

*Information for the
Female to Male
Cross Dresser
and
Transsexual*



by
Lou Sullivan

The long-awaited third edition of Lou Sullivan's highly praised handbook for female-to-males has finally come off the press and is available for purchase. While the second edition was a 48-page stapled booklet, this third edition is a beautiful 123-page perfect-bound paperback book with greatly expanded information of relevance to those considering the female-to-male transition... information not available anywhere else.

For the first time, this edition, as well as incorporating all previous information found in earlier editions of *Information for the Female-to-Male Crossdresser and Transsexual*, includes photos of the surgeries involved: mastectomy, genitoplasty, phalloplasty, performed by several different surgeons. Some chapters that didn't appear in past editions are entitled, "Leaving the Lesbian World," "Female-to-Gay-Male Transsexuals," and "Transsexuals and Children." In addition, this third edition includes an exhaustive bibliography of all books, films, medical journal articles, etc. on the subject of female-to-males dating from 1919 to the present.

This really is an invaluable resource for the female-to-male. It is available from the publisher: Ingersoll Gender Center, 1812 E. Madison, Seattle WA 98122-2843, phone (206) 329-6651, for \$8.95 plus \$1.00 postage and handling. Get yours NOW!

**CONTROVERSIAL FILM SHOWN
AT SEPTEMBER 1990 GET-TOGETHER**

On September 16, 1990, 20 female-to-males and two friends attended the 15th FTM Get-Together. Our founder, Lou Sullivan, was hospitalized that day due to complications of AIDS (he was released a few days later, and is now doing relatively well), and he had asked some of the members to pitch in and help set up and run the meeting.

Everyone gathered around the television to watch the "docu-porn" video, *Linda/Les and Annie*, the first such film to feature an FTM portraying himself. This video bore close resemblance to the spread in *Hustler* magazine, which many FTM's had already seen. By way of introduction, member Jamie announced that the film promised to be controversial, and that since there were a number of new faces in the group, and quite a few visitors, he cautioned them to remember that what they were about to see was not likely to be representative of the transsexual community as a whole. In fact, the film was quite controversial, engendering various comments, groans, and laughter throughout. One FTM and his two lady friends left before the film was half-over. In the end, while most people applauded the effort, the most vocal viewers expressed concern that people outside our community would assume Linda/Les as representative of us all. Jamie enjoined everyone to write letters to *FTM* about their response to the film, and many people did so in the last edition of the newsletter.

After the screening, a number of people suggested that they would like to use the Get-Togethers to view other films on transsexual subjects. Then everyone just mingled and talked. There was a special visitor from Leningrad, Soviet Union, who had come to the Bay Area to interview surgeons and meet other FTM's, and many people enjoyed speaking with him through his interpreter. A good time was had by all, except those who left early!

Our 16th FTM Get-Together will be held Sunday, January 20th, as a book-signing party for Lou Sullivan's recently released third edition of the acclaimed *Information for the Female-to-Male Crossdresser and Transsexual*. This long-awaited paperback book has been with the publisher for over a year, and we are delighted to see the final outcome. Be there to get your copy!

**TWO-DAY FTM PROGRAM
TO BE HELD IN APRIL**

Over 20 persons attended some part of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) Convention's female-to-male program held in March 1990. In recognition of this successful event, a two-day female-to-male program is planned for the next IFGE Convention in Denver, Colorado on April 12-13, 1991. Matt Dautre, married and in the last stages of his surgery, is the program coordinator. Contact IFGE at P O Box 367, Wayland MA 01778, or call 1-617-894-8340.

Matt also led the female-to-male conference at the "Be All You Want to Be" weekend held in June 1990 in Pittsburgh, PA, attended by five FTMs. The 1991 "Be All" weekend will be held in Cleveland, Ohio, in June.

FTM MALE BOX

Response to an open letter
Rupert Raj-Gauthier: To a sir without love

You bid us farewell, have a great life and you wish us
all the best
Your retirement is but reprieve from us
is this why you divest?
You are entitled to love, to liberty, to life's treasures
until you are full
But for you to transgress the transsex with callousness
is unequivocal bull
Oh, speak not of me
A new inductee
Who needs, who wants, who grieves this unfair lot;
life I do bemoan
Knowledge gained is knowledge not lost--
I leech no one to the bone
By the thoughts of a solid resource worker
who operates in the positive
Everyone deserves help, but one must leave alone
people who take and will not give
You are at a point
where most of us aspire to be
But I ask without envy, are you better than me?
I do wish to be a gentleman in most men's eyes
For you, sir, be happy, healthy and most of all, wise

Titian

To *FTM*--

After reading the last issue of *FTM*, I have to respond to
two letters--

Firstly, Rupert Raj - GET OFF IT! What self-righteous crap
this person speaks. If professionals and resource people are
tired of being "picked clean," then they'd better choose
another profession, because that's the nature of the work.
I don't know what you mean by "fellow T.V.'s," I resent
being categorized with transvestites.

