

SURPRISE GUEST SPEAKS AT SEPTEMBER'S FTM GET-TOGETHER

Billed as a "generic" gathering ("no speaker and no program"), FTM Get-Together #11 held September 24, 1989 turned into a lively, informative meeting when San Francisco psychotherapist Lin Fraser suddenly arrived, with her luggage, direct from the airport, after attending the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Symposium in Cleveland, September 20-23.

Lin's excitement and enthusiasm were evident as she updated the nine FTMs and one guest in attendance (four FTM members traveled from Los Angeles to come to the Get-Together, held in San Francisco's Women's Building) on recent developments during the Symposium affecting female-to-males.

Lin relayed several important events. First and foremost, she reported that the new microsurgical phalloplasties now being performed (using the radial forearm flap design) are "fantastic," with the appearance of a genetic male, ability to urinate while standing, orgasmic sensation and rigidity enough to allow intercourse. Presentations on phalloplasty were given by David Gilbert of Norfolk, Virginia; F. G. Bouman of Amsterdam; L. Levine of the University of Chicago Section of Urology; and Neal Wilson of Detroit. Such positive reaction to presentations on phalloplasty is something new, as reports from past Symposiums have been quite negative concerning surgical outcomes.

Doctors also described a new technique for chest surgery which leaves no scarring. Called the "drawstring method," it involves removal of the areola, the scraping and removal of internal tissue through this opening, and then pulling together and gathering the outer skin (in the method of pulling a drawstring purse closed). Excess skin is cut around the hole and the areola replaced. Presentations on chest surgery were given by J. Kenney and M. Edgerton of Charlottesville, Virginia; and David Gilbert.

The second exciting development emanating from the Symposium is that "from now on," Lin stated, "it is *fine* for you to be a female-to-gay male transsexual." Apparently the shift among providers is towards a lot less stringent requirements per se for diagnoses of transsexualism. Lin urged female-to-gay males to be sure to refer their doctors and gender providers to the presentations given at this Symposium, which included "Sexual Behavior of Female-to-Male Transsexuals," by Holly Devor of British Columbia, Canada; "Homosexual and Bisexual Identity Development in Female-to-Male Transsexuals," by Eli Coleman and Walter Bockting of Minneapolis, and L. Gooren of Amsterdam; and "Sexual Preference of Female-to-Male Transsexuals," by Ira Pauly of Reno, Nevada. In addition, Dr. Pauly showed an hour-long videotape entitled "Female-to-Gay Male Transsexualism," which received enthusiastic applause from Symposium attendees.

Lin discussed the current debate concerning where to list gender identity disorders in the 4th revision of the DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders). In the 3rd revision, gender identity was listed among "Sexual Disorders"; and later in "Disorders Originating in Childhood" in DSM III-R. Lin speculated that this will be changed in DSM IV to a separate "Gender Identity Disorder" section. "The main thing we as gender providers should be interested in is: Do you feel more comfortable in a female gender role or a male gender role? The move is to take out sexual orientation completely." However, this change in the diagnostic

FTM MEETINGS AROUND THE WORLD

New Jersey or New York City - contact John [redacted] at [redacted] FTM Meet-
Identifying Information Redacted

Hartford, Connecticut - call Steve at The XX Club's F-M Support Group, 413-737-5032

Portland, Oregon - call Scott [redacted] Identifying Information Redacted

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania - contact Erik [redacted] Identifying Information Redacted

Boston, Massachusetts - contact Dan [redacted] at The Adam Society,
Identifying Information Redacted

Chicago, Illinois - contact David Maxwell at the Chicago Gender Society, P O Box 578005, Chicago IL 60657; 312-544-7717

The Netherlands - contact Mannengroep Nederland, [redacted] Identifying Information Redacted

The United Kingdom - write Steven [redacted] Identifying Information Redacted
Identifying Information Redacted Manchester, England

manual is only in the planning stages and it will be several years before DSM IV is issued.

Further in the Symposium, a Turkish doctor spoke of the "Endocrine Evaluation of Two Transsexual Sisters," both female-to-males; and doctors from the Case Western Reserve University Gender Clinic in Cleveland spoke of "Variations of Gender Dysphoria in Females." Lin mentioned that Eastern European countries report a ratio of five FTMs for every one MTF seen in their clinics!

"Legal stuff is not good," Lin continued, citing the case of a MTF discharged from the military after 14 years of duty; but, she said, on the up-side, "It is now OK (i.e., not against the law) to crossdress in Texas."

