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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

GGA

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THE PHILOSOPHY and PSYCHOLOGY OF TRANSSEXUALISM

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Edited by Georgia L. Saunders

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This article is taken from the forthcoming book, Late Blooming Butterfly, a Biographical Study of Transsexualism.

(First Installment)

SEX AND GENDER

Some Myths Concerning Sex and Gender Exploded

Myth: Becoming a transsexual (TS) is a matter of choice. FALSE.

While transsexuals are commonly lumped with homosexuals it is erroneous popular wisdom that choosing one's gender is similar to choosing one's sexual preference. Gender is programmed in the individual's brain prenatally and/or during the first 18 months of life. There has been no appreciable success in changing this initial polarization through psychoanalysis or other types of therapy such as aversion therapy. The syndrome is accurately described as a birth defect rather then a preference. Most transsexuals would, if given the choice, opt for being "normal" to escape the anguish entailed in transsexualism.

There is a big difference between sometimes fantasizing what it would be like to have been born a woman and suffering with the transsexual syndrome. Men, regardless of their physical appearance or sexual orientation, sometimes say they would accept the opportunity to have been born Cheryl Tiegs or Bo Derek had it been offered them, but that is a hypothetical situation. Rather, we are discussing a serious and chronic cross-gender identification. Studies reveal that more women than men would prefer to have been born the opposite sex, but that **does not** make them transsexuals since they know they are women and are reconciled to remain in their gender of birth for the remainder of this incarnation; and yet, paradoxically, there are many more out-of-the-closet and/or self-diagnosed male-to-female than female-to-male transsexuals.

Bearing in mind that **all** fetuses start out female we should, rather than saying a TS is a **man** who changes into a woman, say a TS is a **female** who failed to develop completely into a man and therefore has to be assisted, through medical intervention, back to an externally female physical state.

Myth: A TS is a male homosexual. FALSE.

Transsexualism is a function of **gender-identification.** A gay man has male gender-indentification. **Gender-identification is distinct from sexual preference.** A TS does **not** identify with gay men. Likewise, gay men do **not** like transsexuals. In the unlikely event a gay man takes a TS for another gay man he will tend to treat the TS as a male. Being so treated is most discomforting to the TS who wants, above all to be treated as a "straight" woman and likes "straight" men.

Myth: A transsexual is a transvestite. FALSE.

The reverse, namely that transvestites are latent, undeveloped or potential transsexuals, is also false. Most popular, and any other form of, ignorance is the result of oversimplification and the failure to make distinctions. It **is** true both the transvestite and transsexual wear feminine clothing, but they do so for different purposes. While the transvestite often dresses for the physical pleasure of this form of fetishism he always retains or reverts back to and maintains his male gender-identity. Strictly speaking the transsexual is **not** crossdressing when she wears feminine clothing. Rather the transsexual **is** crossdressing when she wears masculine clothing to conform with Society's dress code for the physical male.

Myth: All transvestites are gay. FALSE. Another oversimplification which is, I understand, quite popular with Latin, especially law enforcement and judicial, and U.S. Customs and Immigration authorities. In fact, **most** transvestites are heterosexual while a small minority are bi-sexual.

Myth: A transsexual is created (manufactured) simply by lopping off the the male genitalia and replacing it with a surgically created vagina. FALSE.

Alas, another oversimplification. The only parts excised are the gonads (testicles) and the spongy inner tissue of the penis. All other tissue is reconstructed to form the female genitalia. A vagina **is** formed, but it is lined with the inverted penile tissue while the scrotal tissue is used to form the labia majora and minora. The results are more a reconstruction of what Nature, herself, would have used had She decided to do the job correctly rather then requiring surgical intervention to correct Her mistake. The state-of-the-art of reassignment surgery has advanced so far that gynecologists are often, at least initially, deceived by the reconstructed female genitalia and identify the post-operative TS as a hysterectomized genetic female.

Myth: A transsexual is neither a woman nor female, but simply a feminized male. FALSE.

Some Fundamentalist Christians, conservative medical and Behavioral Science practitioners affirm this belief. However, sex and gender as not as simple as some would like to believe. It is true that some publicly known transsexuals look like partially feminized males, but the degree to which a person is a woman or female should be judged on a profile of several factors, not **solely** by or on outward appearance. The predominant theory is:

transsexualism is a type of birth defect and gender reassignment is its remedy.

While a TS can **never** be **100%** female, primarily because of her lack of internal secondary sexual characteristics, she **can** be **100%** woman and certainly 100% feminine.

Myth: A TS liking girls/women cannot be a true TS. FALSE.

Here again, gender-identification is distinct from sexual preference. Most transsexuals are heterosexual (preferring males) while some are bi-sexual and a few are obligatory (exclusively) lesbian.

Myth: A TS with serious psychological and/or social problems cannot be a true TS or stable enough to attempt cross-living and/or surgery. FALSE.

This myth is oft times subscribed to by the so-called professionals operating TS "programs". What **bigger** problem **could** there be then having the body of the wrong sex? And what bigger step to solve the person's problem than to correct **this** problem **before** attacking others? Many of the problems, both psychological and social, are direct results of the individual's transsexualism.

Physical, Social and Psychological Factors in Gender and Sex

The study of sex and gender begins to resemble nuclear physics with the splitting of a particle only to find it made up of other particles, in combination or newly discovered particles. The basic particles of "nuclear sex and gender" are eight different layers of sex and gender. There are, consequently, 36 or 49 theoretical combinations. Probably they occur in all combinations. Given in order of chronological development they are:

a. Genetic sex
b. Gonadal sex
c. Chemical/neurological sex
d. Gender-identity (made up of genetic, pre- and post-natal components).
e. Gender role-identity.
f. Gender social/legal role.
g. Sex preference.
h. Pubertal/hormonal/morphological sex.

The preceding breakdown of sex and gender components is based on the standard scientific method and particularly that of positivistic psychology. From the view point of philosophical or psychoanalytical psychology the level would be (from the core outward): the philosophically transcendent-self; gender self-identity; gender-role and sexual proclivity. To meld these two methods one need only sandwich the philosophically transcendent-self between hormonal/morphological sex and gender

self-identity (numbers 5 thru 8) in the above list.

