

Phoenix

MONTHLY / INTERNATIONAL

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GGA



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."--C.S. Lewis

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Items must be recieved not later than the first Monday of the month preceeding the issue date in which they are to appear.

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The Editorial Staff reserves the right to reject, edit and/or serialize items submitted for publication in the Phoenix Monthly-International.

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The Phoenix Monthly-International

HAPPY BIRTHDAY PHOENIX!

This is the First Anniversary Issue of the Phoenix!

The past 12 months have seen changes in the Phoenix, hopefully only changes for the better have been retained. The Phoenix will continue changing to meet the requirements of the readers and contributors. Nothing, after all, concerning the Phoenix, except the cover design, is set in concrete.

This year (1982) will see the covers color coded with each color repeated three times during the year. The month, year and Volume number will again appear on the front cover.

The combination of color coding and dating the covers should make locating a particular issue easier.

We, the Editorial Staff, hope each reader will not only enjoy each issue but contribute to filling the pages with interesting stories, articles and ideas.

Each issue will be printed about six weeks in advance of the month on the cover. This new procedure, allowing for mail handling time, should see delivery of the Phoenix in the first week or two of the issue month and even possibly the last week of the preceding month.

A FANTASY COME TRUE IN THE POCONOS!

by Dianne (NY Subscriber)

This may be a little late, but better late than never.

I attended the September 11-13th Week-End sponsored by Joyce Dewhurst at a lovely lodge in the Pocono Mountains and, like all those attending had a marvelous time. What a glorious way to spend a Fall week-end.

The lodge, equipped with a pool, game room, cottages and of course the Main House was an excellent site for this event. Attendees were two to a room and each room was equipped with its own bath and color television.

The meals, three a day, were beautiful and delicious and of course there was the great salad bar for the fresh vegetable freaks.

Muriel Olive, head of the NY GGA Chapter, and operator of a TV Boutique, set up shop in the office of the Main House offering many items, such as cosmetics, wigs, dresses, jewelry, lingerie and

"professional falsies". Muriel also provided instructions in the use of make-up for those wishing them.

Friday and Saturday nights were parties within The Party. The Friday night party was mainly a get acquainted gathering with everyone mingling. It was a BYOB event and ran from 9:30 until 3:30 a.m.

Saturday night was THE BIG EVENT. Any one wishing to could, and many did, enter the Beauty Contest for which the judges were two lodge employees and Muriel Olive. After much deliberation the three finalists were selected. Vicky, a "first timer" from North Carolina was awarded first prize with Cindy and Angela taking second and third prizes respectively.

All of us met and made new friends and for 3 days were able to live as the ladies we feel we were meant to be.

I know I add the voices of all those attending when I say a heartfelt "Thank You" to Joyce for staging this wonderful week-end.

GOSH - IS IT REALLY THAT BAD?

by Glenda Rene Jones (CA-5)

Provincetown was about the same. I had forgotten how far it was up the Cape and found myself getting impatient when I saw the sign indicating I was still 30 miles away. Finally the sand started to appear and I knew I was getting close. Then that final five miles and I was turning into town. As I drove down Bradford Street the memories began to come back. Not much different -- a coat of paint here and there and finally the Gifford House.

I quickly recognised many faces I had not seen for a while. I didn't recognize Grace Bacon right away and then there was Merissa, Michelle Williams and Betty Ann Lind, Virginia Prince, Julia and all the rest. About 60 attended the Fair this year. Many of the old crowd and a few new people. Unfortunately I wasn't able to stay the whole week this time; only the last week-end. It always brings back a lot of memories and well worth it. The Fantasia Fair is always fun. Such a good job is always done by the organizers.

On Friday night, October 23rd there was a meeting of particular importance, worth comment, that I attended. Also attending were many of the leaders of the paraculture who have been traditionally

(GOSH continued)

active across this country. A bit disappointing that out of the presumably several thousands of us that are supposed to exist "out there", only a few dozen people can be rounded up to represent us. Many of the usual perennial issues such as: legal hassles, how to get more people involved, relations with wives and other family members, as well as the usual political issues of membership qualifications for various clubs and groups, etc. were discussed during the meeting. It was very stimulating and I hope more discussion will be forthcoming.

Permeating many of the discussions was the fact that the one major "thing" all of us have in common is our rejection by society. It binds together the gays, the transsexuals, the bondage people, the babies, and the plain old vanilla hetero TV. From the standpoint of where we stand in society some ground has been gained. It isn't quite as bad as it once was. At least you cannot be thrown in jail for sending pictures of yourself dressed through the mail. Many groups have, in the past fought for their rights, the Blacks, the Hispanics, Women, to name but a few. Why are we still so far behind? The major part of the answer lies in our own self-image, which has never been very good even among crossdressers. And it still isn't.

On the bright side, many people wore things bought for them by their wife and while the Fair isn't really a wife's affair, at least many wives knew where their husband was. Unfortunately, there were many people at the Fair without anyone knowing where they were or why; people who keep their clothes locked away out of sight and who steal off to have a few moment's pleasure. People who wouldn't dream of doing "it" around their children or family members.