I was branded as mentally ill during the early 1970's
because of this condition and spent time in two psychiatric
wards and like a lot of people spent years going from one
psychiatrist to another, wasting valuable time.

Your implication that we owe something to society, or at
least to resource people, is absolute shit, and an unbelievable
insult. Transsexualism has destroyed the lives of many
people - to deny that is to deny reality - but then we all can't
be shining examples of the positive spirit like Rupert Raj.

As for the letter by Pat Califia, "Lesbian." What a mire of
misinformation this woman is.

Where the hell does she get the bizarre idea that "many
FTM's come from the lesbian community." This is the same
uninformed opinion that has, and still prevails in many
gender clinics. And is responsible for many sincere people
being turned away from the help they need. I know this from
personal experience, and it has cost me years.

I am not from the "lesbian community," nor are any of the
FTM's that I know personally - as far as I'm concerned, they
are not related issues.

This woman is wallowing in her own ignorance, and I find
her level of awareness and understanding to be extremely
insulting and show an antiquated, narrow-minded view of
transsexuality and transsexuals.

There is a difference between men and women - or maybe
you haven't noticed yet.

James S.
Vancouver, B.C.

Anyone who's had phalloplasty or lower body surgery, please
write. I would like more information about this operation.
T.J. Furber, [REDACTED] Cheshire, CW2 6JU
England

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WHEN IT'S SAFE ENOUGH TO TELL THE TRUTH, FREEDOM CAN FOLLOW.

"HIDDEN: A GENDER" RETURNS

THEATRE RHINOCEROS



Back by popular demand and a triumphant East Coast tour,
Kate Bornstein's updated play looks at the social, medical
and personal constructions of gender identity and asks the
question, "As to being a man or a woman, must you be one or
the other?" Performances run Wednesdays through Sundays
at 8 p.m. with selected matinees at 3 p.m. Through Febru-
ary 16. Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 - 16th St., San Francisco,
\$9-15. Charge by phone (415) 861-5079.

VAN MAASDAM TO SPEAK

Judy Van Maasdam, coordinator of the Gender Dysphoria
Program, Inc., in Palo Alto, will address the Bay Area's
male-to-female group, ETVC, on Saturday, February 2 at
2 p.m. at Chez Mollet Restaurant, 527 Bryant St., San Fran-
cisco. Van Maasdam has been coordinator of the program,
formerly the Stanford University Gender Dysphoria Program,
for 12 years. She is also executive director of the Harry
Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Assoc., Inc.

FTM Newsletter

Exclusively for the female-to-male crossdresser
and transsexual. Published quarterly since 1986
by FTM, 1827 Haight Street #164,
San Francisco, California 94117

Editor: Lou Sullivan

Female-to-male desires to seek an FTM or Lesbian counterpart to share life together. I am a non-smoker, light wine drinker, SUBMISSIVE in character. I'm in my 40's, attractive and convincing in my chosen gender. I'm financially secure and very creative. Write to J. Sonne. [REDACTED] N.E., Bellevue WA 98112.

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FTM on hormones since Sept. '90 looking for networking and pals. Would like to know your impression of the facilities, network, doctors and laws pertaining to TS's in your area, especially Chicago and Cleveland. Some of my interests are camping, fishing, comic books (not super heroes), animals, business endeavors, artistic hobbies, and LOTS of things! All letters answered. Andrew, R.P.U., P O Box 7741, Culver City CA 90233.

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Attractive, safe, well-balanced, warm, considerate WM wishes to meet a genetic female who is very muscular and hairy and who is comfortable with themselves. An FTM TS (pre-op) would be welcome. My objective is a monogamous relationship involving friendship, love, romance and more. Bearded FTM is particularly appreciated. P O Box 1456, Orinda CA 94563.

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If you are moved, this is my application
 To whom I wish to share my alteration:
 Brown is my brow, his core, her shell
 Seek one lady whelmed by Love's spell
 You, who wants to be in love and undeceived
 I, who wants to be in love and not be thieved
 Of wealth not of gold
 Or time's gentle hold
 Hail me! I silently wait
 To hear distant calls in the firmament
 Searching for my ardent heart's mate
 In weather no matter how inclement
 If you wish to chance me; to send by writ
 is but a knock on my door
 Three seven four Post Office Box, Tamal, CA
 nine four nine six four

Response to an open letter
 Rupert Raj-Gauthier
 To a sir without love:

You bid us farewell, have a great life and you wish us all the best

DR. BIBER RUNS FOR COUNTY OFFICE

Dr. Stanley Biber, who performs male-to-female (and a few female-to-male) sex reassignment surgeries, is running for Las Animas County commissioner in Colorado, setting off a nasty debate about his successful practice. "I'm not going to do transsexual surgery in the courthouse," said Biber, 66. "The people of this town are extremely tolerant. We don't have any problems like in the East." Since 1974, Biber has been doing about 120 operations a year at Mount San Rafael Hospital.

