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- CA AB 196
- Chris Daley on Same Sex Marriage
- Call for Board Nominations
- Poetry by Christopher Robin and more...

Book Reviews

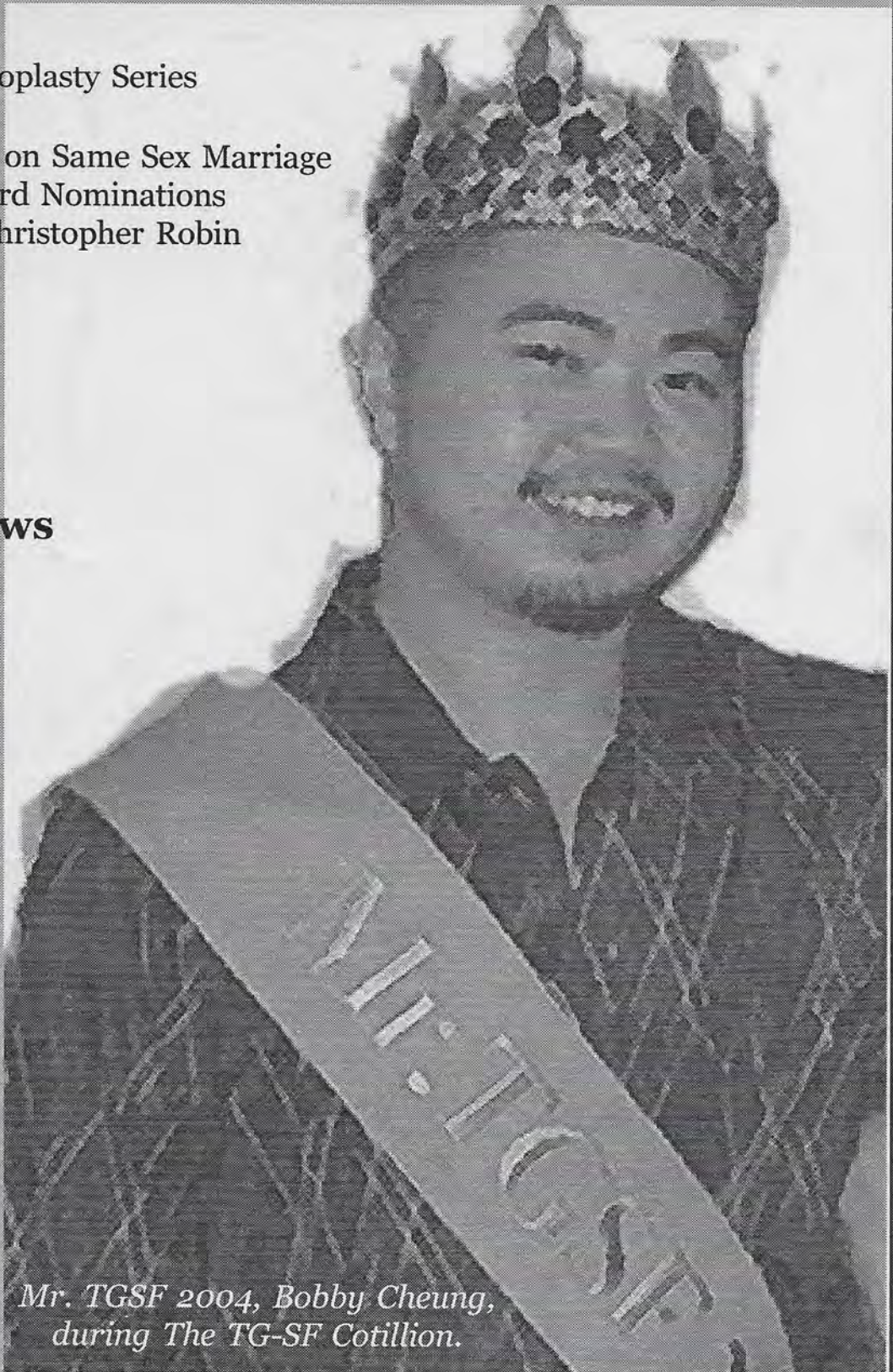
"Tranny Biker"

by Red Jordan
Arobateau

&

Jamison
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latest
offering,

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Mr. TGSF 2004, Bobby Cheung,
during The TG-SF Cotillion.

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Dear Members & Readers

As I look at another year with FTMI, I look back at both struggle and great progress. When I came to FTMI as a board member I was not new to the workings of FTMI but very new to being on a "working board". Within the first month, the new board was thrust into many unfamiliar tasks that required quite a learning curve. I was not alone in the feeling of being lost! FTMI is (and has always been) entirely run by volunteers and our board furnishes 90% of the horsepower! But time went on and we persevered, creating a working board of which I am proud to be a member. Of the many things accomplished I think we are very proud of the POC Needs Assessment (see our next issue for a full report), our new annual East Bay Pride spot, and bringing the newsletter back to the Bay Area.

In bringing the newsletter back to San Francisco we are trying to revamp the content and give you a little more bang for your buck. We have a new layout courtesy of Tamhas Griffith, a great new column by our very own Transgender Law Center (TLC), and an ongoing serial about Phalloplasty surgery in Belgium. We hope for your support as we grow our skills in our new endeavors. Now that the newsletter is locally printed, our board is dedicated to getting all of our members, advertisers and subscribers the full four (4) issues you deserve this year. You've all been very patient!

This would not have been possible without **your** amazing support of our common cause. I have talked to many of you on the phone or through e-mail and expressed my extreme awe at the level of devotion of our members and subscribers.

This year promises to be a year of change and renewal for FTMI. I hope you will join us in our efforts by submitting your ideas, suggestions, artwork, articles, reviews, and more. Let's truly make this OUR newsletter!

MDRF

Alchemarty@sbcglobal.net

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New State Law Protects Transgender Californians from Job and Tenant Discrimination

By Aimee Durfee, JD

Last year, the California legislature passed a landmark piece of legislation to fight discrimination against transgender people and individuals whose gender expression does not conform to traditional stereotypes. Championed by San Francisco's Assemblymember Mark Leno, AB 196 clarifies that existing state law protects transgender people from gender-identity discrimination by employers and landlords.

What is "gender identity discrimination?" You may know it in many different forms in your daily life. Gender identity discrimination occurs when you are denied services, opportunities, equal access or subjected to a hostile environment because you are or are perceived to be transgender or gender non-conforming. It can occur on its own or in combination with discrimination based on other characteristics (e.g. race, sex, sexual orientation, disability, etc.)

'Transgender People Need Not Apply:' Gender Identity Discrimination on the Job

You may be experiencing gender identity discrimination if...

- your employer fires you;
- fails to hire you;
- fails to promote you and/or
- takes any other negative

employment action against you because of your gender identity and/or expression. It is also illegal for a co-worker or supervisor to harass or intimidate you because of your gender expression. A harasser can include: a person who repeatedly fails to address you by the proper name and pronoun; a person who says homophobic and/or transphobic comments; or a person who makes invasive inquiries about your medical history or genitalia.

The Bathroom Question

According to the attorneys at the Transgender Law Center (TLC), it is likely against the law for your employer to deny you access to the bathroom that corresponds to your gender identity. Some employers believe that a person must undergo "sex reassignment surgery" before they can use the bathroom that corresponds to their gender identity. TLC does not believe that this type of policy is legal under California law. If you feel unsafe or uncomfortable using either the men's or women's bathroom at work, you should ask your employer to provide you access to a gender neutral option. However, no employer may *force* an employee to use a gender-neutral bathroom.

The Clothes Question

Does your employer have the

right to dictate the way you dress at work? Your clothes are an important part of your gender expression, and as such, many aspects of the way you dress for work is also protected under this new law. If your employer has *different* dress codes and/or uniforms for men and women, you should be able to dress in accordance with the code or uniform appropriate for your gender identity. And employers should not *scrutinize* your compliance with the dress code any more closely than they would the compliance of any other employee.

Transphobic Landlords Beware!

Have you ever gotten the feeling that you'll never get that apartment you just viewed – even though you've got the first and last month's rent in your pocket and your credit is perfect – just because the landlord is uncomfortable with your gender expression? If so, you may be the victim of housing discrimination, which is illegal under California law.