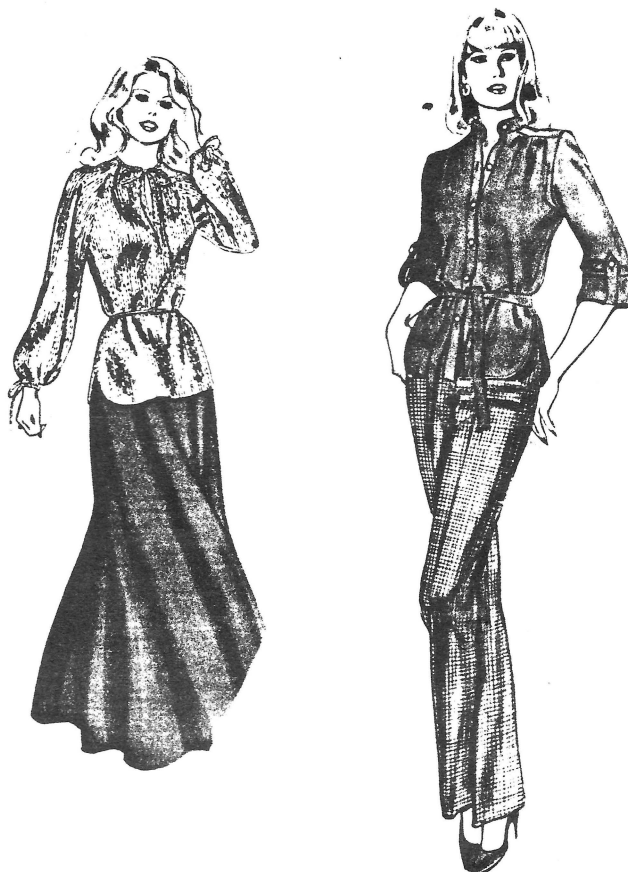
Here, perhaps more than any other issue, is where the problems lie. If a man wearing women's clothes is indeed bad; if it's something we don't want our children doing; if it is something that really should be scrubbed from society; if it is indeed the disorder many in the helping professions claim it is; if it really is that bad then I readily agree all of us should work toward the end of not doing it.

I, for one, reject all of preceding paragraph. I dress around my family and always have. While due to the nature of society, prudence is indicated in what we do around whom, I steadfastly maintain

that what we are doing is not wrong on any level: either spiritually, emotionally or physically. I find it fun and self fulfilling. Interestingly, as sidelight, someone at the Fair chided me for wearing jeans, a sweatshirt and Nike shoes. I mentioned that this is what my wife regularly wears to class. Ain't it neat to be able to wear exactly what you want?

If, in the future, we want others to have the feeling of freedom, the ability to do such a simple thing as being able to self-express, then we must start with ourselves. We must assume an attitude of being proud of what we are and what we are doing.

I don't say it will happen overnight. There will be Fantasia Fairs, or their equivalent, in the future where legal issues, "how to tell your wife" issues and all the rest will be discussed. We will probably make a bit more progress as time goes on. A few shrinks will begin to realize that this is not a "disorder", but a lifestyle preference. In the final analysis it is a matter of believing, down deep, that this is right and proper.



A SPEEDY WAY TO LOSE YOUR BUST LINE!
by Rebecca (AZ Subscriber)

Drugs, even taken innocently, can do a surprising amount of harm and have some very odd side-effects. I, for example, found out the hard way what Speed can do to the bust I have worked so hard to develop and maintain.

I love to party all night and do when the opportunity presents itself. Often I, like many others, have difficulty staying awake and alert "all night" so I used to take a "black beauty" (the street name for amphetamine). As stated in the DOCTOR DEAR column in the December '81 Phoenix this same drug is often prescribed for diet patients to assist in weight loss and/or control.

After several months I noticed my breasts had not only ceased growing but were, in fact, shrinking. Frightened, shocked and in panic over this, knowing implants are SO expensive I presented my doctor with the problem. When he learned that I had been taking speed he immediately knew what the problem was and strongly urged me to discontinue taking the drug. Needless to say I have not taken Speed since, nor do I intend to. Happily, since getting off the occasional "black beauty" my bust has returned to its former size and is continuing to develop -- thank heavens.

Take some advice, from a girl who has learned the hard way:

Don't take drugs not prescribed by your physician!! Your body and health are more important than any silly pill or staying awake at a party!!



NEW DUDS and POWDER 'N PAINT!

A NEW Roaman's catalog arrived at the Busines Office in November. What's new about a clothing catalog? The 35 pages of this one are filled with stylish LARGE sizes. Generally blouses are sized from 18 to 52; skirts and pants from 30 to 48 inch waists; dresses in half-sizes from 12 1/2 to 28 1/2 or 34 to 48; nightgowns and robes from 36 to 52; bras from 34B to 48D; panties from 40 to 60 and girdles 32 to 46 inch hip sizes; half slips from 32 to 50 inch waists; shoes from 6 to 12 with widths from D-E to EE-EEE. And best of all the prices for these stylish items are very reasonable. To get your own copy of this catalog write Roaman's, Saddle Brook, NJ, 07662 asking for "Evelyn's Signature Collection" catalog.