Lin specifically praised the openness and input of "Matthew," an FTM from Chicago who spoke from our perspective. "He was neat," Lin said. "He looked good."

The new president of the Benjamin Association is Dr. Jan Walinder of Sweden and the next Symposium will be held in 1991 in Goteborg, Sweden.

Our next FTM Get-Together, scheduled for Sunday, January 7, 1990 will feature Steven Kessler, MFCC, as guest speaker. Steven is a psychotherapist in the San Francisco Bay Area who specializes in conducting men's liberation workshops entitled "The Male Journey." Steven also conducts workshops called "Finding Our Fathers, Finding Our Selves," "A Day with Iron John" (an experiential journey into the presence of the Wild Man), and "Phallos: The Sacred Essence of Masculinity." He moderates support groups for men, and a "Mythology Group" which uses male myths and fairytales to illuminate the journey from boyhood into manhood in order to reconnect his clients with ancient, natural images of masculinity. Steven will address our group on the rites of manhood and the myths of masculinity, and will surely excite a lively discussion among our attendees.

FTM "MALE" BOX

To Whom This Letter May Concern (and I truly hope it will concern at least some of you):

I don't want to come off as sounding rude, but I feel that if I can write this letter, which I've been meaning to do for quite some time, it would provide me with some peace of mind.

Much like Kevin R. in the September issue of *FTM*, I live in a very small community - I often refer to my town as Mayberry RFD. Actually though I'm writing you from Cascade, Iowa, population about 2,000 - that includes the farmers! I have told the people that matter the most to me about my desire to have a complete sex change. Some have taken the news well, while others have decided to cut off ties with me. All in all I am finding myself to be overcome by loneliness, even though I moved home a year ago - before I was a student at the University of Iowa. My plans as always was to investigate my situation before moving anywhere. I am definitely ready to move and have narrowed it down to two places (1) Norfolk, Va. so I could be near to Dr. Gilbert, and (2) Palo Alto, Ca. where I could have many of the procedures done and also have some type of support group, no matter how informal.

I know I sound desperate but I've been living like a caged monkey for nearly a year now. If any of you can give me any advice on insurance (my company is Golden Rule), I would appreciate it. I have looked into my insurance but couldn't get much information. Just how do you check out insurance without blowing your cover? Remember I live in Mayberry. I have decided for my family's sake and, yes, for my own sake that I not go fully public about this until after I leave. So if any of you should write me, and I hope you do, please send it to Mary Sue. My male name will be Loras. The postmaster would have a fit. God, how I wish I were born in a larger community!

My real concerns are to move, probably to California, so if any of you know of a place for me to stay approximately in May 1990, you honestly wouldn't know how much that would mean to me. I am obviously in the early stages of this, but I am sensible and have good humor and like to be adventurous, especially like to snow ski and, whatever else, get out of the apartment and do things. Presently I am a painter. Is there any good painting possibilities in California?

If anyone knows of a place for me to live when I get there, I would greatly appreciate it. Anywhere in San Francisco, Oakland or Palo Alto. I will be coming in May. If you do write me, I will most likely phone you up. Please send it to Mary Sue. Information is not paranoid, just practical.

Thanks for a great newsletter.

Identifying Information Redacted

Identifying Information Redacted

Identifying Information Redacted

Dear *FTM*:

Thank you for your newsletter. The names and addresses of the surgeons are very useful to us as it is incredibly difficult to get information over here about surgeons in the States. There is also a great lack of publishing by these people as a lot of them don't wish to be associated with doing this type of surgery. Here the people who do it are not plastic surgeons and really do it as a one-off for a particular individual and therefore techniques are not so good as they don't get a lot of practice. I would like to get my surgery done in the States, but I hope the fees aren't too exorbitant as I'm only a student. I got hold of some references written by surgeons in the States and the U.K. All the articles were illustrated with photos. The difference between the two groups is amazing and frightening. The U.K. surgery is gross and sickening, leaving much scarring while the surgery in the States looks pretty good as does the European's. The main problem appears to be fistulas in the urethra, thrombosis, lack of sensation and lack of function. It seems a question of

whether one is lucky or unlucky. I'm sure there are better ways to increase the percentage of success.

I've now changed over and everyone knows about me which is much easier as I don't have to pretend anymore. What I find difficult is having not yet started therapy but being in a different role, but not feeling or looking any different. I just can't wait for the changes to happen and surgery to be done so I can really get on with my life.