Gender identity housing discrimination occurs when a landlord (or agent of the landlord) tried to deny you the opportunity to apply for a lease, or tells you an apartment has been rented when it has not. Some landlords may try to get you to sign a more restrictive lease than they would give to a non-transgender person, or some may

begin eviction proceedings when they find out a tenant is transgender. When landlords fail to make repairs to your unit in a timely and professional manner because of your gender identity, that's also a form of discrimination.

In addition to these claims of employment and housing discrimination, you may also experience retaliation *just for complaining*. If you make a complaint about discrimination and your employer or landlord retaliates against you, that may also be grounds for filing a separate complaint.

What Can I Do?

1. If you are not experiencing gender-identity discrimination from your employer or landlord, congratulations!

Write a thank-you letter to Assemblymember Mark Leno for taking up the cause of transgender people on the state level (Assemblymemberleno@assembly.ca.gov).

2. If you are starting to experience discrimination or retaliation, write it down! You may want to 'wish' the harassment away, try to forget it, or hope that the discrimination will 'just stop.' It *may* stop, but in the meantime, it is important to keep notes of different incidents of discrimination – even if you're not sure if it's 'technically' illegal. If it feels like discrimination, it probably is. Recording what's happening to you is important to establish a *pattern* of discrimination. Write down the dates, times and individuals involved in suspected incidents,

as well as any witnesses.

3. **If the discrimination is getting worse, consider filing a complaint with the Department of Fair Employment and Housing (DFEH) and/or the San Francisco Human Rights Commission (SF-HRC).** Before you file a complaint, seek legal advice about the problem – the Transgender Law Center provides free legal advice and counsel to transgender people and their families (call 415-865-5619 or email info@transgenderlawcenter.org). Information contained in this article should not be construed as legal advice; since every situation is different, it's important to check with an attorney to determine how the law affects *you*.

THERE IS A DEADLINE: *If you decide to file a complaint with the state, you must do so within one year of the date of the last incident of discrimination.* You can get more information about the DFEH at www.dfeh.ca.gov and more information about the SF-HRC at (www.sfgov.org/site/

sfhumanrights_index.asp).

If you live in a state other than California, the Transgender Law and Policy Institute (TLPI) maintains a list of states and local jurisdictions that have outlawed discrimination against transgender people.

You can see the list at: www.transgenderlaw.org/ndlaws/index.htm.

Don't forget, though, that different laws may cover different entities and prohibit different types of conduct. You should contact an attorney in your area or you can email specific questions about your state to TLPI at info@transgenderlaw.org.

This article is based on information from the Transgender Law Center

TEL 415-865-5619

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BOOK REVIEW:

TRANNY BIKER

By Red Jordan Arobateau

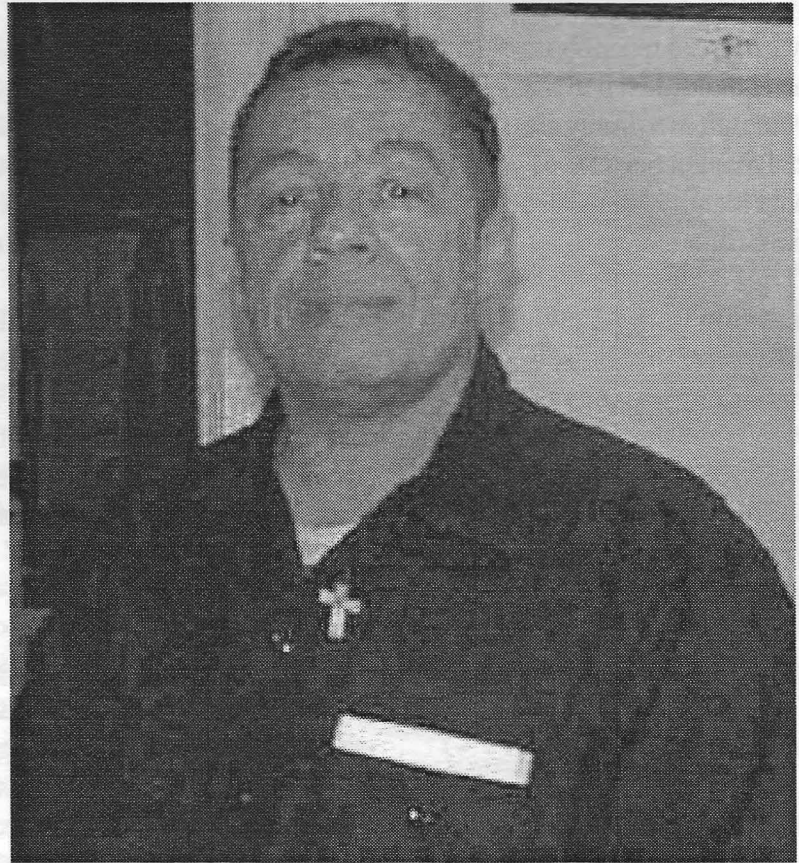
Reviewed by Cole Rowan

Red Jordan Arobateau is our man on the literary scene! What other FTM has been writing novels for over forty years about love and sex and people on the "outside" ("") Books like "Lucy and Micky", "Jailhouse Stud" "Satan's Best" and "Rough Trade" Red doesn't hold back! He's a voice for the dispossessed, the underdog, and he surely can write about all kinds of wild sex! Red doesn't flinch from the downright nasty, but it's not porno because he usually includes real emotions and motives — His books still have to be smuggled into Canada though...

"Tranny Biker" is his latest offering in "The Outlaw Chronicles" series. It includes descriptions of FTM meetings here in SF and it's partly about FTMs and dykes trying to accept each other, but my favorite parts are about the characters at "Oils Clubhouse", there's even an EVIL FTM, leader of the rival gang, "The Aryan Avengers". When Red's at his best, you can hear those engines thunder! And Red has even written some good and funny poems for the gang's "Poetry Slam".

His lead character Ronny, the Tranny Biker, is transitioning in his Dyke motorcycle club and also trying not to lose his transphobic femme girlfriend.

Red describes a lot of the hell and self doubt many transmen



go through to come to the decision to transition, as well as the joy of actually doing it.

I wish there were space enough here for me to quote more than just these few sections of chapter thirteen, where Ronny is riding his bike home alone, at dawn, in a gritty urban neighborhood:

"This freedom of deserted places no one around to monitor you. To not be related to a family. Cut loose. No group to relate to nor to tell you what to do. - No mate to cuddle with - and to nag him and hold him back from being his true, real self - And the lonesomeness was there.

It is when rocked in the ark night of the single soul that changes can be made truths discovered; and the self more understood. And he made a lot of plans while being alone. With no one to influence him for right or wrong.

A light spray of water was in the air

The bike came to a red light; he stopped. He felt a lot better at night - the masquerade people can't scrutinize you as thoroughly.

Now near dawn, it seemed no one was left on the planet.

He heard loud voices behind him - but at a distance. Still, he did a split-seconds itinerary weapons check."

"... "Hurt animals, lost friends... dead soldiers... they're not forgotten; they are buried in my soul," sez God.

Ronny switched off the ignition, parked his bike on the kickstand, and sleepily walked up the stairs of his house under the overhanging Gay flag; the last beam of starlight fell on him.

A little half male, half dike; his jockey shorts and t-shirt clung to him in dried sweat. New beard

stubble on his chin. Opened the front door, trudged into his empty house. He missed his high femme girlfriend.”

