids in fruit because I have more than 2 y genes as well as 2 x genes.

Please send me any info on hermaphroditic associations. Also, if one's father was exposed to Agent Orange, the defoliant, you are much more likely to be sexually different genetically or only physically.

Sincerely, Your brother still, (name withheld)

[Dear (name withheld)— Your situation raises a number of issues. First, I believe you mean it is "immoral" or perhaps "unethical" to decide what sex a child is, not "illegal," as you wrote. It is unfortunately common practice for doctors to decide to assign a sex to an intersexed infant. Usually this is done so that the parents will know how to relate to the child. The larger society has just 2 gender boxes; we are typed by our genitals as one or the other. When we develop into beings that transcend those boxes we run into trouble. FTMs often hope that someone will test them and discover their male genitals inside. We all know we "should have been born male," and we think if some physical anomaly can be found we will be vindicated and spared the humiliation of being labeled transsexual: we really were male after all. And maybe that will get us our surgery for free. But there are not enough tests, there is not enough research, not enough knowledge, not enough interest in us as a population to justify (to the larger society with its 2 convenient gender boxes) spending the funds to do the testing, to acquire the knowledge about us. People are more comfortable not hearing about us, not seeing us. That's why they don't care so much

if we switch boxes, so long as they don't have to see it happening, so long as we fit in one box or the other.

Your situation is different from most FTMs. You have a "proof" that your "choice," your feelings about your identity is "legitimate." We don't. I empathize with you. I am amazed we don't hear more about the errors doctors have made in assigning sex to children when it seems to me there's a 50% chance they'll be wrong. You have to suffer through similar surgeries and deal with similar emotional resistance from family and friends when you go through transition. In fact, your situation seems somehow worse in that you have been deliberately lied to about your own body.

I realize you are trying to help those of us who can trace our origins (some of us are adopted and know next to nothing about our family history) to find a way to get through transition more easily. But complete genetic testing is beyond the means of most of us, and also (unfortunately) beyond the scope of most gender programs. Some programs did perform limited tests in earlier years, but found them to be of little or no value, probably because the tests did not probe deeply enough, and most FTMs do not have (surface) genetic abnormalities so the issue seemed moot.

I can't stress enough that FTMs need to be careful about hoping to find physical justification. The underlying assumption, as reflected (probably unintentionally) in your letter, is "I'm a real man, and you are just transsexuals. Get tested and find out if you're a real man, too." I am glad for you that you have something concrete on which to blame your gender dilemma. We have many similar battles to fight in our respective journeys, but we have very different circumstances. Transphobia, especially internalized transphobia is difficult to come to grips with. Please try to find a way to talk about your struggle with gender dysphoria that doesn't invalidate those of us who have no "proof," no physical rationale for our feelings.

I looked around, but I have been unable to locate any support groups for hermaphrodites. I'm sorry. I suggest you try contacting Johns Hopkins University Medical Center for referrals. And I don't understand your statements about amino acid intolerance, or about Agent Orange. Perhaps someone else reading this will write in and let us know about hermaphroditic organizations. Perhaps readers have other ideas to express on this topic. Thanks for writing, and best of luck to you. —James (ed.)]

Ask Marie...

Marie Keller, a Los Angeles-based therapist and director of the Los Angeles Gender Center, offers a question and answer column covering a wide range of gender-related issues. If you have burning questions, send them c/o the FTM Newsletter for the Ask Marie Column in the next issue!

Dear Marie,

I don't know if you can answer this for me, but here goes.

I'm taking hormones (3 months to date). I've developed to my envy a small penis which I can have difficult but satisfying intercourse with. Problem is, since I've been so active sexually in the past, my girlfriend won't let me have intercourse with her for fear of AIDS (which my doctor says I do not have). Is this a valid issue, even though my blood test always comes back negative, or is she just being irrational?

I know this probably sounds odd, but now that I have a penis all I want to do is have intercourse with her. I dream of it. In the past we've used devices, but now that I can slip her the real thing (no pun intended) I can't. It's driving me nuts, and I'm really battling to remain faithful to her. She knows how I feel, and she has always regarded me as a man so I know it's not a gender issue. My girlfriend is a straight, heterosexual woman, always has been. Thanks for any insight.