One could even argue for a philosophically transcendent **sex** although at that level one is usually androgynous. Additionally, there may be influences from the sex/gender of one's previous life and the sex/gender one is preparing for in one's next life.

Needless to say, these are approximations and the whole idea remains highly theoretical.

Brief Analysis and Definition of Sex and Gender

Genetic sex is, of course, determined at the instant of conception. The genetic components of gender-identity (if there be any) may be pre-existing and passed to the embryo in the genes of the parents. The other layers seem to have their own time windows during which the layer is subject to outside influences and after which the layer is permanently crystallized.

Chemical/neurological - the brain and particularly the gender self-identity center (if one exists) is susceptible to hormonal and chemical changes and imbalances during an undetermined (but relatively short) period of prenatal development. To what extent and by what mechanisms or chemical/neurological imbalances, contamination and other abnormal phenomena influence gonadal development is not completely known.

Gonadal - nominally speaking, the next window to open is the gonadal sex, stimulated to develop prenatal hormonal dynamics of the fetus. (Precise temporal and parallel processing between gonadal development and chemical/neurological factors is little explored.) Gonadal sex development flows normally from genetic sex. At a certain point in fetal development genetic factors trigger the gonads to become sexually differentiated.

Gender self-identity - might appropriately be called "self-gender" of "core-gender" as distinguished from "role-gender". Since this is the key to transsexualism many of the following paragraphs are devoted to it. The most important factor having a bearing on transsexualism is **gender-identity.** Gender self-identity is made up of genetic, pre- and post-natal components. the meaning of "genetic" here is "in the genes and fetal development therefrom". The pre-natal components are subject to the influences of genetic and chemical/neurological factors. The post-partum and early childhood component is maternal and social conditioning.

All other factors are secondary and form an environment or milieu for gender self-identity. Except for gender role and sex preference the other factors are physiological. Transsexualism is, therefore, (at least at this point in the evolution of medical science and art) primarily a psychological, psychoanalytical and philosophical, that is, non-positivistic, problem.

Gender self-identity (or role-identity) is a permanently imprinted interface with society the individual develops in early childhood and is based on roughly dichotomized, typically male and female social behavior. This factor is the **second** most important in transsexualism. In a scale of influence upon transsexuality this factor is less important (genetically) then gender self-identity and for more important than the remaining factors. Fortunately, it most often tags along with gender self-identity.

Gender social/legal role is simply one's day-to-day gender role as seen by the eyes of Society. It is functionally external to one's own inner psychodynamics. For the "average" person it is in harmony with personal gender, but in the cross-gendered person it becomes a rack of torture and conflict. The transsexual who has not, as yet, started to cross-live often conforms, albeit involuntarily, to it just to survive socially or so as not to attract undue attention to herself.

Sex preference - the sex preference window opens at about the age of 5 years and remains open to about age 7, or in extreme cases to age eleven. (This is not to imply that homosexuality does not have prenatal components.) Sex preference is **not** directly related to the existence or causes of transsexualism. Transsexuals are **not** transsexuals because they're homosexual males. Sex preference is determined long before gender is established. Transsexuals, as a group, are found to run the complete gamut of sexual preference.

Pubertal/hormonal/morphological sex - the pubertal window may fail to close for the male in that testosterone levels may be abnormally low and/or post-natal testosterone insensitivity may leave the male child with a morphologically pre-adolescent or feminine body. But, by then, the gender self-identity is already permanently fixed. Testosterone levels at or after puberty are **not** causative factors in transsexualism. Most transsexual have normal or hyper-normal testosterone levels. Many do, however, have subnormal serum testosterone levels but, that may be a result rather than a cause.

Doctors Stoller and Green point out in their many books, the influence a mother has on a male child in neither necessarily unilateral nor arbitrary. It is the result of the interaction between the child's personality and innate qualities on the one the one hand and the mother's reaction on the other. If the male baby is pretty, feminine and passive the mother may give him "pseudo-girl" treatment. The perceptive feed-back can intensify these qualities and become a self-fulfilling prophesy.

Socially Conditioned Self-gender Identity

We shall call the post-natal component the "socially-programmable gender-self identity" component which lasts approximately, through the first 18 months after birth. Maternal conditioning is by far the most important factor in the programmable component of gender self-identity. For obvious reasons it is far easier for a mother to impart gender and role identity to a daughter than to a son. This probably past of the reason there are fewer identified female-to-male than male-to-female transsexuals. It is a subtle thing a mother does to a son to let him know he differs from her. (In Sex and Gender Dr. Stoller thoroughly documents and analyzes this factor. Except for puberty, childhood conditioning is the last hurdle a male faces in his acquisition of a normal male development. And, there is nothing he can do about it. Normally, it's all over by age 18 months and, in some cases possibly up to age 24 months.

Self-gender and Gender-role

A distinction should be made between gender-identity and gender-role. **Gender-identity** is self-identity at the very deepest core level. **Gender-role** is also a question of identity, but it is the next outer layer imprinted upon the individual as a child and which she has assumed because of the circumstances of up-bringing. It is an outer-role one assumes in order to survive in one's relationships with those closest when growing up. It's chief function is through the psychoanalytic function of "identification". The two layers are distinct not only by virtue of their psychological and personal depth, but also because they are solidified in independent time frames or windows (the social-gender role adaptation) extends from about 18 months to possibly 5 years of age or more. It is possible the have the identity of one gender and the role of the other while having the body of either. A transsexual is a morphological male whose core gender-**identity** is female. It is also, theoretically, possible to have a TS whose gender self-identity is female but whose social role-identity is male. In this case we have a TS who is a hard core dyke. It may not be possible to have a hard core dyke who is a lesbian. This dichotomy indicates that the sexual preference (in women) trails closely behind the social gender-role. In fact, one might call it the socio-sexual gender-role.

To thoroughly elucidate this subtle, but crucial, distinction let us take an example from the homosexuals of both sexes. Many homosexuals, of both sexes, have reversed their gender-roles but **retained** their core gender-identity. They pair up in a parody of the traditional marriage in which one partner is the "male" while the other is the "female". For example, two females live together; one considers herself as having the role of the husband while the other is the "wife". Or, two males living together; again, one considers himself the "husband" while the other considers himself the "wife". In the example of the two males the husband, of course, considers himself to be a man while the wife considers himself to be a woman to the extent of assuming the role of a woman even though he is aware of his body and identifies with it without a desire to change his sex. Neither the female "husband" not the male "wife" is considered to be, nor do they self-diagnose as, transsexual.