In general, TSs changing these days have a much easier time and get things quicker than 10 years ago. I have friends who have waited 7 years for surgery, mine should be done next summer hopefully.

I'm going to try and persuade the other FTMs here to start up our own group like you have done and try to increase our membership and unite the members more. The FTMs here are arranging a get-together in Manchester on February 10th so I'm hoping as many as possible will come along with friends and partners as well, so we can all meet.

Best wishes,

Andrew ng Information Redacted

(formerly Vic)

(see *FTM Networking* column)

Dear *FTM*:

Our *FTM* community is rapidly growing from one person when I first started attending meetings to nine people. As of now, we do not have a specific *FTM* meeting. In the future that may be a viable option as we expand. Following are specifics:

Open meeting for MTF and *FTM* transsexuals: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of each month at 7:30 p.m., Metropolitan Community Church, 1644 N.E. 24th (corner of Broadway), Portland, Oregon, phone 503-281-8868. Closed meetings held on 1st and 3rd Thursdays.

Open meeting for transsexuals, their families and friends (social) held on the 2nd and 4th Fridays of each month at Dugan's Restaurant, 1441 N.E. Broadway, Portland, Oregon.

Scott A. McPherson

Rose City Gender Center

Portland, Oregon

phone 503-233-9645

Dear *FTM*:

Hi! I'm Japanese, 25 years old, a writer and a female-to-male transsexual. My surgery was in September. I'm satisfied with the result so much. My God does protect me. After my phalloplasty, my real life started.

I can write English but I'm a poor speaker of English. Actually almost every *FTM* friend of mine cannot understand English, so I always translate your *FTM* newsletter and send it to them.

FTM! I really enjoy them! Thank you so much. It's wonderful I can feel that there are so many people like me all over the earth. I sent the copies to not only my Japanese *FTM* friends but also Taiwanese ones.

Japan is the most hard country to live for us. Because transsexual surgery is forbidden by the law and we never be able to change our birth certificate (only people of Hermaphroditismus can). Therefore almost every Japanese *FTM* is naturalized as a U.S. citizen or another country after his surgery.

But I love Japan. Tokyo is my lovely hometown. I'd like to succeed as an author in my country. I know it's hard because

FTM NEWSLETTER

The only newsletter exclusively for the female-to-male transvestite and transsexual; published quarterly by *FTM*, 1827 Haight St. #164, San Francisco, California 94117

Editor: Lou Sullivan

I can't disguise that I am a transsexual. If I want to get good position, I must be required unbelievable special talent. It may be impossible, but I continue to try.

Please print my letter without address. Already I correspond with 5 Americans and 7 Asians, so I'm so busy to write letters. If someone wants to correspond with me, by all means, tell him/her only. I'm looking forward to read the next *FTM*.

Yoshiho [Information Redacted]
Tokyo, Japan

Dear *FTM*:

I am the F-M advisor for the British transsexual group, the Gender Dysphoria Trust. I must first say how good and interesting your magazine is and how it would be of great interest to us to keep in touch with your group, so that not only our members who are visiting your area could make contacts, but so that we in return could provide contacts here in the U.K. for any of your members who want to holiday in Britain.

Phalloplasties are very difficult to obtain here and the results generally seem to be appalling. In reality I have to advise people here not to pursue them because the results obtained are so horrific. But we were very impressed by the results we saw in the papers of some of the surgeons in the U.S.A.

If you have any members who have done, or know of any research done, on the legal position and the penal systems' approach to TSs in the States, I would very much like to hear from them. I am a law graduate and am currently doing a dissertation on the proposals for reform of the law in England. In England, TSs suffer from a "dual status" in that we are allowed to take our new role in society, but we are not allowed to get married, to adopt or even retain custody of children, or get our birth certificate changed, to retire at our new pensionable age, or to get the tax benefits of our new status. Further in work, we can be dismissed if our status is discovered after obtaining a job and we have no protection under the equal opportunities legislation. If anyone can help me with my research, I would be very grateful and would certainly provide any remuneration for expenses incurred. I also in return would gladly provide anyone in the States with information which would help their work.

Thanks very much for all your help and I hope this will be the start of a long and fruitful relationship between our two groups.

