

FEATURES:

Travelogue
Heidi & James Go to Taiwan

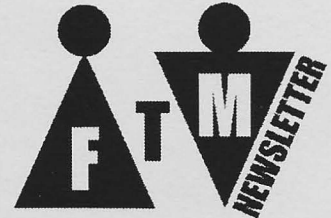
Cinematic Discomfort
Gwen Smith Takes On the Movie Biz

Multicultural Conference in Australia

White Privilege
An In-depth Look

The Bionic Phallus
Cyber Skin and Beyond

Book Review
From the Inside Out
Edited by Morty Diamond



FTM International's newsletter for female-to-male transgender and transsexual people and allied partners, lovers, family members, friends, and professionals.



The Shrine of Remembrance in Melbourne Australia , where the AGMC had its annual conference see article inside!

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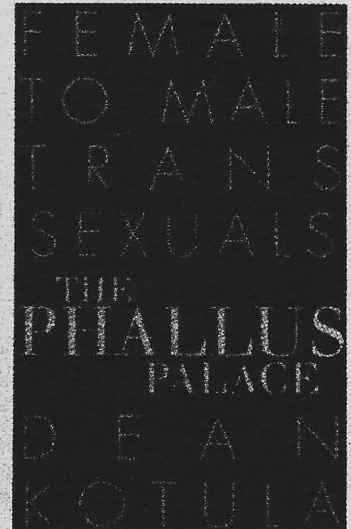
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THE PHALLUS PALACE: FEMALE TO MALE TRANS SEXUALS

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.

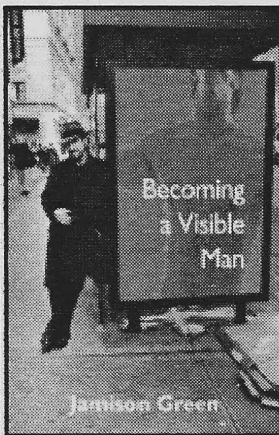


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Provocative

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Henry Rubin

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VOLUNTEERING: There are many volunteer opportunities before and throughout the weekend. Volunteering will not reduce registration fees -- please complete the front of this form to register. If you'd like to help make this conference happen, please mark the dot below or e-mail our volunteer coordinator: volunteer@femmeconference.org.

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Amber Hollibaugh

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activist, filmmaker, educator

Laura Harris

co-editor of

Femme: Feminists, Lesbians & Bad Girls

Veronica Monet

sex worker and sex educator

Dossie Easton

writer, therapist, and ethical slut

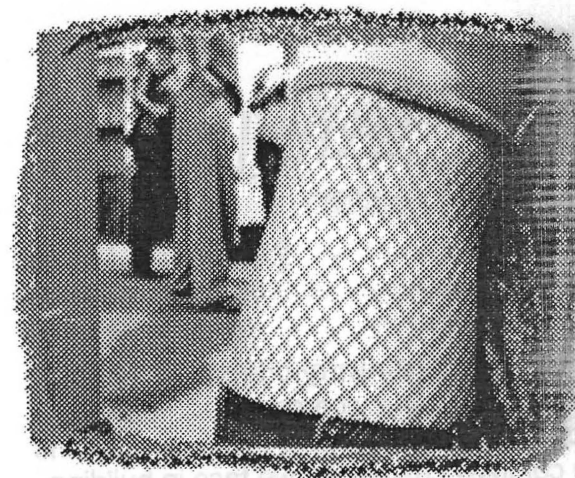
Shar Rednour

writer, director and porn star

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For more information about submitting proposals for workshops or panels, volunteer opportunities, vendor space, advertising, or art submissions, please visit our evolving web site:

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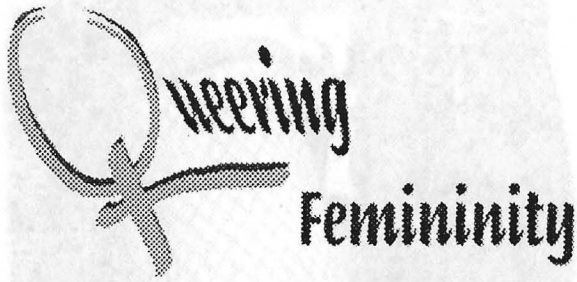


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Web:
www.femmeconference.org



Queering Femininity offers a variety of presentations and workshops addressing aspects of living as queer and feminine, and the complex challenges we face in building and sustaining community. This conference will offer opportunities for us to support one another and challenge ourselves as we recognize and negotiate the impacts of gender, age, class, race, etc. on our lives and communities.

IS IT FOR ME?

Queering Femininity is open to anyone. The programming is focused primarily on the lives of feminine-identified people in relation to queer, lesbian, bisexual, dyke, and trans communities. Whether you identify as feminine, female or queer, are part of a queer community because of the people you love, or are simply questioning the role of femininity in your life, this conference is for you.

LOCATION

The conference will be held at:

Washington State Convention & Trade Center
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THE PROGRAM

Workshops: We've lined up some terrific presenters with a wealth of experience and knowledge to offer their insights and perspectives. Our workshops are designed to be educational and thought-provoking, and also to leave plenty of time for participants to contribute and learn from one another.

Panels: Sometimes the best resource sharing comes out of relating our experiences. Panels will include presenters ready and willing to share their life experiences, and will give you an opportunity to share yours as they relate to specific topics.

Caucuses: Caucuses are spaces designed just for people who share a common identity, issue, or circumstance. We've scheduled various caucus spaces during Queering Femininity as times to talk, debrief, or just hang out. The only pre-structuring we've done is to ask that only people who find themselves personally aligned with the caucus topic access this space.

Special Events: Sharing and assimilating information all day long can sometimes be exhausting and overwhelming work. So, we have included special events to help you relax, build upon new and old friendships, and just have fun. Be sure to check out the vendor fair, art exhibit, cabaret, dance, play party, and other special events throughout the weekend.

WE WANT YOUR PROPOSALS! (And we want 'em by February 28th) Want to see a topic addressed? Make it happen! For information on submitting proposals for panels or workshops, please see our web site:

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Instructions: Fill out one form per person. Please print legibly. Mail it with your check or money order made payable to:

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Returned checks are subject to a \$20 fee. Cancellations received on or before 5/13/05 will be charged a \$15 fee. No refund on cancellations received after 5/13/05.

Dear Members and Readers

By Zion Johnson



ZION

I'm excited to be writing my first letter as president of FTM International. It's a new year, and there is new leadership placing directions in the navigational system. Thankfully Martin Rawlings-Fein has remained dedicated to FTM International. He has been a great resource for the new crew.

I've been with FTM International for about three years now, and as I have transitioned, the organization has been doing the same. The longer I stay, the deeper the roots and responsibility. I never question whether I can be the face for FTM International. It is a test of strength and endurance rather than possibility.

When I met my first FTM, I didn't even realize what that could mean. The reality of it didn't sink in. I was more concerned with his beautiful friend I was dating at the time. I had trained myself to be okay with my body. As long as I focused on someone else's body I was cool. I spent four years living in San

Francisco before even hearing about FTMs. Walking through the Castro where I live men blend in with other men where femininity stands out. Any transgenderism was associated with male-to-females, and to make a long story short, but including always feeling male and being very distant to my own body, I came into my own sitting up late with a group of gay men one night chilling out

"I had trained myself to be okay with my body. As long as I focused on someone else's body I was cool.."

talking.