More Example of Cross-gendered Identities and Roles

As an example of cross-gendered role and self-identity picture a genetic, gonadal female with a female self-identity who has assumed, or even been imprinted with, her father's gender role-identity; she is an exclusive (obligatory) lesbian. She had a more or less normal puberty and remains, for the most part, physically normal. She is an example of what is called a "dyke". Although a butch lesbian imitates a kind of a parallel mode with a real male she is not in direct competition with men. Her assumption of the gender-role without the corresponding gender-identity results in more than a parody of masculinity. It is a most poignant statement to her femm (female lover) and to the world that she is a better version of a man than the real thing. Dykes assume the pseudo-male role at an early age. Classic circumstances producing dykes are: the father fails to care for the mother properly and falls down in his responsible role; the mother is feminine, in need of a protector and/or in distress. The daughter steps in to fill the role of her defaulting father, imitating the best man with whom she happens to come in contact — an uncle, a cousin, the man next door. There can be an infinite number of twists on this theme. If, for example, she is weak or does not carry it off perfectly she might pick up some of the traits of the father who failed her mother. These are social and familial circumstances which affect the child long before gender-identity has formed. Thus, she remains a woman, but one who assumed the man's role.

Some dykes, at first, seem to be female-to-male transsexuals. I knew one who not only assumed the male gender-role but also said she had always wanted a penis. There is no doubt a strong and close association between the male social-role and the male sexual role, both of which the dyke usually takes on with amazing faithfulness. Identification with one's primary sex organ would ordinarily be more closely associated with one's gender self-identification than with one's gender-role identification, as is the case of the average male-to-female transsexual. There is no doubt this dyke has the self-gender of a woman; she just wanted to be a woman with a penis or at least a larger clitoris. A dyke is, by definition as well as experimentally, a butch lesbian. Taking over the male gender-role seems to be an outgrowth of their sexuality; or perhaps their sexuality is an outgrowth of the male gender-role assumption. The fact that most dykes seem to have a reversed Electra complex reinforces this observation. This kind of penis envy, which would gladden the heart of Sigmund Freud, is fairly common in dykes, some of whom even go so far as to take testosterone (male hormones) to enlarge their clitoris. The easiest way to distinguish a dyke from a female-to-male transsexual is their attitude, not toward their clitoris but, toward their breasts. The dyke doesn't mind having breasts, in fact she usually likes her breasts where as the female-to-male transsexual cannot wait to have his breast reduction surgery. One of the amazing things about dykes is that after they have taken over so much of the male gender-role, from dress and mannerisms to personality, there is still much that is feminine and womanly about them. By the way, a lesbian, whether butch or femm, is far more accepting of the pre-operative male-to-female transsexual then is the gay male.

Most dykes are incredible examples of androgynism. And they are often outstanding examples of how profound and deep the female instincts really are. The male instincts are, by comparison tenous and abstract at best, often resulting in much insecurity in his masculinity. A woman is like the earth itself; a man is like a tall, slender tree swaying in the breeze above the earth's surface.

The TS Dyke, the Feminine Male

It is most difficult to diagnose the case of the male-to-female transsexual who has assumed the male role - the TS dyke.

Conversely, as another example, probably the most difficult case confronting the professional in trying to distinguish a "true" transsexual is that of a male who has male self-identity but a female gender role-identity. And, to really confuse the issue, has sexual preference for males.

to be continued

AN ADVENTURE OF COURTNEY DAVIS

The "Adventure of Courtney Davis" section is a platform in which readers of the Phoenix may see their own humorous, dramatic, harrowing or just plain embarrassing stories. We have chosen the neuter-gender name "Courtney Davis" so both MTF and FTM readers will be more willing to tell their adventures under a cloak of anonymity. You need not identify yourself when sending us your story. So, come on! Let's hear yours.

continued from last month

Court was assigned, by his Music Department Prof the major role, "Miz Luce" in the Department's Annual Review. Betty, Court's room-mate designed and made the "Miz Luce" Court is wearing in the Review. The Reviwe is just stating

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The concert, scheduled to last two hours seemed, to the performers, to go on forever. Actually it only lasted three hours, with the students screaming for more. Although sweaty and exhausted the group members was so up they needed time to unwind.

Professor Hawks was elated. He met the group after class the next day. "I've been busy all day on the phone. You have thirty shows for the ten weeks between June fifteenth and Labor Day. You close out on Labor Day at the LA County Fair. So for we've sold twenty thousand tickets. That's four times more then we've ever sold before."

The summer was whirlwind of activity; arrive, set-up, do the concert, tear down the set, pack the instruments, get in the bus and head for the next site. As they moved from date to date the crowds increased. Apparently word was traveling ahead of them.

Living in close quarters required Court to be Courtney all the time. Actually the others in the troop called him "Luce" more often than not. An obvious attempt to retain character identity. Because they thought Court was female they deferred in many ways to him, even going so far as to allow him full use of the back seat as a bed. And an inordinate amount of privacy.

Booked for three shows in LA they did seven. When the last show was over Courtney was ready to drop. He felt as though he'd need months to recuperate. The tour was exhausting.

"Guys" Courtney said after the last show, "I'm taking a week and spending it right here on the beach. I think I'll sleep the whole week."

"Hey, Luce, we're supposed to be back at school tomorrow."

"In the current vernacular, 'screw school'. I'm beat and I plan to relax down here for a week."

Dressed casually, sans make-up Courtney, wearing skin-tight jeans and a satin blouse, stepped from her dressing room headed toward the stage exit when he heard a man say "Miss Lucy my name is Frank Holliday. I'd like to talk to you for a few minutes about a guest appearance on television."

"Sure, and you're the producer. We'll have dinner and then, hopefully, end up at your place or in some motel room. Thanks, but no thanks." he replied, continuing toward the stage door.

"No. Seriously. I am the producer of the Jackie Jones Show. Here," he took a business card from his vest pocket and handed it to Courtney who let it flutter to the floor saying "Sport, I can get cards printed for a dollar a dozen at fifty places here. Cards don't mean a damn thing in this town." He continued toward the stage door.