Stephen [Information Redacted]
[Identifying Information Redacted]
[Identifying Information Redacted]
Manchester, [Information Redacted] England

Editor's Note: The following U.S. organizations may be of help: Transsexuals in Prison, P O Box 3541, Little Rock AR 72203; and J2CP Information Services, P O Box 184, San Juan Capistrano CA 92693-0184.

Dear *FTM*:

Last week I was very surprised to find a letter from England. Your San Franciscan group newsletter finds its way to a great number of countries. I have also received a letter from a Canadian boy. So you will see your newsletter does a good work.

One of the questions from England dealt with our legal situation. It is completely legal here to change sex-role. After having your operations, it is possible to change your birth certificate. For the office you are completely accepted as a man. It is possible to marry with a girlfriend (which I did late 1980 and what has made me very happy).

Has anybody of your group had the possibility to attend the

Symposium in the USA? None of ours has had this opportunity. From Prof. Louis Gooren I have had the handouts from this event. It looks like it was also a very interesting event.

By the way, Jean is the French version of John. I want to wish you good luck and till the next time, with kindly regards,

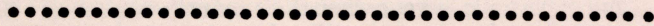
Jean van Aarle
Mannengroep Nederland
Hemelsbleekweg 10
5425 PB Mortel
The Netherlands

"FTM" UNSCATHED IN RECENT EARTHQUAKE

Thanks to everyone who contacted us, concerned about our survival of the October 17, 1989 earthquake in San Francisco. We were extremely fortunate: one drinking glass fell off the desk and broke, there is some cracked paint on the walls, and we were without electricity for 48 hours, but that was the extent of our damage. All is well at *FTM* and we proceed as usual!

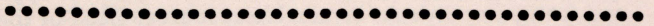
FTM PROGRAM AT I.F.G.E. CONVENTION

The International Foundation for Gender Education's 4th annual "Coming Together Convention," usually an exclusive male-to-female event, will be held in Boston, Massachusetts. However, for the first time, this year's convention will feature a one-day program on Saturday, March 31, 1990 to address the needs of female-to-male crossdressers and transsexuals. For more information, contact [Identifying Information Redacted] and thanks, Dan, for making this *FTM* event possible!



"ADAM'S WORD"

Monthly newsletter of The Adam Society
Non-profit support group for female-to-males
Subscription: \$10 for 12 issues
Make check out to [Identifying Information Redacted] and send to:
Adam's Word, Dan [Identifying Information Redacted] Editor
[Identifying Information Redacted]



SOCIAL GROUP FOR TS PARENTS

A Different Breed, a social group for families with dual, single or multiple parents who identify outside the mainstream (bisexual, lesbian, gay, transsexual, etc.), will meet on Sunday, January 28, 1990 at 12:30 p.m. for a potluck brunch in Berkeley. Call Susan at [Identifying Information Redacted] for more details.

FTM MEETING IN NEW YORK CITY

A meeting of female-to-males will be held in New York City (Manhattan) on Saturday, January 13, 1990. For more information, call John [Identifying Information Redacted]

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

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

THE TRADITION OF FEMALE TRANSVESTISM IN EARLY MODERN EUROPE, by Rudolf M. Dekker and Lotte C. van de Pol (New York: St. Martin's Press, 1989). 128 pgs., \$34.95

Review by Lou Sullivan

What a delightful book this is! Here is a book that I thoroughly and enthusiastically recommend to everyone interested in the history of the female-to-male transition.

The authors present a study of 119 women who lived as men in the Netherlands between 1550 and 1839. One chapter describes the background of these women, how they impersonated men and how they were discovered to be women. In the next chapter, the authors try to reconstruct what motives each female-to-male had personally and how these fit in with the general tradition of female transvestism. Another chapter is devoted to sexual aspects, discussing if biological or sexual incentives could be found. Finally, a last chapter explores the reactions of society to these female-to-male crossdressers.

In "Some Conclusions," the authors write: "The 119 cases ... described in this book show that in former times it was not at all exceptional for women to take on the appearance of men as a solution to their personal problems. And, in spite of differences, these women can in many ways be described as one group. They all encountered the same difficulties in the practical side of their gender change, and in the problems of maintaining themselves in a man's world. The way in which most of them were discovered also showed many similarities. It is in the personal motives that we find most variety, but here also fixed patterns can be discerned. Destitution was a stimulus for many, sometimes in combination with the wish to follow or remain with husband, lover or family. Some were full of patriotic fervour when their country was at war. Others used crossdressing as a disguise when fleeing home or a husband, or for easing a criminal career. Deeper-seated motives of a psychological or sexual nature must have played a decisive role in many cases. In particular, crossdressing gave women who were in love with other women psychologically the freedom to enter into actual sexual relations. Whatever the personal motives for dressing as a man, an important consideration was that the women knew that they had predecessors, that other women had made the same decision."