Things began to make a lot more sense. Questions I asked years ago were answered as if I asked them that moment. I began showing up at the monthly meeting in order to get information and hear that everything was possibly for me too. Although, the only time I saw other guys like me was at those monthly meetings, it was comforting to have somewhere to go for a moment. I have learned that FTM International and its newsletter is also a

place to go for many others. One of the reasons I stepped up for a while to help lead was to pay back this mainstay. I want to further along FTMI so others can connect, grasp on, and help fuel a truly needed organization.

Just in the short time of being with FTM International I have seen brothers come and go. I have seen the organization bring people together and supply others with information and space. I particularly would like to see FTMI expand, diversify, and reach the needs of many FTMs no matter how they identify.

One of the ways FTM International reaches people is through this newsletter, but it takes money to do that. The organization has been working hard looking for alternative ways to get the newsletter to everyone at lower costs to all. The organization is volunteer run, and FTMI is in dire need of funds.

We will be here and available, but we need contributions. I want to put out as much positive energy out for the New Year ahead of us all. I see continued wonderful things for our community in the near future. ●

Editor's Note: When I took on the task of putting together this newsletter, I never realized how much of my heart and soul I would put into each issue. My wife calls FTMI and the newsletter "The Other Woman," perhaps not the best choice of words, yet they carry an idea of how devoted I am to FTM International. However devotion does not get a newsletter published, that takes money and a little under 1,000 USD for each issue. We have cut costs considerably since a year ago, however this time we had to take out four pages to save enough money to print this issue. This is regrettable however it is the way things will be for at least the next two issues. You can still count on us being true to Lou Sullivan's original intent of spreading the tidbits of trans knowledge throughout the globe, however the issues will not be as bulky for at least two issues. *Martin Rawlings-Fein*

Hello Readers: By Zion Free Johnson **1**
 What's Going On? **3**
 Travelogue: By Heidi Green **4**
 Cinematic Discomfort : By Gwen Smith **5**
 Healing Gender Phobia Through Education: By Juan Lamas **6**
 Tim Wise Speaks About White Privilege: By Heidi Green **7**
 The Bionic Phallus: By Tucker Lieberman **8**
 News **9**
 FTMI Male Box **12**
 Book Review **13**
 Author Spotlight **13**

Let's welcome Alexander Yoo to the board!

Alexander founded GenderQueer Revolution, a group targeting local Gender-queer/other-gender/androgynous/beyond gender people in Southern California (and nationwide) for support, discussion, and action. Alexander has alliances with FTM Alliance, in addition to the genderqueer and POC communities. He has educated people on trans and queer issues in a variety of forums for different audiences such as high schools, community agencies, local events, and universities including UCLA, Cal State LA, and Antioch, where he is currently a graduate student.

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- newsletter subscription
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- publication discounts

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FTM International's newsletter for female to male transgender and transsexual people and their allied partners, lovers, family members, friends, and professionals

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Send articles, stories, artwork, photos, news items, announcements, letters, and queries to:
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Ad and Submission deadline for next Issue: February 15th

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PHOTO CONTEST

18-Month Calendar

FTMI: International and Inclusive

FTMI is creating an 18-month calendar (July 2005-December 2006) of diverse images of FTMs and their lives. A panel of judges appointed by the Board of FTMI will select the 18 winners. This is an opportunity for amateur shutterbugs, aspiring, and professional photographers to contribute to the community in a lasting way. The calendar will be available for sale from June 2005 forward.

Criteria: DIVERSE IMAGES OF FTMs AND THEIR LIVES

Entry deadline is April 15, 2005

Photographs can be sent in as prints, through email attachments, or on a disk. Calendar pages are 11" x 8.5" (letter paper, printed landscape orientation). For the best quality, the image is printed at 300 dpi. This means that the minimum number of pixels required is 3300x2550 pixels (8.5 x 300 = 2550, 11 x 300 = 3300). See Chart:

Megapixel	Dimensions	Print Size @ 300 dpi	Example size without scaling
8.0	3264 x 2448	8.1" x 10.8"	Full Sheet of Letter Paper

We will need a signed release of the photo for FTMI to use the image. Photographer and the subject are required to sign the release included at the end of this notice, and return it to FTMI 160-14th St., SF, CA 94103. The releases must be in before the May 1st, or another applicant will be selected.

Include in the packet sent to Female-To-Male International the photograph, name of the photographer, a head shot of photographer, photographer signed release of photograph and name, biography of photographer, name of photo, subject signed release of photograph and name release form, and a \$25.00 entry fee check made payable to FTM International. Photographs will not be returned without a self addressed stamped envelope.

Thank You

The Board of FTM International

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TRAVELOGUE: ON BEING A HOMEBODY IN A JETSETTER'S LIFESTYLE

By Heidi B. Green

This is the first in a series of articles on my/our travels to different parts of the country and around the world, meeting FTMs and getting to know their communities everywhere we go. For the last three years, I have had the always wonderful, sometimes exhausting opportunity to travel extensively with my now (since October 2003) husband, Jamison Green. James attends many conferences and speaks all over the world as part of his personal mission to make the world a safer, more welcoming place for FTMs. We have criss-crossed the U.S., and been to Europe, Canada and Asia. By himself, James has gone even farther. While pursuing our activism this way is expensive in terms of out-of-pocket costs, both of us agree it is critical work and we are passionately committed to it. The title for the series comes from how I describe myself: while I love to travel, it's usually in limited doses; I wouldn't have flown in nearly 40 airplanes in the last year alone if it weren't for accompanying James on his travels! What a time we've had!

EXCITING TIMES FOR FTMs IN TAIWAN

Flying away from Taiwan, we are tired but exhilarated thinking back over the last six days. We arrived in Taiwan the Wednesday before Thanksgiving (though of course that was only meaningful for us coming from the United States). The next days were spent in a whirlwind of press conferences, speeches, scholarly discussions, sight-seeing, shopping and making friends.

My husband, Jamison (James) Green, had been invited by Senior Professor Josephine (Jo) Ho of National Central University in Jhongli, Taiwan, to be a featured presenter at the Sixth International Super-Slim Conference on Politics of Gender/Sexuality held on November 27th. Last year's featured presenter was Leslie Feinberg. Also featured at this year's Super-Slim was Anne Bolin, an anthropologist and Distinguished Professor at Elon University in Raleigh, North Carolina, as well as a number of local scholars and transpeople. Anne presented a paper entitled "Testy and Docile Bodies: Herstories of Compliance and Defiance in Women's Bodybuilding." James' paper was "Bodies Moving Beyond Gender Boundaries: Perspectives on the Development of FTM Community."

Thursday began with a press conference with Anne, James, Jo and the four major national newspapers. The questions were thoughtful, in depth, and respectful. Many of the questions

focused on James' background and knowledge because transpeople, and particularly FTMs, are not very visible in Taiwan. One reporter even politely asked for permission to ask me why I would want to be with a transman. I thought the answer was pretty obvious, so I just smiled and said, "Because he's sexy!" They laughed, and took lots of pictures of all of us. Anne's work was also very transgressive for Taiwanese culture. There is a strong cultural disdain for looking muscular, especially for women, but also for men. It is considered lower class to have muscles since they imply one must do manual labor for a living. The next day several of the papers carried pictures and well-written articles. Great timing for the conference Saturday!

On Friday, James and I went in different directions. He and Anne gave a talk to 50 students in the English Department, while I was presenting a paper on "Leadership Styles in the U.S." to the graduate students in Human Resources in the School of Business. (I have an M.B.A. from UC Davis, and am certified as a Senior Professional by the Society of Human Resource Management. I also worked at Procter & Gamble for 14 years and did a great deal of training, including diversity awareness and leadership for new managers.) I gave my presentation in English, with no translation available for the students. They paid attention, clearly understood the nuances, and asked insightful, probing questions for the hour following my talk. All the Taiwanese students we encountered impressed us with their intelligence, drive, and discernment.