"Wait. I'm serious. I really am who I say I am. Look, come to dinner with me. Jackie is waiting for us at the restaurant. We planned to talk to you about this over dinner. There are no strings to this. If you want the show fine, we want you for it. But, if you don't want it, well we'll just skip it."

Courtney looked at him, shrugged

and said "All it can cost me is my virginity. Right?"

He frowned, looked at Lucy, and laughed. "Right."

CHAPTER 6

Courtney arrived at the apartment, unpacked all the clothing accumulated over the summer, changed into his school "uniform" of jeans and blue chambray shirt and just relaxed around the apartment for a day before getting back into the grind of class.

A week before the Christmas Break Court got a call from Frank Holliday "Lucy, we'd like you to come down and shoot three short films for us and two or three demo tapes. We'll get started Monday."

"I'd love to, but it's Christmas Break and I plan to go home."

"No problem there. Come down, we'll shoot them all in a week. Then you can go home."

"Lord Frank, you're tempting me. All right. I'll be there Monday. But I want to leave for home no later than Saturday."

"No problem. Be sure and bring your costume."

Two of the films were shot for the Jackie Jones Show and the third was a demo tape. It took nine hours to make the three demo audio tapes. Frank wanted all to be the rock Miz Luce did, but Courtney insisted at least one be a combination of classical and "whore-house" piano without the Miz Luce costume.

Courtney pocketed the loot, boarded the plane for home planning on a nice, quietly wild time at home with the family. His sisters always kept him hopping.

After finishing school Court spent the summer making the rounds of agents, talent coordinators and producers trying to get a seat with an orchestra, to get started professionally. He made it a point to stay away from Frank Holliday since Frank knew him as Miz Lucy, rock musician and singer. He wanted to become known as Court, the musician. Constantly rebuffed he was getting more than a little discouraged when a producer finally told him "Kid, drop it. You don't have the experience. People want rock musicians, if you can call 'em that. Not the traditional music and people to play it. Now, if you play a damned amplified guitar and have some special gimmick I could get you a few bookings. But, as it is, I suggest you get into something else and forget orchestras."

"But damn it I **can** play, arrange and compose."

"Doesn't matter. This is the real world. Believe me, you'll never make it."

Court spent a month in New York making the rounds with the same results. Zip. Discouraged he went back to Betty to lick his wounds and rearm for the next assault.

Rather than just sit around the apartment he looked for some kind of work to bring in a few dollars. After three weeks he broke down, brought Courtney out again and went back to Ben's full-time.

In October Court mentioned to Betty, "Better cut down on the rich food Babe, you're getting a little pot."

"I know. I'm six months pregnant. I think I'm holding my own.

"Pregnant? I thought you were on the pill."

"Oh, I was. Now we know for sure they aren't one hundred percent. But, not to worry Sweetie. I plan on giving it out for adoption. Neither of us wants to get married and I sure don't want to be saddled with a baby. So adoption is the obvious answer. I would have had it aborted, but I didn't realize I was pregnant in time."

"Look, you may not want the child, but you're not going to give **my** child out for adoption."

"Court! This is my decision **not** yours. If I keep it I'll have to quit school to take care of it and I don't plan on that. I know it sounds hard hearted, but I just can't afford a baby. You don't know anything about babies."

"It's like anything else, I can learn."

"No. Don't be stupid."

"It's settled. I take the child. What does it matter to you if you're planning on putting it out for adoption?"

"For one thing when it's gone I won't have it around the apartment."

"Okay, I'll move out. Then you won't have to worry about having it around the house. I'll get a place nearer work and find someone to sit with the baby while I'm working. My schedule is perfect. I work

while the baby sleeps."

Betty delivered an eight pound boy on December thirtieth. Court had registered Betty as Linda April Daniels, a name he'd used professionally while on tour with the college rock group. He made sure both the stage name and his name were on the birth certificate as the parents. When Betty was ready to leave the hospital Court took the baby to his new apartment where the two of them settled in for a long stay. Court figured he would continue working for Ben as Courtney for the next couple of years and when the child was two or three they'd go somewhere else and get a new start.

In February Frank Holliday called saying, "Great news Lucy. Remember that demo film you made? Well, I've got a group for you to front for. The money is damn good and best of all you'll be working here for a month while the group does a movie. Nothing special, just a high class grade B film, but it will get you plenty of exposure. And if the kids buy it, you'll be able to move up, maybe get some good concert dates."

"I'll do the job, but I'm not especially interested in doing a rock act."

"Okay, honey you may not like it, but that's where the money is. You do a couple of hit records and you'll be on your way to the top. You'll need shovels to make bank deposits."

"How soon do you need me?"

"A week at the latest. We've got a lot of things to do and you've got to get the group working smoothly by filming time. These are just kids and they need polishing. Each acts like a star. You know, no coordinated effort. Your experience will tie them together as a group. And, you'll be their gimmick."

"Gimmick? What does that mean?"

"Hey, Miz Luce in the red devil's costume isn't something you see everyday. It's a gimmick."

"All right. A week. Can you get me a small apartment and someone to look after a baby?"

"Sure. Did you say a baby?"

"Yes. About two months old. Does that make a difference?"

"Not unless you're too fat for the part."

"I weigh less now than when you saw me last."

"Okay. I'll have everything set up for you. Call me when you get in. And, Lucy, don't mention the baby. Be sure and bring that devil's costume."

The better part of eight weeks were consumed making the movie. Courtney saw the finished product and agreed with the critics. It was a bomb.

After completing the movie the group started their tour East. Working from city to city they wended their way to New York. The audiences weren't anything to write home about, but the size increased with each stop. By the time they arrived in New York crowd size was enough to turn a small profit, which pleased Frank since he was footing the bills. Frank managed to get them, as a performing group, on a late night television with national coverage. Because of the smallness of the studio they did one of their more sedate numbers. The moderator called Courtney, in the Miz Lucy costume, over suggesting she stay and answer questions.

"What's the reason for the weird costume and make-up?" he asked.

"It's our hook. What we hang the act on. All groups or individual performers have a hook or gimmick. This is ours."

"I understand you play the piano and the flute."

"Yes. And classical guitar too."

"Do you play anything other than rock?"

"Me personally? Yes. Have you ever heard Clare de Luna on the flute? It can be quite haunting. Or a good whore-house piano? Now, there's something that will stir your blood and set you feet tapping."