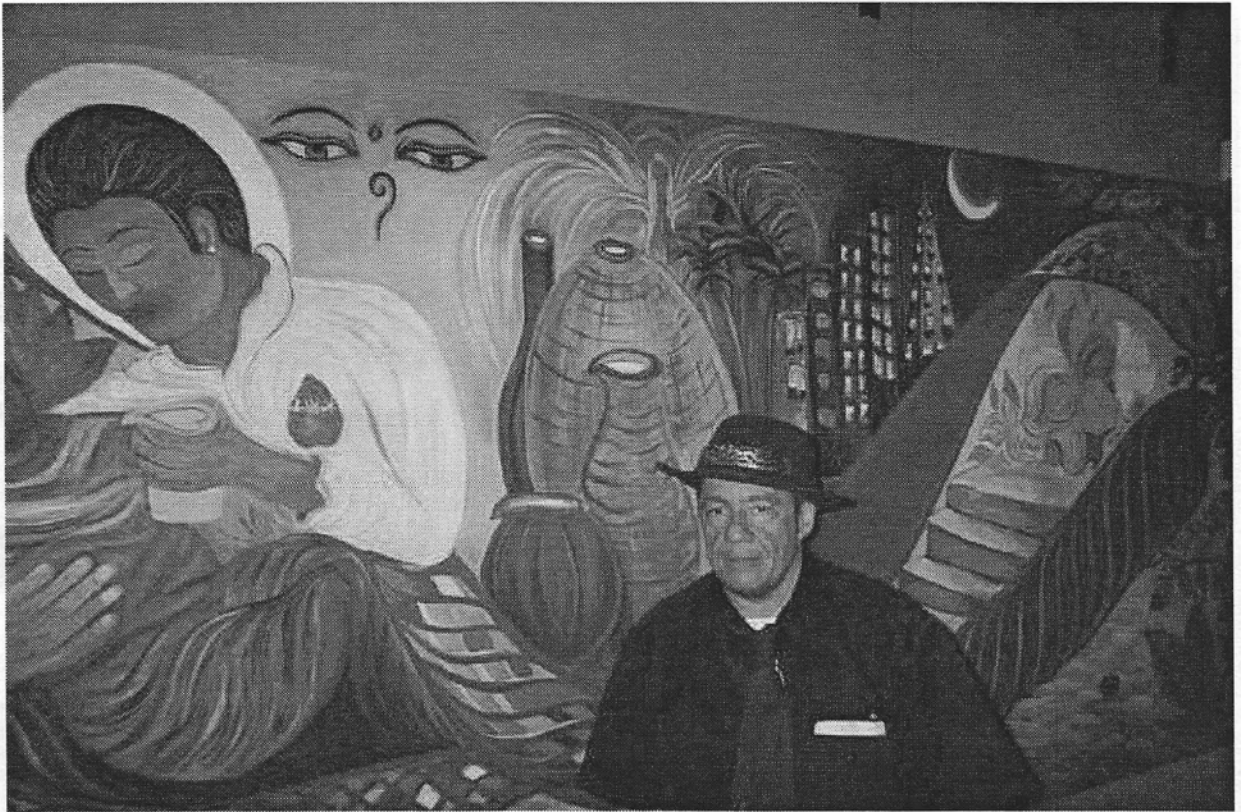
I hope that someday Red gets the recognition that he deserves. The lesbian community has never really embraced his books about butchifemme relations and as a biracial man (African American/Honduran/Indian} who appears light skinned, he is often misunderstood.

Red is a true artist. I hope he finds the right publishing deal and a few more good, tough editors! The “big world” needs to hear his voice, but for now I guess Red’s writing will only be treasured by those of us who are alternative, spiritual and sex positive.

-Cole Rowan

Red Jordan Arobateau is an ftm author/painter. He has written and self-published 40 plus books dealing with the queer experience including lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transsexuals; both ftm and mtf. He is noted for dealing with people of color, mixed-race heritage, underclass qucers, and sexually explicit material.

You can order some of Red’s books on Amazon.com or send \$4 for a catalogue of 40 books, including Tranny Biker, to:
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THE BLACK BIKER

and STREET FIGHTER.

A Message from Mr. TGSF 2004 (TransGender San Francisco)

by Bobby Cheung

Since I have been out as a queer person, I always wanted to attend a transgender beauty pageant and check out the trans-ladies. I never knew that a trans-guy like me can be a contestant

until I ran into Tyler Fong, Mr. TGSF 2003, last year at the Folsom Street Fair in San Francisco. Now here I am, being Mr.

TGSF 2004, what an honor to have this title. On top of that, I had the opportunity to present my performance art on stage for the first time in front of an audience of transgender people and allies. As an artist and as a FTM for the past 5 ½ years, this was an amazing experience for me.

Reflecting on the night of the cotillion, it was definitely one of the most memorable moments of my life. One meaningful thing that I got out of this event is that all of the

contestants have one thing in common, which is having the passion to advocate and to represent for the transgender community. Instead of looking at this event as a competition, we all worked together to put on an entertaining pageant

push-ups, other trans-women were spending their time putting on their make-up, fixing their hair, and carefully putting on their gorgeous outfits. It was almost like a little ritual to celebrate transgenderism.



Bobby Cheung,
Mr. TGSF 2004 (L)
and
Tyler Fong,
Mr. TGSF, 2003 (R)

show for the audience, and left the decision for the judges to decide who were going to have the titles of Mr. and Miss TGSF 2004.

Being backstage amongst other contestants, I realized something very special. While I was happily shooting photos backstage, I observed that all the transgender people who were preparing to be on stage truly enjoy being in the gender that they are in now. While I was prepping myself for my talent show by doing a massive amount of

Best of all, the wonderful audience had made this cotillion more eventful. Everyone were all dressed up, and looking beautiful and sharp. I remember seeing people who are on the transgender spectrum – FTMs, MTFs, cross-dressers, genderqueers, etc., people who are on different stages of their transition, and people of different sexual orientation. Besides transgender people, I also saw family members, friends, and allies. I can recall seeing smiles on people's faces, and feeling love in the air. This cotillion was truly

inclusive, and coincided with the theme of the event, "Come Together."

With this title, Mr. TGSF 2004, I look forward to advocating for the transgender community. I will devote my time and energy to recruit more trans-guys to join this wonderful organization, <http://www.tgsf.org>, and to outreach to other transgender people in different communities in the Bay Area, like the FTM, people of color, and Asian Pacific Islander community, and to continue to speak on gender diversity panels, and educate the public on transgender issues. I also want to assist the community to grow and progress by bringing together queer people of all ages, and ethnic, social, and economic backgrounds. Lastly, as we come together, I hope that we not only focus on our struggles, but to also bring forth positive thinking within ourselves, and positive images of transgender people.

-Bobby Cheung

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Legal Translations

A whole lot of talking about marriage

By Chris Daley

San Francisco City Hall on February 12, 2004, it's one of the few times in my life that I get to say: "I was there."

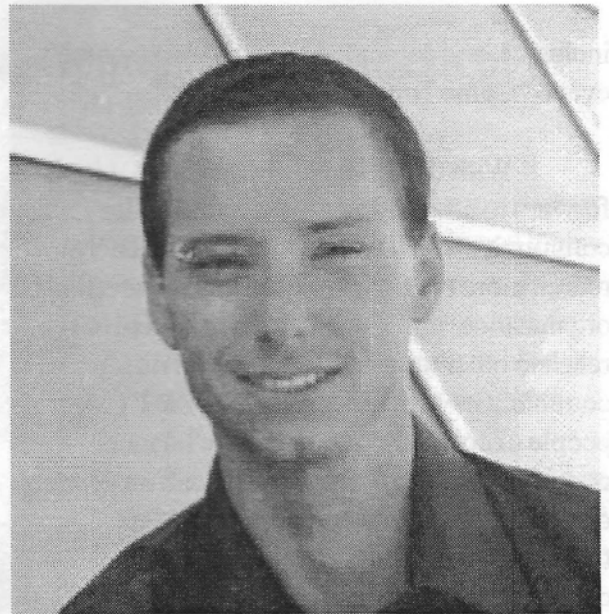
Having been raised Catholic, I feel like I have to confess that I wasn't actually in the "there" part of "there" that day. But I was in the building. While Phyllis Lyon and Del Martin were getting married downstairs (followed closely by Transgender Law Center Board Member Willy Wilkinson and his long-time partner Georgia Koliass), I was three floors up giving testimony about equal access to health care for transgender city employees. And really, what's three floors between friends?

So, like I was saying, "I was there." And over the next four weeks, nearly 4,000 "same sex" couples from various parts of the world were there too. Add to that the numerous members of the wedding parties (heck, the ex-partner/witnesses alone could have added up to five figures) and you had a heaping helping of happy folks at City Hall.

And while it was tough there for while to refresh CNN.com without seeing another story pop up about some gay or lesbian couple who got married, what you might not have heard too much about is the number of transgender people making their way in and out of 1 Goodlett Place during that time. Whether they were there to get married, support friends and family who were getting married, work, or volunteer, transgender people were definitely in the Hall in sizable numbers.

Even if folks didn't make it to City Hall, the events there seemed to be on a lot of transgender people's minds. Before the end of that Thursday, I must have spoken to at least a dozen transgender people and/or their partners. Many of them had substantially the same questions: "should we, could we?"