Saturday was the Super Slim Conference, a full day of scholarly presentations to a 200+ audience of very attentive students, academics, and business professionals. James and Anne presented their papers in English (they had been previously translated for the audience's benefit) and the rest of the papers presented in Mandarin Chinese. Professor Ho arranged for student translators for James and Anne, plus Anne's husband, Greg, and me. Their command of English ranged from very good to amazing.

(Continued on page 10)

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Cinematic Discomfort

By Gwendolyn Ann Smith

In 1996 I attended a transgender conference in Atlanta called Southern Comfort. While there - and over successive years - I had the pleasure to meet many wonderful people. One of these was a man who always stood out to me, and who I looked for every year. His name was Robert Eads.

In 1999, during a keynote speech at the same conference, Robert told all of us that he had cancer and would soon be leaving us. By the 2000 event, he was gone. The conference attendees got a "sneak preview" of a documentary about Robert instead, called appropriately enough, "Southern Comfort." In it, he was immortalized as the man he was, surrounded by his lover, a male-to-female transwoman named Lola, and his friends: Max and his then-partner Cori, and Cas and his non-transgender partner, Stephanie.

I tell you this because there is a dramatization of this story that has just recently

been announced, and I may have my biases as I speak of this proto-film. I find myself troubled by this possible feature, mainly for the casting choices thus far presented in the media.

Sissy Spacek has been named to play the lead role as Robert Eads, with Alan Cumming pegged for Lola. Playing Robert's friends will be Melissa Etheridge (barring cancer treatment issues) and Demi Moore.

These are all fairly big names, and can only help make this film all the bigger. While I do like the idea that this story will be able to touch the hearts of so many people who would never deign to watch a documentary, I still find myself with reservations. Some of those are personal, and are clearly because I am too close to those whose lives are in this story. It is more than this, though. What I am most concerned with is a simple case of gender. To illustrate, let me bring up another big transgender-themed film

so large, it won the Academy Award for Hilary Swank: "Boys Don't Cry."

In "Boys Don't Cry," we meet Brandon Teena, a still very new female-to-male. Due to the nature of his birth sex and his own transsexuality, he is raped, then later murdered.

I get asked about Brandon often, thanks to my work on anti-transgender violence. I also get a lot of letters about Brandon from a link to the Remembering Our Dead website from the official website for the film. There is one thing that seems to be a common thread with most of these letters, and it's that Brandon is called "she." On a couple of occasions, I questioned people as to their choice of pronoun for Brandon. Universally, the answer was the same: Hilary Swank played the role, and she's a woman. So they saw a woman who was "pretending" to play a man, and ergo, Brandon too was a woman in a costume.

That is exactly my

(Continued on page 16)

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Healing Gender Phobia Through Education

By Juan Alejandro Lamas

The weekend of Friday October 15th - 17th in Melbourne Australia saw the Inaugural Australian: Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Intersex, Queer Multicultural conference take place, a very exciting moment for multicultural, queer Australia without a doubt.

In Australia there are a number of culturally based Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (GLBTIQ) communities. Representing over 34 cultures, these groups have traditionally been formed to provide social support for Australians from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CALD) backgrounds that identify as GLBTIQ.

The main aim of the conference was to highlight, discuss, explore and respond to issues relating to sexual and gender diversity across and

within the various ethnic communities as well as providing a solid foundation for future projects.

I attended the conference as a Panel speaker as well as running my own workshop on FTM education. The panel consisted of 5 speakers from Multicultural heritage speaking about

In Australia there are a number of culturally based Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer (GLBTIQ) communities.

phobia towards them from a personal, academic and political front. I chose to tackle the topic of gender phobia from within the Queer community itself. Speaking on everything from

Trans women not being "allowed" into women only events transpeople being outed, disrespected and having to prove their place within the "Queer" community.

What came out of this was an amazing life of its own discovery. I was being asked

questions from the broader GLB community such as what actually is FTM? What does it mean? What does your family think? The raw honesty of the questions and being in a multicultural space gave me such an insight into the GLB community and their miss-education, well more like lack of education. I remembered my own head space 10 years ago when the first FTM in Australia transitioned and came to the conclusion that a lot of the gender phobia within GLB communities is based on lack of information, lack of understanding.

My follow up session was huge; the room had approximately 80 people, many of whom were still wanting to speak to me at the end of the session. I closed my session speaking about my own personal fears as a Latino, and my constant interactions with police. I was taken aback when an officer in uniform approached me at the end of the session wanting contact details. This may not sound like much to a strong established community such as that in SF but for Melbourne Australia, but it was a wonderful moment.

I have been on a high since the conference, although I do not spend much time within the GLBT community as I felt betrayed, shunned and excluded for almost three years during transition with many negative moments. I have decided to take the graciousness and openness

(Continued on page 7)

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(Continued from Therapist page 6)

shared with me at the AGMC and turn it into further TRANS 101 education within that community.

Many participants took a look at the FTMI website and gave me feedback about the site by the time the conference was over. It seemed the community was more than willing to listen and accept me as a whole per-

son and from that a lot of positive information was exchanged. ●

<http://www.agmc.org.au/>

Tim Wise Speaks About White Privilege

By Heidi B. Green

Heidi Green our reporter at large comes to us with a piece about white privilege and doing the anti-racism work that FTMI board members have all committed to do.

Doing anti-racism work is important to the board members of FTMI, and our commitment requires us to realize that our work is not only about transgender issues exclusively, but about all issues of oppression. As we learned from the recent report on racism that the board commissioned (see Issue #55 for a review of the report), many people in our community are dealing with multiple forms of oppression. As part of my commitment to this work, I recently attended a program offered at the University of California at Berkeley, and I thought it would be of interest to FTMI members who are also concerned about fighting racism.

"The key thing for all white people here to learn is that, no matter how many books you read, or classes you go to, or NPR special reports you hear, or however smart you are, ANY person of color you meet has FORGOTTEN more about racism – since breakfast – than you will ever know."

With those opening words, Tim Wise, called "the foremost white anti-racist intellectual in the nation," began a 90-minute, high speed, blunt, and impassioned lecture on how white

privilege harms this country, not just morally and spiritually, but economically as well. He even demonstrated, graphically, how white privilege is literally deadly, even to whites.

The talk, called "Breaking Ranks: Why Whites Must Join the Struggle for Racial Equity," was sponsored by third world Liberation Center's: Cross Cultural Student Development (<http://multicultural.berkeley.edu>) and bridges Multicultural Resource Center (<http://bridges.berkeley.edu>), two U.C. Berkeley student organizations focused on issues of multiculturalism and recruitment/retention. The audience (70+ people at Dwinelle Hall on Friday evening 11/12, 80% college age, the rest older, half white, half people of color) was riveted and energized. Audience members were given to frequent exclamations of agreement "That's right!" and "You're tellin' the truth!" and "That's what I'm talkin' about!" as Wise hammered point after point.

First, Wise explained why it seems crazy for whites to break the ranks of white privilege. He outlined how the privilege works to the advantage of whites (as if people of color

need to be told how white privilege works, but the whites in the audience experienced some enlightenment). For example:

- It's a psychological advantage not to have to sweat your race on a daily basis. One less thing to

worry about.

- The data shows that white women are the most frequent shoplifters, but they aren't the ones followed around in stores. Whites get away with more. Statistics show that white people are twice as likely to have illegal drugs in their cars, but people of color are stopped twice as often as whites. Again, whites get away with more.