Two doctors at Mount San Rafael have threatened to quit if Biber is allowed to continue his business, which brings the 40-bed hospital about \$450,000 a year. They have asked Pope John Paul II to intervene. The Vatican has been studying transsexualism for 17 years, but the Pope has yet to take a stand. A direct pronouncement on sex changes from the pontiff could influence citizens, such as patient representative Sister Roberta Marie Rodgers, who helps the transsexuals arriving in Trinidad from around the world. "When it all comes down, we'll have to abide by it," she said.



The cover story of "Paper," October 1990, a magazine published in New York, presented a wonderful photo session featuring tall, six-foot plus of the very fem model/actress Brooke Shields in male drag! "I'm tired, very tired, of being defined," says Shields. "I'm trying to live my life to my full potential, but people are so unwilling to let me change. Perhaps I should laugh at it more... I shouldn't let it matter so much."

DOLLY PARTON'S FTM CHAUFFEUR

The July 10, 1990 issue of the supermarket tabloid *Star* revealed a "Sex change shocker in Dolly's limo - Her driver is man who used to be a woman." The inside story says that 44-year-old Jason Pirro, who weighs 300 lbs., and who underwent F-M surgery in 1982, works as Dolly Parton's chauffeur whenever she comes to Hollywood. He also drives Farrah Fawcett, Willie Nelson, Kris Kristofferson and Elizabeth Montgomery. Dolly stated that there's nothing wrong with transsexuals: "If I were a man, I'd be a drag queen," she admits.

WHEN I WAS A CHILD

by Dorian Morrison

As children, *inhibition* has to be learned. As adults *inhibition* has to be destroyed. As children, *guilt and shame* have to be learned. As adults, *guilt and shame* have to be destroyed. As children, *innocence* slowly disappears. As adults, we try to find it again.

When I was a child; (and I feel I should write from my own experiences and perceptions, for that is the person I know the best); I spoke and acted like a child. Nothing was beyond the realm of possibility. Imagination and make-believe were magical kingdoms to be explored. The world I created was my world. Friends and playmates were always welcome in my world of adventure. Their worlds always interacted easily with mine. For that is the way of children. *For example:* When one child says to another child, "Let's play such-n-such..." no one has to explain the game.

No rules have to be established. Children just play. The game just is. Everything is understood. Creativity runs rampant.

Days were long. Time had no relevance; except that it seemed to pass very slowly. Then somewhere along the way, I was side-tracked. In my haste to "grow-up," the magical kingdom of make-believe was sacrificed. Innocence evaporated into new adventures of seeking and learning the ways of the "grown-ups." It would be many years before I would again seek that magical kingdom of child-like imagination. Make-believe would have to wait for another kind of reality. Adulthood.



I've always been Masculine. I don't know why. My childhood was spent as a "Tomboy." No frills or dolls for this kid! (Of course, I learned to like dolls after puberty.) HA HA

Like I said; I never related well to Femininity. I liked boy-stuff. I still do. As far back as I can remember, which is age 4; I recall incidents of crawling under houses, or digging underground clubhouses. Not your typical girl-type activities. When I was 5 years old, I tied my best-friend-to-be to the gas meter next to our house, and left her there. That was the first time I had met her.

My school years were full of experiences that were Masculine, and rebellious. During puberty I had some casual and innocent homosexual encounters. They were more along the lines of make-believe, with a couple of girlfriends. The old You-be-the-boy scenario. That was no problem.

Throughout my adolescent years, orgasms were accompanied by many and varied types of sexual fantasy. Of

course, during my teens, I did not have the maturity to analyze the why or the wherefores associated with any particular fantasy. However, they all seemed to have a couple of things in common. My Male persona always appeared to be in a dominant or voyeuristic-type of a position. Whereas my Female persona always seemed to be subjected to fulfilling the lusts or desires of my Masculine side.

For many years, the sexual fantasy world I had created was not to be explained. Then when I finally pieced everything together, and concluded I was "A Man living within a Female Anatomy"; everything became clear. My sexual fantasy world became very explainable.

The gambit of topics I had participated in, within my sexual imagination, had all been experienced in order for me to evolve into the total person I was destined to become. And that person is a Man. Perhaps even a Bi-sexual Man, but nevertheless a Man. I have a preference for the ladies. And my wife, Renee and I are very lucky to have found each other 19 years ago. Two transsexuals within one marriage has to be unusual; I would think.

But within my being; I am also drawn to the Masculinity of other Men. I suppose that would classify me as Gay - not Lesbian. Words are so restricting and confining at times. My sexual fantasies are Masculine. I color them with Masculine behaviors and attitudes. I love the visual and the verbal. My fantasies are aggressive, and dominant and forceful. And I've often used and abused my Feminine side in order to fulfill my Male lusts and desires.