In fact, it was during one of these calls that I found out that in order to allow "same sex" marriages, San Francisco had removed gender from the recipe for marriage. "Bride" and "Groom" were replaced on



the marriage application by "First Applicant" and "Second Applicant." "I now pronounce you husband and wife" evolved into "I now pronounce you spouses for life."

And in the process of making these basic changes, likely without even realizing it, the City removed the most significant barrier preventing transgender people from confidently entering into secure marriages: gender. Okay, I actually mean the most significant *legal* barrier, as not even a whole softball team full of Mayor Newsomes can do a whole lot about "commitment issues" and that whole pesky "over the roll/under the roll" toilet paper debate. Regardless, it is impossible to overstate the uncertainty that the presence of gender-based marriage restrictions create in the minds of some couples when one spouse is transgender.

Because gender plays such a central role in who can get married, its presence can play havoc on some couple's sense of

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security about the legality of their marriage. I would estimate that in the 2 ½ years I've been providing legal services to transgender people and their families, nearly 70% of the questions I've answered about people's "legal gender" or "legal sex" have been in the marriage context.

I get questions from three basic types of couples (realizing that due to the diversity of gender identities within transgender communities, the following terms greatly oversimplify people's gender): married couples where one partner transitions during the marriage, same-sex couples who are considering getting married based on the birth identified gender of both partners (which would be "opposite" sex), and male/female couples where one partner has already transitioned. If, like San Francisco, governments around the country would remove "gender" as a variable in the equation of marriage, I would unequivocally be able to tell each of the couples listed above that they would have no more difficulty in creating or continuing a legally recognized marriage than any non-transgender heterosexual couple does now.

If two people, regardless of their genders, could get married, what difference would it make to the continuing validity of that marriage if one of these partners transitioned from one gender to another? None. Legally, such a change would have no more impact than if one of the spouses changed their religion or their hair color. And, while I strongly believe that even under the

current law of California (which is where I practice) such a change has no legal effect, I have spent more than a couple long afternoons trying to convince insurance providers and real estate title companies of my position. Remove gender as a criterion in marriage and you remove an insurance company account representative's ability to waste a week or so of my time arguing about whether the couple is still married even though they are now same-sex.

So, if a phrase as elegant as "spouses for life" will fundamentally improve marriage as an option for transgender people and their families, why isn't Transgender Law Center, for example, making this point to every journalist and commentator taking up column inches, air time, and bandwidth reporting about "gay marriages"?

This is the second most common marriage related question I've gotten in the last two months. As a non-transgender person, it's the one of the two I feel less comfortable answering because it's more about strategy for advancing transgender civil rights than it is about the law. Despite my lack of comfort, I do have an answer.

As the California Supreme Court's recent "time out" for San Francisco same-sex marriages proves, the momentum towards mar-

riage equality is not unstoppable. In fact, despite recent advances in Massachusetts, California, New Mexico, New York, and Oregon our victory is not yet assured. Socially conservative litigators, judges, and legislators are just now starting to counter our moves.

I can imagine little that would be more harmful to transgender people and their families than if these conservative folks decide that in addition to limiting marriage to being between one man and one woman, they also need to define who is a man and who is a woman. And don't be fooled. Even the most convincing medical or other scientific arguments against making people's birth identified sex their sex for life would fail to slow down, much less stop, most of these folks. Experiences from hundreds of years of U.S. history argue against the value that socially conservative individuals and groups place on logic and common sense in a fight of this sort.

For that reason, most transgender legal and advocacy groups around the country have decided to stay in the background on this issue. But, because we recognize the importance of this issue, we

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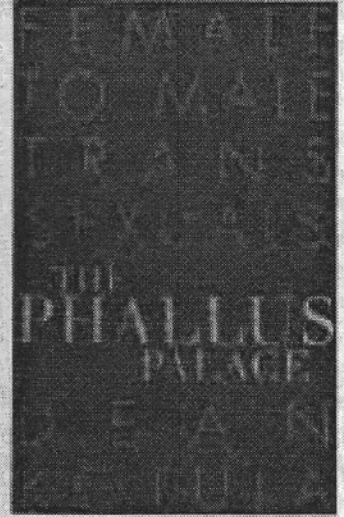
are encouraging everyone who wants to be involved to do so by actively opposing the proposed Federal Marriage Amendment and supporting local organizations working for marriage equality. Because taking gender out of the marriage equation benefits all of us, regardless of our sexual orientation or gender identity.

As always, if you are in California and have questions about marriage or other legal issues, don't hesitate to contact the Transgender Law Center at (415) 865-0176 or info@transgenderlawcenter.org. If you live outside of California and have access to the internet, send your question to our good friends at the Transgender Law and Policy Institute at info@transgenderlaw.org.

THE PHALLUS PALACE: FEMALE TO MALE TRANS SEXUALS

BY DEAN KOTULA

Deeply personal essays accompanied by more than 100 photos capture female-to-male transsexualism in a candid and informative context that provides readers with a groundbreaking psychological, historical, biological, and cultural understanding of the journey from female to male.



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POEM FOR GWEN ARAUJO (AND FOR JENNIFER) 10/18/02
By Christopher Robin

Her first thought was,
 "tonight
 I'll either be killed
Or someone else will..."
 Before arriving at the
 Mountain bar
Where they bought her
 Six drinks and flirted
 And questioned her
"well, what do you think?" she'd retort
 batting her eyes,
 giggling and evading...
"all the bic-chicks loved me in there..."
 she said
 when she returned
 (drunk)
"I was like their Mother Hen..."
 and after she sucked my cock
we lay together on the tiny couch
 and she cried
 and told me the bad news:
 "they killed her last night,"
 she said
"she'd been fulltime for two years-
beat her to death and strung her up
 by a rope....
She was seventeen...."

And every time I know she's in
 Some strange bar
 I think,
"is it going to be her tonight?"
 and she tells me
 she has to do it
 it's not the men,
 it's the experience
 she has to be regular
 she has to fit in
and every time she makes it home
 we talk about it
 and wonder....

A Monstrey Phalloplasty: My 2003 Experience

by Daniel

The following is my account of my recent phalloplasty with Professor Monstrey in Gent Belgium in the fall of 2003. My hope is that the details will help those considering the same journey. I would encourage anyone reading this to keep in mind that procedures and protocols are ever changing. What may have been the case for me in 2003 may not be the case in 2004 and beyond.

HISTORY

FTMI meeting several years ago

In 2001, FTMI hosted 2 Belgians, Axel and Ken, at one of their monthly SF meetings, who were phalloplasty patients of the gender team in Gent Belgium. At that time, Axel had his phalloplasty approximately 5 years while Ken was still recovering from a very recent phalloplasty. They very graciously showed off their surgeries and discussed the procedures. I was very grateful to have the opportunity to see the phalloplasty results firsthand and hear their own accounts of the procedure. The procedures are ever evolving and the techniques used in 2003 have been enhanced and modified from even Ken's fairly recent surgery.

Research

Prior to my phalloplasty, I had done rather intensive research into the phalloplasty procedures offered, particularly those performed by Professor Monstrey in Gent, Belgium, Dr. Daverio in Switzerland and Dr. Meynard in Montreal, Canada. For numerous reasons ranging from aesthetics to size to sexual functioning to cost, I choose Professor Monstrey for my phalloplasty.

Consultation Appointments in August 2002

I first contacted the gender team in Gent Belgium, in the winter of 2002 by email. I was sent a form letter explaining the history and process for transsexual surgeries for FTM patients. The same letter is posted on the internet in various FTM internet sites. The current letter reflects the numbers of phalloplasty procedures performed, currently close to 200. The letter details the need for those coming

from abroad, to meet with a psychiatrist from their team to be approved to proceed with surgery. This is a formality where your own doctors are to furnish your history, treatment and diagnosis of transsexualism. I received my appointments for August of 2002.

THE MAIN DOCTORS

Dr. De Cuypere

Dr. De Cuypere is one of two psychiatrists on the gender team. My one preliminary appointment with her lasted approximately 1 hour. I had some reservations about receiving her approval for surgery, primarily based on hearsay from others. As it turned out, she was extremely friendly and professional, reviewing my letters and discussing my life and future plans. She is a wonderful doctor and I suggest accepting their process and opening yourself to the information available. She has after all treated hundreds of transsexuals and helped many of them with the surgical procedures. She also makes weekly rounds on the surgery ward and can be a great asset to help you through any tough times after surgery.