With advantages like these, Wise asked, why in the world would anyone break ranks? Many of us "progressive whites" would like to say that we disapprove of, and therefore do not accept the white privilege afforded us, however, if we reap the benefits of the bias, then we are "in it" and must take responsibility for fixing it.

Wise is a wonderful storyteller. He peppered his talk with anecdotes and statistics, with high drama and a new look at the world as it really is, and the harm white privilege is doing to all of us. As Wise pointed out, whites working to eliminate racism are not being noble altruists with nothing to gain. Working against racism is something whites need to do to save ourselves. Smart whites work against racism. Wise listed some of the harm white privilege is doing TO WHITES:

Mental/psychological harm from racism/white privilege:

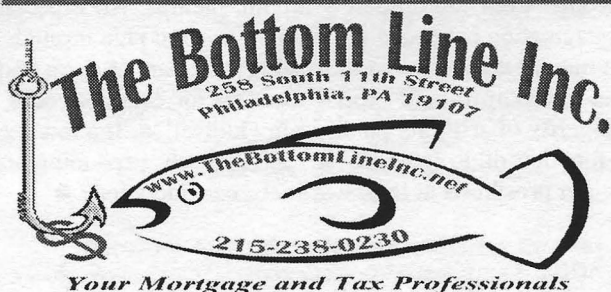
Privilege keeps whites from experiencing the world as it really is. For example, White people by and large believe that our justice system generally works (except when OJ got off).

Also, white people were stunned after 9/11. As Wise pointed out, no people of color in the U.S. were wandering

(Continued on page 11)

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The Bionic Phallus: Is a High-Tech Prosthesis Possible?

by Tucker Lieberman



FTMs give a lot of attention to genital surgery techniques and the possible technological advances down the road. Surgical options, however, have made little headway compared to the amazing developments in electronic and computerized prostheses over the past few years. The news from the prosthesis industry should be carefully followed

by anyone interested in the possibility of a high-tech cock.

Today's prostheses are smarter and more show-offy than the old wooden leg. The "Dextra" hand, developed by William Craelius of Rutgers University in 2002, allows patients to type and play the piano because it reads electrical impulses from the patient's own nerves. Imagine a phallus that could detect levels of biological arousal and use that information to influence the strength of the prosthetic erection, or detect stimulation on the prosthesis and mimic the motion onto sexually sensitive regions on the wearer's body. This would promote a more intimate sexual experience than simply masturbating while one's partner touches the prosthesis, because the partner's actions with the prosthesis would directly produce sensations on the wearer's body. Even outside of sexual situations, it could be psychologically satisfying to have a prosthesis that could "feel" just like males, FTMs would have a motivation not to get their "stuffer" caught in their zipper.

The newest materials in the prosthesis industry notably include electroactive polymers, plastics that respond to electric current by contracting in a way that mimics the natural contraction of muscles. NASA is researching its applications for space robots, and a conference devoted to this technology will be held in March 2005. Mohsen Shahinpoor, director of the Artificial Muscle Research Institute (AMRI) at the University of New Mexico, has robotized an entire skeleton called "Myster Bony" that is able to pedal a bicycle with electroactive polymer muscles. Shahinpoor responded to an inquiry about FTM technology saying he saw no reason why this material could not be used for an FTM penile prosthesis. AMRI's website has a few dozen video clips that show the material expanding and contracting.

The idea of a penile prosthesis that could expand at the touch of a button is appealing, but what if you didn't even need a button? Miguel A. L. Nicolelis of Duke University announced in 2003 that he had implanted a wireless computer chip in monkey's brains that allowed them to control a computer with their minds. The system may be compared to a wireless computer mouse that is "pressed" by the electric stimulation of brain activity. Applying this to our area of concern, shouldn't it be pos-

sible for an FTM to have a brain implant that controls the movement of his penis? It would be the envy of all males, who are generally paranoid about going hard or soft at the wrong times.

Bionic and surgical techniques are not at odds with each other. It's possible to blend man with machine in varying degrees, and even if one is committed to the idea of an artificial prosthesis, advances in biology are worth noting. A team of scientists experimenting on rabbits, led by Anthony Atala at Harvard Medical School, is the first to have regenerated penile nerve tissue, according to the *New Scientist* in 2003: "The physical support from the [millimeter-wide] collagen [channels] appeared to be all that was needed to coax the [severed] nerve cells into growing." Atala was also able to regenerate erectile

tissue, so that when the rabbits' corpora cavernosa were amputated and replaced with the lab-grown tissue, they were able to engage in procreative sex once again.

Stem-cell research is being conducted to help people with paralysis and life-threatening nerve disorders, and once these nerve-regenerating techniques are perfected, they may be useful for people with sexual complaints. The *Wall Street Journal* reported in 2004 that human studies may begin within the year to use stem-cell

treatments to protect the nerves of men undergoing surgery for prostate cancer. Other techniques of tissue development can make the penis look beautiful outside as well as inside: the Massachusetts-based Organogenesis, which sells a skin substitute that promotes healing for burn victims, stated in 1997 it could manufacture four acres of human skin from a few cells taken from a foreskin.

Whether combined with biological tissue or not, high-tech prostheses have enormous potential for FTMs. The best way to encourage their development and ensure that they become commercially available is to let scientists know we're interested. The biggest hurdle is probably not the feasibility of these future machines, but whether FTMs can psychologically bond with them. I think we can, because the same psychological process by which one comes to think of a surgically attached penis as part of one's body can also be used to think of a prosthesis as part of one's body. One can channel energy and intention through even the crudest symbolic phallus. No especially vivid imagination is needed to feel pleasure and pain through it—that's a natural consequence of treating it as part of one's body. Females have known and experienced this for countless eons, if the popularity of artificial phalli is any indication. If a low-tech, single-function dildo is good, isn't a high-tech, expanding-and-contracting prosthesis at least worth our consideration? ●

"The newest materials in the prosthesis industry notably include electroactive polymers, plastics that respond to electric current by contracting in a way that mimics the natural contraction of muscles."



News You Can Use

The events that shape our lives

The Netherlands - Researchers with Utrecht University Hospital seem to believe that upon the onset of Testosterone therapy, the brain gains visual and spatial skills, while there is marked decrease in verbal skills. The full article is in *Psychoneuroendocrinology* 24(4):423-47 1999.

Las Vegas, NV- Buck Angel will be representing FTMs everywhere, by signing a deal for 12 pictures with Robert Hill Releasing. He was representing the company at the recent Adult Entertainment Expo.

Eugene, OR - The new mayor of Eugene will take another look at the civil rights protections of Transgender individuals. Previously the issue arose in 2002 when the city council argued over putting gender identity into the protected classes of a domestic partnership bill, however the mayor at the time vowed to veto the domestic partner registry if the transgender protections remained intact.

Oklahoma City, OK- A transgender police officer filed a harassment complaint with the city on December 20th, after she was taken off her beat, and placed into a desk job.

Salem, OH- A federal lawsuit settled out of court for a firefighter who tried to transition on the job. The agreement will allow her to continue as a lieutenant in the fire department.

☐ *Compiled from wire reports.*

FTM International Meetings

Ongoing FTM International Meetings

2nd Sunday of each month, from 2:00 to 5:00 p.m., at the FTM International office, 160 14th Street, San Francisco

Meeting Descriptions

We alternate meeting type each month with *Informational* meetings held on odd numbered months, and *Support* meetings held on even numbered months.