(signed) Hot and Bothered

Dear Hot and Bothered,

According to my medical sources, if you and your girlfriend have already been engaging in genital to genital contact, exchanging bodily fluids in this way, the threat of contracting the HIV virus should not

be increased by intercourse. HIV is passed through bodily fluids. Intercourse would be a higher risk activity if semen were involved, which I am assuming it is not. However, if your sexual activities have not included your genitals, then intercourse would pose a higher risk as a result of your girlfriend's exposure to your genital secretions. Also, remember that there is an incubation period for the virus, meaning that you can test negative during the early stages of infection. Most agree that the incubation period is 6 to 12 weeks, although it can be longer. If your doctor says you are HIV negative, I am assuming your doctor has tested you over a period of at least 3 to 6 months during which you have not engaged in any activities putting you at risk for HIV. Perhaps providing your girlfriend with reliable information from an AIDS resource center in your area could help put her mind at ease.

AIDS aside, I have a few other thoughts. Being creatures of habit, most changes, even the good ones, can be difficult to get used to in the beginning. I am wondering about your girlfriend's feelings. I don't think it has to be a gender issue for her to have some ambivalent feelings about intercourse. Sexually, she has been used to you in particular ways which, up to now, have not included actual intercourse. You sound as if you care about her and do not want to be unfaithful. In that case, perhaps communication can help. Choose a quiet time, outside of the bedroom, and ask her in a non-blaming way about the possibility of other concerns she might have regarding intercourse. Take a curious and interested attitude, inviting her to talk to you honestly about her feelings and fears. Understandably, you are anxious to use your new penis. Be patient and give your girlfriend an opportunity to "open" up to the idea herself. Good luck, and let us know how it goes.

Marie Keller, MFCC

Call for Papers

International Congress on Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender

This is the first call for papers to an International Congress on Cross Dressing, Sex and Gender being organized by the Center for Sex Research at California State University, Northridge, CA 91330. The Congress will be held in the San Fernando Valley section of Los Angeles on February 23 -26, 1995 and is being sponsored by a number of different organizations in the scholarly and crossdressing communities. Papers are invited on Transvestism, Transsexualism, and all aspects of non-conforming gender expression. We are soliciting and anticipate wide ranging viewpoints summarizing and criticizing current research in biological, psychological sociological, cultural and historical aspects of gender-crossing. Organized sessions are particularly encouraged which will allow widespread discussion of where we have been, where we are going, and what we need to do to come to terms with a variety of gender behaviors. Interested participants should submit four copies of the abstract of the proposed paper or session. Abstract should be no longer than 500 words. Personal identification of submitter should be on a separate sheet attached to the first copy. Deadline for abstracts is Oct. 1, 1994. Send abstracts or request for information to the *Center for Sex Research, California State University, Northridge, Northridge, CA 91330. For additional information, fax (818) 885 - 5561.* Other numbers will be available when California State University is able to reopen after the earthquake.

FTM will be a formal sponsor of this Congress, and James Green will organize a panel or workshop about what the helping professionals should be doing for the "gender people." Organizers are attempting to keep registration fees low and to arrange low-cost hotel accommodations, as as many people from the gender community as possible can participate. Further information about the Congress will be published in this newsletter as it becomes available.

FTM 1993 Financial Report

Balance forward as of 12/31/92:	\$1296.47 INCOME
1993 Donations & Interest	3899.81
Total Funds Available	\$5196.28
EXPENSES	
Newsletter Production Issues 22- 25	1516.67
Postage	1328.79
Mailbox Rental thru 8/94	100.00
Xeroxing Newsletter back issues	291.75
Xeroxing FTM Resource Guide	164.38
Meeting and Administrative. Supplies	206.16
Total Expenses	\$3607.75
Remainder	\$1588.53
BALANCE FORWARD 12/31/93	\$1909.77

Comment: I don't understand why we have \$321.24 additional cash on hand above the difference between income and expenses. This should be troubling, because I keep meticulous accounts of all donations and expenses. The bank assures me there is no error, and I have recorded all the deposits and withdrawals faithfully. If we were incorporated we'd have to have an audit. I'd rather not spend the money on that right now. My inclination is to just be glad that we have more funds available than we thought, and try to stay on top of the numbers better in the coming year. I hope this is agreeable to everyone concerned.