Dusty (CA-35) recently sent us information to pass along on 3 more companies handling "brand name" cosmetics, such as Jovan, Revlon, Max Factor, Faberge, Helena Rubinstein, etc. at bargain prices. To obtain copies of the catalogs offered by these companies write to:

Beauty Showcase, 800 S. Broadway, Hicksville NY, 11801

Amica Cosmetics, Post Office Box 81, Brooklyn, NY 11203

Beauty Buy Book, Sixty-five E. Southwater, Chicago, IL 60601

If you have any information as to sources of clothing, cosmetics, shoes, etc. please send us the information so we may pass it along to others and, of course, include it in the Directory of Information and Services.

BERKELEY MEETINGS

Kathy advises she is reaching "the burn-out point" as regards continuing holding the meetings of the Berkeley Chapter in her apartment. So, the Berkeley meetings will be discontinued until we can locate another meeting place and either someone assist with or assume the responsibility for the meetings.

Attendees of the Berkeley meeting are, of course, welcome to attend the San Francisco meetings held at 8 p.m. the second Wednesday of each month at the MMC, 150 Eureka St.

SUSAN TELLS HER CHILDREN
by Susan (CA-12)

Before getting into the heart of this article I would like to give you some background information.

I have been a TV for about 40 years. I have had extensive psychotherapy directed toward this condition, but without success in changing my behavior. More recently I have been undergoing therapy for alcoholism, which has been very successful and I have not drunk alcohol for over a year. I'm presently seeing the therapist for maintenance and whatever stress may develop in my life. We have talked extensively about my crossdressing and I decided it would alleviate some of the stress in my life if I came out of the closet at home. My therapist encouraged me to do just that.

I dress at home when alone, or at meetings with other TVs. My wife has known about my crossdressing since before we were married (almost 25 years now), but doesn't want to see me dressed or participate in my second life although recently I have been more open in discussing it with her.

Some 18 years ago, before our daughter was born, I went to a FPE meeting in LA to find out how other TVs handled the "children issue". Most, it seems, did not tell them so I got little advice at that time. So, all these years I've kept my dressing a secret from my 2 children, Ann, who is 17 and Alan, who is 13. Both have had some psychotherapy for various problems and Alan currently sees a therapist, Marcia, with whom we worked on the best way to tell the children about my crossdressing.

A few months ago Alan became very angry with me and accused me of being gay. He said he could "prove it" because he had overheard me saying that I wanted to cut off my beard so I could dress as a woman (Yes, I love feminine things but I do have a beard). I was very surprised at his accusation and assured him I most certainly was not gay, but I didn't go into my crossdressing at that time since I just wasn't prepared and he was too angry. However, I knew I would have to face the issue with him soon. I also knew it would take much courage on my part and that I would be taking a risk with our relationship.

Anyway, after discussing, with Marcia, the possibility telling the children an appointment was made for all four of us to meet with her so she could facilitate the discussion. I had several weeks to prepare for this step. I wrote a long, detailed discussion of how I wanted to tell them and about my second life as a crossdresser. Through the "Mirror" I got some input from Ellen in Oregon (OR-14), and I also got a good letter from Carol. Several of my TV friends helped with what I should say and Marcia and my wife, Sara, gave me a lot of help. Initially I wanted to go into a lot of detail, but the general consensus was to keep it simple and direct. My preparation went through four drafts.

Well, the appointment finally arrived and although I was quite nervous I knew I could do it. Marcia very skillfully directed the interchange among us stressing the necessity of being open about our thoughts and feelings. Ann initially did most of the talking and finally Marcia suggested that maybe the rest of us might want to talk. So, it was my turn and this is essentially what I said:

"There is a family secret of which you may be aware and are old enough now to understand. A few months ago Alan accused me of being homosexual or gay and said that he could prove it since he had overheard me saying I wanted to shave off my beard so I could dress up as a woman. I told him that I certainly was not gay -- that I loved women not men. However, that was probably an inadequate response and I'd like to explain all this further.

"To Alan, this accusation was probably a big put-down, but I'd like to point out that there are many OK gay people -judges, authors, artists, lawyers, doctors and so on. Gay or homosexual men like to make love to other men, not women. Very few dress up as women or act as women to attract other men.

"However, there is another group of men who are heterosexual in that they love women, not men, but enjoy dressing up as woman. These people are cross-dressers or transvestites.

"Now, I do like to occasionally dress up as a woman. That is my secret. I generally do it when I'm alone, but I'm certainly not gay. I love women and I'm successful as a man.

"Why am I telling you about this? Because I think you are old enough to un-

(Tells--continued)

derstand, you probably have suspicions of it anyway and I will feel better emotionally if I don't have to keep it a secret from you. I want to be open and honest about it with you.

"I have crossdressed, off and on, for a long time and although I've had a lot of psychotherapy about this it's not something I want to stop doing since I enjoy it. I seem to have this basic need to dress-up occasionally when I'm alone. I don't think it such a bad thing and the doctors at the Alcoholic Clinic agree and say it's better than drinking to relax me and relieve stress. And for me it is a release from the rather rigid macho demands of being a man. I'm a successful man and so are most other crossdressers. Most are married and have children. We just have this need to dress-up as women occasionally. I know some very fine people who are crossdressers.