Laughing he asked, "What in the world is a 'whore-house' piano?"

"That's where old fashioned jazz got its start. In whore houses on beat-up old upright pianos. Hence the term. Like honky-tonk."

"Would you like to show us? The whore-house tune I mean."

"Well, I really should have a battered old upright. But, yes, I can simulate it on a grand." Courtney stood, crossed to the piano, chorded a few times to get the feel of the instrument and then swung into a fast paced Saints and flowed into several others eating up seven minutes of air time.

She stepped from the piano, and on impulse picked up her flute and began the haunting melody of Clare. The audience was spellbound. She smiled as the applause rose after the last haunting notes died away.

"There. See what I mean?" She asked the moderator. "Makes the hair on your neck crawl."

"That was great. I've never heard the flute played like that before."

"Few people have. Most think of the flute as a child's instrument. But, in skilled hands it's quite a strong instrument. I usually do one number in our show. Oh, while I think of it, we're giving a free concert in Central Park tomorrow from eleven to one in the afternoon."

"Your concert at Shae isn't free though, is it?"

"No, dear. One must keep body and soul together." She laughed.

The interview on the late night televison was a smashing success. Central Park was jammed with people and the stadium, while only half filled, held a much larger crowd than originally anticipated. Their records, they had made three before leaving California, were selling well and moving up on the charts.

While in New York Courtney visited a doctor and was able to obtain a refillable prescription for female hormones. She knew there would be no immediate changes, but with another six to seven months on the road she knew there was time for her to at least start blossoming.

Each city on the tour saw more and more, now avid, fans pouring into the concert site. Buy the time the tour ended in Los Angeles they were in demand for records, personal appearances, product indorsements. With better presence "Miz Luce" acted as spokesperson for the group. Records were turned out while they were hot and each sold well into the millions.

As Frank had said, Courtney was shoveling money into the bank.

Frank allowed them three weeks to rest and unwind before sending them out on another tour. They spent three hundred days on the road. Courtney bought a large, bus-like, motorhome in which to travel and allow Two to accompany her on tour. The baby was growing and learning to read and count. Courtney spent as much of her limited available time as possible with the child. A nurse was hired for Two and traveled with them. A driver piloted the motorhome from point to point.

During her break at the end of the second tour she arranged a trip to a little hospital tucked away on the Rockies and had all vestiges of maleness reconstructed into female appearance and agumentation surgery to increase her bust size.

After returning from the fourth tour Courtney rested in the comfortable home Frank had purchased for her, with her money.

Frank came out to see her after she'd been home a month.

"Linda, it's time you got off the road and began building a career of your own without those clods you're fronting for."

"Frank," she said from the comfort of a couch in the living room of her new beach house, "you read my mind. I've been on the road almost four years and I want out. And, no more rock. I want nice quiet music. I want to play the lounges in Vegas, Reno and Tahoe. And some of the bigger places here, Chicago and so on.

"**And**, I want to make records of **my** music. No more rock. And **no more** 'Miz Luce'."

Frank smiled, "Okay. No more tours. I've been lining up dates for you in just the kind of places you want. Oh, there'll still be traveling, but we can keep that to a minimum. And, we can schedule them during school breaks. That way Two can go with you. How does that sound?"

"Lovely."

"Now, these," he said taking two thick booklets from his attachè case, "are contracts. One for two cable TV shows and one for a commercial television show. A half hour for just you.

"Of course the money may not be what you're used to, but I'll hold them up for as much as I can."

"I know you will Frank."

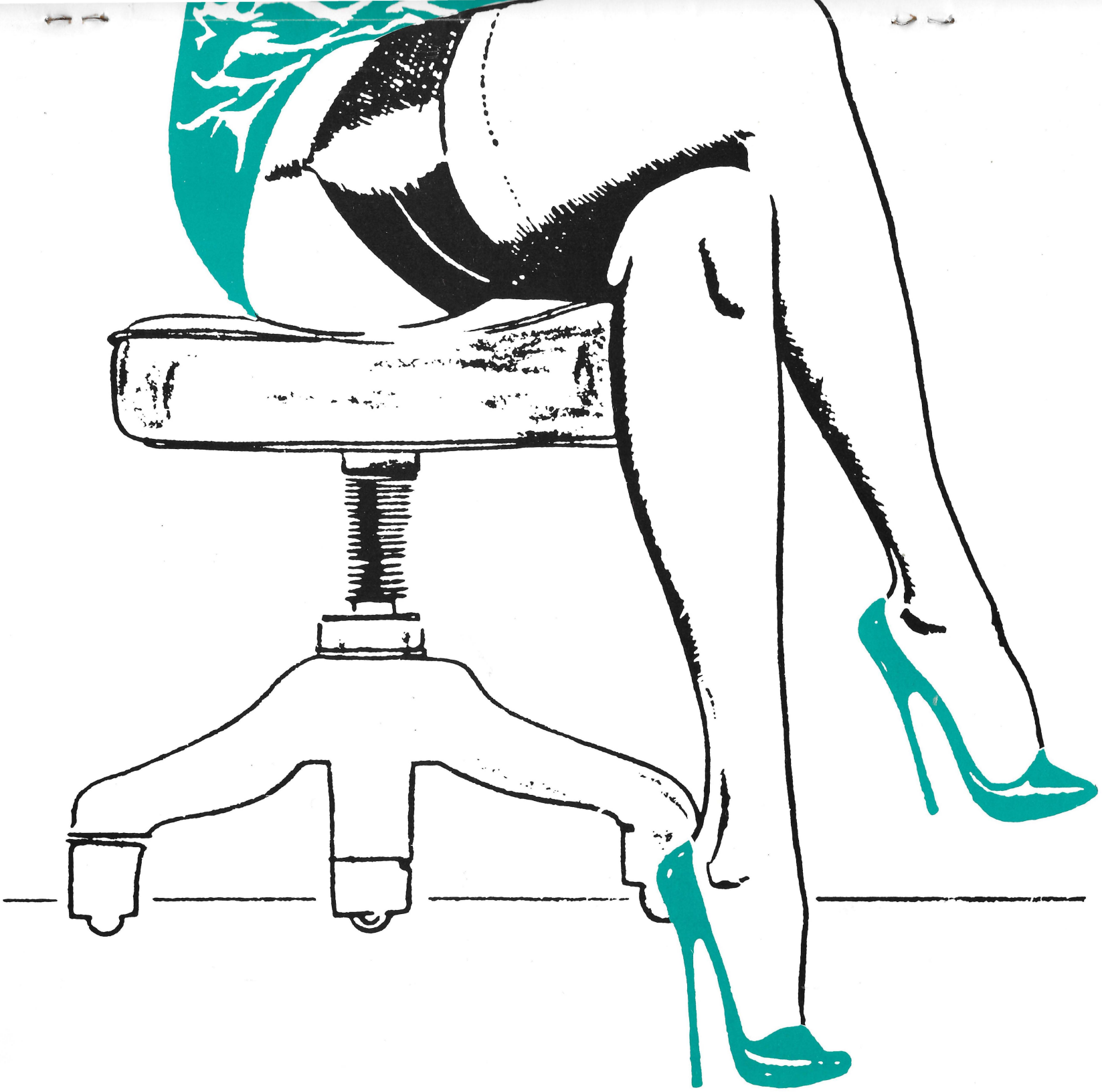
"Oh, I've got a part for you in a movie. Nothing big, just a walk on. You play a piano in a whore house."