Respectfully Submitted, Jamison "James" Green



Stone Leslie Feinberg— Butch Blues

Leslie Feinberg is a transgender activist and author of Transgender Liberation and Stone Butch Blues. This is the last installment of Kevin Horowitz's three part interview.

Kevin Horowitz: *So, what about this book of yours?*

Leslie Feinberg: Well, as you know by now, it's a very thinly disguised autobiography; but it is fiction, and I'll tell you why: Dorothy Allison - do you know Dorothy Allison?

KH *I know who she is. She's a very hot lesbian writer.*

LF Yes she is. Dorothy has an introduction to "Trash:" - her book of short stories. - and I'm paraphrasing her, but she chose fiction because it's less than autobiography, but more than lies. In other words, using fiction gives you the ability to tell a very painful story that's filled with all the shame of growing up different in this society. I felt, by telling it autobiographically, that I would pull back in a lot of places. I also felt, as transgendered people, that we're always being told who we are, either physically or emotionally - strip or be stripped, you know? There's a way that we get dehumanized. "Let's see your body. We'll find out what you are. Let's hear what your innermost thoughts and feelings." I feel we've each found our own boundaries of dignity which we will not go beyond; that we deserve. I really felt that by fictionalizing the story, that I would be able to tell more of the truth; be more brutally honest than I would if I were telling my own story. So I created a character named Jess who grows up- the book has four parts.

KH *Jess is the main character?*

LF That's right. Four parts to the story. One is growing up differently gendered in a working class community in Buffalo.

KH *What's Jess' last name?*

LF Goldberg. It's gotta be Jewish. Don't know any other way to grow up in buffalo.

KH *So you're describing a genetic female growing up?*

LF Yes. So, she is growing up differently gendered in Buffalo, coming out as a he-she in the factories and bars before Stonewall, passing as a man in the 1970's, and when the hormones wearing off and being gender ambiguous (or transgendered) in the eighties. It's all told as one story in the first person through this character. Like I said, my own identity for transgender is not something I use as a blanket identity. In other words, I don't identify transsexuals the same way I identify as a woman. This book also is not meant to tell the story of all transgendered people. It is specifically done to tell about the life of one person who is this transgendered person, this way, because I want people

who aren't transgendered to walk through that world. I want them to grow up that way. I want them to experience it. I want them, when they put down the book, to be changed from when they picked it up because, in a small way, for 350 pages, they've lived it.

KH *So basically, you are trying to say that this is what it's like to go through this, and you want them to understand that?*

LF That's right. I want them to know that when we talk about transgenderism, that this is not an abstract discussion about how many angels can dance on the head of a pin, or what you mean by gender. Everybody always asks for definitions--what do you mean by this? What do you mean by that? What I say is "When I am waiting on the D train platform in Manhattan at 2 am and a group of whitebashers, teenagers who are stoned, say, "There's one of 'em now." That's the definition of transgender. That's what my life is like. So, you can discuss all these questions of gender, and that's a very valuable discussion; but I am talking about oppression. I'm talking about something that's so real that it never gets named in this society. Everybody knows what happens to tv's an ts's who get read, but nobody talks about it. I wanna say that this is what life is like--it's gotta stop. People who aren't transgendered have to take a stand.

KH *I think it's clear that you are concerned about the transgender experience. and people understanding that experience. That is valid, but I also would like to know just about your writing as writing. Do you prefer doing fiction, or do you like more historical kinds of writing? Do you have a preference?*

LF Good question. I hate writing fiction because it's too revelatory.

KH *Revelatory? In what way?*

LF It's a thin curtain for an author to hide behind, and I actually like writing historically more because I feel it's not as personal, and I feel more dignity, and more safety. However, I feel that they are both important. I wrote two pieces in "persistent Desire." The anthology and those two pieces became the basis for this novel. But I could see from the reaction to them the power fiction had to move people personally-- to take them through. And I had to admit to myself, that although I didn't wanna take that fiction journey--

KH *Take the "F" train?*

LF That's right. You got it. Or the FTM train. I had to admit that if I really wanted to reach large numbers of people, that I had to in fact write both. I had to travel through fiction and not-fiction.