"However, this behavior is not generally socially acceptable. Men who dress as women in public are laughed at and harassed. Therefore, this is our family secret. I don't want our friends, neighbors or people at work to know. Thus, I certainly don't want you to tell this to other kids or people. They might laugh at you and harass or ostracize you and the rest of the family.

"However, I want you to understand that I have this need and accept me as I am and I need your love just as I have tried to give you my understanding, acceptance and love."

Marcia then opened up the discussion.

Ann said that she had not had any suspicions, but was not particularly shocked since she knew so many unusual people among her peers in high school.

Alan was probably quite shook up since he was quiet, but he said he could understand and accept me.

My wife said I was certainly a lot better person than other husbands who have extramarital affairs. She said I was a "pretty good egg".

Generally, I was really quite pleased with the family meeting. Sara later said I really was quite calm in telling this. Although I don't know what the long-term effects will be, in the last week or so I have sensed a new closeness with my children. They are more open with me and we are able to talk a lot more freely and easily than before. Also, I see no need to hide my feminine clothes in suitcases

(Tells--continued)

in the closet anymore -- they're now out in drawers in the bedroom and this is certainly more convenient. I will continue to dress when alone or at TV meetings -- I don't want to flaunt myself before my family, but now I can tell them when I want to be alone and they will understand.

I hope my experience will help others in dealing with their children. There has been little specific discussion of this issue in the TV literature and, in a sense, I feel like a pioneer. Telling my children was not easy, but I certainly feel it was a valuable step in alleviating my stress and opening up a more honest relationship with those who mean the most to me.

WANTED TO BUY

Woman's full-fashioned hair piece, new or in good contition if used. Must fit lady's hat size #24 head. Any information concerning where I might have a wig made to order would also be appreciated. Contact; Tommi, CA-164, through GGA.

FROM THE MAIL BAG

Dear Editor,

I liked Michelle's article "My Rebirth in Trinidad" in the October/November Phoenix. I particularly appreciated her mentioning and dealing with her feelings about changing her anatomy; her confirming to her body, then male, that she did not hate it but only needed to change it. As a FTM transsexual, I have had a lot of qualms about the possibility I am rejecting my body or trying to, as some people have told me, kill certain aspects of it by having them surgically altered.

I'd like to hear more from other post-ops about how they dealt with these feelings.

Emmon (CA-57)

Editor's Comment:

Okay Readers! Here's a subject many of you should be able to get your teeth into and obviously needs open and frank discussion. Let's have some input for an article on the feelings concerning the renovation of the old body to make a new model.

Dear Trans-Sisters,

I just received the Directory and the Oct/Nov Phoenix. The Directory is great; however given my unique situation here in Mexico I doubt I'll be writing to many people.

If any of the ladies are planning a trip to Mexico City I'd love to meet them. Please ask them to write about a month in advance so I can respond and work out my schedule. Anyone visiting Mexico should be aware that down here it's guilty until proven innocent -- and proving innocence is an almost impossible task, especially for crossdressers as they are considered homosexual and put in jail and the key, quite literally thrown away. Identification MUST agree with physical appearance.

Barbara Anne (MEX-10)

Editor's Note: Barbara Anne has volunteered to provide an article on the hazards of crossdressing in Mexico. We look forward to its appearance in the Phoenix -- and certainly hope we don't have to change her mailing address to the local slammer.



DEAR DOCTOR MICHELLE
by
Michelle
Williams, M.D.

The advice provided in this column is given with the understanding that the inquirer and readers MUST consult their own physicians for medical attention.



Dear Doctor Michelle,

I have recently begun a relationship with an individual who is a borderline male-to-female transsexual. He has been on hormones for 4 years and we find it difficult to have sex. I mean it takes quite a while for him to become aroused and while he doesn't actually say it hurts when he ejaculates I get the feeling there is more than a little discomfort. I mean, I think there is some actual pain -- more than minor.

He wants to stop his hormone therapy but is afraid of what the effect(s) will be if he stops. Would it better to stop cold turkey or gradually reduce the dosage? He is, I think, on 6mg per day. I think this is quite a heavy dosage, but he tells me his doctor (shrink) told him he had "above normal levels of male hormones". Even after all this time he has very little breast tissue (about like a 10-12 year old girl's) and isn't all that "hippy".

Can you tell me what may have already happened to his reproductive system? Will he be able, as he wants to, to father children? Or have the hormones made him sterile? I know he isn't impotent, but as I said, it takes a while to get his motor running.

I have been looking for some medical texts on this but have not been able to locate any. Can you suggest some? I can find a good deal on the psychological end but little on the physical and especially internal end.

Myra

Dear Myra,

I can sympathize with the problem since I have also experimented with hormones; however 4 years is almost too long to experiment. The symptoms your boyfriend is experiencing may be related to his estrogen therapy. It is not unusual

(DOCTOR continued)

for a male under prolonged estrogen therapy to experience painful ejaculation.