Informational meetings are "open" to FTMs and other interested parties, these meetings are usually centered around a topic to focus discussion. Often we will have visiting professionals from the communities which serve transsexuals, topical films, or transsexual speakers who have completed the change. These meetings also provide time for networking and informal discussion.

Support meetings are "closed" or limited to self-identified FTM transgenders and transsexuals at any stage of the process, and women who are exploring those identities. There is a simultaneous meeting for partners at the same location. Please don't bring friends or significant others or therapists or journalists to support meetings.

Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for more information.

Schedules

2005:

January 9th (open), February 13th (closed), March 13th (open), April 10th (closed), May 8th (open), June 12th (closed), July 10th (open), August 14th (closed), September 11th (open), October 9th (closed), November 13th (open), December 11th (closed)

Other Meetings

Call FTM Voicemail (415-553-5987) for more information.



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(Continued from *Travelogue*
page 4)

The other topics of the conference were "Concubinage and Feminist Imaginaries" by Naifei Ding, "In the Shadow of the 'School': Politics of Anime Representation of Machine Bodies and Violent Pleasures" by JenPeng Liu, "Alternative Embodiments in Tolkien's Trans-species Fantasy: Unequal Love and the Contradictions of Fellowship" by Amie Parry, "Shifting Bodies and Gender/Sexuality Markings: Constructing Ownership of the Body" by JiaFei Hsu, and, at the end, a panel discussion with Anne Bolin, Jamison Green, Shiau-Ren and Sander (the last two are local transmen) on "Gender Transgressive Bodies." Both Ren and Sander were speaking publicly for the first time about being trans. Their words were heartfelt and moving.

On Sunday was the most significant event for Taiwan's progress toward becoming aware of transpeople in their midst. An important Taiwanese composer of Chinese opera (a very popular form of entertainment in Taiwan) decided to use the opportunity of James' visit to come out publicly as an FTM. Tim had transitioned three years earlier, but was very fearful of the impact to his career if his trans-status were known. He was also experiencing the dissonance that many transpeople feel as they wish to fully embrace who they are without hiding, felt that he finally needed to move forward and that this would be a safe way to do it, despite his significant and understandable fear. In fact, Professor Ho, who, as an ally, leads the TG Butterfly Garden (Taiwan's longest standing trans group) got a call from a friend of Tim's three hours before the press conference saying Tim was panicking and would not attend after all. Jo assured the friend that what was important was that Tim take care of himself, and that not coming was okay. When she hung up the phone though, she was visibly scrambling mentally deciding how to handle it. A consummate professional and skilled political organizer, Jo had figured out within a few minutes how to bring off the press conference successfully without Tim. An hour later, another call came through saying he would be there, but we didn't assume it would happen until we saw Tim, looking haggard, in the doorway.

The room was filled with TV cameras and reporters. All five of the major net-

works were there. James spent the hour before Tim arrived telling his own story to the press. Professor Ho had asked him to do that so that the reporters could hear from someone comfortable communicating with the media, and get some of the awkward questions out of the way. When Tim came in, he spent about ten minutes talking, passionately, painfully, about the agony of a childhood spent being told he was deviant and bad, with everyone from parents to teachers to strangers on the street trying to "fix" him. One of the most poignant things he said was, "When you are trans, you must love yourself more than anyone else in the world, in order to get all the way through this." Tim then told the reporters they could ask him questions, if they dared, saying he would tell them what to do with their questions if they crossed the line and were too personal. Professor Ho's strategy of having reporters talk to James before Tim arrived was beginning to make a lot of sense.

One person in the audience said she was a teacher and wanted to know what teachers could do to handle kids like Tim better. Tim responded angrily and said "You've done enough damage, leave us alone!" I was startled at his hostility and turned to Naifei Ding who was translating for me and said, "Tim's more of a wounded child than a diplomat." To my surprise, Naifei agreed with Tim, saying that in Taiwan, the role of teachers is to stamp out deviance. They aren't supposed to encourage a child to grow into their own separate self the way we imagine we are in the U.S. Deviance in Taiwan society means you are transgressing normalcy. Normalcy is the ideal, the model. Everyone must strive to be normal, to be perfect. Stigma is to be avoided at all costs. She reminded me that Taiwan is a mere ten years out of authoritarian rule.

The press conference ended with James and Tim shaking hands and handing each other copies of their latest works: Tim gave James DVDs of two of his operas and James gave Tim a copy of his new book, *Becoming a Visible Man*. The flashbulbs going off made it seem like the red carpet at the Academy Awards! The papers on Monday were filled with the story, and again the reporters were respectful of both men and really tried to convey the message they delivered: that it is painful and wrong when a person cannot be who he or she is.

One of the things I have seen over and

over again in the three years James and I have been together, is what a difference it makes to reach out to people who are living lives where they feel lost and alone. I have seen so many young men, and sometimes their parents or other family members, come up to James to thank him for opening a window or a door for them. Some have even said that just knowing there was someone else out there like them, enabled them to hang on and not give up hope. And just as many non-trans people come up and say, "I never understood that being trans was just *normal*. Thank you for making me think." In almost every speech he gives, James talks about the importance of people realizing that there are an endless number of faces and stories in our trans community, that each one is different and unique and important to share. In Taiwan, he said, "We must be willing to bring our transness out into the world, so the community can see the face of, and understand the value of, difference."

Those were the political events over the six days we were there. James worked four of the six days, I worked one (the right ratio for me!), and, according to Professor Ho, the ripples from this event are only beginning. But the trip wasn't all work! At the beginning of this piece, I mentioned that we also went sight-seeing and shopping, and we did! It was the most amazing experience. We went to the Ceramic Museum in Jhongli and then to the Old Street to buy pottery. Incredible handmade pieces for \$10-\$15 US! Not sweatshop labor either. Professor Ho, our guide, would not have stood for that. We bought so much pottery, we had to buy another suitcase, too, great quality and big, for \$50 US. We went to street vendors, to the Night Market, the Chiang Kai Shek Memorial, to two temples (one Taoist, and one for a local god) and the National Palace Museum. We ate all kinds of amazing food, in fact, we will never be able to eat Chinese food in the States again because this was so far beyond anything I've EVER had in the U.S. - even in San Francisco's Chinatown! We will also never be intimidated by San Francisco traffic again - Jhongli drivers (and Taipei's to a lesser extent) are fearless, terrifying, and enormously skilled. James says he's not intimidated by SF traffic, but now he is less intimidated by the idea of driving in Paris or Rome!

Our experience of the people we met was that they were very well-informed, about not only Taiwanese politics, but

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from *White Privilege* page 7)

around asking about those in Arab countries "Why do they hate us?!"

In Gallup polls across the U.S., a large majority of white people indicated that they believe whites comprise about a third of the citizenry of the U.S., blacks another third, Latinos 20%, and the remaining 13% an exaggerated mix of other people of color. Many whites think they are a threatened minority!

Privilege keeps people from learning that money and skin color can't always protect you from bad things happening. Whites are disproportionately the ones on anxiety and depression drugs. Wise suggested that whites are less resilient to stress because they are taught that they belong at the front of the line and life should be fair.