At the end of the appointment, she wrote a short note approving me for surgery to hand carry to my next appointment with Professor Monstrey.

I have heard good feedback regarding the other psychiatrist on the gender team from some of his patients, including one of my roommates during phalloplasty recovery.

Professor Monstrey

Professor Monstrey is the head plastic surgeon on the gender team. The Gent phalloplasty procedure is really his. During my consultation appointment, I met with him for approximately 45 minutes. He went over the details of the surgery, the expected outcomes as well as the typical complications and their remedies. We also reviewed a photographic collection of surgery results on his computer. I had full confidence in his professionalism and his abilities. He is also extremely friendly with a good bedside manner.

I indicated my desire to schedule surgery and was added to a waiting list with an estimate of one year, being told that I would be contacted closer to the surgery date with an exact date. I also indicated my desire to schedule, my friend, Travis for surgery around the same date so we could recuperate together. Travis is a SF local, who also attended the FTMI meeting and had a consult with Monstrey in 2001. We had decided to try to schedule our surgeries together.

It is worth noting that the process is somewhat routine for Belgian FTM's to be diagnosed and move through the surgeries and integrate back into society. With their socialized medicine, there are really no other surgical choices, so our American attitude of shopping around can be rather unusual for them.

Professor Hoebeke

Professor Hoebeke is the head urologist on the gender team. He handles a significant part of the hookups as detailed in the surgery section below. After I was finished with Professor Monstrey, he called over and got me in to see Professor Hoebeke. Professor Hoebeke, like Monstrey, is very friendly and I felt extremely confident in his abilities and techniques. He drew a detailed diagram explaining the vaginectomy and the urinary hookups as well as the schematics of the overall procedure.

All in all, I spent the afternoon meeting with the various doctors. It is possible to bypass this trip and coordinate the psychiatrist approval prior to surgery, but I would not recommend this option. It is beneficial to meet the doctors, the hospital and the surroundings ahead of time to gain a comfort level for surgery.

SCHEDULING SURGERY

Jan Smeyers

The process and contact information has changed since my process began, they now have one main contact and coordinator for all Transsexual surgeries. This contact is nurse coordinator Jan Smeyers, email him directly at: jan.smeyers@uzgent.be for all appointments and questions concerning surgery in Gent.

There is a significant waiting list for surgery, 1-2 years, as well as a significant wait for the required initial psychiatrist review and consultation with the surgeons.

There is very little room for accommodating appointment changes and such, my best advice is to take the dates you are given. I inadvertently indicated by email a preference for my consultation appointment one week later than scheduled, only to have them cancel my appointment and reschedule it 4 months later.

TRAVEL

Flights

There are many options for flying to Gent Belgium. The most common routing is to Brussels, Paris or Amsterdam. London is also an option. The flight is very long from the West Coast, 13-14 hours for a direct flight and even longer if there are stops. I found AirFrance direct from SFO to Paris to offer the best deals, as low as \$350 roundtrip off season in February and as high as \$800 roundtrip in the peak tourist season in August.

Trains

Once arriving at Brussels, Paris, Amsterdam or London trains, often high speed, are available to get you to Gent. The airports are very English friendly and train travel is a very popular way to travel throughout Europe. Online train information is available but tickets must generally be purchased in person. Remember you will be handling your own luggage through the airports and train stations so pack and use appropriate luggage. Wheeled luggage is good but there are very often stairs involved with train travel. Handicap access and accommodations like in the US are often nonexistent.

Frequent Flier Miles

Since there are usually 3 trips necessary (one consultation, one phalloplasty surgery and one erectile implant surgery) it is best to think about coordinating your travel with one airline to take advantage of the high miles given on an international flight. On AirFrance, 3 trips from SFO earned me a free international flight.

Local Buses and Trams

Once in Gent, there is an excellent bus and tram system to get you around town. Taxis are also available at the train station. Buses and trams are generally 1 Euro (E), or at a discount of 10 E for a weekly unlimited pass, all tickets can be purchased on the bus or tram. Exact change is not necessary.

ACCOMADATIONS

Bed and Breakfast

The gender team recommended a local B&B, and I highly recommend it as well. The owner, Paul Snoeck, attended college in California and is very fluent with English as well as very friendly and helpful. The rates were also a bargain at 35 E per night. Please note that only cash is accepted. Paul has several B&B's to offer. I stayed in 2 of them, one on Ijzerlaan, Verlaet, and one directly across from the train station. Verlaet is a typical B&B with breakfast served from 8-9. The accommodations are comfortable and homey. There is a TV in each room and access to kitchen facilities but no phone. The train station B&B is actually for longer stays with fully furnished apartments (no breakfast, however you have your own furnished kitchen). Excellent for guests accompanying the patient. I stayed there after surgery and found it was great to have my own apartment with kitchen and bath. Paul can be reached at: bb.verlaet@pi.be and the B&B's are listed at: <http://www.bedandbreakfast-gent.be/>. Paul may also be available for pick up to and from the hospital.

There are also numerous hotels in Gent with the rates generally starting at 80E.

GENT

Tourism

Gent is a wonderful relatively small city. It has a historic background from the Middle Ages and some wonderful architecture. The main tourist area, the Korenmarket has beautiful cathedrals, a bell tower, a medieval castle, shopping, cafes and restaurants. The Korenmarket is walking distance from the Izerlan B&B and one of many trams or buses can get you there from the train station. The whole area has canals and boat rides similar to Venice. The food in Belgium is outstanding and a very good value. Belgium is also known for beers and chocolates. Gent offers a lot to see and do with flea markets, flower markets, and all kinds of festivals. It is worthwhile to visit the tourist office in the Belfort, the Bell Tower, to get valuable information. A tourist book is also a good idea to review before your trip.

Languages

Belgium has two official languages, French and Dutch. The hospital is located in the Flanders region of Belgium where Dutch is the official language. Fortunately, almost all the residents speak English. The most difficulty with the language will be in regards to reading

menus in restaurants. Although an English/Dutch dictionary may help, because of the way the words are combined in Dutch a listing of common words is not very helpful.

Currency

Belgium is part of the European Union and uses the Euro for currency. The exchange rate is normally somewhat close to the dollar so mental translation is not really necessary. You can follow the exchange rate on numerous web sites, I liked www.oanda.com as the site will track and graph the exchange over time. The best exchange rate to get currency is to use ATM machines with your normal debit card. Any other exchange method such as traveler's checks or cash exchange services generally charge surcharges of anywhere from 2-20%. Many places also take VISA and MasterCard. Research your options ahead of time and review your credit card's terms for foreign currency charges.

Tipping

Tipping is not customary in Belgium although many do leave the loose change from the bill. You should review a Belgium tourist book on more specifics.

Telephones/Communications

The telephone system presented many problems for us upon our arrival. There are very few coin pay phones in Belgium, they generally use a prepaid card that can be purchased in newsstands and such in the train stations. However, we arrived at 9PM and everything was closed. We needed to call the B&B to pick us up and check us in the to B&B. We could not for the life of us figure out how to place a call. I won't go into the specifics of how to place a call as the specifics may change. Suffice it to say it can be daunting. They are more cellular based than we are and the cell numbers have one extra digit as compared to the land lines, confusing in itself, and they have city codes not area codes, that must be used. Every call also starts with a zero. We ended up asking a 12 year old skateboarder to use his cellphone and call for us. We eventually figured out the system and I found several coin phones in the train station with English instructions in the internal memory.

There are numerous internet cafes available throughout Gent.

THE HOSPITAL

Hospital Accommodations

The University Hospital, or the UZ as locally named, is located about 5-10 minutes from the train station by tram or bus or a 20-minute walk. It is a very large sprawling campus with numerous buildings. The UZ is a teaching hospital. Parts of the facilities are rather old and dated, but any surgical areas were state of the art. The plastic surgery ward is located on the fifth floor in building K12. There is a check-in process on the ground floor, where you will be asked to sign a lot of documents in Dutch. I simply signed and indicated "English only" near my signature. They do have a welcome booklet in English to familiarize yourself with the UZ.