If he intends to regain normal male sexual function he has to stop the estrogen therapy. Since gradual reduction of the hormones will only prolong the problem, I suggest stopping, as you say, "cold turkey". I cannot determine from your letter what strength hormones he is on. There are many estrogens much more potent than others milligram per milligram. His "above normal levels of male hormones" is possibly due to the estrogen therapy in that his body is attempting to overcome the estrogens. His breast and hip development are probably all that is attainable on hormone therapy. Most transsexuals, with the possible exception of those who are somewhat obese or those who are very sensitive to these agents, require breast augmentation surgery in order to achieve the desired end.

Your boyfriend's reproductive system has undergone some degree of atrophy due to the estrogens. His testicles are shrunken, his prostate is very shrunken which is the cause for the painful ejaculation and his having difficulty in attaining and maintaining erections. You state that he is still capable of an ejaculation with difficulty. That is a hopeful sign that his reproductive system will be able to eventually be restored to full activity; his ability to father children can only be determined after a waiting time without the hormones and a semen analysis. It is possible after a four year course of the hormones that there will be a permanently reduced sperm count.

Your boyfriend's attempts to reverse the hormonal transsexual therapy is one of the reasons why therapists treating transsexuals require a prolonged period of observation prior to recommending gender reassignment surgery. It is therefore essential that he continue under psychiatric care. However, in reference to the mechanical problems that are present I believe an endocrinologist would be the best source of help. There may also be a lag in stimulation of the pituitary and the hypothalamic portions of the system which may require very expert endocrine assistance to regenerate your boyfriend's male reproductive system. This would normally be well beyond the expertise of a psychiatrist. I would also like to remind you that a portion of the sexual difficulties may be psycho-

sexual. It should be kept in mind that 90% of the sexual function is between the ears and only 10% between the legs. An individual reversing the transsexual syndrome back to heterosexual behavior may be undergoing an enormous amount of stress. This may require a great deal of patience and understanding on your part.

I would suggest, for further information on this subject, that you consult THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON by Harry Benjamin, M.D. Since this book appeared in 1966 nothing in the medical literature has invalidated its basic principles in diagnosis and treatment of gender dysphoria. I would also further suggest consultation with one of Harry Benjamin's disciples, Dr. Charles Ihlenfeld, of New York City, who is an internist and an endocrinologist and also recognized psychiatrist who may have specific guidance for your physician.

Questions for Doctor Michelle should be addressed to The Phoenix, Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, Ca 94088. We will review all questions submitted before forwarding them to Dr. Michelle for reply.

HELP! IS THERE A DOCTOR IN THE HOUSE?

I am writing this in the hope that some doctor, somewhere, preferably close to home, will help me.

I am 34 years old and not getting any younger. As far back as I can remember I wanted to be a total woman, but didn't know what to do about it.

Here's the problem! I live in a small Oregon town and the doctors out here not only don't know about estrogen therapy for the TS, but they don't seem to want to help the TS. I understand the natural estrogen (Premarin -- 25 mg dosage) is quite good for enlarging/developing the breast. So, I need a doctor's help in acquiring estrogen therapy.

Additionally I have the problem that traveling 300 to 400 miles on a regular basis is almost impossible. Medical records can be sent to you, so if there is a doctor in the house, please help me by contacting Donna Thopre, Post Office Box 528, Brandon, OR, 97411.

THE LADIES OF SUCCESS (CHAPTER -- FLORIDA)



left to right-Elaine, Susan



Linda



bottom left to bottom right.

Jill, Nadine, Bea, Jean, Shirley, Susan, Linda, Marilyn Julia, Alicia, Jo Ann, Julie



Elaine



Susan



left to right

Elaine Susan (FL-1) Shirley A.



left to right
Elaine Susan G. Janet



Susan G. Susan C. (AL-13) Alicia F.



left to right-rear row
Nadine, Bobbi, Susan, Janet, Susan C.
center row-Wanda Shirley A.
bottom row-Susan G., Elaine, Shannon



Nadine Shirl (wig shop owner) Julia



Nadine Julia (OH-1) Elaine

Susan G.
(daughter of
Susan A. FL-1)



LIKE A PHOENIX -- REBORN

Fiction by Shara (TX-17)

(continued from last month)

(Recap of last month's portion: Shara, a pre-op has gone to the house of an old man where she has experienced some strange things; without having been told, the old man, Malachi seems to know she yearns to be a woman; she is being changed through inner-consciousness. Will it work?)

The door opened and Malachi, still dressed in the rumpled, dirty fatigues stepped into the room. A slight smile played across his lips as he looked at me and seemed to be pleased with his "creation".

"How are you today Shara."

"Fine! But what's happening to me? How long have I been here? I never seem to remember going to sleep. Please," I pleaded "tell me something, anything. How long have I been here? How long are you going to keep me here?"

"You've been here three weeks, dear. And what is happening to you is your wish is coming true."

"My wish?"

"Haven't you prayed to be changed into a woman because that's what you rightly are?"

"Yes, I have. But---"

"Well, there you have it."