KH *You weren't driven to write it?*

LF No, just the opposite. I never wanted to be the great American novelist.

KH *So really, if you do any more writing, after this one makes you rich and famous--*

LF Right. It's gonna make me poor and infamous, maybe.

Leslie Feinberg Interview *Continued*

KH *What do you think would be the next thing you might work on?*

LF Well, there's a couple of things. I want to change the transgender liberation pamphlet, which is really an attempt to show when, why and where I think the real campaign to reverse genocidal attitudes about transgenderism arose historically. I'd like to take that pamphlet and double it in size between now and this spring. I'm going to be doing a slide show on transgenderism at the IFGE convention in Philadelphia in March, and I'm gonna be traveling with the novel this spring. So, I felt like I really wrote the novel in order to travel the large towns and small town, and meet people like you--and other people, and sit and talk. I'd eventually like to take that pamphlet and slide show, put them together, and sell them as the basis for a non-fiction, transgendered history book that's done by a transgendered person, because I feel like our lives have been refracted through other people's prisms. I'd like to have a history book that was from one transgendered person's view. We have many voices, and it would be one of our voices, as opposed to a dry, academic, non-transgendered person trying to talk about us being "them." It reeks of "them." Of "other."

KH *I have a couple more questions about your period of cross-living. If you had gone all the way, and had the lower surgery, would that have made any difference in your decision to remain as a female?*

LF I don't think so, because when I explain to people that I am a woman, it's because I want them to understand that I'm transgendered. It's not that I'm saying that I'm just like other women. I think it's sort of saying that I'm FTM, although FTM, as a phrase, doesn't always mean living as a man. FTM can signify transgender, not just male. No matter what changes have taken place in my life, physically, or otherwise, I would still end up saying: I am transgender, and my direction is FTM, not visa versa.

KH *Maybe you never got that because you knew you weren't a man.*

LF I really knew I had to deal with the situation of upper surgery. I was just not happy in my own body. But, I don't know--it would have certainly changed my life. It's hard to say, you know? I think there's a discomfort that transsexuals feel. We have made enormous commitments to the sex that we are in, and I feel that some of that is the queer-baiting that we've always gone through; that there's something wrong with you if you're not one of the other. For TS's, the struggle to establish their sex is an enormously central part of their identity, so they might wonder how could one not be one or the other? But, in fact, there's nothing queer about that. There's a continuum of people. There is a whole range in between, and many ways for people to relate to their bodies and gender identities.

KH *I still think it's easier for a woman to be masculine than for a male to be very feminine.*

