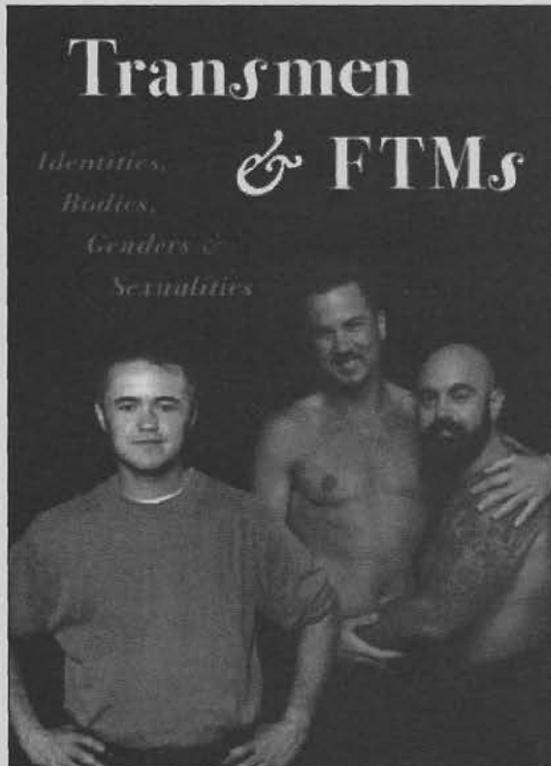
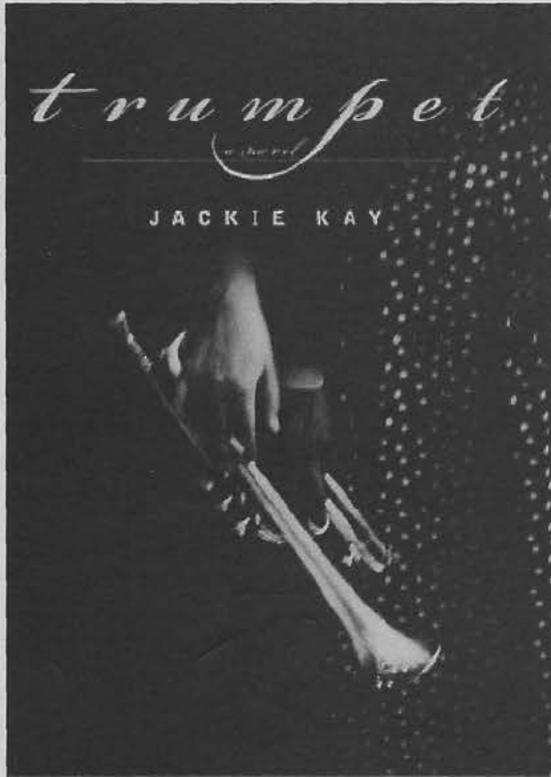


▲ THE BOOK AND MOVIE REVIEW ISSUE ▲



BOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKSBOOKS

▲ TRUMPET

By Jackie Kay

Pantheon Books, New York, 1998. 278 pages; \$23.00
hardcover. ISBN 0-375-40509-7

and

SACRED COUNTRY

By Rose Tremain

Washington Square Press, New York 1992. 321 pages, \$10.00 softcover
(1995 edition).

Both books reviewed by James Green

Mary Ward was six years old in early 1952. Joss Moody may have been already playing his trumpet by then, it's hard to tell. Mary Ward, who becomes Martin, is the hero of Sacred Country, a solitary, lonely, deeply observant soul who shows us the process of becoming a man in an unimaginative family in rural England. Joss Moody, born Josephine, only appears in Trumpet as a memory of several other characters until the last few pages, in which Joss speaks from beyond the grave through a letter he wrote for his son that he intended to be read only after his own death. Though the picture we have of Joss is never as rich as that which readers are given of Martin, both these books ring true to FTM experience, and both are rich and deep in their different ways. ➤ 6

▲ TRANSMEN & FTMs: IDENTITIES, BODIES, GENDERS & SEXUALITIES

By Jason Cromwell

University of Illinois Press, IL 1999. 201 pages, \$19.95 paper.

Review by Masen Davis

Transfolk have been analyzed, stereotyped and pathologized in countless publications over the years. When discussing the specific issues of transgendered and transsexual men, most researchers have simply reversed existing theories on the causation of male-to-female transsexualism and built their models of female-to-male (FTM) transness on the assumption that all transsexuals desire to be "fixed" by sex reassignment surgery (SRS) and blend in as heterosexual men. Such theories about FTMs insist that true transsexuals (read: those worthy of hormonal and surgical intervention) must be androgynous since birth, obsessed with acquiring a penis, and purely heterosexual in orientation.

Transmen and FTMs offers a critical analysis of such theories about female-to-male transpeople and counters with a multidimensional portrayal of FTM issues, identities, and lives based upon ten years of participant observation in the transmen's community. As a transman and anthropologist, Jason Cromwell uses his position as community insider to counter skewed perceptions of female-bodied gender diversity with the real voices and experiences of FTMs and transgendered men. Including his own voice throughout the text, Cromwell asserts that, "the book is an acknowledgement that we (FTMs and Transmen) are the experts about our personal lives" (14). This insider ➤ 6

FTM INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER

The world's most widely-circulated newsletter for the female-to-male transgender and transsexual. Published quarterly since 1987.

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Fill out a postcard and drop it in the mail to 1360 Mission St., #200, San Francisco, CA 94103 or send an email to TSTGMen@aol.com. Keep in touch and feel free to check in with us by e-mail or send a stamped, return-addressed postcard and we'll verify receipt.

DEADLINES

Please submit articles, stories, art, photos, poetry, etc. by Dec. 15 for consideration for FTM #48. Ads and letters due Dec. 15.

ADS

Business card ads \$100 for 4 insertions for professional advertisers; free to FTMs. Quarter-page professional ads \$250 for 4 insertions.

SUBSCRIBE!

\$25/year/4 issues, \$15/year sliding scale, \$50/year professional.

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Additional donations are always welcome, and they're tax deductible!

FTM RESOURCE GUIDE: HELP NEEDED

The FTM Resource Guide is presently being updated. We are hoping to have the biggest one yet, with more listings for the USA, more Canadian content, as well as other International Resources. If you have any information on anyone who has helped you or anyone you know whom you would recommend to other FTMs (lawyers, endocrinologists, gynecologists, therapists, surgeons, websites, etc), please contact me, so that I can in turn contact them to ask if they are interested in being included in our Guide, or you can simply fill out our questionnaire. To get an on-line copy of this questionnaire, please e-mail me.

Furthermore, if you know of any Bookstores, Resource Centers, or Community Groups that you think should carry this Newsletter and/or our Resource Guide, please send me their contact info, and I will send them ordering information.

The more listings we get, the more available and accessible our Newsletter and Guide are, the more choices that people will have, and we will all be less isolated in our lives. Contact Dale Altrows cdnftm@yahoo.ca to help.

Editor's Note: Last issue we had Dale's address listed as cdnftm@yahoo.com. Wrong, it's cdnftm@yahoo.ca. Please resend your information to that address.

WAYS YOU CAN HELP FTMI

FTMI is now included in United Way's list of approved recipients for California donors. This means that people who live in California and who donate to the United Way can now designate FTMI as a recipient.

In addition, FTMI was accepted by the state of California for their 2000 CA State Employees Charitable Campaign to be an approved agency that folks working for the state can choose as a beneficiary. This letter of confirmation was written by Kelly J. Brodie, Executive Officer, State Board of Control, Audits and Investigation Branch, PO Box 48, Sacramento, CA 95812-0048. Questions, contact Daniel R. Shaffer, Campaign Coordinator, at 916.323.0539, email dshaffer@boc.ca.gov Why not contact the governor of your state about FTMI applying there?

Working Assets will be calling all customers next summer and will make a \$25 donation to the nonprofit of each customer's choice. This means that if you have Working Assets as your long distance provider, you can donate to FTMI without taking a dime out of your pocket. 200 people just saying FTMI when they get that phone call would mean \$5000! 400 people would mean \$10,000! The only qualification is that the group has to have 501(c) 3 status (FTMI does) and a mission compatible with Working Assets' mission (FTMI does). Time to start getting more people to sign up for Working Assets!

*FTMI thanks the following organizations for their generous donations:
SF Foundation, Horizons Foundation, SF Bears, Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence, and the Astrea Foundation.*

OOPS ...

Dion Manley should have been listed in issue 47 as co-author of the board retreat article.

FTM INTERNATIONAL BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT OF FTMI

Been thinking lately about community dynamics and larger goals—plus about my first support group meeting at FTMI. When first coming around, like many of us, I was my usual quiet, nervous, invisible-as-possible loner self, taking information in by watching and listening. Feeling hungry for more than meetings provided, I got involved by volunteering—which took off. I eventually started attending board meetings, was urged to join the board, and got voted in as vice prez, then acting prez. Months and months of work later, volunteers—still needed, and open to anyone and everyone!—and board members at FTMI are now creating a team and a whole new structure, as described below. The more you join in, the more we can do. Not only



DION MANLEY

does FTMI benefit as we build the organization together, but everyone is also sparked by the variety of individual perspectives, strengths and creativity in coming together and doing the work! The more we hear from you in however you want to be involved, the better we can serve you.

Whether it's an FTM support meeting, a group of working volunteers, a gathering of partners and/or families, or different organizations coming together on an issue, there is one common thread. For me there is always one moment when time stands still and all that's happening, how we fit into the bigger picture, shines beautifully clear. I am so thrilled to witness such great courage and faith with us all working together in and outside of FTMI.

Continued Growth at FTMI-With Your Help

By Joel Levine and Abe Doherty

Until recently, as a non-profit corporation, FTM International has been in its infancy. That is changing fast. With the help of some dedicated and talented volunteers and a few new grants—FTMI has reached the toddler stage, taking some bold new steps. We have formed some committees that are now vital to the continuing progress we are making, and we need people to step up and volunteer their time and energy to ensure we get to the next stage in our development as an organization.

Anyone with an interest in seeing FTMI continue to grow, whether trans-identified or not, is welcome to volunteer. Volunteering is a great way to get to know the people, to give back and reach out to the community, and to feel good about yourself, all at the same time. It can be an energizing experience to know that you've done something to help someone else and to see that the efforts of (y)our organization continue. Now, we can hear some of you saying it takes too much time, you're too busy, you live too far away, etc., etc. Really, you don't have to sign your life away or live next door to volunteer for FTMI. If there is even ONE small thing you can do, it will help and be tremendously appreciated.

Here's a rundown on the committees we've formed so far. Names listed are contact info only as committees are now forming! Where can you contribute?

Volunteer Committee

Contact Gomez (gomez04@aol.com) or Dylan Vade (415.552.2891 or c@neteze.com)

If you want to participate or volunteer in any way, these are the guys to contact. Solicit volunteers; maintain database of volunteers

including contact information, interests and schedules; communicate regularly with other volunteer staff to effectively use volunteers; organize volunteer appreciation activities.

Fundraising Committee

Contact Jes Cornette ([415.695.9835](tel:415.695.9835) or simon@foad.org) or Danny Kirchoff ([510.547.5772](tel:510.547.5772) or dannyksf@aol.com). Work with the Board of Directors to develop fundraising plan; implement fundraising plan; conduct follow-up to acknowledge and thank donors; ensure that we are meeting grant requirements; work with the Board of Directors to conduct fundability assessments to increase FTMI's ability to be eligible for grants to support work towards FTMI's Mission Statement; gather statistics for grant support documentation (demographics, number of people served, etc.)

Newsletter Committee

Contact Ben Singer or Garin Chad Wiggins at FTMIMalebox@aol.com. Coordinate writing reviews of documents/books sent to FTMI (publish in newsletter); communicate with editors to solicit and produce articles and artwork for newsletter.

Mailing Committee

Contact Eli Wadley ([415.642.7746](tel:415.642.7746) or Eli_Wadley@hotmail.com). Coordinate and oversee mass mailings (mainly the quarterly newsletter); collaborate with the volunteer committee to contact volunteers for mailings; work with the Office Manager to obtain up-to-date database for mailing recipients; purchase supplies (envelopes etc.); ensure that the mail is delivered to the post office.

Outreach Committee

Contact Abe Doherty ([510.530.0416](tel:510.530.0416) or AbeGarland@aol.com), Danny Kirchoff

([510.547.5772](tel:510.547.5772) or dannyksf@aol.com), or Thomas Kennard ([415.334.3326](tel:415.334.3326) or TMKennard@aol.com) Identify and reach out to underserved and underrepresented communities; collaborate with other organizations; serve as a liaison with the media; increase awareness of FTMI; work with Volunteer Committee to identify members to represent FTMI at community functions

Project/Activities Committee

Contact Joel Levine ([415.668.6124](tel:415.668.6124) or JoelKLev@aol.com) or Emil (gammaray9@hotmail.com). Solicit and develop ideas for projects and activities (social, political, educational, etc.); advertise and coordinate projects/activities.

Meeting Committee

Contact Travis Gardner ([510.763.4366](tel:510.763.4366) or Travisag@pacbell.net) Assess whether meetings are fulfilling the needs of the community; advertise meetings, including special topics; ensure that each meeting has a designated facilitator; set up training for facilitators as needed.

Office Committee

Contact Eli Wadley ([415.642.7746](tel:415.642.7746) or Eli_Wadley@hotmail.com) Process incoming mail and telephone calls (forward correspondence to appropriate people); fill orders for publications; collect incoming funds (from membership and publications fees) and deliver to Treasurer; maintain membership database.

Library/Archives Committee

Contact volunteer committee for now. Organize and maintain library/archives; respond to requests to review contents; advertise the contents of the library/archives.

Two Youth Conferences

LYRIC CONFERENCE, SAN FRANCISCO

By Conor McCann

LYRIC (Lavender Youth Recreation and Information Center) held its fifth annual youth conference July 14th-16th at Mission High School, San Francisco. The weekend started out with a social gathering that included all the things that lure young people to events: food, movies, and condoms. All the movies shown were made about and/or by queer youth, and had been shown at Frameline, San Francisco's queer movie fest.

The workshops were set up in such a way that you could pick a topic/track or just wander the rooms until you found a session you liked.

Saturday morning dawned the workshop kick-off. The welcome ceremony was fun; an auditorium filled with gay, lesbian, bi, and trans youth were entertained by a particularly innuendo-loving duo laying out the schedule for the day. The welcome was wrapped up by another gifted pair who turned up the volume to perform feats of the human body, dancing in ways that just shouldn't have been possible! Both groups were a great way to get everyone going.

The workshops were set up in such a way that you could pick a topic/track or just wander the rooms until you found a session you liked. Among the tracks were: Gay-Straight Alliance Organizing, Schools and Activism, Trans/GenderQueer, Anti-Racist Organizing,

Health and Wellness, and the Adult Track; finally they put the old people where they belong!!! Some of the tranny-specific workshops included: Gender Smoothy, Gender Play, Blueprint for Identity: Race, Gender and Ethnicity, Transgender and Feminism, Chromosomes and Hormones, Girls Will Be Boys and Boys Will Be Girls, I'll Be the Girl, Trans 101 for Liberation, Trans Sex Discussion Forum, and The Politics of Tucking and Binding.