"But you're not--you can't possibly be--you couldn't know---"

The smile returned to his face, he patted my knee through the bedcovers, turned and left the room.

I stayed in the bed, my mind in a turmoil thinking over what Malachi had said. I was snapped back to reality by the opening of the room's door and the entry of the person I had thought was a doctor the evening before.

"Hello Shara. Malachi said you're doing fine. How do you feel?"

"Who are you?" I asked, bursting with curiosity. My tone sounding as though I was accusing him of something.

"I?, Why I'm Doctor John."

"Doctor? Listen, is Malachi really-- I mean if he's really who I think he is he wouldn't need a doctor to change me into a woman. But he can't be, that's silly."

"No, he doesn't need a doctor to change you into a woman, but YOU do."

"I do?" How can I change myself into a

woman?"

"It's really quite simple. So simple in fact I surprised you haven't thought of it. You see you haven't yet allowed your mind to realize it has control over your body. Once you allow it to accept that fact you'll see that you can make all the physical changes necessary to change from a male into the female you want so badly to be."

"Are you crazy? I've never heard such rubbish."

"No, I'm not crazy. Didn't I say that your mind controls your body? It also controls itself. It can produce both internal and external changes. It can even change your hormones and their levels."

"Then you're saying that I could possibly--"

"Not possibly. You can."

"Fantastic. But why me? Of all people why did Malachi pick me?"

"Because you're one of the Special Ones. That's what Malachi calls those few who are on the verge of revelatory truths and have gotten there by their own learning and experience. You need help because of your unusual circumstances or you wouldn't have made it. Probably you would have committed suicide. But, no. you may make it."

"May make it?"

"Yes. If you realize that you need me no more than Malachi does."

"And what happens if I can't come to realize that?"

"Don't ask." He left the room and I sat for a long time thinking over what he had said.

Time passed, but since I had no clock, no calendar nor even a window from which I could see the day or night I can only guess that three weeks passed. I spent the time concentrating on changing my body, both internally and more importantly, externally. Each morning when I got up I dressed in the female clothing which appeared, as if by magic, when I was sleeping. Always, the clothing I had worn the day before was gone.

I checked myself in the mirror each night before going to bed. It may have been my imagination, or the light playing tricks on me, but my face seemed to be slowly changing into more of a feminine heart shape; my lips were fuller and more of a Cupid's Bow in shape; my waist was smaller, I judged it to be about a 26 by trying to encircle it with my hands; my

(REBORN continued)

hips were slightly -- maybe two to three inches --- larger than before; and my breasts had developed and enlarged to at least an A-cup. I knew at least some portions of the external me were changing and seemingly some portions of the internal me were also changing.

The hours outside of my meditation time were spent swimming in the beautiful, lush tropical pool, eating my three meals and talking at great length with Doctor John. We talked of my old life and a great many other topics. I didn't like to talk about my dreary, lost life before meeting Malachi. It was just to unpleasant compared to what my life now was.

I found myself thinking of Doctor John sometimes while waiting for sleep to come at night. I found myself longing to have him with me to touch and caress even though I knew I would not be able to satisfy either of us sexually as a real woman would.

I didn't know where I was or for sure what was happening to me, if it was real, a dream or my imagination, but I would just accept it for whatever it was and hope it was real.

--- 5 ---

Malachi walked into the room he had previously told me was reserved for a "special conversation" between him and me. I had never seen it before and had been told I would see it when the time was right, if it was ever right.

Malachi, hair mussed and shaggy as ever and still dressed in the dirty fatigues selected a chair covered in intricate brocade over a valour cover and sat facing me. Between his chair and mine was a glass (or was it crystalline) table on which sat golden colored glasses and trays.

"What is your question today Shara?"

"I want to know about the Test." I said trying to look stern and hard. "When will I be ready for it?"

"In time. All in good time." He stood and crossed to the door and just before stepping through the door opening he added, "Soon, though. Soon."

I wasn't ready to leave or end the conversation. But I suddenly found myself in my own room. It seemed that as soon as Malachi had closed the door of the "special room" I was in my room. Had I walked here? No, I didn't think so, or at least I didn't remember doing it. I would have to be crazy not to remember walking here

from the other room. Malachi! He must have done it, but how? Who is he? Is he really who I think he is? If so maybe he was waiting for me to become a proper Christian. Then and there I resolved to try and uphold as many rules of the Bible as possible.

--- 6 ---

You can imagine my surprise when a man of obvious oriental origin clad only in a karate gi entered my room. He certainly appeared to be the furthestest thing I could think of from a Christian.

I spent the next few months in daily karate training learning to discipline my body. The Japanese man told me, the first time we met, that Malachi had ordered him to train me.

When I spoke of my theory and his obvious physical difference from the usual picture of a Christian he smiled and spoke to me in a way that reminded me of Malachi. He said "Each tree grows strong and sturdy in its own roots and not another's. So, each is to his own and prospers with it, yet because one tree is so much bigger than its neighbors does that mean the others should follow only after him? No, for there are many roots and they were created for the many trees. All trees grow toward the sky and heaven. Think on that."