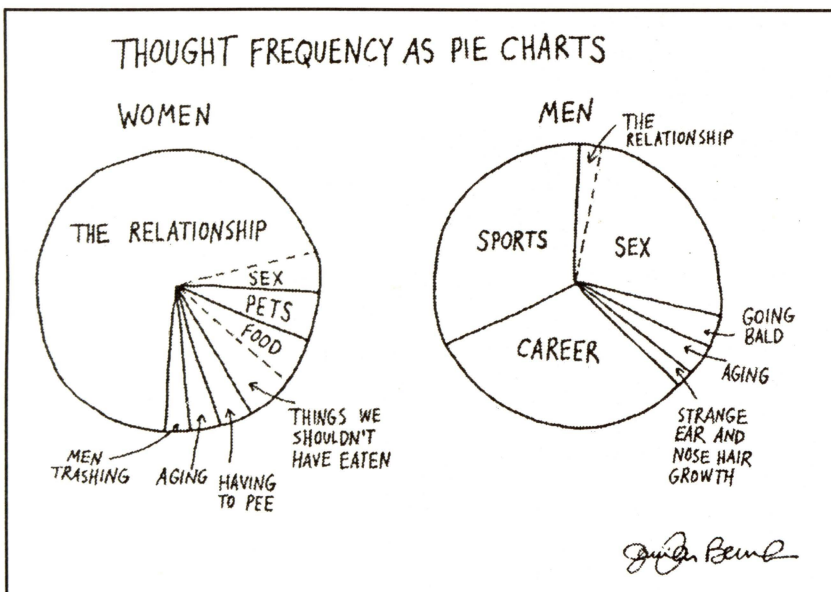
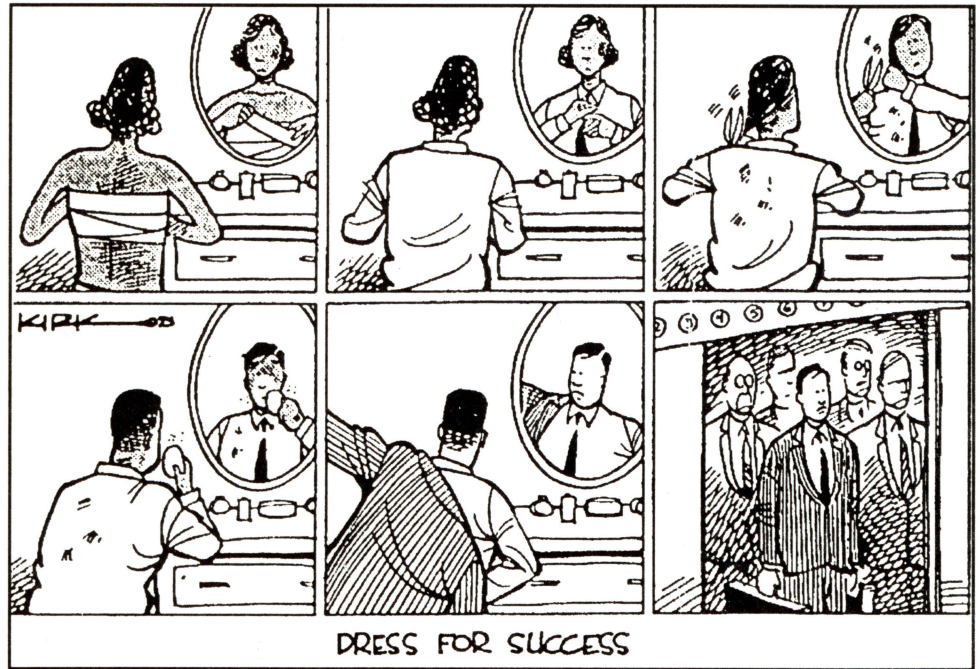
LF It's true. When I lived as a woman, growing up as a kid, they took pictures at school, and it was by height. I was the last girl in the picture, because I was considered too tall as a girl. When I lived as a man, and they took pictures at work, I was the first in the picture because I was considered too short as a man. My height didn't change an inch. Those concepts that we think of as fixed--of height, of strength--of masculine of feminine, become relative concepts when you find out that you are considered a very masculine woman. But now you're passing and are considered a feminine man, and you really haven't changed all that much. You find out how relative these concepts are.

Kevin Horowitz is a past editor and frequent contributor to FTM. His wry and witty cartoons often grace our pages as well. We look forward to his next contribution.

Mr. ETVC - At Last!

On January 29, 1994, in San Francisco at ETVC's 10th Annual Cotillion, FTM crossdresser Francis Vavra won the title of Mr. ETVC 1994. He will reign with Lauren Rene Hotchkiss, Miss ETVC 1994. This was the first time there had been a contestant for a male title. Francis, an officer and member of ETVC, felt it was time FTMs were represented in the contest. Five judges narrowed a field of nine contestants to five finalists after watching them compete in active wear, talent, and formal wear categories. Francis posed as a bicycle messenger, with tights to show legs, donned a vintage tux and top hat for formal wear, and lip-synched Bing Crosby's "Temptation" to his two ladies, Cori and Roxanna. The final results were announced as a tie, allowing Francis to reign as Mr. ETVC. He and Miss ETVC will be attending various court functions during 1994, and will ride in the ETVC car in this year's Gay Pride Parade. In his "bio" read by the M.C., Francis stated his wish to serve as a bridge between the MTF and FTM cross-dressing and transsexual communities, as a member of both ETVC and FTM. Francis is proud to serve with Lauren, a lovely and talented MTF who placed as first runner-up last year, and persevered to win in 1994. Also helping in their dapper tuxes were FTM's Kevin Horowitz and Alexander, who served as debutante escorts, and provided stage assistance during the formal wear competition.