Some of the more interesting workshops included: Intersex Issues in a Binary World (which was very well done), How to be a Super-Rad Straight Ally, Target Practice (where the participants learned how to research and fight back against queer enemies), Butch Boot Camp (use your imagination), and Are You a Sexist Queer Boy? (The answer was yes if you're wondering!). All the workshops were, from what I overheard, very good. The only problem that I saw was that the rooms weren't big enough! Try squeezing over 50 youth into a room and then play Family Feud! Danger! Danger! Danger!

FTMs had a strong presence at the conference—more of a presence than the flip side of transnism (MTFs). The transpeople and the non-

transpeople talked at this conference. Discussions about common topics and even topics specific to a particular group of people were all cordial. Everyone seemed to get along.

When differences arose people talked them out, everyone seemed to want to understand everyone else.

I hope that the FTM youth will continue to have a strong presence at conferences and political/social events so that awareness of FTM issues will become commonplace. Our lives will be much easier when there is no longer need for the struggles, socially imposed shame, and fears that we deal with now. One way to insure that this happens is to become active in local community groups; I was able to attend

Discussions about common topics and even topics specific to a particular group of people were all cordial. When differences arose people talked them out, everyone seemed to want to understand.

I hope that FTM youth will continue to have a strong presence at conferences and political/social events so that awareness of FTM issues will become commonplace. Our lives will be much easier when there is no longer need for the struggles, socially imposed shame, and fears that we deal with now.

this conference by going with the Los Angeles Gay, Lesbian, Bi, and Trans Youth Center. My being an FTM with that group raised their awareness of FTM issues and lives.

SEATTLE FTM CONFERENCE Memorial Day Weekend, 2001

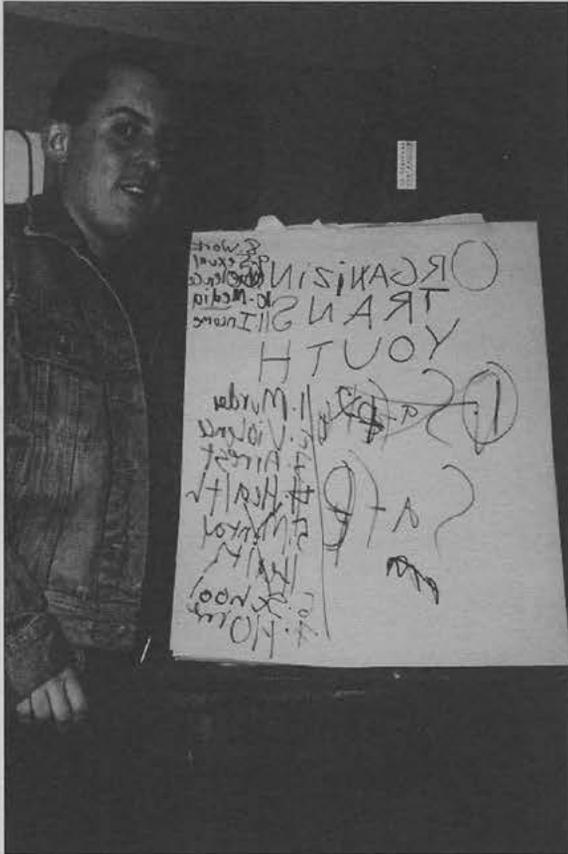
Seattle is proud to be hosting the next FTM conference, FTM 2001: A Gender Odyssey. Conference coordinator Aidan Key hopes the main focus of the conference will be on the positive side of being ftm or transgendered. He believes a lot of attention is paid to losses incurred or problems encountered during the process of transitioning. "While these aspects of our discussions are necessary, our conversations should also be balanced, incorporating more of the celebratory aspects of our choices. Humor is very important,"

says Aidan. "That's why I would like this conference to be about celebration." Seattle hopes to provide a good number of SOFFA and youth tracks, as well as a variety of workshops for FTMs. Varied entertainment is also being planned.

The conference will be taking place during Memorial Day weekend, May 25th through May 28th, at the Sea-Tac Doubletree. For further info, contact FTM 2001 at : FMT2001.org; P.O. Box 23157, Seattle, WA 98102; (206) 527-7433.

... Flooded with FTMs!

NYAC CONFERENCE, PHILADELPHIA



Top left: Max Spit hosted a workshop entitled "Trans Youth Organizing" along with Ellexjea Madrinan (not pictured). **Bottom left:** A group of conference attendees horse around in front of the camera. **Above, left to right:** Sasha O'Malley and Rachel Eckhardt pose with Max Spit after their workshop on "Gender Fluidity."



By Alex Gino

The National Youth Advocacy Coalition held its Northeast Regional Conference in Philadelphia on Friday, August 11th through Sunday, August 13th, 2000. NYAC works to improve the lives of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender youth. Approximately 75 people attended the conference, mostly youth-identified, and at least 8 people who openly identified on the FTM

continuum. The conference was not well publicized, and there was much confusion as to scheduling, including communication troubles before the event and last minute changes. However, such is often the way of conferences. The workshop and plenary were very well received. Attendees nearly unanimously spoke positively about the sessions they attended.

The Trans Workshops

Two workshops at the conference focused on trans issues. While neither was FTM-focused, both included an FTM-identified facilitator and had strong FTM presence. The first, "Gender Fluidity," focused on personal issues.

The workshop, moderated by Sasha O'Malley and Rachel Eckhardt, focused on questions about living trans lives. Approximately half the participants expressed a trans identity. People spoke of trans-feminist affiliations, transgressive genders, and other issues of ways of being. As Owen Per-Lee said, "The more I watch genders, the more genders I see."

In "Trans Youth Organizing," facilitators

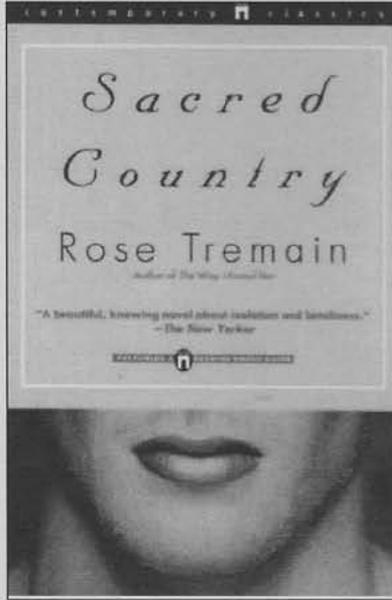
Max Spit and Ellexjea Madrinan helped move the personal to the political. A majority of the people in this session identified as trans. People there expressed the difficulties of creating a social justice movement amongst people who are still handling living their own lives as trans people. Ellexjea commented that the very people who are running hotlines and trying to organize are "overwhelmed with their own issues."

"We're having a lot of trouble mobilizing in preventative ways," stated Shira Hassan. People also raised concerns about the dangers of protesting and risking arrest by a trans-phobic police force.

The NYAC Conference did more than have "trans time." Participants at the plenary focused on trans issues as a key dividing issue in the queer community that should be resolved. Organizers worked to weave trans issues throughout the conference, thus recognizing trans people as part of the community. Non-trans attendees showed open curiosity towards and willingness to learn about trans issues. We've certainly got far to go, but the inclusive work of youth is a great step in the right direction and gives hope for a queer community that does more than "Add the T."

TRUMPET AND SACRED COUNTRY from page 1

The character of Joss Moody is quite obviously based on the person of Billy Tipton, the musician and band leader who died in Spokane, Washington in 1989, leaving only his female body as a surprise for everyone, including his wife (she said she never knew, and they never had sex), and especially his sons and his professional associates. He left no letters for his sons, no testimony. In imagining what this must have been like for everyone concerned, Jackie Kay created a more allegorical character in Joss Moody. Joss lives in the middle of almost every social construct: mixed race, mixed gender, mixed musical forms, traveling between vibrant city jazz venues and rural Scottish village peace. Joss's wife, Millie, knows the truth of the female form of his body,



and her eloquent yet simple memories recite her love for his masculine spirit. His son, Colman, though, is angry. He feels betrayed by his father, manipulated, cheated somehow. Trumpet is more Colman's and Millie's story than it is Joss's. Joss is only the catalyst, central, pivotal, powerful, but he is gone, and his story will be told by others in their own ways. And that's also a part of what this book is about the way people's stories are changed as they pass

characters that only British culture can produce, and he follows the transsexual trajectory through therapists and clinics and surgeries and friends and lovers and jobs and on and on through the endless chain of change that only sex reassignment can generate. He struggles with his own self-awareness, with his family and friends, and with his sense of the future limited by no money and little education, and the profound hope and faith that longing for love sustains in so many of us. I wonder what inspired Tremain to write this book. Not the Tipton story, I'm sure, since there are no parallels between the two, except (loosely) that music figures prominently in Martin's life, too. There is enough detail and double entendre to engage the most critical student of literature, but the prose is clear and the characters engaging enough that nearly any reader will find himself or herself connecting with Martin's search for identity.

through the minds and words of others. Martin Ward tells his own story, in the first person. He's surrounded by the kind of eccentric

Both these books are well worth reading. They don't match present-day transgender sensibilities, but they still reflect transgender and transsexual souls with grace and compassion.

TRANSMEN & FTMS from page 1

perspective allows Transmen and FTMs to delve into how FTMs establish their own personal and community identities within a mainstream culture that denies gender diversity at every turn.

Cromwell's research depends largely on information received from transmen via support groups, conferences, and the Internet.

Unlike most research performed in clinical settings, his interviewees are primarily out, visible transmen who have ceased to view their transgender identities as problematic. This is a major strength of the book, as it gives voice to the many transmen who are creating new words, genders and communities to define and validate themselves outside of the confines set by the medical establishment. At the same time, Cromwell's focus on community networks results in the exclusion of FTMs who have mainstreamed into society. This limitation is self-conscious on Cromwell's part and he acknowledges that Transmen and FTMs is not meant to represent all transgendered men, but instead to focus on transgendered-identified people who are out to some degree.

academics and helping professionals who study or work with transgendered men. Cromwell's critique of the "wrong body" phenomenon and his openness about his own transgendered journey — he "failed" a psychological test for SRS in his first year of living as a man — challenge the assumptions long held about transmen by the medical and psychological establishments. Many FTMs will not be surprised by Cromwell's conclusions, but guys living outside of established transgender communities may benefit by the breadth of experience uncovered. The chapter on "Queering the Binaries" is particularly salient, as it raises many important questions about how transmen subvert traditional notions of male/female, masculine/feminine, and heterosexual/homosexual.

Transmen and FTMs is not a light summer read, rather it's a text to digest slowly. Cromwell's writing is academic in nature and some sections are quite dense (especially his discussion of discourse analysis). Scholars may question his objectivity and take issue with his use of the first person; however his position as subject allows him a more comprehensive—and more accurate—representation of FTM identity formation than most "objective" academics could ever comprehend.

This book should be required reading for

Mary V. Cochran, Ph.D.

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20 Years Helping the Trans Community

▲ THE TRANSGENDER DEBATE: The Crisis Surrounding Gender Identity

By Stephen Whittle

2000, 68pp; Garnet Publishing Ltd.
ISBN 1 902932 16 1 RRP : UKP 3.50

[ADAPTED FROM CHRISTINE BURNS
<C_BURNS@EMAIL.MSN.COM> VIA PRESS FOR
CHANGE NEWS <HTTP://WWW.PFC.ORG.UK>]

I'm sure that I could be a much better campaigner if I could only remember half the things I "know" about the issues we so often need to explain to the world.

Enter veteran trans campaigner, Dr Stephen Whittle, a man with the unusual distinction of having co-founded a radical lesbian group in the mid 70's before coming out as a trans man. Since that time he has studied and ascended the academic ladder as a lawyer, become father to four young children, taken his government to the European Court of Human Rights, founded the UK Trans Lobby Group Press for Change, appeared on television countless times, and somehow managed time to write a shelf-full of books and learned papers too.

Many trans people have found fame simply on account of who and what they are, but Dr Whittle belongs in that far more exclusive club, that handful of trans men and women who are universally known and respected for their encyclopaedic knowledge of a subject and their contribution to making people think. And it certainly demands a man with this much experience, with this consummate a grasp of his subject, to compress so much, so readably, into such a small publication.

The Transgender Debate explains all the things a trans person knows and the rest of the world doesn't. From a starting point of explaining the most essential of terminology (the difference between sex, gender role and gender identity), Whittle goes on to introduce the people [historical trans figures] in all their diversity. From here we journey through the facts and figures, historical and anthropological perspectives, to arrive at the issues confronting trans people today: the imperatives which thrust them together to make a campaigning community. Finally, Whittle charts the history of that movement, through a hundred years of conceptual evolution to the present day.

So often as a campaigner I feel like saying to people, "Go away .. have the manners to read up about my subject and then come back for an

informed discussion." The problem is that if they have to read half a library full of references to get to that point then you know they won't. And that's the delight of this little book, part of a "Behind the Headlines" series which sets out to explain the essentials of topics like Northern Ireland, Homelessness and Food Safety, in a format that you can comfortably polish off in the space of one morning's commute.

I am biased, of course. The author is not only a campaigning associate, but also a man I am pleased to count as a friend. This is no empty eulogy. I bought my review copy myself, and I'll be buying spare copies too, to use as a way to demand that the people I talk to as a campaigner read up about me and my people first. Stephen's people. Our community.

Over the years I've bought many books about trans, and borrowed many more. This is first I've wanted to buy in bulk to give out.

▲ SOCIAL SERVICES WITH TRANSGENDERED YOUTH

By Gerald P. Mallon, DSW, ed.
Harrington Park Press, Binghamton, NY
1999. Hard cover \$39.95, soft cover \$19.95. Published simultaneously as *Journal of Gay and Lesbian Social Services, Vol.10, Numbers 3/4 1999.*

Review by Daniel Gould

As each author in this collection of papers points out, very little professional social work literature exists on the topic of transgender issues. What few citations can be found focus either on treatment for transsexual adults or reparative therapeutic approaches to treat gender identity disorder in children and adults. *Social Services with Transgendered Youth* is solid progress in changing that trend for the better, offering a range of articles that include explanations, analysis and concrete social work practice steps for practitioners who work with transgendered youth.