I don't know if this makes sense to you?

I needed to bring my Masculine and Feminine into harmony and accord. I needed to establish my perfect order or chain of command. And now at the age of 40, I have accomplished that desire. I'm virtually free, once again, to seek that kingdom of imagination. Hopefully, I can become child-like again. Make-believe and innocence could be right around the corner!

THE SURGERY AND BEYOND

by Scott A. McPherson

In the upcoming days before I was scheduled to have my breast augmentation surgery, I felt like an anxious little kid awaiting a big trip or something similar to that. I cannot describe those intense feelings on the one hand and then to also have this feeling of peacefulness and knowing in my heart that this surgery was the right thing for me to do and that the time to do it was right now!

In fulfilling this goal, I made a great sacrifice to make this whole thing happen. As we all know, there is the financial sacrifice - but with that may come several other sacrifices: ultimately loss of job, family, friends may result. But in the end, for me it was all worth it and I would never hesitate to do it again. In a sense, I now have one surgery down, three more to go. Before I share with you the methods and procedures that Oregon Health Sciences use, I wish to dedicate this paper to the Doctors and staff at OHSU, those people who stood by me throughout this whole process, those who supported and encouraged me, and those who helped in my recovery process ... thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Oregon Health Sciences University in Portland, Oregon, has an excellent sexual reassignment team. Basically, the four surgeries for the female-to-male proceed as follows: bi-lateral mastectomy, hysterectomy et al., freeing the clitoris, now penis and rerouting the urethra through it, and finally testicle implants.

The surgery that I will relate to you is the breast augmentation surgery. OHSU has two procedures for this: "keyhole" surgery, which I had done, or the more elaborate surgery in which small incisions need to be made below, or above, or off to the side of the nipple area (depending on the size/

shape of the originating breast tissue). The cost is currently being restructured and will be a flat fee in the near future, but currently stands at \$2,000 for small breasts/local anesthetic and \$3,000 for large breasts/general anesthetic. I was required to pay all of my fees two weeks in advance except for the \$100 breast tissue biopsy lab test which was billed to me.

I was scheduled to have my surgery on May 25, 1990 with my pre-op appointment that prior Monday. During the pre-op, they gave me a physical exam of my breasts, checked vital signs, took a blood sample, told me what to expect during the surgery and related to me the method and procedures of it, and answered any questions that I had. I was to report for surgery at 6 a.m. Friday morning. There were six of us scheduled for various types of surgery.

My roommate was a nice elderly man and I talked with him and alternately napped until I was called for my surgery at 12:30 p.m. I was prepped, IV put in, and surgery finally commenced at 1:30 p.m. I remember them numbing my chest area until it almost felt like that area belonged to someone else. Dr. Demuth, the head surgeon, worked on my right breast and another Doctor (I can't remember his name) worked on my left breast. Basically, they cut out my nipple area, removed the breast tissue, lipo-suctioned the subcutaneous fat, popped out my nipples (I had inverted nipples), reattached the nipple and sent me back to my recovery room. All said and done, the procedure lasted until 3 p.m. Another thing I do remember is that I was so calm and at peace with myself during the entire operation. I remember the Doctor stating that my pulse was steady at 80 bpm and blood pressure steady at 115/65 throughout the surgery. I really believe that those statistics reflected my state of mind at that time. I was required to drink two glasses of liquids and go to the bathroom before I could be released to go home. I did that almost immediately and picked up my pain pills from the pharmacy and was home by 4:30 p.m. I remember being very tired, slightly nauseous, and put in bed by 5 p.m.

For the next two days I was sore, kind of a dull ache, and tired. I slept 12 hours at night for two days and would take periodic naps throughout the day. I forced myself to take two short walks each day until I was able to begin running again, which I did on the sixth day of recovery. Each day was a 100% improvement over the previous day. I was able to move my arms again, regain my energy level without fatiguing so easily and basically get on with my life again after about six days of recovery.

The bandages came off that very next Tuesday afternoon. I remember thinking that I would see a black-and-blue chest with a footprint in the middle of it - that is how I felt at the time. To my surprise I did not find this to be true - there was relatively little bruising and a small scab under each of the nipples. I was very pleased with the results as I can see that there will be no scarring and the outward appearance is just like any other male chest. In conclusion I would like to say that I have great confidence in the sexual reassignment surgeons, specifically Dr. Demuth, and the results are worth to me more than money can buy. I also wish to thank Lou Sullivan for allowing me to share with you my experience.

If any readers wish to contact Dr. Demuth's office, the number is (503) 494-8564, ask for Kathy, Plastic Surgery. If they wish to make a consultation appointment with Dr. Demuth, the fee is \$50 applied toward the surgery. Also, people can contact me for additional information: Scott A. McPherson, 205 Valley View Dr., Oregon City OR 97045, phone (206) 696-9396.