This book is fully documented, with an extensive appendix and footnoting. It is an invaluable resource. Each of the 119 female-to-males is listed in chronological order, with female and male names and occupations, and the original source of information.

Although the cost is rather high, this book has no contemporary parallel. It is "must" reading for all FTMs.

☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆ ☆

FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALISM: HISTORICAL, CLINICAL, AND THEORETICAL ISSUES, by Leslie Martin Lothstein. Boston: Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1983.

Review by Steve [redacted]

Ridiculous!



MICHAEL, NEE LAURA, by Liz Hodgkinson. Published 1989 by Columbus Books, Ltd., 19-23 Ludgate Hill, London EC4M 7PD, England. 201 pgs.

Review by Lou Sullivan

"Michael Dillon was the first person - so far as records and medical textbooks show - to make so complete a change from female to male, taking advantage of the recently isolated hormones and of advances in plastic surgery." So claims Liz Hodgkinson, who subtitles her biography "the story of the world's first female-to-male transsexual."

Michael, nee Laura is a captivating account of the life of Michael Dillon, who, born Laura in 1915, was raised in the privileged class and attended Oxford University. When she was 22, a press photographer took her picture at the Oxford University Women's Boat Club in her rowing trousers, and it appeared in the newspaper with the caption, "Man or Woman?" It was during this period that Laura began smoking a pipe and passing as a young man with help from a male friend.

Dillon began taking testosterone tablets at age 24 and underwent a mastectomy three years later in England, 1942. Hodgkinson states that it is not known whether any female before Dillon had ever used male hormone pills, that no previous cases are in the medical literature. Then, over a period of four years and some thirteen operations, his phalloplasty was completed in 1949 with urinary function. A friend described his penis by saying, "It was huge and in a constant state of semi-erection. It looked as if it had been cut out of wood with an axe, as it was so deeply scored."

One year later, Dillon passed his medical exams and became Dr. Laurence Michael Dillon. He was a prolific writer; among his works were *Self: A Study in Endocrinology and Ethics* (1946), *Poems of Truth* (1957), *The Life of Milarepa* and his best-known work, *Imji Getsul* (both 1962).

Dillon was exposed in the press in 1958 when someone discovered the discrepancy in the peerage records which list British family lineage - one record mentioned Laura, the

other Michael Dillon was totally shattered by this, immediately escaping to India to become a monk. No Westerner before him had ever been ordained a Buddhist monk in Tibet. He died there in 1962 at age 47 of unknown causes, possibly malnutrition.

Just fifteen days before his death, he submitted his autobiography and photo to his publisher, who rejected the manuscript as "unpublishable," as it was felt at the time that a sex-change story was too sensational.

Hodgkinson's book is quite readable, although I found several repetitious passages distracting. I finished it off in three sittings and recommend it to anyone interested in the lives of female-to-males. It is a welcome addition to the pitifully inadequate number of female-to-male accounts.

Unfortunately, this book, published in England, is difficult to obtain in the United States. I phoned no less than ten bookstores in San Francisco, but none were able to order the book for me. I suggest you contact the publisher direct, at the above address; or you may order the book from Hatchards Booksellers, 187 Piccadilly, London England W1V 9DA, by quoting your Visa/Mastercard or American Express card number and expiration date.



Michael Dillon, shortly before his death in 1962

1755 MEMOIRS OF FTM REISSUED

A recent issue of *The New Yorker Magazine* mentions the publication last year of *The Well-Known Troublemaker* by Faber and Faber in England. It is an annotated version of the 1755 memoirs of Mrs. Charlotte Charke, who specialized in playing men's roles on the stage and disguised herself as a man offstage. The *New Yorker* informs us that an American edition of the book was brought out this fall, but so far *FTM* has been unable to locate its publisher or a copy. Stay tuned for more details as we uncover them.

BODYSHOCK: THE TRUTH ABOUT CHANGING SEX,
by Liz Hodgkinson. London: Columbus Books, Ltd., 1987.