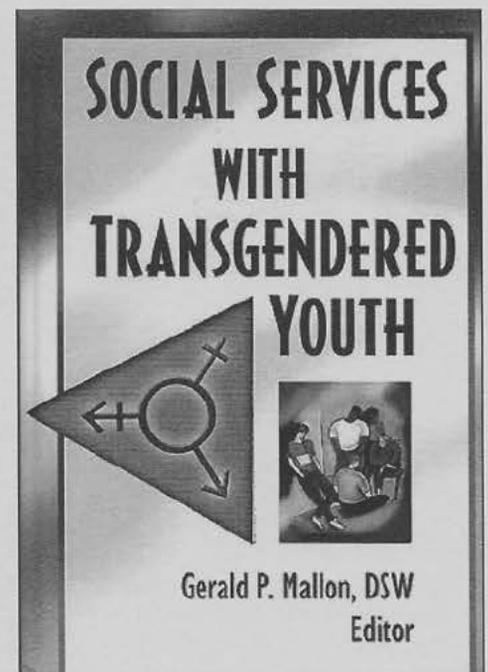
Beginning with an introduction by Shannon Minter, an FTM lawyer, the book consists of nine articles as well as appendices with a page of definitions for transgender terminology and an outline for assessing staff self awareness and knowledge of transgender issues. Contributing authors for the text include practitioners, students, social workers and one self-described "plainclothes" transgender person who draw on case studies, personal narratives, professional

literature, and practice experience to construct each paper. In his preface, G. P. Mallon, an Assistant Professor at Hunter College School of Social Work, outlines the positive views of trans-identity affirmed by each article. Focusing on the strength, resilience and health of trans youth, this collection rejects old notions of pathology with the firm position that trans identity is as valid as any other.

Social work practitioners and students looking for professional literature that will inform their developing practice with trans youth will find that the text has numerous strengths. The editor's commitment to approaching practice from an ecological perspective relays a solid if basic understanding of complex factors impacting sex and gender identity in the dominant American culture. Far from reinforcing a binary system requiring youth to choose only M or F, a range of expression and identity is affirmed by emphasizing that trans identity is multifaceted and diverse. For students and practitioners who want to explore further reading and research about transgender issues, all but one article supplies extensive references.

All the contributors to this collection emphasize the importance of listening to the stories of transgender people and most have included examples of published work by trans authors in their papers as part of developing the ways social work practice works with trans youth. Unfortunately, the article by Wendell Glenn that is also a personal narrative detracts from the focus of the text and belongs in the references rather than placed with the

➤ 8



other papers. In the context of a resource for providers who work with transgender people, the article has a number of concerning points. The author writes of the transgender experience as if it is universal without acknowledging the vast differences among transgendered people. Of more serious concern, what seems at first to be a supportive statement about a range of gender expressions ends by clearly stating the author's premise that could have serious negative consequences for trans youth seeking services: in comparison to transgender people who choose to express their gender identity openly, "plainclothes" transgender people are mentally and emotionally healthier.

Other papers and case studies lean more toward MtF issues, though the text does have some content reflecting the needs of female-born trans identified youth as well. That terminology is inaccurate and inconsistent in places is concerning and surprising for a resource meant to inform social service providers.

The text made up of these combined papers provides a basic introduction to some of the issues involved in providing social services for transgender youth. In a field utterly lacking positive, informative professional literature about transgender populations the deficits of this text are mostly compensated for by the affirmative stance supported by the contributors. Social service practitioners will find this a useful beginning guide to working with trans youth. With the publication of this book Mallon has also contributed to the start of solid professional social work literature that will be built upon by future practitioners in ways that could truly benefit transgendered people.

▲ **AS NATURE MADE HIM:**
The boy who was raised as a girl

By *J. Colapinto*
New York, Harper Collins

Review by P. J. Mears

John Colapinto has written articles for many magazines including "The New Yorker," "Vanity Fair," and "Us." In 1997 he wrote an award winning article for "Rolling Stone" detailing the follow-up to "John/Joan," a story in which a prominent member of the medical profession, Dr. John Money, convinced a boy's family to raise him as a girl after his circumcision was botched. The "Rolling Stone" article

became the basis for the book, *As Nature Made Him*. David Reimer gave Colapinto complete access to his life story. For the first time ever, a face, a voice and a sense of personhood are given to the boy who was raised as a girl. Previous accounts of his story had led everyone to believe that the "experiment" was successful, that after being nurtured as Brenda after his sex-change, he was living happily as a girl. Colapinto sets the story straight; he introduces us to the real "Brenda" who, at the age of 15, becomes David and assumes his deep-felt gender and sexual identity.

The story starts before David is born. Ron and Janet Reimer (David's parents), two simple people from a religious background, are living in an era when medical professionals are seen in the same light as God. The reader knows that after the circumcision life will never be the same for the Reimers; one feels how hard the decision was to change the sex of this baby boy. Colapinto moves us as readers to an emotional level, enabling us to feel the weight on this young couple's shoulders.

At the same time he keeps the focus on how the medical community operated and presented itself in that day. This is a powerful part of the book in which we as readers cannot help but be pulled into the unfolding drama. Even the most cynical and medically-minded reader will come away empathizing with the entire Reimer family.

For the first two-thirds of the book, we understand how little hope the local medical community gave to the Reimers. The medical-psychological model of the time was centered around manhood with a penis. According to doctors, without a functioning penis, a little boy could not have a "normal" childhood and grow up into a functioning adult male. By the end of the

book David's story stands that model on its ear. As Colapinto draws in the different layers of David's life, he initially leaves out much of the background information about the medical team that treats "Brenda". We are allowed to come to our own conclusions as to whether the treatment was the right one, and whether the reporting of it as "successful" was in fact so.

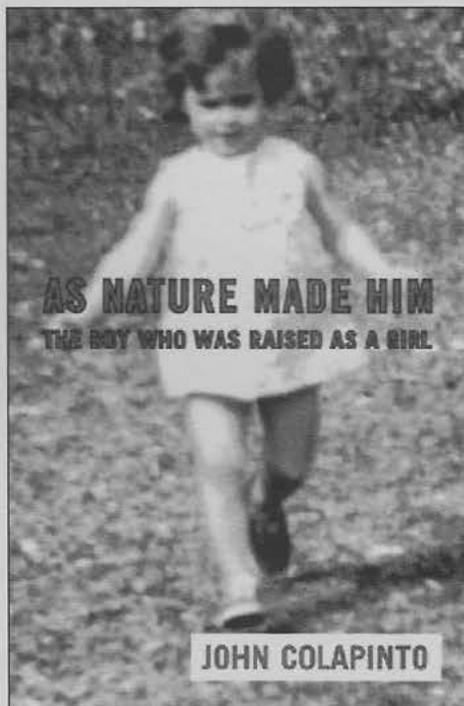
Colapinto's research dominates the last third of the book. He establishes the different medical players' backgrounds, and how they came to the theories they espoused. It is here that the reader is taken through the labyrinth of studies and papers written on gender identity and the predominant

developmental controversy of the time, nature versus nurture. We begin to see how someone's ideas can shift once they obtain a position of power and are vaulted to the pinnacle of a profession, as was the case with Dr. John Money. Colapinto had access to Brenda's

files, allowing us into her yearly sessions with Dr. Money; it is clear that Dr. Money was seeing

what he wanted to rather than the reality of Brenda's life, in order to further his own theory. In spite of years spent with Brenda and her family, Dr. Money continued to hold steadfast to his belief that gender identity is malleable early in life, that a boy can become a girl simply by having his external genitalia changed surgically and by being socialized as a girl.

As a female-to-male transgendered person I learned in *As Nature Made Him* how important Dr. Money was in the movement to get Sex Reassignment Surgery (SRS) established in the United States. I can appreciate how instrumental and influential he was in starting the first gender identity clinic at Johns Hopkins. My



As a female-to-male transgendered person I learned how important Dr. Money was in the movement to get Sex Reassignment Surgery established in the United States

appreciation and respect for his place in the transsexual movement and history end there. I was appalled at the lack of listening to the client that took place, at his reporting of the "total success" of this one case which became the basis for thirty years of medical intervention for infants who had genitals different than the norm. Due to Dr. Money's stature and prominence in the field of sex research, his results and theories were never publically challenged until Dr. Milton Diamond came along.

Dr. Diamond tracked down David's case managers and together they told the true story publicly. Finally someone had heard David's voice and had said, "Enough!" Enough for this child and enough for the thousands of others whose sex was being reassigned as infants. David's soul could finally be set free. I feel an affinity with David Reimer even though he is not a transsexual. David never speaks on behalf of the trans community, nor is he portrayed as a poster boy for Female-to-Male (FTM) transsexuals. David's struggle to claim himself, that person within him that he knew was there innately, with no language, is a feeling common to all transsexuals and intersexed people. Transgendered people like myself are always trying to articulate who we are, in a gender vacuum. That is where David's and my stories overlap. I and many others carry the scars from childhood, the scars of trying so desperately to fit in, the scars of being teased mercilessly because we did not.

Of the many books relating to gender I have read recently, *As Nature Made Him* has been, by far, the most riveting - so close to my own story that I feel like I know David, though we have never met. His views of what a man is and what constitutes manhood resonate deeply within me. In my own life my manhood is measured by friend and foe alike. It is always reduced to the following questions: Do I have a penis?; How big is it?; Does it work?; Do I stand to urinate?; Which bathroom do I use? These questions imply that my manhood is all about what is between my legs, rather than what is between my ears and in my heart. In David's own closing words:

"From what I've been taught by my father, what makes you a man is you treat your wife well, you put a roof over your family's head, you're a good father. Things like that add up much more to being a man than just bang-bang-bang-sex. I guess John Money would consider my children's biological fathers to be real men. But they didn't stick around to take care of the children. I did. That, to me, is a man (page 271)."

David Reimer is a man. He is honorable, courageous and true to his own spirit. He is a man who lived a troubled girl's childhood. We

all can learn from his story. Read the book. It will change how you view the world, your neighbors, and most of all, yourself.

MOVIES MOVIES



▲ A BOY NAMED SUE

Directed by Julie Wyman
2000. 57 min., US Video

Review by Alex Gino

I wanted to like *A Boy Named Sue*. I really, really did. I mean, how many FTM films are out there? But, the truth is, I didn't. True, I felt closeness to Theo, the transman in the film, and true, many of my thoughts were reflected in the documentary, but the film itself wasn't very interesting.

A Boy Named Sue follows Theo's transition from his first shot in 1992 through 1999. We see his trips to the

doctor, his girlfriend giving him his first testosterone shot, testimonials from friends, how the relationship between himself and his girlfriend adapts, and more.

It all feels realistic. His friends have varying opinions, but largely being queer people, they have generally tolerant, if not accepting, reactions. They're confused, "Why the hell would she want to be a guy?" says one, but another kindly says, "We're with you." The theories behind the film are lovely, showing the honest life of a "bi

transman with a pussy."

Being an FTS (Female To Something-else-entirely), it's great to see myself reflected in others, to see a person who loves to talk about his clit, who admits that he's, "not your typical guy." Theo isn't focused on being a real man. He's simply focused on being happy. It strikes a chord with me.

This is what makes it difficult not to have enjoyed this film much. However, remove the trans element, and it would be downright boring. In fact, it was rather boring even with the trans element. Trans was all Theo was. Mention was made of him returning to school in 1995, but for the most part, the only part of Theo's life explored was his trans nature. Even his relationship with other people was only explored with relation to Theo's transition.

Several important issues in Theo's life are discussed, but all are dealt with superficially and incompletely. For example, there is one friend of Theo's who expresses deep concern about Theo's transition, seeing his friend Sue as committing a form of suicide by identifying as male. However, he simply disappears halfway through the film. Even if he were unwilling to be interviewed, the film would have benefited from some acknowledged closure to this relationship. When the relationship between Theo and his girlfriend hits rocky points, the facts of what happened are expressed, but we learn little of the emotions and feelings behind the decisions. It is as if the couple is afraid to talk about these issues. This is understandable, but makes for flat viewing.

Many important portions of Theo's life were entirely unexplored. His family was never mentioned. I would have liked to have known about this area of his life, even if only to hear that he was estranged from them. We never heard why Theo felt the desire to document his transi-

tion. We never even learned if he knew any other trans people.

This isn't to say that this film has no value. For people who are unaware about trans lives, this film can be quite useful. This

documentary is a great way to show people some of the issues involving transitioning. However, for we who know that trans people can lose friends by transitioning, and that labels are subject to change, this film tells nothing new, nor does it reinforce what we already know in a creative way. *A Boy Named Sue* is unfortunately a boring disappointment to a population of people craving intriguing stories that reflect their FTM lives.

Theo isn't focused on being a 'real' man. He's simply focused on being happy. It strikes a chord with me. This is what makes it difficult not to have enjoyed this film much.

STRAIGHT BOY LESSONS Conversations with a non-trans friend

Directed by Ray Rea
2000. 16mm film

Notice by Ray Rea

In these days of *Boy's Don't Cry* and *The Brandon Teena Story*, much of the focus in film on trans/non-trans relations comes to the conclusion that we need to be wary of non-trans people around us. *Straightboy Lessons*, the (relatively) new 16mm film by Ray Rea, counters that point of view. Rea's film is a documentary of his enduring friendship with one non-trans buddy. Going from practical to



serious to comic, the clear conclusion of SBL is that at times non-trans people can be our allies.

The film is a re-enactment of this friend's reaction to Ray's early transition. The film is structured as a primer with such lessons as, "rule number one...women own you", and "if

she wants it and you don't...you're fucked", or, "you see that shirt you're wearing? Don't ever wear it again". Ray says that, "from any one else, the lessons might have been annoying, but Bo is/was so funny and articulate that I had to record it". Since its premiere last year in the SFGay/Lesbian/Bi/Trans Film Festival, the film has been making the rounds. It has screened in Toronto (twice), London, Seattle, Chicago,

Melbourne, Washington, NYC, Los Angeles, and Mexico City. E-mail Ray Rea at rrea1@earthlink.net or write him at 3603 23rd Street, S. F., CA 94110 for more information or to get a copy of the film.

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is written and edited by Dr. Stephen Whittle, a trans man who began living in his new role over 20 years ago. A Senior lecturer in Law, he is also co-ordinator of the FTM Network and vice president of Press For Change.

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In The Company of Men

By Jamie Starwalker

It's early morning and I'm finishing up a quick cup of coffee and a piece of toast, getting ready. Sunrise comes late now at this last November weekend before Thanksgiving. Thanksgiving. I wonder what kind of Thanksgiving the O'Briens will have. Relieved that the burden of several generations of business is done for good—or bitchin' about the hard times super-hardware warehouses have created for local family-run stores?

I've never been to an auction before. I'm sad and ashamed that I hadn't taken the time to stop in and browse O'Brien's before they closed some six months ago. Going by their hushed monument to changing times everyday, I've wondered what was going to happen to the place. I got just itchy and fascinated looking in the window at all the old hardware, bottles, antique signs, tools and equipment. Then the sign went up Monday this week announcing the auction for Saturday, the 21st. And I was going. Nothing was going to keep me from soaking up four floors, half a square city block big.

Ever since I'd remembered, it was I and not my brother who'd followed my father around, lugging his tool box, watching him work his wonder on things—carpentry, windows, motors, and on and on. The basement of my childhood home was filled with his workroom and tools. I'd spent countless hours playing there "fixing things," marveling at the old tools, nuts, bolts and locks and keys. Those tools and the memories they held were the one thing I really wanted to have when my father died. I don't know if Dad'd ever understand. My brother could care less about them, and now often mistreated these precious implements in his hurry to keep the house up for my father. What did he know about men and tools measuring the heft of them in the palm of your hand, just so? Being born female in the late forties consigned me to the periphery of my father's and brother's world. But that was no longer true.