I spent many days thinking about his parable and willing my womanhood to flower. The development/change process was coming more quickly now because of the meditation processes my mentor had taught me. My breasts had increased in size to be appropriate for a woman my size and age. My hips had increased in size and my waist had grown smaller. The small penis remaining between my legs was the only black spot in what otherwise would have been a Garden of Eden.

I knew now that God wants each woman (man) to rely on her/his own strength. I had learned an important lesson, that God is not a crutch or an excuse. Then after a later than usual conversation with Doctor John I knew what the parable meant. That all religions are good. There are many paths or roads to Heaven. That each of us is different because of our heritage, where he grows up -- because of his different roots. I fell asleep that night, exhausted but happy.

--- 7 ---

I was startled when I awakened one morning to find I

(REBORN continued)

wasn't alone in my bed. Doctor John lay on his side staring at me with his large, deep, brown eyes. Neither of us spoke as he was totally in control for I was melting in his stare and then melting into his arms as he took me into them. He began kissing me and hugging me. I couldn't believe what was happening, yet I couldn't stop it or myself as I began to respond to his advances with my own. As he began removing my sleeping gown some part of my mind that was still rational realized I was still male "down there". Oh lord, what a disaster. -----
-Ah! My entire world exploded. My eyes saw colors before them on my eyelids and the muscles in my entire body grew rigid. I felt my legs wrapped around Doctor John's waist and my arms around his neck. For long minutes we lay there listening to the sound of each other's breathing. I asked in a whisper "What happened?"

"What happened" Doctor John said, "was that you found you didn't need a doctor; that you needed me and that I'm not a doctor. You've passed Malachi's test. You are 100 percent a woman now! And I, I'm to be your husband as soon as Malachi takes us back to earth."

"Earth? What do you mean? Where are we?"

"Shhhh, for now darling. I'll tell you all about it when we get home."

--- Fini ---

CALENDAR PAGE

In this regular feature we list the meetings of various groups and special functions known to be scheduled. If your group wishes a FREE announcement in the PM-I, send it to: The GGA, Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088. Copy deadline is the 1st Monday of the month preceeding the issue of the PM-I in which the announcement is to appear.

Please note that membership in Tri-S is open ONLY to heterosexual MTF cross-dressers. Transsexuals are NOT allowed membership in that organization!

**** NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ****
GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

Meeting time at each location: 8 PM.
SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.
SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.
Write PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for information on specific meeting locations.

OTHER GROUPS

PACIFIC CENTER, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap sessions. Last Friday, special topic or guest speaker. Meeting time: 7:30 'til 10:00pm

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday (\$3.00 donation is requested). For specific information write PO Box 26227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY of JANUS. For those "into" or seeking adventure in S&M. For information concerning meetings and events write PO Box 6794, San Francisco, 94101.

**** SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA ****

SALMACIS: Unstructured social get-together on the second Saturday of each month. 7:30 pm. Contact Lynn or Ann (213) 241-9093.

SHANGRI-LA: (Scyros Chapter). First Saturday each month, 5-11 pm. Contact Nancy (714) 834-0928 for information.

SHANGRI-LA: Main Office. Nancy Watsn, PO Box 18202, Irvine, CA 92713.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Informational brochure "For the Record" - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, PO Box 2476, Mission Viejo, 92690. Group counseling: Dana Point facility on the 2nd & 4th Mondays; San Jaun Capistrano facility 1st and 3rd Mondays.

**** COLORADO ****

TV/TS GROUP: Meeting every Monday, 8 pm. Members begin assembling about 7:30 so often no seats are left, so early arrival is suggested. Programs of primary interest to crossdressers are presented on even dated Mondays; programs of primary interest to persons in transition are presented on alternate Mondays. Location: corner of 11th Avenue and Filmore, Cherry Creek Area of southwest Denver. Call (303) 830-7353 for specific information.

**** CONNECTICUT ****

XX-CLUB. Primarily a TS Support Group. Contact Rev. Clinton Jones, 45 Church St, Hartford, 09103 for information.

HARRIET LANE'S "The TV Set". (Parties). Contact Harriet Lane, Post Office Box 2, Yalesville Station, Wallingford 06402 or call (203) 288-1166 for party information.

Parties:

Debutante Ball Jan 23, 1982
Valentine Party Feb 13, 1982

**** DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA ****

DELTA CHI CHAPTER (GGA): Sandy Machin, Post Office Box 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER (GGA) (Balt-DC Area): Lisa Rouse, Post Office Box 218, Burtonsville, MD 20703.

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag-gay): Carl Rizzi 1015 S. Quebec St (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

**** FLORIDA ****

SUCCESS CHAPTER (GGA) Meetings on the 2nd Saturday of each odd numbered month. Contact Susan Armstrong, PO Box 1601, Pinellas Park, 33565.

PARTIES: Contact: Fantasies in Lace, PO Box 100279, Ft. Lauderdale 33310.

**** ILLINOIS ****

WINDY CITY CHAPTER of GGA. Schedule and contact address will be available soon. If interested in joining this Chapter or attending its meetings contact PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 for information until a Chicago address is available.

CHI CHAPTER (Tri-S).

