



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

Features:

Looking Into Our Past — Part 2 of the Keynote Address from the FTM Conference of 1995

Book Review: Hestia's House by Blaine Paxton Hall

Everything You Wanted To Know About T

"Here I Am" a poem by Jessie Doty

FTMI is Changing Find Out How Inside...

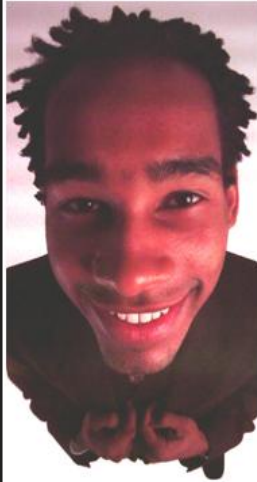


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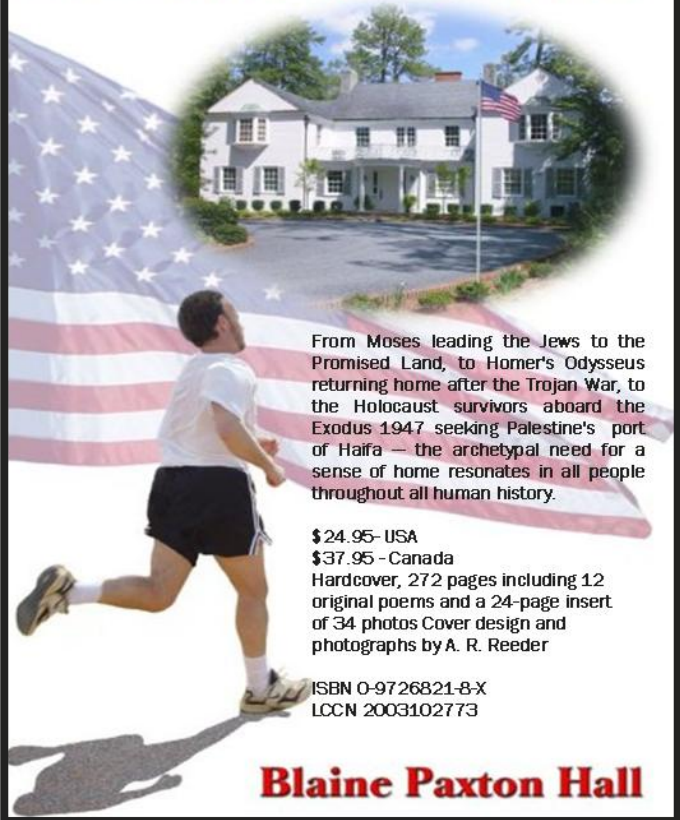
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Blaine Paxton Hall

Provocative



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As you may or may not have heard by now, FTM International has been going through a season of change, growth, improvement, and betterment. We will continue to offer support, resources, and outreach to everyone along the female-to-male spectrum, anyone in the world assigned female at birth or in childhood who no longer feels that label is complete or accurate, as well as

our significant others, families, friends, and allies. Our newly-reconfigured Executive Board made up of Rabbi Levi Alter, Board President, Zion Johnson, Vice President, Martin Rawlings-Fein, Secretary and myself as Treasurer will continue to work cohesively to suss out the needs of the FTM community in every corner of the globe and adjust our efforts accordingly.

While much of FTM International's excellence will continue unchanged, some of the changes you will see reflected in the newsletter. Beginning our next issue, I will be taking up the mantle of newsletter editor passed down from the honorable shoulders of Martin Rawlings-Fein. Starting next issue, you will see a revamped format featuring regular sections for contributions from FTM Asia, FTM Europe, FTM Australia, and FTM South America, in addition to those from North America. You will also see a new regular feature wherein two people in the FTM community with different experiences, identities, backgrounds, and histories will interview each other based on the issue's theme for the sake of increased under-

Dear Members and Readers

By Alexander Yoo

standing of the myriad and diverse narratives of all those who feel FTM, whatever that means for the individual.

Also, to make the "international" and "inclusive" parts of FTMI even more available to everyone in the world, alongside the tirelessly hardworking FTMI San Francisco Lou Sullivan chapter located in the Bay Area of California, USA, FTM International has formalized the chapter induction process and welcomes FTMI San Bernardino Reed Erickson Chapter and FTMI Melbourne, AU, Chapter. To make resources and support readily and easily available and accessible everywhere, we welcome fledgling FTM communities to avail of the existing network and foundation that FTM International offers, including listings in the newsletter and website, by becoming a chapter. Soon, any FTM or community ally can visit any part of the world and know where to find resources and support of an FTM nature.

From the bottom of our hearts, we of the FTM International Board thank each and every person who has supported and contributed to the continuing efforts of FTMI. Each of you has in your own way helped to save lives and help people in their journeys of self discovery and community-building. Thank you. □

Updates!

Hey, we're sure that you've heard that FTMI has been thinking about making a few changes to better serve our members--you. So here's the scoop:

Meetings: Many of you feel that being able to go to an FTMI support group meeting was very important when you were starting out and want to see the monthly meetings continue. We had a problem at CUAV several times this past year when they scheduled trainings on the day of our meetings and we had to scramble to find alternate locations. We've been

asking around high and low for months now for a stable place and finally we found one, Walden House. We had our first meeting there last month and we are pleased to announce that the FTMI monthly meetings now have a permanent home. The address is Walden House Multi Service Center, 1885 Mission Street - 2nd Floor, San Francisco.