Late fall in the northeast brought cool air with a bite to it; I could see my when I'd fetched the newspaper. It would be cold waiting on line to get in to view O'Brien's. I'd dressed warmly in layers, the working man's Saturday uniform: my scruffy yard sneakers, baggy old cotton sweat pants, t-shirt, long underwear shirt (nice they make them in colors now), my zip-up sweatshirt with the hood and my beat-up old Boston Red Sox cap. No gloves—that's what pockets were for.

I joined others already on line, their coffee steaming in the cool air. We were not on the sunny side of the building. Folks were quiet for the most part, chatting only a little. Many were personal friends of the O'Briens, and only a few were women. This was definitely a man's gig. The atmosphere couldn't make up its mind—it was somewhere between a somber funeral and an Irish wake about to cut loose. It took a long time after the door opened to get to a registration table. You had to register in order to view the contents of the building. My turn came with a stressed and up-way-too-early woman saying "Yes, Sir?" I showed her my license and credit card as required. She looked at me, embarrassed to see my license say "female" on it and started to apologize. I gave her my standard reply, "It's OK, you were right the first time." I got my bidder number, then gave her my most charming of smiles and told her to have a better day.

The next two hours were a feast of hardware and wood and metal and machines and tools and old tin signs, antique bottles and more wooden boxes than I'd ever need. I soaked it all up, feeling nostalgic and at the same time sorry for the O'Briens, having their stuff all looked at and

picked over by the likes of us buyers. I couldn't get enough, climbing aged wooden stairs from one floor to the other, the stairs deeply grooved by the many who stepped before me.

I was trying to figure out whether to stay and watch the auction, never having been to one, and trying to figure out if there was something I'd feel like taking home—besides all of it. Back down on the main floor, the place was way crowded by now and people were pushing close past each other to examine things shelf by shelf, bin by bin. I was feeling a little lost and overwhelmed by the amount of antique hardware half a square city block could hold, when I looked up—as did virtually everyone—at a young man awkwardly peering down at the top of the merchandise riser, gazing at some old insecticide dusters. I didn't feel bad gawking—everyone was; the man was 7'8" if he was an inch. His sneakers were longer than my forearm and I didn't reach his belt. I'd never seen someone so tall in all my days. I didn't want him to turn around suddenly and move quickly; I was afraid he'd not see me and trip over me. All at once I felt embarrassed—for him and for me—being two ends of a very long spectrum of men. As I looked away a little red-faced, a very small gray-haired, elderly man ahead of me caught my eye. I knew he had been looking at the giant man, too. He winked at me and approached me in quick, personal-like way and in a very quiet, conspiratorial voice said, "Us short men have to stick together!" "Yeah, we do," I agreed. He was just my size! What a find! "Bob," he said and stuck his hand out. "Jamie," I offered my hand back. We chatted and looked together for a while, till the auction got going. I had decided to stay and bid on a bottle and wooden box if I could find one pretty cheap.

Things were moving along with the auctioneer in the front window where a lot of bottles and boxes were. But the crowd was really hungry for that stuff and I was lost in a sea of taller men. Suddenly, I felt a hard nudge at my back. It was Bob pushing on me, "Get up there, fella," he said. "Let 'em see you!" I wanted to cry with joy, but I raised my card instead and some time later came home with my little touch of O'Brien's magic—my bottle and my box and, of course, the memory forever, of us small guys sticking together!

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IN MEMORIAM
Padraig Nathaniel Hall
August 31, 1961-August 10, 2000

By Brynn Craffey

The sudden and unexpected passing in his sleep of San Diego resident Padraig Hall, on the night of August 10th, has shocked and saddened FTMs and other people everywhere. Padraig will long be remembered fondly by friends and loved ones in Southern California and, due to his active presence on the Internet, across the globe. And he will be sorely missed for so many reasons, not least of which are his courage, enthusiasm, optimism, determination to fight against injustice in the world, and leprechaun sense of mischief. Committed to many causes, including queer and trans politics, feminism, the SMBD community, and Recovery, Padraig's passing leaves behind a void impossible to fill.

I will particularly miss the way, when talking about a cause dear to his heart, Padraig would start passionately running his words together until they reached an unstoppable torrent. The irrepressible force of a river in flood could have served as an apt metaphor for Padraig's life — once he determined his desired course, he wouldn't stop until he achieved his goal.

According to an interview given to the *San Diego Gay and Lesbian Times* in March, 1999, Padraig was born in Portland, Ore., to a Irish Catholic father and Irish Protestant mother. He served in the U.S. armed services, lived for a time in the Bay Area, and journeyed down a variety of avenues in his search for his true self. In late 1997, he began transition and from that point on had been increasingly coming into his own, living as the gay man he always knew himself to be. In June, he graduated from San Diego City College and had been very excited about starting San Diego State University in the fall. No one deserved to fulfill his lifelong dream of finishing college more than Padraig, which only makes his untimely passing that more difficult to accept.

The cause of his death remains undetermined, though foul play and suicide have been initially ruled out. Several ceremonies were held locally to give friends, loved-ones, and those members of the SMBD, queer, and trans communities he considered his family, the chance to gather and make their farewells.

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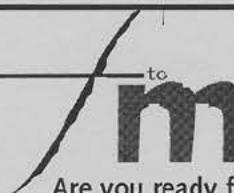
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THE "MICHIGAN EIGHT"

By Lyon Vick

Once again, trans activists pitched camp in the woods outside the main gate of the Michigan Women's Music Festival to protest the festival's "womyn-born-womyn only" policy. But this year, transpeople of a different type and generation made the news. Although Camp Trans itself is hardly news anymore, being over five years old, the focus and tactics are changing. Created in response to the eviction of transwoman Nancy Burkholder and her friend in 1991, Camp Trans has traditionally focused on the inclusion of transwomen in the festival. But recently the attention has shifted to the many transmen, trannie boys, andros, boy-dykes and other people both inside and out of the festival who do not identify as womyn-born-womyn, but deserve and desire inclusion in the festival and in the women's community as a whole.

Although the MWMF's gatekeepers will say that the space is reserved for "women who have experienced their entire life as women," inside the festival it is a different story. There are beards on both trans identified *and* womyn-born-womyn identified people, and there are individuals who even within the women's space are barely recognizable as female. The festival has a rich history of FTM participation and only recently were express policies designed requiring such participants to keep their identities secret. Every year the festival rewrites the policy in response to pressure from activists and festival participants. This year the result was a "don't ask, don't tell" policy whereby festival officials did not question anyone's gender, but any person on the grounds who said they were transsexual would be escorted out.

In response to this, activists from Camp Trans staged a demonstration in the dining area during dinner Saturday, August 12. Standing silently, several boy or male identified members of the Avengers raised signs above their heads proclaiming a variety of transgender identities from "TOP FAG," "FTM" to "Trannie Boy" and "Femme," and calling for others to join them. By the end of the demonstration, almost 300 people had proclaimed their trans identities or support for trans inclusion. The security people attempted to avoid confrontation by ignoring the proclamations. One by one, eight activists approached the festival officials introducing themselves and saying "I am a female-to-male (or male-to-female) transsexual, am I allowed to participate in this festival?" and one by one, all eight were told they must leave. The eight activists, some of whom were in fact FTM identified and some who took on a transsexual identity for political solidarity, were escorted out, followed by their supporters.



Protesters of the festival's discriminatory practices had an active presence at MWMF this year.

The expulsion of the eight young activists shook the festival in ways that the past expulsions of transgender people has not, because many festival participants saw their own or their loved one's butch selves in the gender-queer trannies who stood before them this year. Even the most man-hating separatists could not point their fingers at surgically constructed physical differences such as phalloplasties, or at large transwomen with stubble and Adam's apples or "masculine" behaviors left over from their upbringing as male. The people who were escorted out of the festival were the same in every way as the people who watched them go from their campsites, barring the open declaration of a transgender identity.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

NEW SF NOVEL MISSIONARY

By the time you read this, Sean Gardner's novel, *Missionary*, should be available. *Missionary* is billed as a science fiction novel for the GLBT community. Does it have an FTM character? Of course. But in the world of 2052 where any divergence is accepted as a natural manifestation of biodiversity, gender and sexual orientation take a backseat to the story, that age-old battle between science and religion. Gardner brings a surprising new twist to this battle, a twist that may even prove useful in the year 2000. Or you can ignore that and simply enjoy the action-adventure exploits of the two main characters, Mica and Walt.

To see a free preview of *Missionary*, go to <http://www.1stbooks.com/cgi-bin/1st?partner~1sttype~3lData1~4493>. Once at the 1stBooks Library web site, you have the option of purchasing an e-book or a soft cover version of the novel. Either choose to download the e-book onto your computer or have 1stBooks send you the paperback. You can also bypass the web site and simply order the paperback through your local bookseller.

HEALTH PLANS FOR THE TRANS MAN

The New England Gay Men's Health Summit will be taking place in September 2001. Addressing the concerns of trans men will be an important piece of this conference. Ideally, this will be consumer focused in terms of planning and implementation, and it would be great if we could have representation outside metro areas. Planning for this conference is underway, and we are looking for people who are interested in shaping what this part of the conference will look like. While all are welcome and encouraged to help, FTMs of color and FTMs who identify as gay/bi/queer are especially encouraged to consider this opportunity. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, feel free to contact Jodi Sperber at 617.482.9485 or via email at jsperber@jsi.com or Doug at Doug_hein@bphc.org.

RESYST / REVOLUTIONARY VOICES TOUR

Revolutionary Voices is an anthology of creative works, by and for queer youth, which addresses oppression, identity, survival and resistance. It's a book about speaking out, acting out and building community. Published in collaboration with RESYST, the book is a political and cultural resource for queer youth activists and educators, particularly young people from marginalized communities.

RESYST (Resources for Youth, Students, and Trainers) is a resource and training center for

queer activists and educators, particularly young women, trans youth, youth of color, and working class youth, working to build a movement of queer youth united for radical social change through arts, culture, media and education.

This October and November, more than 30 queer youth writers, artists and activists will participate in performances, open mics, workshops and discussions on art and social justice to celebrate the publication of *Revolutionary Voices* and the launching of RESYST's national work. Help us contribute to building a radical queer youth community through art and education! We'll be traveling to 14 cities in 8 weeks and need your support to make this trip happen. For more info, call Y.K. Hong or Amy Sonnie at 415.643.4619.

BEST TRANSGENDER EROTICA CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Calling all trannies, transvestites, hermaphrodites, crossdressers, genderfuckers, shemales, he/shes, MTFs, FTMs, intersexuals, and gender/sex anarchists of all sorts! We want your hot, dripping, steamy, explicit, trashy, tender, torrid, voluptuous SEX!

From ancient mythology to the present day, genderplay, gender and sexual transgression, and different ways of doing/expressing gender and sex have been grounds for hot fantasy, sizzling eroticism, and awesome sex. With the increasing present-day visibility of transgender, intergender, and genderqueer people comes an increasing desire for erotica that reflects and celebrates the possibilities, potentials, and pleasures of transgender and non-binarily-gendered bodies, souls, hearts, and sexualities.

We want erotica that transgresses the boundaries of sex and gender, that smashes the walls of what gender has to do with sexuality, that explodes preexisting notions of what it means to be sexual, and what our possibilities for being sexual can be. All genders, all genres, and all writing styles (as long as they're prose and fictional) will be considered. Please refer questions to the editors at transanthology@hanne.net or view details at <http://www.hanne.net/anthology/trannyantho.htm>. Write us at Best Transgender Anthology, Zaftig Productions, 54 Boynton Street, First Floor, Boston, MA 02130.

SOFFA VOICE

Your SOFFA VOICE is a support newsletter for SOFFAs of FTMs and other masculine persons who question their gender. It includes feature stories written by SOFFAs, announcements, SOFFA Contacts, and various columns. Some recent changes:

1. A column called FTM LOVING FTM MEN dedicated to the discussion of gay/bi and kink issues brought to you by Arthur.

2. A column for book, media reviews from a SOFFA standpoint brought to you by Lori and Joell.

3. A column called "From The Brothers" for SOFFA-related writings from transmen.

In addition to accepting writings from SOFFAs, Your SOFFA VOICE is now accepting submissions from FTMs/transmen. All writings that have a SOFFA-related theme will be considered. Writings could include personal stories, essays, articles, poetry, announcements, etc. Submissions should be relatively clean and preferably less than 1000 words. Free sample copies are available. (Please include postal address in email)

Please e-mail any submissions, questions, or sample copy requests to <SOFFAUSA@yahoo.com> or mail to Jodi Burchell, editor, PO Box 1916, Smyrna, TN 37167.

SECOND ANNUAL "DAY OF REMEMBRANCE"

The Day of Remembrance is November 28th, 2000 — the second anniversary of the death of Rita Hester. The Rita Hester murder remains unsolved. The problem of anti-transgender violence has not decreased and still remains at a minimum of one a month. In fact, so far this year we have seen nine trans murders, putting us ahead of average.

Several cities across the United States are planning vigils and other events in conjunction with Day of Remembrance: Louisville, Kentucky; Atlanta, Georgia; San Francisco and Santa Cruz, California; Phoenix and Tucson, Arizona; Houston, Texas; Ft. Myers Beach, Florida; Asheville, North Carolina; New York City, New York; and Boston, Massachusetts. Austin, Texas and Lexington, Kentucky may also be joining in. A Day of Remembrance was held in Ft. Walton Beach, FLA on August 28.

The San Francisco event, for one, is planned as a speak-out/rally/media event against anti-transgender violence, including a reading of all individuals who have been killed since the last Day of Remembrance, a moment of silence for said individuals, and a handful of speakers willing to talk about the issue. The Atlanta event is planning a bell-ringing for all victims of anti-transgender violence since the last Day of Remembrance.

Remember, it is up to us to bring attention to anti-transgender violence, and let others know that this sort of treatment is unacceptable. If you want further details, or wish to host or help on an event in your area, feel free to drop a note to atgwen@gwensmith.com

ANNOUNCEMENTS

TRANSFEMINISM: AN ANTHOLOGY CALL FOR CONTRIBUTORS

We are seeking contributors for a new multi-cultural anthology integrating feminism with lived experiences of intersex and trans people. The anthology, *Transfeminism*, will give voice to those who stand in the gap created by common hostility between some members of feminist and trans movements and call attention to the existence of feminists with intersex or trans identities. Intersex/trans feminists and their allies face a number of barriers to dismantling the oppressions which target them, some related to identities as women, trans people, or intersex folks, but many not. Accepted contributions will explore ways in which synthesizing trans, intersex and feminist thinking and experiences can help overcome those barriers to ending sex- and gender-based oppressions.

Writings that speak to the realities of complex lives, and insights from people who are members in more than one community are particularly valued. The anthology will derive wisdom from many communities and cultures. Contributors are free to write in the form and language that work best to communicate their ideas.