A TRIP TO THE DOCTOR AS A GENETIC MALE

by Joseph Ellman

I am a FTM transsexual and have been on testosterone for 12 years. A year ago I moved from Madison, Wisconsin, to Milwaukee and needed to find a physician who was willing to refill my prescription, monitor my hormone level and administer blood tests.

Those of you who are on hormonal therapy know that regular blood tests are needed to insure that no deleterious side effects have resulted from taking testosterone. These tests are very expensive (over \$100 for each series) and should be taken once or twice a year, and in some cases more often. Insurance companies often do not pay for the blood tests, the hormone therapy or the physician's exam if a transsexual diagnosis is written on the insurance claim form.

I have had such trouble with my insurance company. I warned my previous physician about the difficulty I would have in collecting if he put down the transsexual diagnosis. Unfortunately, he refused to consider giving me another diagnosis and I ended up having to pay all the bills myself.

To avoid having to go through such economic hardship again, I decided not to tell my new physician of my transsexual past. I had had a mastectomy, hysterectomy, oophorectomy, vaginectomy and a phalloplasty. I was confident that I could pass a physical exam as a genetic male. Some males have congenital abnormalities, and are born with microphalluses and/or a testosterone deficiency and need hormonal replacement therapy.

I planned to tell the physician that the reason I needed to take testosterone was because I was born with a deficiency. I did not want to mention any genital defects because I feared that he would want to examine my genitals closely and may ask me questions that I did not know the answer to. However, I was concerned that he may have trouble believing I have a hormone deficiency without detailed medical records to back up my testimony.

I made an appointment with a family doctor close to my home. When I called I spoke to the nurse and mentioned that I was in need of a physician to refill my testosterone prescription (I had been giving myself injections), monitor my hormone level and conduct blood analyses.

The day of the appointment I felt very apprehensive. I feared that something would go wrong and I would have to reveal my past. I took my empty bottle of testosterone and xerox copies of my last two blood tests and went to the doctor's office.

I was glad I did not have to wait long to see the doctor. When the physician came into the examining room I immediately felt less anxious. He was young, in his late thirties, and seemed quite personable. He asked me what he could do for me, and I reiterated what I had told the nurse over the phone. I handed him my prescription bottle and copies of the lab results. He looked over my tests carefully and then asked me how long I had been on testosterone and what the diagnosis was. I replied that I had a hormone deficiency and did not know the medical terminology for the condition, and that I had been on hormones since adolescence (not far from the truth—I began at 21).

He wanted to give me a physical exam and asked me to get up on the examining table. He gave me a routine exam and then walked over to his desk and wrote down the name of my previous doctor on a form letter that I could not see. He brought the letter over to me and asked me to read it and then sign it. It was a medical release form which would be sent to my previous physician. I was caught off-guard by his request, since everything had been going so well.

"I already wrote to my doctor and asked for my records to be sent. But as you know it can take weeks."

He insisted, saying that he knows it can take a long time, but he needs to have those records. He gave me a pen.

I was filled with dread. To sign would be to reveal my past. All of this effort would be in vain and I would have to pay for the office visit, my tests and my refill myself. I refused to give up.

"You know, I don't appreciate this. I feel you don't trust me. I told you I already sent for my medical records. If I sign this release form, the secretary will think I am badgering her. I already called her twice and she assured me that my records will be sent to me shortly."

He replied, "It is not that I don't trust you [I did not believe him], but often patients will say they will bring in their

medical records and I never see them. Please make sure to bring them in."

I gave him the unsigned form back and he crumpled it up and threw it in the garbage.

My persistence paid off. My spirits were uplifted. Then I heard his next request: "Pull down your shorts. I want to feel your testicles to make sure you don't have any abnormal growths."

I swallowed hard. "What?"

"It is one of the side effects of taking testosterone," he explained.

I unbuttoned my shorts; before I pulled them down I said, "I have a genetic abnormality. I don't have testicles; they are prostheses." I was hoping he would not ask me to make a demonstration. Unfortunately, he stated that he wanted to examine me regardless of my situation. So I pulled my shorts down and he felt my "testicles." I kept my hand on my phallus so he would not notice that I had had a phalloplasty (I made it seem like I was lifting up my penis so he would have an unobstructed view of my scrotum). However, I did not need to cover my phallus, because there are genetic males who have had phalloplasties.

He asked me to remove my hand. "Did you have surgery on your penis?"

"Yes. The doctors did this to make my penis larger. I was born with a microphallus."

I was relieved that he did not ask me any more questions about my condition. In addition, he did not examine me further, besides palpating my lower abdomen to make sure I did not have a hernia.

While I got dressed I told the doctor that I was embarrassed about my condition and did not like to reveal it. He said he understood but that it was necessary.

"Well, now you have your proof," I exclaimed.

"Yes. That is what I needed."

The physical exam was over and the nurse came in to take my blood for the blood tests. The doctor refilled my prescription and gave me enough testosterone for nine months. I was to see him in three months for a repeat of the blood work.