Review by Lou Sullivan

Having enjoyed her more recent book on the life of female-to-male Michael Dillon, I was all set to give a glowing review of Hodgkinson's earlier work, *Bodys shock*. And, right off the bat in the 'Introduction,' I was impressed with how consistent Hodgkinson was in including the female-to-male perspective in her general discussion of transsexualism. But further along in the book, many questionable remarks crept into the text that cooled my enthusiasm.

The worst intrusion is the author's admiration for and continuous references to the insane theories of Janice Raymond. Hodgkinson calls Raymond's *The Transsexual Empire* "convincingly and intelligently presented," and cites Raymond no less than thirteen times throughout the book. That alone is enough for me to denounce *Bodys shock*.

The book does contain a chapter dedicated exclusively to the female-to-male which consists mainly of direct quotations from seven FTMs. It also has two pages of pictures of Michael Dillon and one page of another FTM, Mark Rees. And while these were welcomed additions, other statements made me question Hodgkinson's real commitment to the female-to-male perspective. Though *Bodys shock* was published in 1987, she states that "there are, as far as I am aware, no autobiographical books by female-to-male transsexuals" ... Mario Martino's *Emergence*, published a decade earlier, somehow having escaped her. Later, Hodgkinson admits, "In my researches for this book, I have not come across any female-to-male transsexual who was married in the original sex. Nor have I located any female-to-male transsexual who became a mother before the change-over." That shocked me. How hard could she have really looked?

While describing the side effects of testosterone, she states that "female-to-male transsexuals are not usually advised to take male hormone for any longer than absolutely necessary, once irreversible changes have been produced." I can't imagine where she heard such advice; it is well-known and has never been debated that testosterone must be continually taken throughout a female-to-male's lifetime.

Unfortunately Hodgkinson propagates the outdated theory that "all transvestites are male. True, some women dress in men's clothes, even some women who are not transsexual. But it is *never* [Hodgkinson's emphasis] for the purposes of sexual arousal. Women who wear men's clothes do it because, for them, it feels right, or is appropriate to the occasion." I know several *FTM* members who would have much to say in opposition there!

There is also some dicey theorizing about the sexuality of transsexuals in general. The author discusses "heterosexual transsexuals," but fails to specify whether she means "hetero" before sex reassignment surgery, or after. Making matters worse, she ventures to state that "the true sufferer from the condition [transsexualism] is not really interested in sexual performance at all, with members of either sex." Again, I think many *FTM* members would argue that one.

In summary, this book is worth reading, but not as any kind of bible. Too bad; it falls far short of the potential it might have had in being one of the few books available for misinformed friends or relatives.

by Elijah ifying Information Redacted

He crossed the room and stood by the window that was opened ajar letting in the brisk October air. He was wearing oversized clothes. A wool raglan sleeve dark tweed coat, under which he wore double black and white patterned shirts hung loosely about him. Under these he wore a faded black T-shirt which clung to his smooth chest. His pants were worn low on his hips showing the depressions of his pelvis just above the belt which in large brass letters bore the word "BOY." His faded 501's were so worn they took on the consistency of flannel; his left knee torn to horizontal threads. His Dr. Martins were opened at the top, held onto his feet only by an iron chain around one ankle and a bandana on the opposing one. He had his hands half in and half out of his pockets, like he were trying to pry them open with his fingers. At the angle I was looking, I could see behind his dark wire framed glasses his grey eyes and sleepless shadowed sockets. His curly auburn hair, short on the back and sides hung from the top of his head into his baby face. He looked 13.

I saw myself across the room, 5 years into my future; and the money I don't have, spent on the surgery I need to be a man.

You see, I am a female to male preoperative transsexual, who is again contemplating suicide. I made my first attempt when I was 7½ years old. Such is life ... and death.

How do I feel about being a transsexual? "I'm cold, weak and bitter, like this cup of coffee." Cold: like a corpse, being almost dead to the sensations of anguish and misery of not being able to solve my problem as I am not wealthy. Weak: from the oppression of living my life as half a person, and Bitter: from not asking to be born this way. There is no question that I was born this way.



Susan Finque in "T.S./Crossing," a piece on transsexuality.