Send a short proposal/abstract or a manuscript by December 1, 2000. Proposals that are selected by the editors will be due February 1, 2001. Please send the material as an email attachment to anthology@transfeminism.org or to Emi Koyama, Transfeminist Anthology Project, P.O. Box 40570, Portland, OR 97210-0570. When possible, please include a floppy disk with postal mail submissions. We accept most common document formats. Web Site: <http://www.transfeminism.org/>

NEW FOUNDATION ESTABLISHED TO FINANCIALLY SUPPORT TRANSGENDER CAUSES

The Transgender Fund has been established as an independent, national foundation. It has at the heart of its mission the support of substantive programs that benefit every member of every segment of the Transgender community. Particular attention will be placed upon collaborative initiatives among

human rights, education, and local support organizations. The Fund's Board of Trustees represents a cross-section of the community's diverse constituencies. Whether one is Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, a Crossdresser, Transsexual, Intersexed, or simply a person who cares about those whose lives have been compromised just because of the way they have chosen to express who they are as human beings, The Transgender Fund is with them. For more information about the fund and how to be an important part of its growth and development, visit its website at www.tgfung.org or write for a brochure to The Transgender Fund, PO Box 2132, Southeastern, PA 19399. Contact Diane Dale by phone at 610.651.9111 or by e-mail at Sunrise200@aol.com.

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#1: TS or TG? • #2: GID • #3: Classism in the TG movement? • #4: Disability & Transsexualism • #5: The Canada Issue • #6: Trannies & Non-trannies • #7: MTF vs. FTM • #8: (6/99) "Multicultural"

Submission deadlines are the 15th of the month before release.



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AP STYLEBOOK MAKES POSITIVE CHANGES

The Associated Press (AP) Stylebook is used by the majority of journalists as the gold standard for proper news reporting form and accurate terminology.

GLAAD and GenderPac met with AP Stylebook editors and senior staff earlier this year to discuss revisions in terminology when covering lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender issues. A significant addition has now been made in the new edition of the stylebook under the entry for "gay." Under "sex change," the use of pronouns is clarified.

For the "gay" entry, the new edition has the added sentence, "Avoid references to gay, homosexual or alternative 'lifestyle.'"

This addition will affect how many stories about the lesbian and gay community will be written. By recommending not using the word "lifestyle," AP is helping to prevent reporters from giving the false representation that being a lesbian or a gay man is a matter of choice or something less than genuine. Dropping the word "alternative" does the same.

For the "sex change" entry, reporters are instructed to use the pronouns preferred by the individual who is referenced. This clarification in the stylebook will help insure transgender persons can have themselves identified correctly and not be subjected to the sometimes erroneous or even prejudicial judgment of the reporter.

Please thank AP for making these important changes and encourage it to continue to revise the stylebook. Contact: David Tomlin, Assistant to the President, Associated Press, 50 Rockefeller Plaza, New York, NY 10020; fax: 212-621-5456; e-mail: dtomlin@ap.org

WHITTLE WINS PRIZE

The GIRES Research Prize for the year 2000 has been awarded to Dr Stephen Whittle of Manchester Metropolitan University. He submitted the chapter entitled Transgender Rights: the European Court of Human Rights and New Identity Politics for a New Age, published in A. Hegarty & S. Leonard, *Human Rights: An Agenda for the 21st Century*, 1999, London: Cavendish Publishing.

This book will be one of the main educational texts for all law students who study in the areas of human rights, civil liberties and European Law. A synopsis of Stephen's work is included within GIRES' annual report. If you would like to receive a copy of that, please contact the charity at one of the addresses given below. The full text of the chapter and the list of 37 references which accompany it will be

published later on the GIRES website: <http://www.gires.org.uk>

The paper repositions the legal issues of importance to the trans community. Whittle clearly illustrates that instead of being only about birth certificates and marriage, the campaign for legal change is now about the right to personal physical safety, the right to keep a job regardless of a transgendered status and resultant lifestyle, the right to be treated equally before the law particularly in relationship rights, and the right to medical (including reassignment) treatment if requested. The chapter should ensure that in the future trans people not only get a better understanding from their lawyers, but it should also ensure that lawyers are able to help us fight in the courts for what is really important in our lives. GIRES, Melverley, The Warren, Ashted, Surrey KT21 2SP. PH: 01372 801554; FX: 01372 272297 E-mail: bernardgi@aol.com.

NEW INTERSEX GUIDELINES ISSUED BY DOCTORS

In less than a decade of concerted activism, major gains have been won by the Intersex Society of North America (ISNA). The July 2, 2000 issue of the San Francisco Chronicle newspaper ran a story by Carl T. Hall, Chronicle Science Writer, noting that the American Academy of Pediatrics has issued new guidelines concerning the treatment of intersex infants, particularly those with ambiguous genitalia.

The report stopped short of adopting the full recommendations of ISNA (and some physicians and psychologists) that would allow such a child to make up his or her own mind about surgery at an appropriate age, but it did recommend "a step-by-step approach to individualized diagnosis, and carried strong warnings against using words or taking actions that might tend to foreclose medical options for the family or stigmatize children who don't fit the norm."

ISNA founder Cheryl Chase said the new report does not go far enough in condemning early surgery. But she welcomed the message that premature attempts at gender assignment can lead to family discord and a lifetime of harrowing psychological problems.

This report is certainly a step in the right direction, and we at FTM International send our congratulations to Cheryl Chase and the members of ISNA whose hard work in the past few years surely deserves much of the credit for this evolution. [The full text of Hall's article may be available at www.sfgate.com using the search engine to locate articles about Intersex

Babies published on July 2, 2000.]

TRANS MAN VISITS JAPAN

James Green, widely known writer, lecturer and gender diversity consultant, just concluded a week-long visit to Japan, where he met with Masae Torai, the representative of FTM Nippon and who arranged interviews for Mr. Green with major Japanese television networks and newspapers. The trip, sponsored by the R S Institute in Chicago, was part of RSI's commitment to exchange information about trans persons between cultures and nations.

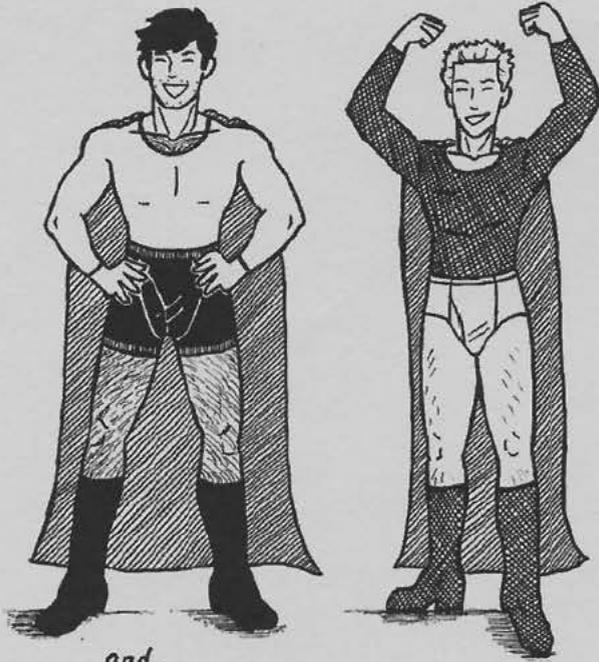
While sex reassignment surgery became legal in Japan in 1999, post-operative trans persons cannot yet change any of their identity papers. During his interviews, Mr. Green urged listeners and readers to push for change to this injustice, as proper identification is necessary for travel, employment and for even renting a video. Dr. Takao Harishina, the only practicing SRS surgeon in Japan has done five operations since the laws were changed and, according to Mr. Torai, there is a waiting list of more than 7,000 candidates.

Media and public interest was high as Mr. Green's visit was associated with the much-anticipated Japanese premier of Boys Don't Cry next month. Interviews were conducted with NHK (Japan Broadcasting Corp), and the Fuji Television Network, which produced both live and taped segments, and with the Sankei shimbun, Asahi Evening News, Mainichi shimbun and Sports Nippon shimbun newspapers.

Mr. Green and Rikki Kay Swin of RSI met with both FtM and MtF persons during their stay in Japan, and the information and issues they shared will be topics of several meetings and lectures scheduled there over the next few months. RSI was given several Japanese works for inclusion in its Library and Archives and also brought back samples of Japanese manufactured hormones for study by RSI's Research Facility.

Although just recently formed, RSI is rapidly becoming recognized for its strong commitment to the international trans community through research, education and sponsorships. The Institute's new \$2.5 Million headquarters building in downtown Chicago is easily accessible from all over the world and will soon be open to the public with its collections available for study. More information about the R S Institute can be seen at their web site: <http://www.RSInstitute.Org>.

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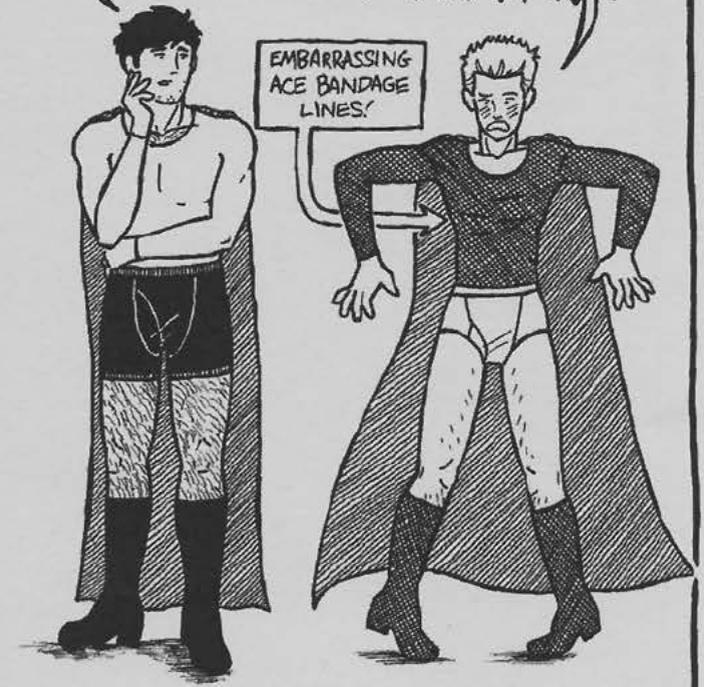


and
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AH...TRANNNYBOY? YOUR...SLIP... IS SHOWING.

WHA--? **YAAAAGH!**

EMBARRASSING
ACE BANDAGE
LINES!



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PLEASE STAND BY.

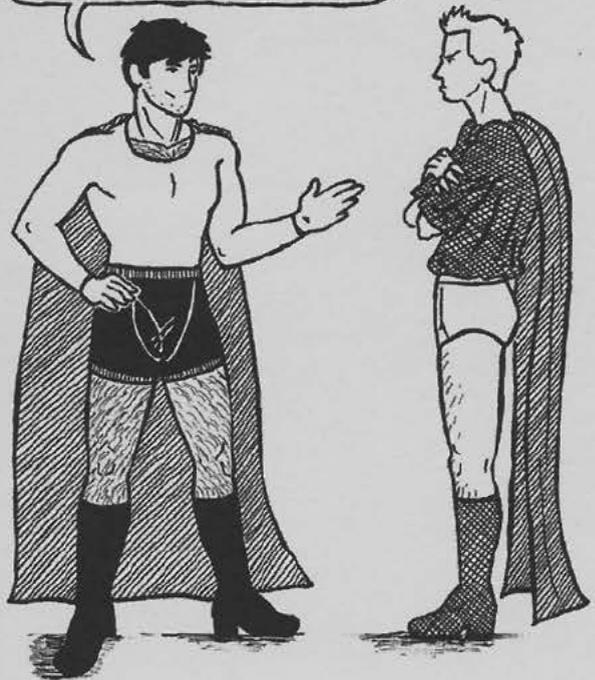
HEE!

WHISH!



WHAT DID I SAY? HMM? WHAT DID I SAY?!

OKAY, OKAY! SO WE **SHOULDN'T**
HAVE HAD YOUR COSTUME
DONE IN SPANDEX!



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PEN PAL PLACE

The Pen Pal Place is a new Malebox feature for FTM readers looking for pen pals, and for people who want to be pen pals. To ensure safety, no street addresses will **ever** be printed here unless specifically requested. The creation of this new feature is the direct result of one man's request for a pen pal last year. To become a pen pal, send your requests and responses to us at FTMI, and we'll hook you up with each other.

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PLEASE NOTE: The FTM Newsletter is now quoted in books and magazines outside the FTM community. Your words here may be quoted elsewhere. If you don't want your name to appear in another publication, ask to use a false name (or no name) if you want us to publish your letter.

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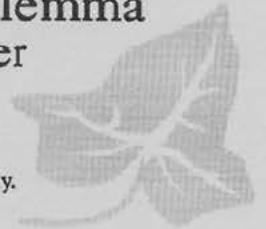
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MALEBOX



DEAR FTMI READERS:

The last issue of the newsletter contained an item attributed to me that never should have been published ("Female-To-Male Genital Reconstructive Surgery"). The item that appeared was never submitted to the newsletter for publication.

It is an old conference abstract which may contain outdated and inaccurate information. I did write an article for the FTMI newsletter based on that research. The article I wrote for the newsletter is much more complete, informative, and relevant to people who identify as FTM. Please go to the FTMI web site to get a copy of the full article, which I hope will be published in a future edition of the newsletter.

Best to you all,
Kit Rachlin

HELLO ALL,

I just wanted to comment on something and wondered if anyone else experienced the same thing. It is in regard to Dr. Sheila Kirk's office. When I saw her letter in issue #47 my feelings flared up again. I made an appointment a month before her retirement without knowing about it.

The office stated that I can use the \$150.00 towards surgery and that the only way I would forfeit the money would be if I decided that I didn't want surgery. It goes for the office visit, time and consultation. I did decide to do the surgery with Dr. Kirk. Everything was clear about the surgery. Since the other doctor wasn't in that day, the woman at the office said she would call me in a couple of days to give me a date of surgery. After a month of not hearing anything, I continually phoned and left messages. I received no answer. When I finally got the office, they acted like nothing was wrong and stated, "Oh, you want Dr. Kirk? She is no longer here, and the office is closed for good as of January." I was very surprised that nobody ever notified me or gave any hint that the clinic was closing at my visit. I inquired about the \$150.00, since I had planned to have her clinic do my surgery. The person at the office stated that I should get it back, but that she needed to talk to someone about it. Well, to make a long story shorter, I never heard from them again until four months later with a letter just stating that Dr. Kirk retired and the office is officially closed.

I felt let down. I know \$150.00 is not a lot of

money for them, but someone like me saving everything I can for surgery, it is a big deal more so because of the way it was done. They would have left me planning the surgery and everything until maybe I heard it from the papers or something. I don't think that was fair at all. I'm sure the Doctor had some kind of idea if she was going to retire. When she did I should have been informed and gotten reimbursed. I still feel disappointed about how that happened. Thanks for reading on. If any of you have comments or similar experiences, let us know, okay?

Thanks, and dismayed,
[REDACTED]@concentric.net

TRANSGENDER MARRIAGE

This importance of language cannot be overestimated, and that is why it means so much to me when an effort is made to use the words Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender or the acronym LGBT when referring to our diverse community. As a transman, it is significant to me to be included in the description of the community I grew up in, love in, and consider my family.