I was jubilant that I did not have to reveal my past and that I would, finally, get insurance reimbursement. However, I was now concerned about having to produce my medical records from my doctor in Madison. I was afraid that a transsexual diagnostic code would be included in those records, and I would have to alter the code before giving the material to my new physician.

The medical records took several weeks to arrive, as was expected. I found, to my delight, that no diagnostic code was written on the material. But I also felt angry: angry that I had had to go through the anxiety of having to conceal my past to my doctor in order to get my insurance company to pay for treatment that they should pay for regardless of a transsexual diagnosis.

I hope no one else has to go through what I had to in order to get insurance reimbursement - no one should have to. Unfortunately, I know there are those who will have to. If you are one of those, be comforted that you, too, do not have to reveal your past to your family physician. You do not need to have had a phalloplasty. An enlarged clitoris can pass as a microphallus. Prosthetic testicular implants, although not essential, will help convince a physician, and anyone else, of your male genitalia. You can get the prostheses implanted in your labia without having a phalloplasty constructed, and the cost is minimal compared to other reconstructive surgeries.

I hope you have found my account of my experience at the doctor's office to be informative and helpful. I would be interested in hearing from you. Please send your comments and questions to me: Joseph Ellman, [REDACTED] Milwaukee, Wisconsin 53211.

BRAZILIAN FILM "VERA" A MUST-SEE

Don't miss the rare opportunity to see the Brazilian film Vera (1956) about a female-to-male coming out to himself and others. There are so few honest films on the subject, and this one is not available on video - so here's a scarce chance to see it. Ana Nogueira won a Best Actress Award for her portrayal. We urge you to attend one of the three - showings on Wednesday, February 13, at 1:15 p.m., 5:10 p.m., and 9 p.m. at the Castro Theatre, Castro and Market Street in San Francisco. Phone 621-6120.

POSING -- FTM STYLE

With no attention given the FTM crossdressing angle, "The Portrait of Dorian Gray in the Yellow Press" (1984) features actress/model Veruschka as Dorian Gray. Lots of high male fashion and posing. Catch this film simply for its visuals. At the Castro Theatre, Castro and Market Sts., San Francisco, phone 621-6120, on Tuesday, March 12 at 9:20 p.m.

BLACKWELL'S WORST DRESSED LIST

Actress Julia Roberts has won the dubious honor of making Blackwell's Worst Dressed List this year for dressing relatively often in men's suits.

"TRANSSEXUALITY - JUDE"

A 28-minute film entitled "Transsexuality - Jude," in which a counselor of FTM transsexuals discusses various phases of his own surgery at Stanford Medical School, is available from Focus International, 14 Oregon Drive, Huntington Station NY 11746, phone 516-549-5320. 16mm purchase \$345; video purchase \$99; or rental \$50.

FTM'S OF COLUMBUS, OHIO

The FTM's of Columbus have formed as an off-shoot group to Crystal Club (a male-to-female club, some gay, most straight). The FTM group consists of three FTM's and two significant others. Contact Jan at P O Box 16235, Columbus Ohio 43216.

HOW TO CHANGE YOUR NAME

How to Change Your Name explains how to do just that legally in California, and provides all the necessary court forms with detailed instructions on how to fill them out. Written by two attorneys, this book costs \$19.95 (plus sales tax if purchased in California) and \$3 shipping/handling. Order by mail from Nolo Press, 950 Parker St., Berkeley CA 94710, or by phone 1-800-640-6656.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE FUTURE ISSUES OF "FTM" ?

WRITE TO US AT 1827 Haight Street #164, San Francisco CA 94117 !

THE GENDER TRAP, by Chris Johnson & Cathy Brown, with Wendy Nelson (London: Proteus Books, 1982)

Review by Lou Sullivan

This book is subtitled "The moving autobiography of Chris & Cathy, the first transsexual parents." I expected the details to read like a supermarket tabloid expose, but instead found the storyline to be quite tame. The bulk of the text described the separate lives of Anne and Eugene of Great Britain, who met in 1975 and decided to have a child, then each undergo sex reassignment. Female-to-male Anne became Christopher, and Eugene became Cathy. Wendy Nelson met the couple in 1980 and collaborated on their story.

Chris' life story seems quite plausible. He spent much energy in denying and later postponing his FTM transition, going so far, while still a female, as to having a child when the entire experience was repulsive to her, in order to please her male-to-female partner, Cathy. In true female form, Chris says, "I'd concentrated so much on helping Cathy get straightened out again that I hadn't had time to think about myself."

Both individuals underwent hormone therapy, and Chris had a mastectomy; other than that, the book ended with both in pre-operative stages. Surprisingly, there is no question or mention of any interference by child welfare authorities over their 3-year-old daughter, despite extensive coverage of their situation in the British press.