T. S. /
CROSSING

Review by Jeff ifying Information Redacted

Alice B. Theatre is a gay and lesbian theatre company from Seattle. For five days they performed excerpts from three different productions at Highways in Santa Monica, California, collectively titled "Attack of the Zombie Backup Singers and Other Hits." The first and third segments ("Portraits of Iowa" and "Attack of the Zombie Backup Singers," respectively) were original, humorous and well-presented. It is the second segment, "TS/Crossing," which is of interest to the FTM. Written and performed by Susan Finque, it is mainly a movement piece chronicling the journey of an FTM. Finque begins the piece sitting center stage, her back to the audience, bare torso. Stretching, she strikes poses emphasizing musculature. At the side of the stage is a drag queen, mirroring the exact motions, but for opposite effect. Putting on a shirt, tie and sport jacket, Finque now has the stage all to herself. Talking to the audience, she tells about her current life (job, wife, kid) and about concerns, fears. "What are you looking at?" is a question asked several times. In partial answer, she very effectively demonstrates various "types" of walks: Man as Woman, Woman as Man, Woman as Man as Woman, etc. She also questions the future: "What will happen when I die? I live as a man, but will they bury a woman?" Finque has delivered a sensitive right-on-target portrayal of the FTM's thoughts and fears. I had hoped to get the chance to talk with Susan Finque after the show. There was so much I wanted to ask her about, from the reasons for an FTM play to how she hit so many nuances dead-on, but I did not get the opportunity. If you're in Seattle, or in a town where Alice B. Theatre will come to visit, "TS/Crossing" is worth the price of admission.

CA LIC. #M8288

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I am interested in corresponding with TVs and FTMs and meeting same in San Francisco and the Bay Area. I like to crossdress and am extremely empathetic towards FTMs in all stages of transition. Rima/Francis,

Send your personal ad to
FTM Networking, 1827 Haight Street #164,
San Francisco CA 94117

It's FREE and it works !

Looking for someone to perform childcare in exchange for room in private home. Write Tony,

Well-balanced New Man and loving it, but for one problem that's got me stumped.... How and when to tell potential lovers "the real story"? Please write and share your experiences and suggestions. If I get enough responses, I will write an article on this subject for *FTM*. Kevin,

SWF, 30, gender dysphoric, seeks correspondents who can understand my gender confusion. Looking for friends, not love - though it would be nice. I'm unbelievably open-minded and just wish to be accepted for what I am. Lauren,

I am a very intelligent, under-educated 26 year old F-M TS who will undergo full surgery: top and bottom. I'm clean, healthy and look like a 13 yr. old. I'm into swimming, a good book or film, music and walks. I write poetry, draw, skulpt, sing and write music. I'm looking for an intelligent, healthy, sincere, cute, patient, calm gay man, my age or older, with a good sense of humor. If you're him, please send a letter with a photo to: Elija,

I am a woman in my mid-40's, single and am seeking a beautiful hardworking feminine, well-organized, sincere, loyal, charming, single virgin lady whom I would like to have fun, pleasure, travel and possible long-lasting intimate one-to-one "husband/wife" relationship for life. Please send full view picture, complete address and phone to J.

Male-to-female transgenderist seeks FTM or lesbian counterpart to share life's joys and sorrows. I am a non-smoker, very light drinker, optimistic and submissive in character. I'm in my late 30's, reasonably attractive, intelligent, convincing in my chosen gender, a hard worker, a major nature lover, financially secure and highly creative. Please write to Rachel,

Attention FTMs: Research project for book on FTMs. Your input is requested. I want your ideas and experiences in all stages of transition. Call Shayne or write,

I would be interested to hear from individuals or FTM groups in all parts of the world to establish contact between FTMs and to exchange information on surgery, the legal situation and differences in treatment available and psychiatry in different countries. If you can help, please contact me. If you are a surgeon/psychiatrist or anyone else interested in the FTM TS situation and can offer information, I'd like to hear from you as well. Andrew,

Products & Resources for the Female-to-Male
Edition 1.0, 20 pages. Includes breast binders, clothing, media, and other products and resources available to the female-to-male. Send \$3 to cover postage and photocopying to:
[Redacted]

Female-to-male looking to correspond with other FTMs. I have no friends that know and desperately need someone to talk with. Write:

Attractive, white, Jewish male transvestite interested in mutual exploration with my female counterpart. Jano,

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY TIMES JANUARY 1990

B I S E X U A L
Hairy, Bearded, Muscular Women and Men Wanted
Affectionate, fit, attractive WM who is non-hairy would like to meet hairy (preferably unshaven) women and men. My objective is to develop a monogamous relationship with one woman or man. My interests are many and varied and include classical and other music, dancing, hiking, dining, travel, romantic interludes, reading, the outdoors. The person I'm seeking is sensitive, kind, open-minded, solvent, balanced, warm, affectionate, fit and healthy. Pre-op female to male TS welcome. Reply Boxholder, P.O. Box 1456, Orinda 94563.