However, I respectfully ask my lesbian, gay, and bisexual sisters and brothers to include us not only in an acronym but also in real discussions of human and civil rights, specifically, the conversation concerning gay or same-sex marriage. Since the defining issue in the transgender community is sex or gender, and because this is the issue around which marriage revolves, the transgender community has a very high stake in the growing movement to redefine marriage. Yet we are never included in the discussion. During all the talk about the Knight initiative, I never saw a transgendered person consulted or interviewed. The initiative said that marriage is legal only between a man and a woman, but it never defines the terms "man" and "woman." This is extremely significant to transgendered people.

Part of the problem lies in our ability or inability to obtain documentation of our gender. In some states, we are allowed to change our birth certificates; in other states, we are not. In many states, a driver's license is all that is required for proof of gender, so it is sometimes possible for us to get legally married depending on the gender on our driver's license and the gender of the person we are marrying. But recently, and insurance company denied a Texas woman who lost her husband of many years, the death benefit, because it discovered that the woman was transsexual. It ruled her "same-sex" marriage invalid even though at the time of the marriage, her documents said she was female.

Where are the voices of the LGBT community on these cases? I do not know of one LGBT group who has offered to help.

I am asking that instead of framing the issue as "gay marriage" or "same-sex" marriage, we talk about the "civil union" between two people regardless of gender. This union should carry with it all the special rights currently afforded to people who can legally marry. By reframing the marriage issue, we can be inclusive of everyone in our LGBT community, and we can work together in a united way to make sure that all of us have the rights we deserve.

Thomas M. Kennard
San Francisco

DEAR FTMI,

I am beginning my transition and have found your website to be extremely helpful...but nowhere have I seen the insurance issues discussed. I have an excellent, experienced doctor but I don't know how I can afford \$600 in labs every 3 months, and he requires that his office do the injections (too many of his FTM patients did not inject responsibly). Since Blue Cross Blue Shield explicitly states (as most insurance companies do) that they cover absolutely nothing related to gender reassignment, how does anyone get around it? My doc already submitted my "official" diagnosis. Do you have any suggestions? I can put my chest surgery on a credit card, but the labs & doctor visits are 30 days due. Any suggestions would be greatly appreciated!

P. S. I promise to become a member & subscribe to your newsletter as soon as I am financially back on my feet!

—Name Withheld

Reply from James Green, former president of FTM International:

I'm wondering what city you are located in and who your doctor is that he has so many FTM patients who don't inject responsibly! How much does he charge for an injection office visit? Does he require you to see him on those visits, or could you simply see a nurse practitioner for the injection only? (My doctor permits self-injection, but offers to do injections at her office for \$10.00 whenever patients have difficulty self-injecting due to anxiety, needle fear, needle weariness, whatever—a nurse practitioner can give the injection, and you bring your own testosterone bottle.) In addition, \$600.00 in lab work every 3 months is excessive even by HBGDA standards. All that is required is a cholesterol check and liver panel every 6 months, which is not that expensive. When, after a few years on testosterone (and good body adaptation to it), a patient is generally

healthy, many doctors reduce that to once a year. An occasional testosterone level check (which can be an expensive test, usually between \$100 and \$150) is a good idea, but most physicians find that if the patient is responding well and is otherwise healthy these tests are unnecessary. You can usually tell when one is warranted by your emotional sensors and behavior: if you are excessively emotional or aggressive, you may have too much testosterone in your system (which, in fact, is converting to estrogen, and that imbalance is probably what's causing volatile or erratic behavior), and sometimes it's just easier to cut back a bit and see if there's a change than to do a blood test to confirm the hunch. However, it could also be that your system is absorbing the testosterone too quickly, leaving you with insufficient hormones for some part of your shot cycle, in which case, cutting back on the amount while increasing the frequency of injections can smooth things out. Most people, with their doctor's collaboration, experiment in this way with their dosages occasionally, to save money on tests.

Many guys feel the patch is good because you don't have so much variation (and you avoid needles, which some guys have trouble with anyway), but others feel the patch is not good in early transition because injections make visible changes happen faster, and will only use the patch for maintenance after several years of injections. [The patch is more expensive than injections, too. While costs vary with the marketplace, injectable testosterone runs between \$30 to \$80 for 10ml, which lasts about 4.5 months, while the patch runs about \$90 a month.] While some doctors prefer to have lots of lab tests to justify their opinions, others make educated guesses concerning what is necessary to protect their patient's health being conscious of the fact that the patient has to pay for services, and should only have what is necessary. This does not mean that these physicians are lax or cavalier about their patients' health—just that they are fiscally conservative for their patients whenever they judge that is safe, in collaboration with the patient. I am tempted to say your doctor may be gouging the transsexual community and you might want to think about finding another doctor, or at least doing some comparison shopping. On the other hand, if you like him a lot and feel he's got your best interests at heart, read on...

Insurance issues are a pet peeve with me. Insurance issues are problematic for millions of Americans, and on top of that the insurance industry is one of the most difficult obstacles we (transsexuals) face. I've been wrong before, but I'm not optimistic about our collective ability to leap this hurdle in the very near future. I suspect it will be quite some time before this injustice is rectified. However, to answer your specific question about how people get around the exclusions for gender reassignment related expenses, I will

say this: sympathetic doctors give diagnoses that insurance companies will cover. Therefore, whether you are insured as a male or as a female can make this business difficult. Example: For hormones, you could be diagnosed with hypotestosteronemia (meaning you don't produce enough testosterone, which is true) or hypogonadism, but only if you are registered with the insurance company as a male—they won't cover this for females. Many people have had their chest reconstruction paid for under the diagnosis of gynecomastia surgery (removal of breast tissue abnormal to the male). Some people registered as female have had chest surgery covered under breast reduction if their breasts are large and they have a history of back trouble—heavy breasts causing back problems is not uncommon in women; and recently some non-trans women have been successful in obtaining breast removal (with undiseased tissue) if they have a persuasive family history of breast cancer. And, of course, if you need a hysterectomy it's easier to be registered with insurance as female (though I argue in the case of positive pathology—diseased tissue—anyone should be able to have coverage for hysterectomy or other sex-specific services, regardless of sex or gender, because the object of the surgery is to remove the disease, and if the disease is present removing it for some individuals but not for others is sex discrimination, which is illegal). If you are male, some genital surgery might be covered if you can show there was an injury to the existing genitalia and the surgery was reparative. And some people have managed to have sex reassignment surgery covered under disability provisions, or they have convinced insurance review boards that without the surgery they would suffer horribly, be driven to suicide, or become a burden to society. Because of the exclusions, individual transsexual people have come up with some creative solutions, but they are almost always applied on a case-by-case basis. And people don't tend to advertise how they beat the system for fear of getting caught, or of having that particular loop-hole closed for others.

If some of this has an unethical tenor to it, I can only say it is a matter of opinion where the standard fails the patient. In other words, (for example) when a physician gives a diagnosis of hypotestosteronemia or hypogonadism he can do it without a breach of ethics if he believes that the patient is male (even knowing the patient is a transsexual man) and that the patient needs the testosterone to maintain his health. That physician would be knowingly breaking the insurance company rules in good conscience because he knows the exclusion is morally and ethically wrong. The disagreement is between the doctor and the insurance company, and the doctor is upholding his oath to do what he knows is right for his patient. Following this philosophical

logic, the doctor who knowingly outs you to your insurance company with a diagnosis that the company will exclude for coverage may be basing his ethical stance on his belief that you are not male, you are (rather) a female transsexual (not a transsexual man), and that the rules the insurance company makes (out of ignorance and prejudice and a desire/obligation to make a profit) are more important than the social and economic realities that his transsexual patients face every day.

I strongly believe that the physicians who treat us, particularly those who want to play by insurance company rules, should be doing more to proactively challenge those rules. Removing insurance exclusions to sex reassignment treatments and procedures would go a long way to improving our quality of life and wouldn't affect insurance companies bottom line any more adversely than the recognition of domestic partners has done. I believe the exclusions are based in ignorance and prejudice, that they are immoral and unethical, and that we have to fight this battle until we win.

So you have several issues to consider: whether to ask your doctor to remove the transsexual diagnosis from your record; whether to challenge your doctor on his treatment decisions (often a surefire way to wreck a doctor-patient relationship); whether to change doctors; whether to try to get new insurance and try to purge the transsexual diagnosis from your record by making sure those records are not submitted to the insurance company; possibly find an insurance company that doesn't have exclusions (and if you do this, please tell the rest of us what company that is! I have heard that Blue Cross/Blue Shield does not have an exclusion in some regions of the country, and the west is not one of them!); whether to get a new high-paying job so all these costs won't affect you so harshly. You might want to organize with other transmen in your area who are patients of your doctor and have a meeting with him to discuss your collective problems and see if he can help—or at least independently find out what his philosophy is regarding these matters, then go on from there. Perhaps you can think of more...

I'm sorry that I don't have something more positive to say, and I hope that you will stay in contact with FTM International concerning these issues—keep watching the web site, subscribe to the FTM Newsletter, write in to let us know what happens. If we share our ideas and experiences, I believe it will be easier to collectively find solutions to these seemingly insurmountable problems.

Hang in there...

Best Regards,
James Green

**FOR SIGNIFICANT OTHERS,
FRIENDS, FAMILY AND ALLIES**

Bay Area Partners' group: see listing p.23.

SOFFA USA/SOFFA Voice:

Bimonthly newsletter. Subscriptions are \$10 (student/disabled); \$15 (regular); or \$25 (institution/university) to American Boyz; Jodi Burchell, Editor • PO Box 1916 • Smyrna, TN 37167 or www.angelfire.com/tn/yoursoffavoiced/index.html

The Straight Spouse Network for partners, spouses, and ex-partners of GLBT people can be reached at info@ssnetwk.org. Allied with PFLAG. 8215 Terrace Drive, El Cerrito, CA 94530-3058. Phone: 510-525-0200.

Email lists (send a subscribe message):

FTMSOS is a closed, support email list for SOs of FTMs and other masculine persons who question their gender. We accept any type of Significant Other regardless of gender, sexual identity or background. For more information, check it out at <http://www.egroups.com/FTMSOS/> or send email to FTMSOS@yahoo.com.

Family resources:

www.familypride.org
www.CritPath.Org/pflag-talk/
www.colage.org (for children of LGBT parents)
Our Trans Children booklet covers the Transgender 101 basics—a PFLAG publication. Copies are \$3 for three, 25 for \$18, 50 for \$34, etc. Also *Trans Forming Families; Real Stories About Transgendered Loved Ones*: \$13.95 each for 1-3 copies, \$12 for 4-9, lower prices for larger orders. All prices include U.S. mailing. Make your check out to Mary Boenke, 180 Bailey Blvd., Hardy, VA 24101-3528. 540-890-3957, MaryBoenke@aol.com.

Menace Men T-Shirts Available

These are 100% cotton Hanes Beefy-T's, black with white and red lettering, S, M, L, XL. \$12.00 ea plus \$5.00 shipping and handling for each 1-2 ordered). Order from FTM International (make checks or money orders payable to FTMI).

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**WEB AND EMAIL RESOURCES FOR
TRANSGENDERED PEOPLE OF COLOR**

Transgender People of Color list: To subscribe, send an empty email message to tg poc-subscribe@makelist.com from the email address that you will use to send and receive email. Please email the administrator at hab1b1@iname.com if you have any questions or problems.

Transgender Muslim Sites:

See <http://www.angelfire.com/fl/jalal/>. S/he also maintains a list-serve for queer Muslim women and trans people, try the email from that page for info. Also see <http://www.angelfire.com/ca2/queermuslims/>. Note: not a maintained site, so email any comments to hab1b1@iname.com.

TRANSGENDER WEB AND EMAIL RESOURCES

FtM Oriented Email Lists:

MtMInfo@home.com - general information.
TmsMenIntl@aol.com
GayTrannyBoyz - gay-identified transmen
Just Guys - subscribe at www.butch-femme.net.
The Dina List - New E-mail List For Orthodox Jewish Transsexuals. To subscribe, send an e-mail to majordomo@plusnet.org with the message: subscribe dina
myname@mydomain.co using your own e-mail address.

The Transgender AIDS Initiative League
can be found at www.tail.org

Intersexed/Androgynous Website: A new e-mail list has been started which is for and about persons with an intersexed and/or androgynous physical appearance. In particular, the list is for persons who have not been diagnosed by a medical doctor, or were not diagnosed intersexed until after becoming an adult. Interested subscribers should go to <http://www.onelist.com/> and submit a request to subscribe to the "Intersex-Androgynous" e-mail list.

FORGE Newsletter Online: FORGE newsletter is online - same place as the last issues have been:
www.execpc.com/~dmmunson/forge.htm

Transman.ORG <<http://www.transman.org>> is a website for female-born persons who identify as men and live their life as men. It is also for the Femme, het, or bi women who love/admire/desire female men who identify as FtM, Trans, Transmen. It is for masculine desiring feminine and feminine desiring masculine as well as het identified Transmen or couples. From this site you may join Self Made Men, a mailing list for Transmen, FtMs, and Female Men who identify and live as men. This is a men-only list. Another list you may join from this site is Trans Lives, a mailing list for the above men and the Femme, straight, and bi women who love them. Send e-mail to postmaster@transman.org.

OTHER BAY AREA MEETINGS

ONGOING SAN FRANCISCO BAY AREA MEETINGS:

AFRICAN-AMERICAN BUTCH Support Group for women who consider themselves butch, no matter what type of butch. This support group will deal with the dynamics of being an African American butch in this country and in the lesbian community. Meets every first and third Tuesday at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph St. (at Derby), Berkeley. Contact: Stacy at 510-389-3230. Email: pcvolunteers@gay.net.

BUTCH/FTM AA meeting. Not currently meeting: needs coordinator. If you're interested in facilitating, please call FTMI at 415-553-5987.

EAST BAY FTM group, Emeryville. Third Monday of every month, 7:30 pm. Call James at 510-658-0474 for location. All are welcome.

NEW MEN'S group (anyone questioning transitioning or new to transition, all welcome). Every fourth Thursday. FTM office, 7:30 pm.

PARTNERS' group (for partners of FTMs). Second Sunday of every other month, same days as closed FTM Int'l meetings, 2 pm, SF. Call Michiko: 510-893-6333. Also see FTMSOS@aol.com.

COUPLES' group. The FTM Couples Group will meet on the third Sunday of every other month at 2 pm. Same months as open FTM meetings. Contact Joel at 415-668-6124 or Michiko at 510-893-6329.

READING group, East Bay. Meets second Monday of every month. Boadecia's Books, 398 Colusa, Kensington. 510-559-9184.

CHANGELING: Meets every Wednesday, 7-9 pm at LYRIC, 127 Collingwood at 18th (2 blocks from Castro Muni): Confidential support/social/discussion group for transgender, gender-bending, and gender-questioning youth age 25 and under. Questions? Want to send in a submission for our zine? Call 415-703-6150.

To talk to another young person—LYRIC Youth Talkline for youth 23 and under: 415-863-3636 or 1-800-246-7743 (now toll-free throughout CA).