Typical Double Room

The typical room on the plastic surgery ward is a double room. They always paired FTMs with other FTMs while I was there. There were approximately 5 FTM phalloplasty patients at any one time on the ward while I was there. Each typical room has a closet for each patient, one private toilet and sink to share with your roommate, one TV again to share, and two small seating areas for guests. Each fully electric bed has a nightstand/bed table with a locking drawer and a built in refrigerator below. Each patient also has a phone. All electricity is 220 V and most US appliances need both converters for the voltage and adapters for the physical plug to fit the Belgian sockets.

Communications

The hospital issues you upon check-in a phone card to activate your phone. The rates were indeterminate. I did some research ahead of time and found that friends and family in the states could call me using 10-10-987 for only 3 cents per minute so the majority of my calls were incoming.

We had hoped to hook up our laptops in the hospital room to the Internet with a local provider but could not get past the phone card security set up. The phone lines

were also not the standard US phone lines. It may be possible but we gave up trying.

THE SURGERY

Pre-Surgery Preparation

You are required to be off all hormonal treatments for 3 weeks prior to surgery. You will be required to check-in to the UZ the morning of the day before your operation. You may have some appointments the days before this as well. This first day in the UZ will be to prepare you for surgery. You will not be allowed any food and should have had your last food the evening before. You will be given a cleanse to drink to completely flush your system clean. This takes several hours and many trips to the toilet. You will be able to drink black tea and coffee, which helps to alternate with the cleanse drink. You will also be shaven from your kneecaps to your bellybutton as well as your non-dominant arm. I did this ahead of time and suggest doing this yourself ahead of time. If left to them they will dry shave you and your may develop a nasty razor burn.

Professor Monstrey will stop by to mark up your arm and your genitals and answer any last minute questions. An Anesthesiologist will also come by to discuss your anesthetics, medical history and pain medicines. This is a good time to advocate for appropriate pain medicine, I had to advocate for lots of strong medicine while Travis advocated for less, each based on our own pain and pain killer thresholds. We also asked for a sleeping pill to help sleep the night before surgery. Both Travis and myself also took sleeping pills the next several weeks to facilitate a good nights sleep. This was more to sleep through the night, after all you are on a different time zone and generally sleeping on and off all day. They will then wake you up early for surgery and wheel you down to the Operating Rooms.

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Surgical Procedure Description

In layman's terms, the Belgian phalloplasty is made from the tissue of the non-dominant forearm. The skin, tissue, two nerves, some veins and one artery are harvested down to the muscle and formed into a tube within a tube. The inner tube has the skin surface on the inside to form the urethra, the outer tube has the skin on the outside to form the corona of the penis. The veins, nerves and artery are all redundant systems in the arm, and the arm should heal with no lasting effects. The arm will be covered with skin from the leg. The penis itself is formed on the arm with the blood supply kept intact until it is transferred to the genital area. Meanwhile, the genital area is prepared, the vagina is removed and the pelvic floor muscles are sewn together. The scrotum is formed from the outer labia and brought forward. The penis is then transferred to the genital area and the nerves, veins and artery are connected. Cosmetic touches are then done to enhance the final product.

In more technical terms, the Belgian phalloplasty is a radial forearm flap performed as follows:

If needed, a gynecologist performs a complete hysterectomy/ovariectomy. I had this procedure performed while Travis had his years before stateside. They are now recommending having the hysterectomy performed at a minimum of 6 months prior to the phalloplasty.

Professor Hoebeke reconstructs the fixed part of the urethra and resects the vagina. The pelvic floor is completely closed and the outer labia are used to form the scrotum. They have enhanced their technique on the scrotum formation to allow for a very forward and dangling scrotum. I still can't figure out exactly what they did to form the scrotum so well.

The plastic surgical team meanwhile pre-elevates a free vascularized flap from the non-dominant forearm (the left arm is used if right handed, the right if left handed). This flap is transferred to the perineal region by anastomosing the artery end to side on the common femoralis artery and the vein to the greater saphenous vein. Two nerves of the flap are also connected; the first to one of the dorsal clitoral nerves for erogenous sensation, the second to an ilio-inguinal nerve for protective sensation. The clitoris is denuded, directed up and buried under the base of the shaft of the penis for additional erogenous sensation.

The radial forearm flap basically consists of an inner tube for continuation of the urethra and an external tube for coverage of the penis itself. Construction of the glans and corona of the penis are also performed. The plastic surgical team also has modified the traditional methods to optimize the vascularization of the phallus.

The donor site of the arm is then covered with partial thickness skin grafts from the thigh area.

The operation requires 4-6 surgeons and lasts from 6-10 hours.

Post Surgical Recuperation

Day 1

After surgery you are kept overnight in the PACU (the post anesthetic care unit). You will wake up shortly after surgery and be feeling extremely groggy and possibly sore. The doctors talk with you and hopefully let you know everything went well. They keep the pain medicine flowing and you will be very out of it and sleep most of the time. Guests can see you sometime after 8PM for a few minutes. Every 15-30 minutes or so nursing staff will come and check the pulse with Doppler along two places on the penis. Hearing the heart beat coming through the speaker system is a very reassuring sound. Overall the drugs are extremely strong and the after effects of the anesthesia will keep this whole recovery ward as a rather foggy memory.

But you will remember rather vividly waking up and looking down and seeing your penis for the first time.

The actual effects of the surgery are as follows: you have plenty of IV connections into your dominant arm; the non-dominant donor arm is bandaged in a cast like material; you have all kinds of connections on your torso to monitor on your vital signs; your donor site on the leg thigh is bandaged up thoroughly; there is a small bandage by your lower ankle where a short artery was harvested; you also have a subabdomen catheter (basically a tube coming out your belly area between your bellybutton and your penis); and your lower body is under a metal cage like structure to keep the covers off the penis. They also pump in hot air under the covers to keep the penis warm. You also have a temperature gauge on your abdomen and on your penis and the nurses will chart the temperature for several days. The penis and scrotum are not bandaged and

actually look amazingly good with very little evidence of incisions from your vantage point. The penis is resting on a "penis pillow" that is taped to your thighs. You will not be able to move much and will now be lying on your back for many days and this pillow helps to keep everything where it should be.

Days 2-10

Sometime the next morning, you will be awoken for a bath. This can be very painful, as you will have to roll to each side. It is then that you can feel the internal surgery. It goes by very fast and then you feel relatively good, clean of sweat and blood that was left on from surgery.

At some point that morning they will wheel you back up to your room. The Doppler monitoring of your penis' pulse continues now every 30-60 minutes. Day by day this time frame doubles, first day every 15 minutes, then 30 minutes, then every hour, then every other hour and so on. It gets to be a mixed blessing hearing the heartbeat as they always seem to be waking you. They will also be taking and charting your vital signs regularly.

Days 2-3 you will hopefully have plenty of pain medicine and sleep. While I was there each patient seemed to have his own protocols on pain medicine. The nurses can only do what is prescribed so advocate for appropriate pain medicine with the doctors. Day 2 will probably be the day you really get to have a good look at your penis. You will not be able to move much but the nurses are checking on you and lifting the covers off at frequent intervals. It was actually not until day 3 that I could even move my right arm across my body to press the bed's control buttons on the bed frame. And that was quite an accomplishment.

Once in your room on the ward, there is a daily routine. You are awoken at about 8am for breakfast. You will start to take light foods on days 3-5 or so. Then the morning is spent getting a bath and having your dressings and linens changed. This is an exhausting process. The bath feels incredible but it can be difficult to roll. They will wash your hair once in a while if you ask and they have the extra time. It is a real luxury to have clean hair as you will be sweaty and greasy from the narcotics and the general recuperation process. In fact having a cold wet wash cloth to frequently wipe your face with is nice. The hospital literature suggests bringing your

own towels but they have plenty available just make sure to ask for clean ones daily. Sometime in the morning the doctors make their rounds and discuss any issues you may be having. I found it was very helpful to write down all questions as they came up so I would not forget them when the doctors made the daily rounds. The pain medicine can effect your ability to remember your questions. The doctors are generally the plastic surgery residents. Professor Monstrey is kept informed at daily meetings with staff and will come if necessary. He also makes the rounds at least once a week.