I found the written format distracting, as seemingly each sentence was treated as a new paragraph. Also, lurid descriptions of "demoniacal spirits" and possessions by the Devil became overly ridiculous. But, all in all, an honest attempt at presenting an unusual twosome.

"SHE EVEN CHEWED TOBACCO"

A narrative version of the slide-tape show *She Even Chewed Tobacco*, a study of passing women in the late nineteenth century, has just been published in the anthology *Hidden from History: Reclaiming the Gay & Lesbian Past*, edited by Martin B. Duberman, Martha Vicinus and George Chauncey Jr. (New York: New American Library, 1989), pages 183-194. If you have not seen the original slide-tape show, it is an important experience for all female-to-males and can be rented from Women Make Movies, 225 Lafayette St., New York NY 10012. Also in *Hidden from History* is a reprint of Esther Newton's 1984 essay, "The Mythic Mannish Lesbian: Radclyffe Hall and the New Woman," pages 281-293.

UPDATE ON ARRESTED FTM

In our last issue, we reported the case of Lynn Falske, a 34-year-old female-to-male arrested last September for making death threats to San Francisco's Board of Supervisors. After negotiation, Falske pleaded guilty to a single felony count of possessing brass knuckles and was released in December from the women's section of the San Francisco County Jail. Superior Court Judge Carlos Bea ordered him to return to court on January 9, 1991 to be sentenced to five years' probation with provisions to stay away from the supervisors and undergo outpatient treatment at the Center for Special Problems. Falske is not known to our FTM group.

While interviewing Lily Tomlin for San Francisco's *Bay Area Reporter* about her performance entitled *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe*, Kate Bornstein discussed several of Lily's male impersonations.

Lily has effected several male characters, but her latest may be the most complex. "Paul's the sperm donor for a turkey-baster baby," explains Lily. "He's a bodybuilder and he's getting dressed in the locker room after a workout at the gym. I watched guys working out at the gym and that's how I started building this character. It's not so different doing a man or a woman - it's types, and some types are more familiar than others. They live in your body, some more easily than others."

Lily's earliest male character was Rick, a pick-up artist of the singles bar set, created for a piece she did in 1977. "He was almost too easy to do," recalls Lily. "a macho, swaggering guy. You think you'll laugh at him, but then it's very moving because you see how lonely he is." Lily remembers the first time she ever dressed as Rick for a photo session with *Rolling Stone*. "I knew everybody in the room and everybody was there - gay women, gay men, straight men, straight women - and they were each of them disturbed and turned around by this transformation. It kicks up every sexual fantasy and fear, doesn't it?" she asked. "It's attraction, it's seduction - it's quite fascinating."

There are plans to take *The Search for Signs of Intelligent Life in the Universe* on a worldwide tour later this year, and to tape it as a special for cable television and the home video market.

SELECTED TEXT OF THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1990

In 1989 the U.S. Senate and the House approved the Americans With Disabilities Act, banning discrimination on the basis of disability. The bill bans discrimination on the basis of physical or mental or mental disability in employment, public accommodations and telecommunication systems in both public and private sectors. Unfortunately, transvestites and transsexuals are not protected under the Act, as amendments were introduced excluding gender identity disorders as disabilities. Here is the final approved text:

Section 508, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12208: "For the purposes of this Act, the term 'disabled' or 'disability' shall not apply to an individual solely because that individual is a transvestite."

Section 511, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12211: DEFINITIONS (b) CERTAIN CONDITIONS. Under this Act, the term 'disability' shall not include:

(1) transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments, or other sexual behavior disorders;

(2) compulsive gambling, kleptomania or pyromania;

or (3) psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.

In addition, new criteria has been developed for evaluating applicants for Department of Defense security clearances. Disqualifying factors include "Deviant or perverted sexual behavior which may indicate a mental or personality disorder (e.g., transsexualism, transvestism, exhibitionism, incest, child molestation, voyeurism, bestiality, or sodomy)."

ISABELLE: THE LIFE OF ISABELLE EBERHARDT, by Annette Kobak (New York: Alfred A. Knopf, 1989). 258 pgs., \$22.95.

THE DESTINY OF ISABELLE EBERHARDT, by Cecily Mackworth (New York: The Ecco Press, 1975). Paperback edition, 1986; 228 pgs., \$9.50.

Review by Lou Sullivan

Isabelle Eberhardt was born in Geneva of Russian parentage in 1877 and raised in a secluded family environment, surviving her situation via a rich fantasy life. She discovered early on the freedom afforded by wearing male clothes and, as soon as possible, struck out on her own to the land of her dreams, North Africa. Passing as a young man in the long, white burnous and high, swathed muslin turban of an Algerian bourgeois, she frequented the seedy areas of towns, indulged in hashish smoking, and wrote for a living. Her looks were hardy and boyish, her movements unfeminine, her head shaved, and her loose Arab clothes a good camouflage. At age 19, while dressed as a boy, Eberhardt had an amorous adventure with a man. Kobak says "it was the first hint that her attraction to disguise was not merely circumstantial, but the result of a deeper compulsion." Kobak suggests anorexia, fear of incest, a "narcissistic disturbance" or "perversion, the only way she could experience a sexual thrill."