QUEER AND QUESTIONING YOUTH Support Group (ages 21 and under) meets every Saturday, 12 to 1:30 pm at the Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph St. at Derby, Berkeley. Ph: 510-548-8283. Email: pcvolunteers@gay.net.

TRANNNY TIME support for all transgender-identified persons, Monday through Friday from 4-6 pm. Info: 415-255-8272/ Tenderloin AIDS Resource Center annex. 183 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco.

TRANZBAY GATHERING What goes on at these things anyway? Basically, it is a casual environment where people can let down their hair, so to speak and just have a good time. There is no group hierarchy -- just people sipping cappuccinos and talking about everything from physics to dancing to entomology. The second Wednesday of every month at Quetzal, 1234 Polk Street in San Francisco (between Sutter and Bush streets).

TRANSACTION We're a group of transgender and transsexual (TG/TS) activists and our friends who got together in the fall of 1998 to expose and end the police misconduct and violence that our community experiences in San Francisco. We know that ending these abuses will require the work of TG/TS people of all colors, cultures, and backgrounds. Our tools for struggle are public education, community dialogue, fierce humor, and militant direct action. You can reach us care of Community United Against Violence at: 415-777-5500 or checkout our website at www.transactionf.org. Contact us for info or to get involved!

ALTERNATIVE FAMILY PROJECT GROUPS Our TG Parents' Support Group is on-going, but it is not a drop-in group. So, if people are interested, they would need to call AFP and talk to the facilitator(s) first. It is an evening support group for TGs who have kids. The fees are on a sliding scale, based upon income (and no one is turned away for lack of funds). We also run a Children's Play Group concurrently for the kids of the parents who are in the group. We ask for donations from the parents to cover the cost of art materials, and to pay the facilitators of the kids' group. If there are any further questions, please let me know. You can email me (carolpc@baylinks.com) or call 415-436-9000.

LGBTQ PARENTS WORKSHOP SERIES IN BERKELEY These ongoing workshops will host speakers that address issues important to LGBTQ parents (and prospective parents!), such as blended families, legal issues, working with schools, race, gender and more. This is your chance to meet other parents, find support and community for you and your children, and discuss important topics. Workshops will be the first Saturday of each month from 10:30am to 12:30pm. They will be held at the Pacific Center at 2712 Telegraph Ave in Berkeley. ****Childcare will be provided!***** Call Anna at 415-789-8560 or email familyprogram@yahoo.com for more information.

INTERSEX RESOURCES

ISNA (Intersex Society of North America) A peer support, education, and advocacy group founded and operated by and for intersexuals: individuals born with anatomy or physiology which differs from cultural ideals of male and female. www.isna.org

S.F. FTM MEETING SCHEDULE '00

FTM International meetings are on the 2nd Sunday of each month, from 2 to 5 p.m., in San Francisco. Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for details. Mark your calendars in advance!

CLOSED (SUPPORT)

Aug. 13
Oct. 8
Dec 10

OPEN (INFORMATIONAL)

Sept. 10
Nov. 12
Jan. 14

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ADDRESS _____

Thanks for your continued support!

1-00

Subscription information, submission deadlines, and contact information page 2.

FTM RESOURCES

UNITED STATES

Arizona TS/TG/SOFFA Southern Arizona Gender Alliance meets at 7 p.m. in Tucson on the first Monday of every month at Wingspan GLBT Community Center at 300 E. Sixth Street.

FTM/TG Dezerz Boyz meets at 7 p.m. on the third Tuesday of every month at Wingspan. Contact Stacey <Srlsas@cs.com> as to time and place. Visitors and SOFFAs are welcome.

TG/TS/GLB/Other - Gender Outlaws meets at 7 p.m. on the first Tuesday of every month at Wingspan for discussion of gender related topics. For further information call Wingspan 520-624-1779 or email Sagatucson@usa.net.

California FTM International Contact info page 2. Meets every 2nd Sun. in San Francisco—info p. 23.

Brandon's Corner is an FTM support group for youth 24 and under. Every Friday, 6-7:30 p.m. at the Jeff Griffin Youth Center, 7051 Santa Monica Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90038. Call Masen or Fabian at 323-461-8163 to register.

The UCLA Transgender support group meets every Thursday from 6:30pm-8:00pm. The group is open to trans people of all types and their friends and family. For more information contact elomb@ucla.edu or subscribe to the TGUCLA mailing list. Subscribe: TGUCLA subscribe@onelist.com
Genderqueer Boyzz, L.A. area Contact: Jacob Hale 323-665-1130. email: zeroboyjh@aol.com.

San Diego FTM Support Group 3rd Saturday of every month, 4-6 pm, at The Center, 3916 Normal St., San Diego. Contact: 619-692-2077.

SCOUT (Santa Cruz Organizing & Uniting Transmen). Supportive, non-judgmental environment. Every 2nd and 4th Mon., 7 pm. 2nd Mon. meeting is "closed" for those with gender issues. Info/location: 831-429-5663. 4th Mon. meeting is open to all—partners encouraged: LGBT center, 1328 Commerce Lane. Info: 831-425-5422.

Under Construction P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA 91392-2342. Contact: Jeff Shevlowitz 818-837-1904. E-mail: littleshevy@juno.com.

Colorado FTM Support Group for TS, TG men and questioning females and their SOs. Every 3rd Sun., 5-7 pm, at the Gender Identity Center, 1455 Ammons St., #100, Lakewood, CO 80215. For info, contact the GIC at 303-202-6466 or e-mail Matt Kailey at FtMatt@aol.com.

S.C.I.R.T.S. (Southern Colorado IntraRegional Transgender Society) or MTFs & FTMs. Contact Lisa Jo at 719-591-5860 or e-mail LisaJo03@aol.com. S.C.I.R.T.S. meets every Tues. night after 7pm. Meetings open to family and friends of anyone who identifies TG.

TGENTS Contact: 719.380.8052. Meets 3rd Sat @ 8pm.

Florida FORGE (Florida Organization for Gender Equality); e-mail FORGE2000@usa.net. Meets second Saturday of each month at the Bay Street Coffee House, from 8:00 - 11:00 pm. Write to HRTO, 4035 East Ocean View Avenue, Norfolk Virginia 23518 or call 757.723.3683.

Illinois See FORGE under "Wisconsin"

Indiana IndyBoyz: Indy Boyz is a social/support group for people on the F2M spectrum and supporters. Meetings are every third Saturday of the month, 6 PM at Cath's next to the Outward Bound Book Store. Phone 317.539.7342; email indyboyz@hotmail.com; Website: http://www.jasperink.com/michael/boyz.html

Maine Monthly FTM meeting in Maine. For dates and location information contact PJ: 207-783-4630 or pjmeares@megalink.net.

Massachusetts East Coast Female-to-Male Group P.O. Box 60585, Florence, MA 01062, Ph: 413.584.7616. Bet Power. Meets every second Sunday of the month, 3:00 to 6:00 p.m., in Northampton, Massachusetts. All-inclusive

peer support network for FTMs and their SOs, since 1992.

Support Group for straight spouses Meets monthly in Northampton. Call Jane Harris: 413-625-6033.

Compass Female-to-male trans support, information and social group. Every 1st Thurs. in Waltham. Info: Mykael 781-899-2212 or ftm@ifge.org.

Minnesota Minneapolis: MN Boyz. meets the 2nd Saturday of each month for coffee chats, other events to come. Their mailing list MNBoyz-subscribe@onelist.com. Call 612.285.9163 (Lee or Arthur) or e-mail LeecatMN@aol.com

Missouri FTM Support Group in St. Louis, for FTM's or those questioning and their partners, meets the third Wednesday of the month at the Southampton Medical Office. Contact Terry at 314.481.8336 or terry_dresser@yahoo.com.

New York NYC chapter of the American Boyz meets every third Sunday at the International Action Center, 39 West 14th Street (bet. 5th & 6th Avenues), # 206. Take elevator in rear of lobby to 2nd floor, ring bell. http://www.inch.com/~kdka/nycboyz/nycboyz.htm
Email: Marie - kdka@inch.com or Deirdre - deirdreny@hotmail.com.

The Gender Identity Project of the Lesbian and Gay Community Center offers free, one-on-one peer counseling services and support groups to all people in the FTM spectrum, including exploring/questioning. Contact Ray Carannante at 212-620-7310, or email Ray@gaycenter.org.

Ohio Trans Pride for TG people, allies, and friends. 3rd Fridays, 7 pm, Akron Pride Center, 71 N. Adams St. 330-263-2220. Or email Lee Matthew Sanow at sanow@chemistry.uakron.edu.

Oregon Cocksure A primarily social group in Portland for trans guys, anyone on the FTM spectrum, and their significant others. All sexual proclivities welcome. Drop us a line or give a call. Cris (FTM) and Hillary (SO): 503-471-1515, Cocksure@hevanet.com.

Pennsylvania THAC Peer Counseling Hotline: Staffed Sun. 3-6 and M, W, Thurs. 6-9. Info and a listening ear for those with gender-related questions or concerns.

Transgender Health Action Coalition (T-HAC) Meetings 1st Sat. of month, 12:30 pm, at Washington West, 1201 Locust St., Philadelphia, PA 19107. All welcome.

WeXist Philadelphia's support group for transmen, those born female with gender questions, FTMs and their supporters. Meets the second Friday of every month from 6 - 8 pm. Contact Wally Moyer at 215.848.7674 or e-mail wexist@aol.com. Meets at The William Way LGBT Community Center, 1315 Spruce Street, Phila, PA.

Trans World Allies (TWA) A support group for all varieties of gender questioning and expression. FTM-facilitated. Meets 1st Saturdays at 2pm at 1201 Locust in Philadelphia. Call 215.732.1207 for more info.

We Transition Too: A support group for partners of trans people, it meets at the same time as the above group, same building, different room. Call 215.386.1120 for info.

Trans Family of Western Pennsylvania provides non-judgmental emotional support, encouragement, and education for transgendered people, their family members and friends. Meets the 3rd Tues. of each month at 7PM at the Pittsburgh Gay and Lesbian Community Center, 5808 Forward Avenue. For more information, contact Deni Scott at dscott@pgh.net or Janet Flecher at Janet@CCIA.COM. Deni's snail-mail address is: 962 Rockdale Road, Butler, PA 16002.

Tennessee Knoxville Boyz FTM support group open to all female-born, masculine-identified persons and their SOs, friends, family, and allies. Meetings held every Mon. and Fri. at 7:30pm in a private home. Call 423-932-7398 for address and directions. Meeting times may change as agreed upon by the group.

The Nashville TMen is a newly formed support group for FTMs, those persons who are born female and are questioning their gender, and their SOs. For more information, check out: http://nashvilletmen.tripod.com/NashvilleTMen/ or send email to Jesse Vickers at: writejesse@jessesmail.com

Virginia TG Support Group 142 W. York St. #815, Norfolk VA 23510. Maggie Chubb, LCSW: 757-625-2992. Open MTF/FTM support group with Horton & Horton Gender Reassignment Team.

Charlottesville, Virginia. Transgender Support and Discussion Group meets one Sunday a month. For transgender people (MTF and FTM) and those questioning their gender identity. Michael: 540-867-5375 or michaelgray@earthlink.net.

Washington, D.C. DCATS--the DC Area Transmen Society. We meet every 1st Sunday from 5-7 pm, and we have various socials throughout the month. Email handdog18@hotmail.com or call 202.206.0311.

Wisconsin FORGE = For Ourselves: Reworking Gender Expression. A monthly social support group and newsletter for FTM TSs and TGs; people assigned female at birth with (at least some) masculine self-identification; and our SOs, friends and family. Michael Munson, PO Box 1272, Milwaukee, WI 53201; 414-278-6031; email: tgwarrior@execpc.com.

Gemini Gender Group. PO Box 44211 Milwaukee, WI 53214. Voice mail #414-297-9328. The local "professional" TG program is Pathways. Offers a connection to endocrinologists, surgeons, etc. Separate FTM, MTF groups: 414-774-4111.

INTERNATIONAL

Australia Boys Will Be Boys, BWBB, P.O. Box 5393, West End, Brisbane, Australia 4101. Network for FTM persons, newsletter.

The Gender Centre offers a wide range of services to people with gender issues, their partners, families and friends. 75 Morgan Street, Petersham, NSW 2049. Ph: (02) 9569 2366. Email: gender@rainbow.net.au.

Belgium Kortrijk, Genderstichting (Belgian Gender Foundation), Plumstraat 48, Belgium B-8500.

Canada British Columbia: BC FTM Network, Box 10, 1895 Commercial Dr., Vancouver, BC V5N 4A6. Ph: 604-254-7292; bcftmnet@hotmail.com. Info: email lukasw@direct.ca.

Canadian Boyz, PO Box 65, CDN, Montreal, PQ H3S 2S4, Canada

Montreal: FAH Montreal FtM. For info or to get involved, phone 514-830-6740 or write to FAH Montreal FtM. (c/o K.S.) CP 63549, CCCP Van Horne, Montreal, Quebec H3W 3H8 or e-mail <fahmontrealftm@yahoo.com>

France CARITIG, B.P. 756, 75827 Paris Cedex 17, France. Phone/fax: +33 (0) 1 43 42 28 58. Extensive bilingual website: www.caritig.org.

Germany TS-gruppe d., **Sontagsclub** e. U., Rhinower Str. 8, Berlin 10437.

dgti (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Transidentität und Intersexualität) dgti e.V., c/o Helma Katrin Alter, Godorfer Hauptstr. 60, 50997 Köln. Tel./Fax: 02236 - 839018. http://www.dgti.org

Japan FTM Nippon. Contact: Masae Torai, Adachi-ku, Adachi-Nishi-post office-dome, Tokyo 0123.

The Netherlands Mannengroep Humanitas Amsterdam, Postbox 71, 1000 AB Amsterdam; tel. 020 5231100 or 0346 353495 fax 020-6227367; mannen@wgtrans.nl.

United Kingdom London-FTM Network, BM Network, London WC1N 3XX, England. tel: 0161 432 1915 (Wednesdays 8 pm—10:30 pm GMT or BST). Support group for female-to-male persons.

Late Breaking News

The year is coming to a close and we are very excited by the positive changes happening at FTMI. The new Board of Directors recently elected new officers. Continuing as President is **Dion Manley**, **Dale Altrows** will take on the job of Vice President, our Secretary is **Abe Doherty**, the new Treasurer will be **Joel Levine**. A very special thanks go to **Michiko Bailey** for her term as Treasurer.

We'd also like to take a moment to appreciate all the **extraordinary volunteers** giving their time and expertise to FTMI. We are completely volunteer run at this time and without all of you we could not have done the amazing things we accomplished this year. Volunteering is a great opportunity for folks to get involved and meet people. Please call to talk with someone or write us about volunteering or with questions.

Thanks to all of you who renewed your subscriptions and/or memberships to FTMI this fall and additional thanks to those who included donations to our organization. Your generosity allows us to continue to support and serve our diverse and growing communities. You will find a **renewal/donation form** in your newsletter. To find out if you need to renew, check the renewal code on the mailing label next to your name. The number is the last issue you have paid for and the letters indicate whether you are a member (M) or a subscriber (S). A number less than 48 means it is time to renew! Please consider renewing and if you are so inclined giving a little extra. We will put it to use towards those unable to access us or who cannot afford the cost of the subscription. We encourage you to dig deep and give what you can.