Donna Martin, Post Office Box 218, Markham, IL 60446

**** MASSACHUSETTS ****

BOSTON AREA

TIFFANY CLUB: Tuesdays & Saturdays, 7-11 pm. Usually a \$5.00 fee for non-members. Call (617) 891-8022 for information.

KAY-MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

TS SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, S. Orleans, 02662 for information.

**** MICHIGAN ****

CROSSROADS: Irregular schedule. Following meeting date has been established: January 9, 1982 in Detroit Contact Grace Bacon, PO Box 3013, Flint, 48502 for specific information on the organization and meetings.

**** NEW JERSEY ****

NU CHAPTER (GGA) (Northern NJ): J. Mallay, 29 Franklin Place, Morristown, NJ 07960. No meeting schedule set, but watch these pages for future announcements.

GATEWAY GENER ALLIANCE

GGA CHAPTER, NEW YORK CITY Muriel Olive, 157 W. 57th St., Suite 601, NYC, 10019. Meetings: 2nd Saturday of each month.

TV PARTIES: Contact Joyce Dewhurst, 27-50 76th Street, Jackson Heights, 11372 or call (212) 335-3048.

TV PARTIES (Long Island). Contact Casey, PO Box 708, N. Bellmore, 11710 or call (516) 548-7736.

ALBANY-TVIC. Meeting every 3rd Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany 12200 for specific information.

**** OHIO ****

PARADISE CLUB.(Akron Area) Contact: Patricia L. McDermott, PO Box 576, Export, PA, 15632. Since reservations are required because meetings are held in rented facilities and often a motel room is required for an overnight stay please contact the above address for reservation forms.

**** PENNSYLVANIA ****

PI CHAPTER (GGA) (Pittsburgh Area) Contact Patricia L. McDermott, PO Box 576, Export, 15632.

PHI CHAPTER (GGA) (Philadelphia Area.) Contact Michelle Williams, PO Box 322, Collingswood, 08108.

**** TEXAS ****

SOUTHWEST CHAPTER, GGA. Galveston. Contact Alice (713) 763-6227 for information.

**** VIRGINIA ****

NU RHO CHAPTER (Tri-S) (Norfolk-Virginia Beach Area) N. Cooper, S-180, P.O. Box 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452

**** WISCONSIN ****

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact Post Office Box 813, Madison, 53701. (TV Only).

**** CANADA ****

WINNIPEG CHAPTER of GGA. Contact Linda T. O'Connell, 712-714 504 Main Street, Winnipeg R3B 1B8 or call (204) 957-0327. No meeting schedule has been established yet but will soon be forthcoming. Watch this column.
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GATHER FROM ALL RESOURCES AVAILABLE AND DISSEMINATE ALL INFORMATION PERTAINING TO AND OF INTEREST TO THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL.

PROVIDE REFERRAL SERVICES FOR THE VARIOUS GENDER INDIVIDUALS AND GROUPS WITH WHOM/WHICH THIS ORGANIZATION IS IN CONTACT.

ENCOURAGE COOPERATION AMONG THE LEADERS AND MEMBERSHIP OF THE VARIOUS EXISTING OR FUTURE GENDER DYSPHORIC GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS.

DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL TO ASSIST IN THE EDUCATION OF THE GENDER DYSPHORIC IN DEALING WITH HIS/HER LIFESTYLE CHALLENGES **AND** ASSIST THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN ACCEPTING THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AS A PERSON.

PROVIDE A PUBLICATION CONTAINING ITEMS OF INTEREST TO THE GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUAL AND COUNSELORS.

PROVIDE THOSE MEMBERS DESIRING IT A LIST OF PSYCHOTHERAPISTS COUNSELING IN THE GENDER DYSPHORIC FIELD.

PROVIDE A LISTING OR REGISTER OF ACTIVITIES OF INTEREST IN LOCAL OR ACCESSIBLE AREAS TO THE INDIVIDUALS AFFILIATED WITH THIS ORGANIZATION.

ADVERTISE TO ATTRACT UNDECLARED GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUALS WITHIN OUR SPHERE OF INFLUENCE.

ENCOURAGE THE FULL AND ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN THIS ORGANIZATION OF ALL GENDER DYSPHORIC INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Page

Happy Birthday, Phoenix. 1

Report on a Fall Week-end in the Poconos. 1
 By an attendee

Gosh! Is It Really So Bad?. 1
 A report on the Fantasia Fair, et al

A Speedy Way To Loose Your Bust Line. 3
 Advice from someone who has been there

New Duds and Powder 'N Paint. 3

Berkeley Meetings. 3

Susan Tells. 4
 Susan tells her children about her crossdressing

From the Mail Bag 5
 Letters from readers

Dear Doctor Michelle. 6
 Replies to Reader's Questions From A Physician

The Ladies of Success. 8
 Photoessay of a Success Chapter Meeting

Courtney Davis Adventure (continued from last month). . . . 10
 Will Shara change without surgery? Who is Dr. John?

Calendar Page 12
 Events, Meetings, etc. of other Groups

Classified Pages. 14
 Commercial advertising