GOOD HUMOR MAN



THE FAR SIDE/By Gary Larson



"Look. If you're so self-conscious about it, get yourself a gorilla mask."

Announcements

Chrysalis #8 Is A Special FTM Issue! Call For Submissions...

Chrysalis Quarterly issue #8, due out in June, 1994, will be filled with articles, stories, poems and artwork for, by and about FTMs, and your contributions are hereby solicited. The issue will be guest-edited by Jason Cromwell. Submissions should be delivered by February 28, 1994. Manuscripts should be typed, double-spaced on white 8 1/2" by 11" paper, or submitted on 3.5" DOS disk in ASCII text or WordPerfect. *Send materials for consideration to Jason Cromwell c/o Chrysalis Quarterly, P.O. Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033.*

Transgender Task Force & Planning Meetings Open

Kiki Whitlock, Transgender representative on the San Francisco Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Advisory Committee, invites FTM participation on the Transgender Task Force planning meetings. The task force is preparing materials to convince the SAN FRANCISCO Human Rights Commission to enact legislation to protect the transgendered population. **Meetings take place on the 4th Tuesday each month from 5 to 7 p.m. at 25 Van Ness, 8th floor.** The FTM Group has been invited to make a formal presentation in April. If you're interested in participating, attend a few meetings in the early months of this year and help James plan the most effective program possible. Also, the LGBAC will vote in March (on the 3rd Tuesday, same time and place) whether to include Transgender in the name of the Advisory Committee itself. Come out and support our community!! *For more information, call Kiki at* [415-398-1111](tel:415-398-1111) *Information Redacted*

TREKKIES! New Star Trek Club just for Transsexuals!!

Commander Kathy Jones of the U.S.S. Harry Benjamin invites new recruits aboard this all-trill shuttlecraft "equipped with the latest in bidirectional transwarp drive. We mainly write persona fiction about life on the ship and our fictional missions. The missions are exploratory in nature, but with plenty of room for action. Soon to become a full-fledged Starfleet galaxy-class starship, the U.S.S. Harry Benjamin is a correspondence vessel. There are no club meetings, but membership entitles you to receive our publication, "Where Few Have Gone Before," which includes stories of the exploits of the U.S.S. Harry Benjamin, persona biographies, artwork, announcements of upcoming conventions, etc." You may also join Starfleet. *Contact Cmdr. Kathy* [415-398-1111](tel:415-398-1111) *U.S.S. Harry Benjamin,* [415-398-1111](tel:415-398-1111) *San Francisco, CA* [415-398-1111](tel:415-398-1111) *Information Redacted* Discretion is assured. Beam on up!

FTM TO TEACH COURSE ON TRANSEXUALISM

Thurin Schminke will be teaching the course "Transsexualism and Society" within the Sociology Department offerings in the Spring semester at Northern Arizona University. This is possibly the first class of its type offered in an American institution, and a real first for FTMs. Congratulations, Thurin!

Short Sizes Catalogs Available

A subscriber has forwarded to FTM 2 copies of traditional clothing catalogs for short men. FTMs who live outside major

metropolitan areas can order good quality business-style clothes by mail in proper proportions for men 5'6" or shorter. If you want one of these 2 catalogs, write to James at FTM and he'll send it to you.

FTM Meeting Schedule 1994

FTM meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 2 to 5 p.m., in San Francisco. Call James(510-658-0474) for Details. Mark your calendars in advance!!

Support

January 9, 1994

March 13, 1994

May 8, 1994

July 10, 1994

September 11, 1994

November 13, 1994

Informational

February 13, 1994

April 10, 1994

June 12, 1994

August 14, 1994

October 9, 1994

December 11, 1994

FTM NEWSLETTER

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"MALE'IN" IT TO YA, BOY!

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