The office and newsletter staff is in desperate need of computer equipment. If anyone can donate a reasonably up to date PC or Mac, printer, or fax machine, our jobs would be that much more efficient and timely. Right now we scrape by with bits and pieces of very old systems. Printing out the mailing labels is always a special challenge. Please get in touch with us by phone or mail if you can help us out.

Recently a story was circulated that one of our Brothers had died as a result of an infection contracted while undergoing surgery. The good news is that he is alive and well. This situation serves as a reminder of the importance verifying the accuracy of reports. Along similar lines, a story was circulating that someone from Brazil had come to San Francisco with stories of spectacular phalloplasty surgery that was available inexpensively in Brazil. This rumor is also untrue. We do not know of any phalloplasty done in Brazil; we had visitors from Belgium (information about the surgery available in Belgium will appear in the FTM Newsletter). False information can be dangerous; it can cause people to make decisions or take action that may be harmful to the self or others. In this "information age," FTM International strongly cautions against accepting unverifiable information as fact, and urges everyone to be careful that the information you pass along has been obtained from a reliable source, that is, one who can trace the information to its origin or point you toward other resources that will allow you to verify the information yourself.

Membership Renewal

The FTM Newsletter brings important information to the hundreds of others like ourselves who have decided to explore or actualize their gender identity as well as our significant others and allies. It strives to provide everyone a voice and serve as a reflection of the rapidly growing face of the transsexual and transgendered world. We hope that you will continue to support FTM International by renewing your membership or by making a donation to our organization. For those of you who subscribe only, consider becoming a member. It is through your support that we can continue to reach out to our community.

_____ **Yes! Make Me a Member! Or renew my membership for another year at the rate I have indicated.**

Yearly Membership benefits include 4 issues of the FTM International Newsletter, voting rights and a 15% discount on other publications offered by FTMI

_____ Regular Membership \$25-35 sliding scale

_____ Professional/Institutional \$75

(non trans serving the trans community)

_____ Household Membership \$45

Voting rights for up to three people at the same address with one newsletter to share

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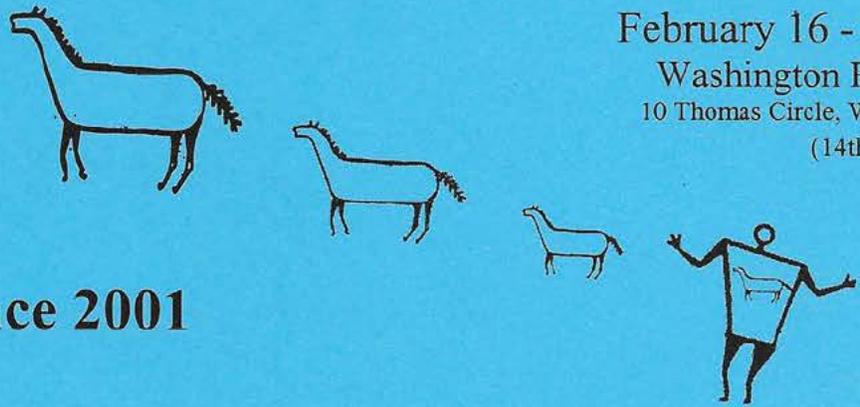
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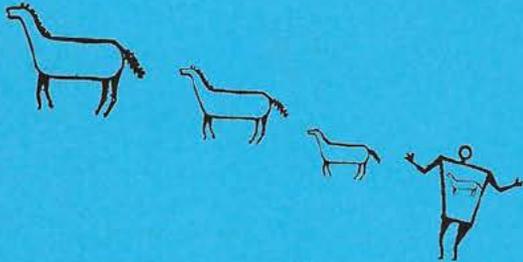
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Research Into Surgical Decision-Making
Kit Rachlin, Ph.D.

This article is a condensed version of a paper, *Factors Which Influence Individual's Decisions When Considering FTM Genital Surgery* which appears in *The International Journal of Transgenderism*, Volume 3, Number 3, July - September 1999 available at <http://www.symposium.com/ijt/>.

Brief Summary of this research

This research examined the factors, that influenced the decisions of people who had considered female-to-male genital reconstructive surgery. Respondents rated contact with other FTMs and information from within the FTM community as the most important sources influencing their decision. Lack of money and inadequate medical technology were the most frequent obstacles to implementing their choice. Results illustrate the growing influence of community and peer support services. Results also challenge the expectation that FTMs will request genital reconstructive surgery (phalloplasty in particular) and identify some of the numerous reasons why FTMs may not undergo such surgery.

Introductions, Thanks, and Apologies

I would like to thank the men who participated in this project. This kind of very focused, data-oriented research is necessary if we are to challenge legal, medical, and social policies to meet our needs. We do not yet have a common language adequate to our discussion of gender and physical transformation. I realize that no matter how careful I may be, I may use a word or a phrase that you do not identify with and I may use a word (like transgender or transsexual) differently than you might use that word. I hope that you will bear with me, as this is unavoidable. Also, because this is a piece about surgery, I will refer to "surgical results". Surgery is always done at great personal expense and suffering to an individual whose body is precious. I hope that the use of the term "surgical results" in this paper will not be experienced as disrespectful. People who are considering surgery must investigate various surgical techniques and evaluate the outcomes by some criteria. It may be uncomfortable to evaluate other people's bodies, but that is the only way to make informed decisions about surgery. Men who have had surgery and are willing to share their bodies with those thinking about surgery do a very great and humane service.

FTM Options for physical transition

It is only recently that FTMs have a number of surgical options. It is also a recent development that information regarding these options is available from a number of sources. This study is the first to look at where FTMs in the United States get information about surgery and how they weight the different information sources. This research also explored why FTMs chose to have, or not have surgery and the process they go through over time to make that decision.

For a more complete discussion of surgical and hormonal options and references please read the full-length version of this paper (cited above); consult the medical literature (Hage, JJ. 1996; Hage et al. 1993; Kirk, 1997; Sengezer and Sadove; 1993); and *The FTM International Newsletter* which addresses hormonal and surgical options in almost every issue. Readers may know that some FTMs chose to take hormones, some chose to undergo top surgery, and some chose to have some genital surgery. The decision is complex and individual. This research focused on genital surgery. The results demonstrate that genital surgery is not universally important or necessary for every man. As a member of the community you may already know that. But there is good reason to document it with empirical data.

Options for genital reconstruction for FTMs currently fall into two types; phalloplasty and metoidioplasty. Phalloplasty refers to a variety of different operations, which attempt the construction of a full-size phallus. Virtually all of these operations take the tissue for the phallus from other parts of the body (forearm, abdomen or leg). Metoidioplasty refers to a variety of operations, which utilize the individual's existing genital tissue to create a male appearance. Both operations involve risks, pain, expense, and compromise. People who chose either of these options do so because that is what is best for them. (Green, 1995; Pfaefflin, F & Junge, A. 1998).

Research Procedures and Participants

Participants were 27 female-bodied individuals who had considered female-to-male genital reconstructive surgery. Participants were recruited from a peer support/social group for FTMs in New York City and from The First FTM Conference of the Americas held in San Francisco in August of 1995. Individuals completed a questionnaire designed to assess what surgical procedures they had considered and which major factors guided their decisions. The majority of respondents identified exclusively as male. Because of their cross-gender identity these 19 were termed the "transsexual" group. The remainder of the sample did not identify exclusively as male. These 8 people had unconventional gender identities or were at a stage of gender transition at which they felt they were between genders. Because of their non-traditional or gender-blended identities the individuals in this group were called "transgendered". Due to the small sample size it was not possible to analyze the statistical significance of the differences between the transgendered and transsexual groups, but some interesting differences will be discussed.

Where People Get Their Information

Ninety-five percent of the participants obtained information about surgical options from TS/TG peers and had seen photographs of surgery (see Table 1). More than half of the respondents reported that another person had shared their own surgical results by showing them that part of their body. Eighty-nine percent relied on pamphlets, newsletters, books, and articles distributed through the transgender community. Seventy-four percent had received information from a helping professional. Additional information was obtained from medical journals, film or television, and popular magazines.

What Sources Were most Influential?

Participants then rated the relative influence of these sources of information on their surgical decision-making. Table 1 shows the frequency with which each item was mentioned as a source of information. The table also shows the percentage of people who rated that item as having the greatest impact on their decision (1 being most impact and 10 being least impact). Speaking with TS/TG peers, viewing photographs of surgical results, looking at actual surgical results, and reading literature from within the FTM community was rated as the most influential experiences. Therapists and Physicians were rated as most influential by only 21% of the respondents.

Table 1: Sources of Information About Surgical Options And Relative Impact of Sources on Surgical Decisions

Source of Information	Obtained Information from this source		Named as influential	Ranked 1 or 2** - most influential	
	N	%*		N	%*
TG/TS Peers	18	95	12	12	63
Photos of Surgery	18	95	11	11	58
Actual Surgery	12	63	7	7	37
FTM Lit/Newsletter	17	89	7	7	37
Therapist	14	74	4	4	21
Physician	12	63	4	4	21
Medical Journal	12	63	5	3	16
Autobiography	17	89	2	1	5
Popular Magazine	6	32	2	0	0
FTM Conference	2	11	2	2	11
Film or TV	12	63	1	1	5
NonTG/Ts Friends	4	21	1	1	5

**1 indicates "most influential" and 10 indicates "least influential".

*Percentages exceed 100% because Participants were allowed to include as many options as applied.

The Decisions They Made

Participants' decisions regarding surgery are listed in Table 2. Four of the Participants reported that they had undergone GRS. Two of them reported having had phalloplasty, two had metoidioplasty.

Sixteen of the respondents reported that they were considering having some type of GRS in the future (some specified that they were waiting for advances in technology). More than twice as many were considering metoidioplasty as phalloplasty. Most had rejected phalloplasty. The questionnaire contained the open-ended question "What surgical options did you reject and why?" Individuals had rejected specific options because of unattractiveness (36%), belief that results don't look "real" (42%), lack of functionality (16%), and risks and complications (42%).

Table 2: Decisions Made Regarding Genital Reconstructive Surgery

Surgical Option	N	%*
Had Phalloplasty	2	11
Had Metoidioplasty	2	11
Considering Phalloplasty	4	21
Considering Metoidioplasty	10	53
Rejected Phalloplasty	11	58
Rejected Metoidioplasty	1	5
Decided not to have surgery at this time	5	26
Considering Surgery in the future	16	84

*Percentages exceed 100% because Participants were allowed to include as many options as applied.

Many factors contributed to surgical decisions. Table 3 shows that lack of money and dissatisfaction with surgical options were most frequently mentioned as a contributing factor. None of the individuals rejected surgery because they were satisfied with their own body and none of the individuals said that they were influenced by a partner's resistance to their transition.

Table 3: Factors Contributing to Surgical Decisions

Factors Contributing to Surgical Decisions	n	%*
Don't have the money/insurance	8	42
Not satisfied with options	7	37
Saw pictures	6	32
Saw actual surgical results	4	21
Heard people talking about it	3	16
Fear regret	1	5
Partner is against it	0	0
Feel fine the way I am	0	0

*Percentages exceed 100% because Participants were allowed to include as many options as applied.

Obstacles to Surgery

After participants made decisions about the type of surgery that they would like to have, they were prevented from having surgery for a number of reasons. Lack of money and flaws in the medical technology, were major factors in making the decision, but were even greater concerns in implementing the choice. Some respondents did not feel that they had access to adequate information in order to make an informed decision. Some reported fear of physical pain and surgical complications. Some had realistic practical concerns such as difficulty taking time away from work and family, or poor health. Difficulty finding a surgeon and the long distances necessary to travel to a surgeon were also obstacles. None of the respondents reported difficulty getting a letter of approval from a mental health professional, a clinic, or medical professional.

Table 4: Obstacles to Surgery After Decisions Had Been Made

Variable	n	%*
Money or lack of insurance coverage	17	89
Technology is inadequate	11	58
Fear of complications	4	21
Difficulty finding a surgeon	4	21
Distance to surgeon	3	16
Time away from work and family	3	16
Fear of physical pain	3	16
Lack of available information	2	11
Poor health	2	11
Difficulty obtaining letter of approval from a mental health professional	0	0
Difficulty obtaining letter of approval from clinic or medical professional	0	0

*Percentages exceed 100% because Participants were allowed to include as many options as applied.

The Transgendered Group

The eight individuals in the transgendered group had similar patterns of relationships to those in the transsexual group, but they differed from the transsexual group in a number of interesting ways. None of the transgendered individuals had genital surgery or were actively planning surgery in the near future. Five were still considering it in the future (two specified that it was contingent on improved technology). Two reported that they were considering metoidioplasty, but were very ambivalent. Three of the transgendered participants mentioned their partner's resistance to their transition as a major obstacle to surgery, versus none in the transsexual group. Three of the 8 said that they liked their body the way it was, versus none for the transsexual group. Nearly half of the Participants in the transsexual group had seen actual live surgical results as compared with none of the Participants in the transgender group.

Summary of Results

Participants rated contact with other FTMs and information from within the FTM community (like this website and the FTMNewsletter) as the most important factors influencing their decision of whether and what type of surgery to pursue. The majority of respondents had rejected phalloplasty in favor of metoidioplasty as an acceptable surgical option. Most reported that they did so because the present technology was in some way inadequate or because of cost. It is interesting to note that none of the individuals in the transsexual group rejected surgical options because they were satisfied with their own body. They wanted male genitals, if only they were attainable.

Implications

The results of this research suggest that surgical choices have to do not only with gender identity but also with available resources, technology and individual life circumstances. Research in this area is extremely important for several reasons. Attitudes towards surgery, and one's relationship with one's natural genitals, are frequently part of the profile used to determine medical care and legal status for transsexual people. For example, a person who has not had, or does not plan to have, surgery may be denied hormones, surgery (particularly mastectomy or hysterectomy), a legal name or gender change, or ability to legally marry. It is crucial to be realistic and allow that many FTMs will choose not to have surgery not because they do not want a penis, but because they are not satisfied with the surgical options available to them. They may also choose not to undergo surgery because of money, family obligations, the extensive convalescent time involved in numerous operations, or prohibitive health problems. Restricting the definition of a transsexual man to someone who requests a risky, costly, often technologically inadequate surgery, is unrealistic.

As described above, there are many reasons why some individuals with a strong and stable male gender identity will not request surgery. For some portion of the transsexual population sex reassignment

surgery is a desirable, necessary, and sometimes life-saving procedure. There are FTMs who are intent on sacrificing everything necessary to obtain the currently available surgically-constructed phallus and there are FTMs who do not have that focus. Both groups have the potential to be accepted as men by their partners, family, friends, and associates. What differentiates between FTMs who do and don't pursue surgery? This research does not answer the question "what drives some people to pursue surgery?" It strongly suggests that gender identity is not the only factor. These results may be used to support the interests of FTMs who want the rights and privileges of other men regardless of their genital status.

References

(These are just a few references. Please go to the full-length paper for a complete listing)

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