Her laughter filled the room, "That will teach me to mention a 'whore-house piano'."

November 1983

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

I'm making Santa's list of whose been bad and whose been good. Where will <u>your's</u> go?



"Oh, you'll have a number to sing too."

That was the start of a second career. Court hadn't been able to get even one started while Linda April Daniels had completed one and was embarking on a second, more meaningful, at least to her, career of music and acting.

*****

"So you see ladies, Court **really** ceased to exist that first tour of the group, although he actually ceased existing after the reconstruction surgery. And **that** is when Linda April Daniels really became a person in her own right.

"Until that summer I was Court. After surgery I became a real person. With legal rights and no professional problems other than those all of us suffer from occasionally.

"Now you can see why I never contacted any of you after I got my start out here. I couldn't. What would I have told you? That I was a successful rock star? A female one at that. I was, after all your brother, and it would have been difficult, if not impossible for you to accept the fact that my success wasn't as Court but as 'Miz Luce' or Linda.

"In coming up with my stage and later my legal name I tried all kinds of combinations. Finally I decided to take the names of three beautiful women whom I love very much and with a little switching and cutting out came my name. Linda, for you Bee; April for you Avril and Daniels, for Danielle. It was a year of so before I realized the Freudian slip I'd made with my choice. My monogram is LAD. I think it's hilarious." The room with her rich rolling laugh. "Imagine the field day the gossips would have with **that.**"

"God, Linda. I just can't believe it. I mean, you went through all that just to sing with some silly rock group?" asked Avril.

"Where do you think the money came from to support Two and I all those years? How do you imagine I was able to buy this place and the others I own? No Babe, when it gets down to the nitty gritty we do what we have to to survive both physically and professionally. And of course those years on the road taught me stage presence which I use in my other performances. My TV show, my Vegas act and so on."

"But the surgery. How did you manage that?" Bee asked. "I mean you can't just walk in off the street and get in on demand."

"You forget, I'm an actress. And a damn good one at that. And there are, of course, my looks. Don't you think I'm a beautiful woman? It really wasn't a problem. Now, if I'd looked like Marjorie Main, it would have been a different story.

"When I made the decision to pursue surgery I simply read all the transsexual's autobiographies I could find. I joined a marvelous support organization with members and chapters all over the country. I was able to meet and talk to quite a large number of both pre- and post-ops. I learned the questions shrinks asked and the answers they expected. It was, after all, just another role to be played."

"But haven't you ever regretted what you did? I mean the surgery?"

"No. I'm quite happy. I'm at home with my body and my psyche. Let's face it girls, we've always looked more like quads than widely spaced sisters and brother. You know the problems we had with that as kids. I'll bet you still have it as adults. Not when you're together but when people meet you in an unexpected place or situation. There's still the confusion about your identity. Now it'll be even worse with one more sister in the act. Look, if we stand side by side in front of a mirror and I'm not wearing these glasses we do look alike.

"I do have one regret. I had to give up all contact with you and Mom and Dad. And of course that followed for Two. That was difficult. But I didn't see that I had a choice. It's difficult for you to accept now. What would it have been like four or five years ago?

"You have a bit of a problem here. You can't tell the folks or Danni that you've seen Court, because he doesn't exist anymore. You certainly can't tell them what's happened to him."

continued next month

IT'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME!

The following Associates have a birthday in the months listed. We hope you'll send each Birthday Person a nice card.

DECEMBER

Kathleen	CA-70	Charlotta	CA-14
Cathy	CA-21	Nancy	CA-42
Laura	CA-80	Doreen	CA-106
Arlene	CA-135	Vicki	CA-204
Janice	CA-20	Meryl	CA-30
Lynn	CA-52	Linda	CA-96
Rene Marie	CA-123	Pat	CA-200
Sharon	IL-1	Roi	NJ-15
Linda	OH-17	Nenya	NY-44
Ellen	OR-2	Susan	PA-30
Missy	PA-35	Francis	SC-11
Susan	TX-39	Dena	UT-12
Keith	VA-400		

CROSSDRESSER'S GUIDE FOR THE UPPER MIDWEST

Crossdressers looking for new out-of-closet experiences in the Upper Mid-west (Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa and the Northern Illinois Area (including Chicago) should find what they're looking for in the nearly 80 listings of friendly businesses and organizations in the new Crossdresser's Guide to the Upper Midwest published by the Upper Mid-west TV Network.

To obtain a copy of the Guide send $4.00 to Ruthann Moskowitz, PO Box 813, Madison, WI 53701. Make checks payable to Howard Landsman. To receive 3 quarterly updates for the Guide send an additional dollar.

UTTS RESPONSE

In the Letters from Readers section in the September Phoenix we published a letter from Roni (CO-24) indicating dissatisfaction with the United Transvestite Transsexual Society. Since we knew little or nothing about UTTS we asked for responses, either positive or negative.