Economic harm of racism/white privilege:

According to data put together by a leading economist, the impact of racism on the productive capacity of this nation – defined as people working at jobs that are less than their ability – is \$240 billion a year. *Less money in the economy harms all of us, white people and people of color.*

The concept of whiteness was invented to keep poor whites and slaves from joining together to overthrow the few but mighty rich white men who owned everything (sound familiar?). They managed to convince the white indentured servants and free whites eking out a living that at least they could dream of one day being an owner because at least they weren't black, **THEY WERE WHITE**. This worked, despite the fact that the *poor whites and slaves would have all been better off if they had joined forces.*

Political harm of racism/white privilege:

Racial inequity doesn't result in smart policy. Racism, and the fear of the black/brown menace, has been used by politicians for years to keep voters approving more prisons. This despite repeated, irrefutable data that shows that prison doesn't stop crime, education does. However, prisons are more lucrative for the white elite, and education would give access to power to those not in the elite. So in the last

fifteen years, California has built 21 new prisons and only one new four-year college. *Poor and middle class whites are kept out of schools because of inadequate supply and spiraling costs.*

Racism loses elections:

In the 2000 presidential election, the Democrats lost the election because of voting irregularities. A large number of the votes affected by the irregularities happened in communities of color. That is well known. What is not talked about is that the Democrats chose not to fight and therefore participated in the racial disenfranchisement. The standard of proof to void the election in Florida was simple disproportionate impact on communities of color, and that was amply demonstrated. They did not have to prove intent. The impact was clearly evident, but Gore and his advisors did not pursue it. Why? Were

Racism, and the fear of the black/brown menace, has been used by politicians for years to keep voters approving more prisons. This despite repeated, irrefutable data that shows that prison doesn't stop crime, education does.

they unconsciously racist, or did they deliberately decide that winning the election was not worth having to enfranchise people of color?

Again in 2004, approximately 3% of the votes were spoiled by bad technology. Spoiled votes don't get counted. A disproportionate number of spoiled votes happen in communities of color because the oldest technology is in those communities. Members of those communities voted in much higher proportion for Kerry. Didn't Bush win by about 3%?

Security harm of racism/white privilege:

Racism has led us to racial profiling, which puts all of us at risk because it results in security personnel being diverted to nonsensical pursuits while truly dangerous people who fit our stereotypes of trustworthy people can bring bombs onto airplanes and trains.

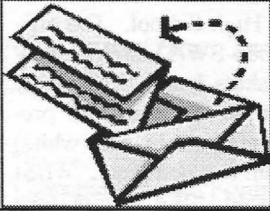
A final, chilling anecdote demonstrating the danger of white privilege that Wise shared with the audience was a call he received from a member of the SWAT team that went

into Columbine High School. The officer said that when SWAT arrived they could hear the shots being fired inside the school. As he and the team prepared to immediately go in, the (white) leader of the team stopped them. When questioned he said, "We cannot take this building yet by force because these are white people with money and nice cars. If we take this building now, and any white people are killed by our actions, we will get our asses sued." So they waited until the shots stopped, and then they took the building. *White privilege, in this case, was deadly to whites.*

Wise clearly and repeatedly made the point that the wisdom he was sharing with the audience came from a lifetime of conversations with black and brown people. He noted that black and brown people have been saying the sorts of things he says for years, but white privilege gives him access and credibility that people of color don't have. Our culture would like him to take credit for wisdom that was gifted to him by the generous people of color in his life. He gets 70-80 speaking opportunities a year, and he is under no illusions that it is his skin color that makes him more palatable to the people with the money to hire him. He also made the point that he will receive that privilege regardless, and that what matters is what he (and what all of us white people) does with the privilege. He chooses to make us listen.

What I thought was missing from the presentation were the next steps. What do we do to enroll other whites who haven't heard this presentation and don't see their privilege in the effort to interrupt racism? How do we move people who have an investment in their own blindness to see that racism is literally killing not just people of color, but white people too? The presentation was long on motivation to do the work, but short on practical steps to get there.

Wise's final point was that this issue is not about white people as individuals, but about white-ness or white supremacy. This comment was greeted with loud shouts of agreement by the people of color in the audience. It's clear to me that understanding and combating white privilege isn't just something white people can do to help people of color improve their lives, it's something white people *must* do in order to change society to benefit everyone.



FTMI Male Box

To Add Your Opinion:

Email: FTMIalebox@yahoo.com
Mail: FTM International C/O Editor, 160 14th Street, San Francisco, Ca 94117
We will consider publishing letters containing fewer than 150 words.

FTMI,

Does FTMI know anything about a book called "The Mysterious Disappearance of Camilla Lyman" ? If so is there any concern in the FTM community that the book can misinform readers about FTMs?

- M Pahoa

M,

Why did Cam Lyman disappear? Some said it was to escape for a sex change and some said it was because Cam's father had passed and Cam was free to live his life. This booklet is familiar to us here at FTMI you will find numerous discussions of the case in back issues of this newsletter, however this book seems more than a little biased when it comes to calling Cam her and she.

To give a little background on Cam Lyman, he presented as male in public, had a mustache, and from all accounts wore ties, and herringbone jackets to the many national dog shows he attended. As he became more and more fascinated in the dog show circuit he started to become more and more of a recluse. Eventually giving power of attorney to a friend, who was also his sole heir, and disappearing from public life. By the time he disappeared in 1985, he had already withdrawn so much that nobody really noticed his disappearance.

However the same man who handled his finances, the so called "Best Friend" did not report Cam missing at all, he just went about his business of keeping up appearances. When in December 1988 Cam's brother filed a missing persons report, the common thought was that Cam has gone to Europe for a sex change operation, however the truth was far from that. In December 1997 the new owner of the Lyman estate made a discovery of Cam's skeleton in the old septic tank. There really was no end to the speculation over the death/murder of Cam Lyman.

The booklet, which is available through Court TV's Crime Library, is a small speculative book that purports to have the true story of Cam Lyman's death, as well as an in-depth look into the case and the mystery. It also includes the legal documents, interviews and photographs. It is available at http://www.crimelibrary.com/premium/camilla_lyman/ for \$4.95.

If you asked my opinion, I think that when we die we are not treated like other people. We are looked at as somehow different, and the rules of decorum are somehow lost by those who ask the pornographic questions about our lives. The FTM community is hurt by every shred of misinformation out there, no matter how small, because a little bit of knowledge is a dangerous thing, and a little bit of misinformation can be a big problem in the wrong hands. However, the case has not generated a lot of publicity in that last few years, probably meaning that not many people have seen this booklet. I invite others to share their opinion about this case in future issues.

Marty Rawlings-Fein

FTMI,

Love the content of the newsletter, but the format you're using is driving me bonkers! The double columns are set so close together that my eye automatically jumps to the next column as I try to follow a line. It's not so bad when there are 3 columns across a page, but when there are 4 columns and each one is quite narrow, it's very difficult. I know you're trying to save space, but could you please try something different?

- Kerwin

Kerwin,

I am sorry that the column spacing was so hard for you to deal with. I was pretty new to the design part of the newsletter and got carried away with using as much space as I could. However, you will notice that the columns are much wider and articles that are close to each other are boxed. So, you can read the newsletter without squinting or pulling your hair out.

Thank you!

Marty Rawlings-Fein

Please write us at ftmimalebox@yahoo.com with your comments and concerns. If you do not write to us we will not know what you want to see in future issues.



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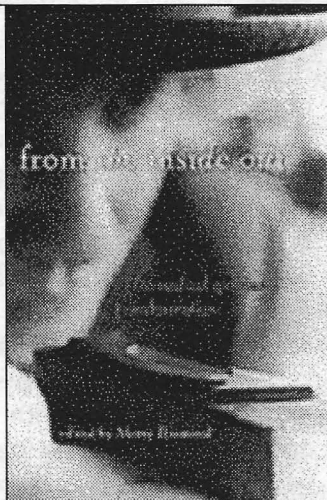
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Book Review

From the Inside Out : Radical Gender Transformation, FTM and Beyond

Edited by Morty Diamond

Transgender writers bring light to the experiences of those who identify as FTM, and those whose gender is fluid, Gender Queer, 3rd Gender, and Bi-Gender. Each was given the opportunity to explore aspects of their own gender identities, from family situations to dating, these authors have written stories offering insight into the definitions of self and identity politics.