"Rites of Passage"
A Newsletter for Female-to-Males

Published irregularly, a subscription costs \$20 for 8 issues; \$3.50 per individual issue. Write to

Identifying Information Redacted
or call John A. Identifying Information Redacted anytime.

SANTA'S SEX DEBATED

San Francisco's Court of Historical Review and Appeals ruled on December 13, 1989 on the question as to whether Santa Claus was a man or a woman.

A packed courtroom listened to debate before the 60th session of the good-natured mock court as San Francisco Supervisor Angela Alioto argued that the spirit of Christmas actually came from the legendary Italian figure, Befana, an old woman who delivered gifts to children in Europe on January 6, the Feast of the Epiphany. "It's about time America admits Santa Claus is really Befana, a woman, as Europe has known for hundreds of years," Alioto said.

Public Defender Jeff Brown sneered and scoffed at other witnesses who claimed that Santa was originally St. Nicola, a woman. His expert witness, City College of San Francisco history Professor Lee Dolson, defended Santa's manhood and traced the legend of Santa Claus from the early Christian tradition of St. Nicholas, a fourth-century bishop in what is now Turkey. "I shudder to think," declared Franco Diamond, a psychiatric hospital administrator, "of the destruction it would do to ourselves, our family and our culture if Santa were declared to be a woman."

Municipal Court Judge George Choppelas heard an hour of arguments and joking testimony about Santa's gender, and it was a close call when he issued a Solomon-like decision that reaffirmed the old saint's maleness. The judge, however, added that Santa's spirit "is a universal phenomena and cannot be limited by gender, race or color."

RUPERT RAJ: GENDER CONSULTANTS

Counselor, educator, researcher, writer, reviewer
compiler and book distributor.

Identifying Information Redacted
Canada Identifying Information Redacted

"HUSTLER" UNCOVERS AN FTM

Even if you've never bought a *Hustler* magazine before, you don't want to miss the February 1990 issue with an article by Annie Sprinkle entitled, "I Love a Woman With a Cock," featuring female-to-male Les Nichols. Les exposes his recent phalloplasty by Dr. Stanley Biber in eight color photos, and Annie describes in detail their sexual encounter - Les' first with his new equipment. Les and Annie met at Johnny A.'s "F2M" social on the East Coast. The *Hustler* article also plugs an upcoming video of Les and Annie in a "sexually explicit docudrama" from He Was She Video. Somewhat annoying is Sprinkle's constant referral to Les as "she" and "a woman with a cock," but this article is worth the photos alone.

Don't Miss!
Held Over January 12 - 28

HIDDEN: A GENDER
A Play Highly Recommended



Back by popular demand, "Hidden: A Gender," written and performed by MTF lesbian Kate Bornstein, will be featured at the Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 - 16th Street, San Francisco (box office 415-861-5079), from January 12-28, 1990. This wonderful play is a satirical view of the social, medical and personal constructions of gender identity through a variety of theatrical styles. Three cast members recount two overlapping real-life stories: one the unhappy life of Herculeine Barbin, a nineteenth-century French hermaphrodite, performed beautifully by a genetic male; the other Bornstein's own male-to-female transition acted out by a genetic female. Bornstein herself holds the two stories together in her portrayal as Doc Grinder, hawking his Gender Defender Elixir, "guaranteed to keep you straight." (You may have seen Bornstein on the Geraldo Rivera Show.)

"Hidden: A Gender" is at once humorous and intricately woven with serious questions about society's dictates upon men and women. By all means, don't miss this performance. Kate Bornstein is a genius!

The G D T (Gender Dysphoria Trust)
BM Box 7624, London WC1N 3XX, England

A self-help organization for all transsexuals, F-M and M-F, whether pre- or post-operative. We provide a bimonthly magazine and a confidential contact system. There are approximately 450 members at any one time and over 1,500 people have at some time been a member of the organisation. We have a handbook for transsexuals seeking reassignment in the United Kingdom and we are currently producing handbooks with summaries of the reports made at the Amsterdam International Gender Dysphoria Conference, and the result of a sociological and surgical survey of over 100 transsexuals.

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