To date we have received 2 negative responses:

"I too was taken for money and more. I ran an ad in their so-called directory last year. Since then I have found that ad popping up in many other "rag" papers, etc. -- not only my original ad, but alterations of it as they saw fit to rewrite it. I have received unsolicited letters from some strange people. I was unable to get a response from them (UTTS). So, take my advice and **forget** UTTS.

Claudia (OH-23)

About 3 years ago when their [UTTS] magazine first came out they advertised for Cover Girls and asked for a resumè and a number of photos that they'd use for future layouts ad a story about their Cover Girl. I took them up on their offer, sending a resumè and 12 or so good photos. That was 3 years ago. Nothing happened. A number of letters to them brought no response what-so-ever.

Thought our gals might be interested in my experience with them.

Gwen (FL-23)

DEAR KATHY,

To write to "Dear Kathy" write your letter; place it and a self-addressed, stamped envelope (SASE) for Kathy use in her reply in an envelope; seal the envelope, write "Dear Kathy" in the same place you would an address and place the "package" in another envelope. Address the outer envelope to: GGA, POB 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.

I very much enjoyed the article, On The Trail of the Supportive Wife by Glenda René Jones in the June issue.
For many years my ex-husband and I went through marital counseling for his, seemingly unwarranted, explosions of anger and violence before we realized that spending an evening in feminine attire would have alleviated much of his frustration.

Unfortunately my ex-husband's lifestyle was not known to me prior to our marriage and, even more unfortunate was the fact he had not yet accepted himself and went through all the typical measures of reform, i.e. throwing out his feminine clothing — only to replace it fervently at a later date. Once I learned of his desire to wear feminine clothing I tried to assure him it was okay and that I had no objections to it, but wished that it weren't so hidden from me — since, at that time, he was dressing in private.

We saw many changes in his behavior once he started dressing more frequently and began going out in public. At this point however, I sought counseling from a Center dealing specifically with sexual and gender problems. It was through that agency I learned my husband (now ex-) was **not** simply a Transvestite, as I had hoped, but a Transsexual. It was then I knew I had to leave our relationship.

We have been divorced almost a year, yet I have hung on to my married name, still wishing to "Mrs.", feeling more like a widow than a divorce½.

Had my ex-husband read the article by Ms. Jones **prior** to our marriage I think it would have saved us both much grief. I believe he truly thought no one would ever accept him and that hiding the fact was the only way to survive. It took four years to learn that my mate wished to be the same sex as I.

Needless to say I am still recovering from this experience and would welcome and and all correspondence. I am supportive of your right of self-expression and feel I was hurt by the closet **not** the lifestyle. I truly need some moral support from those knowing the score.

Thank you for printing the above mentioned article, it came too late for my situation, but reading it helped put some things into perspective for me.

Happily, my ex- is making the transition very well and is undergoing therapy preparatory to reassignment. She is more serene then I have even seen before and is finally accepting **herself**. We are still close friends and seem to be able to talk to one another more openly now.

SHOTS FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE

David (NV-10) asks the following so we're throwing it out to you for possible response.

"Has anyone, especially a FTM, used the new Medi-Jector distributed by Derata Corporation, 7380 32nd Avenue N., Minneapolis, MN 59421, for giving/taking hormones? Normally the Medi-Jector is used by people on insulin, but should be adaptable for us.

"After taking hormone shots every two weeks for 3½ years my tail has developed quite a bit of scar tissue and I don't look forward to taking the needle in the leg(s). I use water based testosterone.

"I'm curious to find out whether others have used the Medi-Jector and if so with what success?"

The above appeared in the September Phoenix and we are happy to pass on a response from one of our Pennsylvania Associates, who is a medical practitoner.

"I wrote to the Derata Corporation [about the Medi-jector] and also spoke with them on the phone. The Vice President of their company said that the testosterone preparations normally used could **not** be administered with the Medi-jector since oil based preparations would **not** work in their device. Therefore, this device is **not** suitable for use by FTM transsexuals."

THE MAIL MAN COMETH
(Letters from readers)

Dear Editors,

I have so much enjoyed the PM-I that I just had to write and let you know. You have had several articles that were easily worth much more than the annual membership fee.

The article on breast augmentation was the first such that I have seen that so clearly explained the why and whereforess of this procedure. I was amazed that this procedure can be done an out-oatient basis, which means a lesser cost. I was very interested in Dr. Foerster's reasons for preferring the gel implant over the saline one.

The two part article on hormones was the best, most lucid I've ever read on the subject. Alessandra's experiences with various forms and dosages of female hormones was very informative and should improve quite useful to those seeking hormone therapy. Her statement that a low level of testosterone is also interesting. I now have a much better understanding of what to expect from taking hormones.

I think she is right in suggesting that a more liberal position be taken in prescribing hormones as I agree whith her that this form of therapy can be quite useful to a lot of individuals who may **not** be transsexual

Keep up the good work. I look forward eagerly each month for my copy of the PM-I and read it from cover to cover as soon as it comes.

Sincerely,
Joan (CA-41)

Dear Joan,
You, and hopefully many others, will be interested to know Alessandra has given us permission to serialize her forthcoming book sections of which will be appearing over the next several months.

Dear Phoenix,

I was intrigued by the efforts of Barbara Nelson, inventor of The Artifical Sex Change. The name of her company is Medical Science Engineering, PO Box 112, Tulare CA 95481.

I ordered, and received, her V-2 Model on a money-back guarantee basis. So far it has turned out to be not-so-money-back.

I found it to be actually a device which I could not use and, to me, it seemed extremely dangerous from a health standpoint for it allows engaging of both male organs in the sexual intercourse mode. Additionally it provides no space for the ejaculate fluid to collect inside the colored recepticle.

The device sells for $119.50, soon to be sold for $129.50.

It appears, to me, to be a rather crude swim-suit of latex rubber with tubes in the crotch to accomodate both the wearer's and the partner's male organ.

For me it is useless.

Additionally, Barbara seems bent on introducing me to other sources of pornography which I do not countenance.

Therefore, I suggest that if any readers propose to buy such a device they be forewarned of the potential pitfalls.

Janice (OR-19)

DEAR GEORGIA

I have a fairly nicely rounded fanny, but I lack hips. I've tried the padded girdles but they don't quite seem to do the job. Any suggestions?.