On day 5, the dressing on your leg will be removed. The leg can be painful in places and itchy in others. You will be instructed to use a moisturizer on it once any open spots are fully closed. The bandage on your arm will also be removed and changed on day 5. The original bandage has a plastic like wrap as the bottom layer that is held on with staples. This may cause some minor discomfort when the staples and plastic are removed. The arm can look rather shocking at this time, it is really at its worst. Depending on the healing of the arm, various bandages will be used daily from this time forward. They also might use an ultraviolet light source to facilitate healing of the arm or leg. A physical therapist will begin coming daily to work with you on your hand and arm movements, doing light movements and weights until full movement returns. I had full movement almost immediately with no adverse effects while others took longer to return to full mobility.

They will also be removing the penis catheter by this time, it was really just a tube holding your urethra open, and the sub-abdomen catheter remains in place for urine.

Sometime during the first 10 days your bowels will begin to work again and this can be somewhat uncomfortable. It is important to discuss this with the nursing staff as they can give you some oils to make it more comfortable. You will need to use a bedpan, which can be difficult in and of itself.

Towards the end of the first 10 days you should be feeling rather good. We were fairly active, yet still confined to bed. We watched DVD movies on our laptops and ordered local pizza for delivery in the evenings. The hospital food although rather good,

begins to wear on you by day 10 and snack and salty items were on our minds. You can either stock your refrigerator and room before surgery or have family or friends bring you snacks. As Travis and I traveled alone, we stocked our refrigerator and room ahead of time and had everything within arms reach of our beds. We did feel rather guilty using the emergency call button to have a nurse hand us a bag of potato chips the cleaning crew had moved just out of our reach.

Day 10-14

By day 10 you should be feeling pretty good, off most pain meds and anxious to get up and start moving around. And Day 10 is the big day, you get to get out of bed for the first time. After your bath, you are assisted to a special chair and hopefully you can begin to shuffle around. I made it to the sink and saw my reflection and promptly went back to bed for the day. I had lost almost 30 pounds and had a gray and sunken look to my face. My legs were also extremely wobbly and my feet felt like mush on the ground. The next day I was doing much better and starting making my rounds around the ward and even venturing to the cafeteria and outside. Most of the FTMs seem to find each other and visit each other on rounds around the ward once up mobile. It helps to discuss the daily trials and tribulations with each other. It was very apparent that despite the same surgery, some of the details of the recuperation were not set in stone and your nursing staff had some discretion based on their own experience and opinion.

The hospital furnishes some mesh shorts daily that are then packed with bandages to protect the penis and scrotum and keep him pointed up. These will be worn until discharged from the hospital. Loose pajama pants and sweats work best at this time. A robe and slippers are a good idea to bring as well. Prior to getting out of bed your clothes choices are very limited, no bottoms and tops only after the IV has been removed.

The hospital grounds offer some good exercise walking around. There are several cafeterias, which serve great Belgium beer, a hair salon, a chapel and some nice park like areas. Directly across from the main entrance to the UZ are a waffle shop and a bistro for off campus food choices. Once you are mobile you can get permission to leave the hospital grounds. I also found a barber and

some snack shops.

They will soon clamp off your subabdomen catheter and you will begin to train your bladder by opening the valve periodically. A day or two later you will attempt to urinate with your penis. This is not as easy as it sounds and takes some guys several days. The method is to urinate with your penis then open your catheter to fully empty the bladder, when you urinate more from your penis than your catheter, the catheter can be removed. There are often fistulas at this time, causing ever-changing leaks from your penis while urinating. These are considered very normal and the urine sterilizes them and they generally close on their own.

To Be Continued in the Summer issue....

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New FTMI Board Members Needed

Dear FTM International Members and those of you considering membership:

As you may be aware, FTMI is a membership driven organization. According to our bylaws it is time to conduct our biannual election for the FTMI Board of Directors. The only people who are permitted to run or vote on prospective candidates are dues paying members. For more information about membership criteria, see below.

We ask that you consider nominating yourself or someone else you believe would be qualified and interested in serving as a new board member. The board consists of a minimum of five (5) and a maximum of 15 members. Board members must be willing to participate in the activities related to guiding and developing the organization, such as fundraising, coalition building, support group facilitation, publications development, outreach, and administration (business management). The Executive Committee consists of the officers of FTMI (president, vice president, secretary, and treasurer), who are appointed from among the board members.

If you or your candidate do not live within the San Francisco Bay Area, do not let your location discourage you. We are interested in developing a diverse board, reflecting the broad-based readership of our newsletter, including representation from communities of color, countries abroad, the deaf community, and other under served or less visible communities.

We are looking for responsible people (FTMs, MTFs, Intersexed others on the Transgender and Genderqueer spectrum, and SOFFAs) who are willing to give FTMI their input, and take on tasks that will benefit the organization and the larger FTM community. If you are nominating yourself, think seriously about whether you are willing to be an active participant. At a minimum, we ask you to be available for board meetings once a month or if you are not in the area, a conference call. At most we will ask you to volunteer to take on a task that may require actual work, such as leading meetings, or writing a grant proposal, membership recruitment, contacting people listed in our resource guide to verify their listings, or help with our web page.

Board members (and officers) serve for two (2)-year terms. Board members selected in this election will serve through June 2006. If you are nominating someone else, please contact the nomi-

nated person first to get permission or approval before submitting his/her/hir name.

Since FTMI is committed to being an anti-racist organization, all board members and volunteers are required to attend anti racism workshops and be cognizant of racist behavior. All board members and volunteers of FTMI will be held accountable for racist behavior and will be asked to cease and desist. If the racist behavior is not discontinued immediately, that person will be asked to leave FTMI in his/her/hir official organizational capacity.

If you want to make a nomination, please contact FTMI by telephone, fax, snail mail, or electronic mail at ftmi_nominations@yahoo.com This email address is only for receiving board nominations. Nominations must be received no later than May 28th, 2004. Include the nominee's name, address, telephone number, email address (if applicable), and a brief one paragraph description describing to FTMI what qualifications, skills, and talents you could bring to FTMI as a prospective board member.

Many thanks for your participation and your interest in helping to make FTMI an organization that can serve you.

The Board of FTM International

Ongoing FTMI Meetings

General Support Meetings

We alternate meeting type each month. Informational meetings are "open" to FTMs and other interested parties, these meetings are usually centered around a topic to focus discussion. Support meetings are "closed" or limited to self-identified FTM transgenders and transexuals at any stage of the process, and women who are exploring those identities. There is a simultaneous meeting for partners in another meeting room. Please don't bring friends or significant others or therapists or journalists to support meetings.
2nd Sunday of each month from 2 to 5pm

New Men's Support Group

A more intimate group focusing on questioning or newly transitioned persons.
4th Monday of each month, 7:30pm until whenever

both held at the FTMI office
160 14th Street, SF, CA
Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for more info

SOFFA Space

By Jennifer A. Mantle

The second Sunday of every month FTMI offers a support meeting in San Francisco for SOFFAs: Significant Others, Family, Friends and Allies of FTMs.

We welcome anyone who self-identifies this way and would like to come participate in the group. It is a safe place for folks to

get validated about their feelings regarding their loved one's transition and how it affects them. We often share our experiences watching our partners/friends transitioning and what it means to us. Identity is a popular topic with us.

Are you a SOFFA? Have a story to tell?

Want to share how you identify? We'd love to hear your voice!

Send us articles, poetry, artwork for the newsletter.

Send your submissions to FTMI_newsletter@yahoo.com.

A. Sinvany-Nubel, PhD., CNSC Psychotherapist

Specialized in Treatment
of Gender Identity Disorders (TV/TS)
Individuals, Marriage & Family Groups

653 Donald Drive N.
Bridgewater, NJ 08807

phone 908.722.9884
fax 908.722.0666



MONTCLAIR PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

5701 Thornhill Drive
Oakland, California 94611
phone: (510) 339-1131
web: www.mpcfamly.org

Services: Sunday at 10:00 a.m.

God's Inclusive Love Practiced Here!
We welcome and affirm people
of every sexual orientation and identification.
Let us become your family.

Los Angeles Gender Center

TG/TS/CD Counseling
Individual, Couples, Group Counseling
and Referrals for the Transgendered
Community, Partners, and Families.

• Open Monthly Events.

310.475.8880

www.lagendercenter.com

Book Review: Becoming A Visible Man

“Becoming a Visible Man”, by Jamison Green, published by Vanderbilt University Press, is an autobiography of his experience as a female-to-male transsexual. Though formally trained and hired for his technical writing ability, he takes a break and allows us to see his more human side.