I knew some of these transmen on a pretty surface level before reading, the stories provided insight into their thoughts and feelings, and gave me just enough reality to make me feel like I was getting to know them on a deeper level.

After reading this book I gained a new appreciation for the many flavors of transgender out there. Short stories are a favorite of mine and reading them seems to put me into the mood of "Hey just one more." It is a page turner, and Martin Inane's "Punk Rock Carnival Whores: a story" is irresistible. ●

Paperback: 216 pages

Publisher: Manic D Press (September 9, 2004)

ISBN: 0916397963

Review By Martin Rawlings-Fein

Real Men Wear Caps

A work of fiction

By **Nickolas J. McDaniel**

Discolored and watermarked . . . thin around the edges; Like a folded paper kept in the hip pocket of a schoolboy's favorite pair of jeans.

My memory is old and threadbare, stained by sweat and tears welled from the pores of a difficult life. Examined infrequently, this memory inspired by an old, dogeared photograph goes a long way towards defining me now as an adult male and at the age of four when I was still seen as a girl.

Even now I remember the object of my obsession. As a kid I often saw it astride my brother's head.

Four years older, Rusty was a man of the world in my innocent eyes: he was a member of the Cub Scouts. I secretly coveted his uniform cap . . . well, maybe it wasn't this item, per se, but more what it represented: cool badges, building little wooden cars . . . in short, boy stuff.

I can remember watching Mom and Russ getting into one of the family cars to attend a Pack meeting a couple of blocks away at El Gabilan Elementary School where I'd attend Kindergarten in a year or two.

My view-point was from under Dad's heavy, callused palm through the back screen door. No matter what time of day, it always looked like sunset because of the rusty mesh which showered amber flecks when slammed just so.

Desire or lust – whatever you would call a four year old kid's want – ran rampant as I watched my brother stride purposefully to the passenger side of the car: a customized 1966 Mustang.

Sun glinted enticingly off the golden button at the peak of his navy blue Cub Scout cap. The bill conducted a symphony as it danced to the rolling pitch and sway of his body. I can even recall the crisp yellow piping arching over the expansive contours of his head in contrast to the velvety blue field to which it clung.

I also remember how something acidic corroded me inside as I watched the Mustang crunch backward down the gravel driveway leaving me behind. At that age, I did not have the vocabulary to name or the maturity to grasp complex theories way beyond my years. My "little werewolf" (as I came to think of it until learning the term "transsexual" in 1999) raged inside while I stood obedient and contrite under the weight of Dad's

(Continued on page 14)



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(Continued from Caps page 13)

hand. I was good. I behaved. I was not happy.

My scalp tingled, itched and burned all at the same time underneath the oppressive pelt of mousy-brown hair. It was kept long at Mom's insistence. Throughout my childhood and adolescence, she wanted there to be no mistaking me for a boy. The thick mantle of shame passed from her shoulders to mine while my hair was long. Then only I felt weird. Mom was decades away from giving up the fallacious idea that she had a daughter. I knew if I wore the cap there would be no mistaking me for anything other than what I was: a boy.

That particular day, I wasn't so lucky. I stayed put. I was good. I obeyed and hated every moment of it.

Over the ensuing year I never forgot that cap.

At the age of five I was to inherit my brother's bedroom and give up the "cribby" in my parent's room. This transition was to set the stage for a pivotal moment in my life.

Before Russ extricated his stuff completely I crept into what would be my room for the next twenty-two years.

The brown carpet previously submerged under about a foot of my brother's stuff had not yet been removed. I distinctly remember how the nappy pile lisped under the overly sensitive pads of my bare feet.

I knew I was being bad but had to take the chance. The pearl of a well-hoarded memory lingered. I remembered the cap – how could I forget?

The possibility of not only obtaining the cap, but through it achieving boyhood overwhelmingly tipped the scales in favor of disobedience. Trouble is kind of fun, but even at that age I understood it was condoned *only if you were a boy*. The cap was just the thing to make everyone else see the real me even with long hair.

The closet groaned -- just a little — then stuttered as I pulled on the brass knob and the door grudgingly opened.

There it was, just as I remembered!

Momentarily I wondered if touching this overwhelmingly boy item of the like I'd been forbidden or denied many times in my short life would send me straight to Hell. As a five-year-old, I had no real concept of what Hell was, but from the "fire and brimstone" Southern Baptist sermons during church every Sunday morning, I gathered it was not a fun place for good people. Similarly, I also knew theft was a sin. Somehow in the end I reasoned wearing the cap would make everything right. Which sin would be worse: stealing, disobedience, or lying?

Once I got the cap, I sat Indian-style on the carpeted floor of the relatively private closet.

Though worse for wear from use, this cap was still my Holy Grail. It wasn't so much the cap itself I wanted. I wanted what it stood for to me. It was the key to not being called weird anymore and to not feeling wrong inside. With a simple swatch of cloth I hoped to erase my difference so Mom and Dad would love me and each other.

My parents knew nothing of transgenderism beyond the Jerry Springer Show which aired weekday afternoons. To them, I was just a tomboy who (they hoped, then prayed) would "grow out of it." The identity I was born with – a female bodied male – was an invisible wall no one broached or explicitly noticed, but it was there all the same. It fractured my already dysfunctional family just as it fractured me as a person. I shouldered that blame alone.

The blue crown – once velvety – was now splotched, smudged with fingerprints immortalized in dirt. The gold button on top sometimes popped off when the *Goo Gone!* failed. None of this mattered. I'd accomplished my goal and sat fingering the object of my obsession in the privacy of a dark closet.

When on my head, the cap simply felt right. Under that cap I could be myself without apology or restraint. Even as a kid I was aware of my difference and conscious of how cruel people – even family members – could be. I just wanted to be a normal little kid who was loved and valued. I just wanted to feel OK being me.

The picture is once again folded carefully along well-worn creases with my own callused, adult hands. I pull down on the bill of my security blanket – yes, still a cap – for the millionth time. Now the cap is red and sports a patch for O'Neill's Surfshop, not the Cub Scouts.

I enter the world's arena, stepping onto the stage of the Oprah Winfrey Show to tell the world my story, the one about a tomboy who survived growing up to be a happy, healthy man. I'll watch it when it airs with the rest of America.

First I have to get through the taping and the telling.

Maybe someone out there in TV land longs to wear his or her own version of the Cub Scout cap I once owned. Maybe after this show airs they just might find the courage to do so and feel unashamed or even proud as I am today.

As the Nirvana line goes and I've always known, *[I] should've been a son*.

With the first step onto the gloss black stage,

(Continued on page 16)

(Continued from Travelogue page 10)

American politics as well. Certainly the people we met were mostly of a progressive orientation, but from taxi drivers to people in the museums, people's distress about our recent election was very clear. When we indicated that we were not part of the 59 million "red" voters, they were

relieved and asked probing questions about what we think life will be like under an increasingly repressive regime, very similar to their own situation. It gives new meaning to the term "globalization."