Hipless

Dear Hipless,

The least expensive and one of the best ways to obtain the "hips" you're looking for is to go to a variety store — K-Mart, Woolco, etc. and purchase enough polyurethane padding to do the job. The material comes in sheets and/or rolls so you should be able to purchase the quantity needed.

Okay, you've got the padding now what? Cut two pieces about 14 inches square. Use a serreted knife and **don't** press down on the material while cutting. Once the pads are cut bevel the edges on the outside to make the line smooth.

The pads may be inserted in your pantyhose or girdle. Depending on the thickness of the material you should be able to add at least an inch to your hips with this type pad.

Phoenix Monthly-International

WHERE AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING

****NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA*****

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

San Francisco Chapter - 2nd Wednesday†
San Jose - 1st and 3rd Friday†
†Meetings begin at 8 pm. Write PO Box 62283 Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for specific details.

SANTA ROSA - 2 meetings per month. Call Maria (707) 538-9099 for specific details.

OTHERS

PACIFIC CENTER - 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap session. Last Friday, special topic or speaker. Meetings run from 7:30 - 10:00.

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday. $3.00 donation requested. For specific information write PO Box 28227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY OF JANUS. For those into or seeking adventure in S&M. Write PO Box 6794, San Francisco for information.

ETVC. Last Thursday each month at Chez Mallet, 527 Bryant St. SF.

****SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA****

MISSION VIEJO/ORANGE COUNTY AREA. Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Information brochure - $2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group Counseling: Dana Point facility - 2nd & 4th Monday. San Juan Capistrano Facility - 1st & 3rd Monday.

SAN DIEGO-GGA: Contact W. Thomas, PO Box 99732, San Diego, 92109.

SHANGRI-LA: Nancy Watson, PO Box 18902, Irvine, 92713.

SALMACIS: Meets in Glendale 2nd Saturday each month. $2.00 donation requested. Call (213) 241-9023 for information.

*****COLORADO*****

DENVER. Gender Identity Center. Staffed by professisonals, pre and post-ops. 3715 W. 32nd Ave, 80211. Phone (303) 458-5378.

*****CONNECTICUT*****

XX GROUP. 45 Church St. Hartford.

*****DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA*****

DELTA CHI-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. Write POB 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER-GGA. (Balt-DC Area). Lisa Rouse, POB 218 Burtonsville, MD, 20703. 2nd Staurday.

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

*****FLORIDA*****

SUCCESS CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly Meetings. Contact Susan Armstrong, POB 1601, Pinellas Park, FL, 34290.

*****ILLINOIS*****

WINDY CITY CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly meetings. Contact PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 or call (312) 472-4518.

CHI Chapter (Tri-S). Marilyn Broer, POB 2055, Des Plains, IL 60018.

*****MASSACHUSETTS*****

TIFFANY CLUB. Tuesdays & Saturdays 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facility. GGA Members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, POB 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

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

TS SUPPORT GROUP.Write Rachia Heyelman, POB 25, South Orleans, MA 02662

*****MICHIGAN*****

CROSSROADS. Irregular meeting schedule. Write POB 3013, Flint MI, 48502 for information.

*****NEW JERSEY*****

NU CHAPTER-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. Changing facilities on premises. Doors open at 6 pm, meeting run 'til ?. For specific information call (201) 540-0042 after 6pm or (201) 925-6067 2-7 pm. Write POB 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960.

*****NEW YORK*****

NYC-GGA. 2nd Saturday. Changing facilities available. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 pm. Meetings run from 7 - 11:30. Muriel Olive, Suite 601, 157 W. 57th Street, NYC, 10019.

*****OHIO*****

PARADISE CLUB. Reservations required as meetings are held at a motel and a room is often required for overnight stay. Meetings: Oct. 22, Dec. 10. Write Paradise Club, POB 17023, Cleveland, OH 44117.

*****OREGON*****

NORTHWEST CHAPTER-GGA Regular meetings. For information concerning activities in NW Area contact POB 13173, Portland, OR 97213.

*****PENNSYLVANIA*****

PHI CHAPTER-GGA (Philadelphia Area) Contact: POB 322, Collingswood, NJ 08108.

NEPA-GGA (Scranton/Wilkes Barre Area) Contact Kathy Hivish, POB 268, Dallas, PA 18612.

*****RHODE ISLAND*****

HOLCYON SOCIETY (Tiffany Club). 1st Saturday 7pm. Contact: Occupant, PO Box 142, Kingston, RI 02852 or call (617) 678-0609.

*****TEXAS*****

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER-GGA. Galveston. Contact Alice, (713) 763-6227. Especially helpful for the TS.

*****VIRGINIA*****

HAMPTON ROADS-GGA. Meetings: Sept 24 and Nov 5. Contact N. Cooper, S-180, POB 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452.

*****WISCONSON*****

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact POB 813, Madison, 53701.

*****CANADA*****

FACT. FTM TS only. POB 291, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3C8.

METAMORPHOSIS. MTF TS only. PO Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario M5W 1P4.

*****ENGLAND (UK)*****

SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS (SHAFT) 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, England SL5 9UX.

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*****FRANCE*****

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*****JAPAN*****

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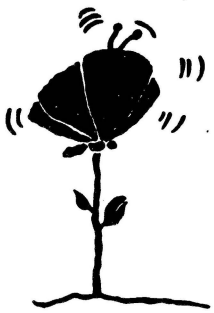

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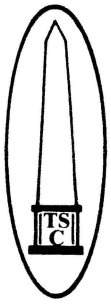

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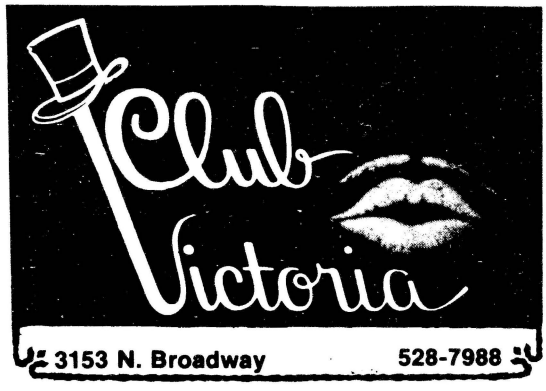

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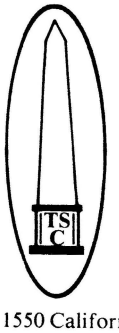

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