Feelings are shared on a very personal level as he grows to define himself as a man and builds a family. Intimate relationships come and go. Each time, he discovers more about his life and what it has to offer him. He continues to share his experiences with other gender variant and non-gender variant individuals to shed some light on a typically invisible community of FTM’s. The reader will find his story both entertaining and informative.

Personal anecdotes as well as those of others are shared along with the history of Lou Sullivan the group now know as FTM International. Gender terminology and surgical

procedures are also discussed in an easy to understand format. Green addresses the continued growth of information and its availability in print, on screen and in film.

I highly recommend this book to anyone who has an interest in FTM’s, their history or an individual’s point of view. Even someone questioning or new to the transgender community would benefit from this book. Released is set within the next few months.

Look for it around May or June of 2004.

-Tyler Fong

“You all know what sex you are, right? A few students nod in affirmation. So, *how* do you know? Your mother tells you, someone suggests.” Green states, “And you believe her?”

The Vision and Voice of Two FTM Pioneers: Loren Cameron and Jamison Green

Photographer/author Loren Cameron and author/educator Jamison Green co-present new works and words of FTM transsexual/transgender experience and perspectives.

Sunday, May 23, Main Library, Lower Level,
Koret Auditorium, 2:00 p.m.
100 Larkin Street (at Grove)

Alaska
Alaskan T-People
 c/o Bobbie Wendy Tucey
 P.O. Box 670349
 Chugiak AK 99567-0349

Arizona
**Evolvere Transgender Founda-
 tion**
 1830 E. Broadway #124-269
 Tucson, AZ 85719
 (520) 884-0541
 Provides counseling, gender
 education, appearance, group
 support, and grants for SRS. The
 group is open to CDs, TVs, and TS
 (both MTF and FTM) and friends
 thereof.

California
Berkeley
**Pacific Center for Human
 Growth**
 United Genders of the Universe
 Sundays 7pm
 TransMission
 (for folks on the FTM-spectrum),
 ages 25 and under
 Wednesday 8PM
 Transgender Support Group
 Friday 8pm
 2712 Telegraph Ave.
 Berkeley, CA 94705

Los Angeles
Genderqueer Boyzzz
 L.A. area.
 Contact Jacob Hale (323) 665-1130.
 Email: zerobovijh@aol.com

San Diego
San Diego FTM Support group
 The Center, 3916 Normal St., San
 Diego.
 3rd Saturday of every month 4-6pm
 Contact (619) 629-2077.

Santa Cruz
SCOUT (Santa Cruz Organizing &
 Uniting Transmen). Supportive, non-
 judgemental environment. Meetings
 are open to all - partners and
 questioning people welcome!
 Meetings held at the Santa Cruz
 LGBT center, 1328 Commerce Lane.
 Info: (831) 425-5422. Every 4th
 Monday 7pm. Call (831) 429-5663
 for information.

San Francisco UCSF Transgender
 Life Care Project (TLC) is now
 offering:
 FtM Support Group
 Facilitated by Koen Baum
 Held at the Center for AIDS Preven-
 tion Studies, UCSF
 1145 Bush Street, 2nd Floor
 (between Hyde and Leavenworth)
 San Francisco, CA 94109
 Every Tuesday starting January 6,
 2004 from 4:30 PM- 6:00 PM
 Food and Refreshments provided

United Genders of the Universe
 Mondays 7pm
 Room Q33, 3rd Floor
 SF LGBT Center
 1800 Market St.
 San Francisco, CA
 For directions and more information
 email unitedgenders@yahoo.com

Santa Monica
**Androgyny, The Transgender
 Menace Southern California**
 Transgender Menace Southern
 California is a direct action group
 dedicated to using any means
 necessary to make the world a
 safe, just place for all transfolk
 and genderqueers.
 Santa Monica, California
 Meetings: Tuesday nights from
 8:00 p.m. until 9:30 p.m.
 For further information:
 Call: (323) 962-9175 Contact:
 Shirley Shirley@earthlink.net
 Call: (323) 665-1130 Contact:
 Jacob zerobovijh@aol.com

Sylmar
Under Construction
 P.O. Box 922342, Sylmar, CA
 91392-2342.
 Contact: Jeff Shevlowitz (818)
 837-1904. Email:
littlesehv@juno.com

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

**S.C.I.R.T.S. (Southern Colorado
 IntraRegional Transgender
 Society) and T-GENTS for FTMs**
 meet Tues. nights at 8 pm, every
 3rd Sat. at 8 pm.
[www.geocities.com/
 WestHollywood/Heights/4484](http://www.geocities.com/WestHollywood/Heights/4484).

Indiana
FTM Indianapolis meets at
 Diversity Center, Southeast Ave.
 Ph: Holling, 317 539-7342 or
virago18@hotmail.com SOs
 welcome!

Massachusetts
**East Coast Female-to-Male
 Group** P.O. Box 60585, Florence
 Station, Northampton, MA 01061.
 Ph: 413-584-7616, Bet Power.
 Every 3rd Sun. 3-6pm. All-
 inclusive support group for FTM
 persons and their SOs.

**Support Group for straight
 spouses** meets monthly in
 Northampton. Call Jane Harris: 43-
 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

Ohio
Trans Pride for transgendered
 people, allies, and friends. 3rd
 Friday, 7 pm. Akron Pride Center,
 71 N. Adams St. 330-263-2220. Or
 e-mail 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. By trans
 guys we mean guys who were
 born and raised as female but
 who don't presently identify as
 female. All sexual proclivities
 welcome. Drop us a line or give a
 call if you think the shoe fits and
 we'll get in touch. Chris (FTM) and
 Hillary (SO): 503-471-1515,
Cocksure@hevanet.com

Pennsylvania
Philadelphia TG Hotline 215-
 732-1207, Mon & Thurs, 6-10 pm.
 Info and peer counseling for
 transmen, transwomen, and those
 with gender-related questions and
 concerns.

**Transgender Health Action
 Coalition (T-HAC)** Organizational
 meetings 2nd & 4th Thurs. 8-9:30
 pm, 4th floor, Washington West
 Offices, 1201 Locust St.,
 Philadelphia PA 19107. All
 Welcome.

WeXist Philadelphia-based non-
 political FTM support group. Open
 to all assigned female at birth who
 have gender identity issues or
 questions, or need support for
 gender concerns. Every 2nd Sat.
 at William Way Community Center,
 5:30-7pm. Info: 215-848-7674, box
 6, or WeXist@aol.com

Tennessee
Knoxville Boys FTM support
 group open to all female-born,
 masculine-identified persons and
 their significant others, friends,
 family and allies. It's hard to find
 people, professionals, and
 resources here. Now it's time we
 all work together. Pool resources,
 build resources, and build
 friendships. 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.

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.

Wisconsin
**FORGE = For Ourselves:
 Reworking Gender Expres-
 sion** A monthly social support and
 newsletter for FTM TSs and TGs;
 butches; drag kings, gender
 queers, radicals, and outlaws;
 people assigned female at birth
 and our SOs, friends and family.
 Michael Munson, PO Box 1272,
 Milwaukee, WI 53201; 414-278-
 6031; email
dmmunson@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, PO 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;
 education, support and referral to
 other organizations, service providers
 and community services; counseling;
 social and support groups; bi-monthly
 magazine *Polare*.
 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
 Advocacy; public education; outreach;
 info and peer support contacts for
 family, partners, allies of FTMs;
 contact info for FTM resources
 worldwide; and a monthly peer-run
 discussion/support group, FTM Etc.
 Info: lukasw@direct.ca

France
CARITIG
 B.P. 756
 75827 Paris Cedex 17
 France
 Phone/fax: +33 01.53.17.05.27.
 Email: caritig@caritig.org
 Extensive bilingual website: [http://
 www.caritig.org/](http://www.caritig.org/)

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

DGTI (Deutsch Gesellschaft fur
 Transidentitat und Intersexualitat)
 dgti e. V., c/o Helma Katrin Alter,
 Godorfer Hauptstr. 60, 50997 Koln.
 Tel/Fax: 02236-839018

Japan
FTM Nippon
 Contact Masae Torai, Adachi-ku,
 Adachi-Nishi-post office-dome, Tokyo
 123

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.