"There is another reason," Kobak notes, "why Isabelle never had children and why she disguised herself as a boy -- and that is that she wanted to be made love to as if she were a boy, that is, exclusively through anal intercourse."

In 1901 she married an Arab man who was excited by her crossdressing and they shared a stormy and passionate relationship. "I swear to you," she once wrote to him, "it's not for the pleasure of dressing up as a man, but because it's impossible for me to do otherwise. European men's dress is what suits me best, so much so that my brother and his wife prefer this on me to any other costume when I'm there. I don't care if I dress as a *workman*, but to wear ill-fitting, cheap and ridiculous women's clothes, no, never ... I'm too proud for that and I hope you won't insist on such shame for me." (*Eberhardt's emphasis*)

Eberhardt described her diary as "merely an endless record of the unfathomable sadness there is at the bottom of my heart, at the bottom of my life ... unanalysable, without any known cause, which is the very essence of my soul" and "an inexpressible desire for a something which I can't explain, a nostalgia for an *elsewhere* which I can't put a name to. But then these kind of things are so personal, so much *my problem*, that it's impossible to explain them clearly, or above all to make anyone else understand them."

Eberhardt drowned in a flash flood in Algeria at age 27, dressed as an Arab cavalryman.

This reviewer preferred Kobak's biography, as it gave more facts and dates, compared to Mackworth's; however, I grew acutely aware of the shortcomings of a non-FTM biographer attempting to explain the motivations of a female-to-male. Mackworth adopted a storytelling approach with impossibly long rambling sentences and a disconnected succession of events, and miraculously never broached the subject of Eberhardt's gender identity or sexual orientation.

Two additional volumes of relevance have recently been published: *The Passionate Nomad: The Diary of Isabelle Eberhardt*, translated by Nina de Voogd (London: Virago, 1987; and Beacon); and *Vagabond*, written by Isabelle Eberhardt and translated by Annette Kobak (London: Hogarth Press, 1988).

Recently a theatrical rendition of Eberhardt's life, entitled *New Anatomies*, written by Timberlake Wertenbaker and starring Colette Kirby, played at the Home for Contemporary Theater and Art in New York City.

TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: TOWARD A THEORY OF CROSS-GENDER BEHAVIOR, by Dr. Richard F. Docter (New York: Plenum Press, 1988), 251 pgs.

Review by Lou Sullivan

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) calls this book, "A 'must' for anyone who owns a personal library on crossdressing. Dr. Richard Docter has become a true friend of our community, and has produced one of the finest scholarly works on the subjects of transvestism and transsexualism ever written. Every community member should read this book."

But Docter's volume contains absolutely nothing on the female-to-male, and I mean NOTHING. Most shocking and distressing was the lack of any explanation for this glaring omission. Usually texts of this type include a "disclaimer," pointing out that the present text addresses the male-to-female only, as the female-to-male would best be studied separately, or words to that effect. However, no such statement appeared anywhere in this book. I searched paragraph by paragraph to find ANY mention of the female-to-male, and this is all I found:

In a chapter entitled, "The Spectrum of Cross Dressing": "Our present emphasis is upon the etiology and course of heterosexual transvestism -- a phenomenon believed to be found almost exclusively in men. Hence, most of what we say here pertains to males. Females are involved only with reference to primary transsexualism."

In "A Review of the Literature on Transvestism and Transsexualism": "For reasons incompletely understood, transvestism, unlike transsexualism, appears to occur almost exclusively in men. Very few convincing cases involving women have ever been reported. Although women in our culture wear many articles of clothing which might be called 'men's clothing,' their motive is not to imitate a man or take the social role of a male; such clothing is worn for the same reasons as any other clothing -- for comfort, convenience, style or protection. There is no issue of cross-gender role behavior whatever. Nor is there any sense in saying that the reason transvestism is not seen in women is because our culture allows' women to wear men's clothes.

That was it! Dr. Docter's book leaves *much* to be desired. It is a terrible disappointment to the much-ignored female-to-male community.

"MAN IN CHARGE"

by Francis

Man in Charge (The Executive's Guide to Grooming, Manners and Travel), by John Weitz, 1974, is an interesting and entertaining book I discovered in the library, in the men's fashion section (646.702). A men's clothing designer on the "permanent best dressed list," Weitz writes with a humorous and dry English wit about everything from proper suit fit, what to do with hands, how to walk, hair (length, style), locker room and bathroom etiquette, choosing a wardrobe, travel, and conducting oneself in the corporate world. Although geared for the "professional" man (and "jet set" traveler), I recommend it for helpful hints and light reading.