Overall, the trip to Taiwan created an appreciation in me of how different it is

to challenge the status quo in a country not so far removed from an institutionally oppressive rule, and an even greater appreciation of the courage, creativity, commitment, and humor of the people who live there and are forcing this country to move into the 21st century. We could learn a lot from being connected to the FTM community in Taiwan. ●#

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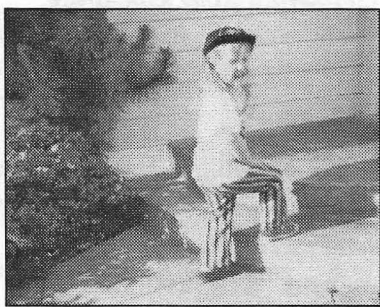
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(Continued from Caps page 14)

the intense fear about speaking publicly peaks. It will eventually dissipate. I know if I elected to remain silent, someone else would be more than happy to speak for me and claim that they know my heart. I speak because I can, because I have a duty to those Trans brothers and sisters who sit in dark closets of their own valiantly risking mental and physical harm to wear articles of clothing deemed taboo. I remember what that was like.



If I forget, I have a picture and a lifetime of memories in the hip pocket of my Levi's to remind me. ●

#

Nickolas J. McDaniel is a 32 year-old Undergraduate Community Studies major at the University of California Santa Cruz. He has most recently been published in *Transgendering Faith* (See Below). While active as an educational public speaker, his future intent is to serve the Transgendered Community as an advocate and Sex Therapist/Gender Specialist.

Transgendering Faith: Identity, Sexuality And Spirituality

EDITED BY L. McCall Ligert & M. Tirabassi

Transgendering Faith is a resource to help churches respond with love and care to transgender people in our society, both those within the Christian community and those who find themselves--unhappily--outside its doors. It is also a book for transgender Christians, their families, and pastoral counselors. The first section, "The Basics for Everyone," includes essays written by professionals and therapists who give readers a basic understanding of the transgender issue. Part Two--"In Our Own Words"--features stories of transgender persons from diverse denominational, age, ethnic, and racial backgrounds
Pilgrim Press 2004 162 PP. Paper

(Continued from Southern Comfort page 5)

worry with this announced "Southern Comfort" dramatization. When people see Sissy Spacek on the screen, will they see Robert Eads as the man that he was, or will they assume that he too was really just a woman "pretending" to be something she was not? To the average ticket-buyer, will Alan Cumming be a "man in a dress" named Lola, or a woman of the same name?

What would I want? Perhaps male actors for the parts of men like Robert, and female actresses to play women like Lola. I would like to see them played for who they are, rather than what they are not.

Of course, I'd really prefer to see transgender performers get those parts. I

won't name names, but they are out there - and some are comfortable with their history. They would not have the star power of those the producers have brought into the project, of course, but they would be true to the part. Heck, if it were a good film, perhaps these rare folks would have some star power to wield.

If anything, I'd prefer to see actors and actresses portray the reality of Robert, Lola, Max, Cori, and Cas. I am biased, yes, but they were very much what they said they were, and that is what needs to come across. Anything less fails their story. ●

Gwen Smith's name can be found in the Southern Comfort documentary, if you look hard enough. You can find her on the World Wide Web at www.gwensmith.com.

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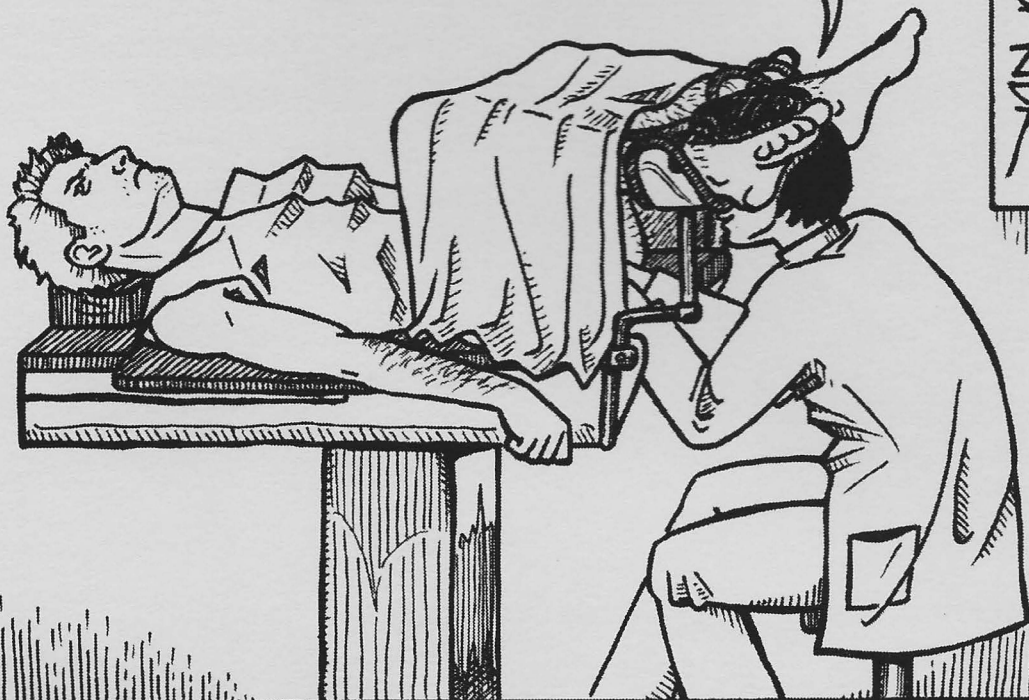
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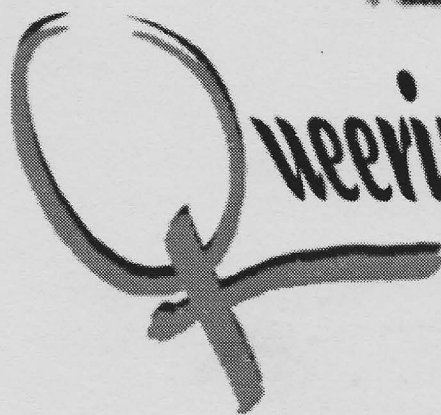
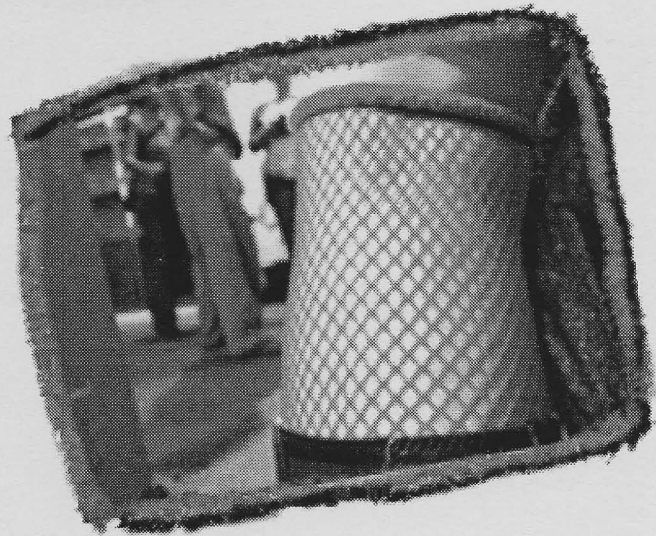
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About the Artist!

Dylan Edwards, who signs his work NDR or Ender, has been an illustrator and comic artist since 1995. His work has appeared in publications such as The Boston Phoenix, Express Gay news, Sojourner, FTM International Newsletter, and the Antioch Record. NDR creates comics and cartoons about a variety of themes, including gay republicans in 'Politically InQueerect'. He also created 'Tranny Toons', 'Matzo the Kosher Cat', 'The OutField' and the mini-comic 'Enderstated'.

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