Office: The main reason we had our office at CUAV was for the meetings. We also sponsored the Transgender Law Center in our office space so that they could do their important work on behalf of our community. TLC now has some funding of their own. Since we have a place for the meetings now, we

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Addressing the subtleties of relationships is Eric Carters primary focus. He is interested not only in the relationships between individuals, but also the relationships between one's sense of self and one's body, between one's "bodied" self and the society in which one lives. and juxtapositions become clues in discovering the complex realities of human nature.

Most recently he's been focusing on how memory fits into and affects these relationships. It is a reconstruction of ourselves, our identities, that takes place with regard to memory. part does fact play in our memories and this process

From the Cover

of "re-membering?" He had documented the facts of an event, as he saw and understood them at the time, would they be a more accurate depiction of the truth than the one my memory currently holds, or will hold in another 20 years? Can what happened be in a constant state of flux, and how does that flux affect our identity, and how we see and relate to ourselves in the present day? His latest paintings, the overlap of images gives them an ethereal quality that speaks to this flux, the non-tangible, dreamlike quality of memory. the images have become tangible and permanent in the oil on canvas, thus creating a new relationship.

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S.O.F.F.A Space

by Betsy McAll

Chav Doherty and I have been together now eight years. We've been legally married since Valentine's Day of 1999 and we purchased our first home in Oakland on our anniversary last year. We originally met each other in the 1980s at college, many years prior to Chav's transition. We met up again in 1996, following his transition, fell in love, and here we are now. It's such a simple and common story, almost not worth writing about, only worth telling to those who like that kind of thing. (Okay—maybe not quite so simple: we separated for a year and half while I explored my final lesbian relationship. The real wonder is that the love between Chav and I endured and grew stronger because of it). We have not been particularly active in the transgender community, although we have gone to our share of meetings and marches. Neither of us are leaders or heroes. Yet here is my perspective on our story, the challenges and blessings, eight years in and still counting.

Chav is working full time at San Francisco General Hospital and going to school part time to become a marriage/family therapist. I work in the mortgage industry and take care of the house and animals. We live ordinary, busy lives. Our families and friends know that Chav is trans, as does his workplace (he transitioned on the job) and most of his teachers and colleagues at SF State. They are remarkably accepting. It took Chav's parents the longest to get it (they live in rural New Mexico and the physical and cultural distance can sometimes be huge). Yet they have come to acceptance, if not understanding. My parents, on the other hand, as 20 year veterans of PFLAG Parent and Friends of Lesbians and Gays), immediately began talking about their transgender son-in-law to everyone they knew, got the Oakland PFLAG group educated and active, and wrote a letter to my very large family before our wedding explaining what it meant that Chav is FTM.

This is all a way to say, eight years in and privileged to live in the San Francisco Bay Area, that Chav being trans is just not a very big deal. On the one hand, that is great: isn't this the way it is supposed to be, us just living our ordinary lives? Yes, it is. We have traveled our own hard road to get here.

AND YET...

I am not out at work, having worked in Catholic schools and the notoriously straight and narrow financial services industry since we've been together. I had enough battles to fight just as a woman, much less as a queer woman now married to a transman. After being very out and very active as a lesbian from ages 19-35, it was with some pain and grief that I chose to go back into the closet. But it was also a relief: I was tired after all those years of being out and active, culminating in the very public breakup of my marriage in small town Idaho when I became a Lesbian Avenger to fight the anti-gay initiative there in 1994. (The silver lining was that my FTM connections began there when I met Jed Bell, former editor of this newsletter, and Cole Rowan, a musician from SF.)

Being with Chav, it is easy to pass as straight, and I (guiltily) enjoy heterosexual privilege. It is easier for me to travel through the world without that self-consciousness, without fear of others' reactions and physical intimidation. And it is still profoundly comforting, after all those years of being OUT, to have my private life be private, separate from my work life.

AND YET...

I miss feeling part of the community. I miss my queer identity (I AM UNIQUE—HEAR ME ROAR!) It's strange sometimes to feel invisible. I think about getting more active and involved, my workplace be damned, and then come face-to-face again with my limited energy levels as I struggle with the ups and downs of fibromyalgia (a chronic pain and exhaustion syndrome), knowing I cannot commit to any ongoing responsibilities. It often seems that it takes all of our time and energy just to survive—to work, to study, to take care of our day-to-day responsibilities. I want to believe that just living our lives is radical and transformative, that just being who we are, as out and active as we can be, is enough for today. Maybe someday I will be able to be more active in the community again. In the meantime, I remain deeply grateful to those who do carry the banner, fight the good fight, continue to educate and celebrate, making it possible for all of us to live, however best we can in this moment, but still, to live, and hopefully thrive.

(Continued from page 3)

don't need the office anymore and don't feel we have a reason at this time for this expense. We are donating our collection of FTMI related materials from the office to the LGBT Historical Society in San Francisco that houses Lou Sullivan's papers. We have a new address and a new toll-free phone number for the mail and calls we get from FTMs, parents of FTMs, and organizations asking us for help and information. The address is FTMI 740A-14th St. #216 San Francisco, CA 94114 (877) 267-1440 info@ftmi.org

Newsletter: We are looking for more ways to improve. One is to provide a full color version of the Newsletter that is really professional-looking. By doing that online, subscribers

can view it on their computers and print it out, and also can order a slick full color print copy from our online printer, lulu.com (where we have the FTM Yellow Pages and FTMI Calendar printed). We can also cut the time it takes to make the Newsletter, and the cost to the organization, if we reduce the number of black and white paper copies we have to print at an offset printer, address, stamp and mail, and pay for postage. So if our subscribers need a black and white copy we can still provide that, but we are looking to move to a full color online Newsletter with an available slick full color print copy from lulu.com. That will also give us the potential to increase the size of the Newsletter.

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Keynote Address from the 1st FTM Conference

Keynote Address from the 1st FTM Conference

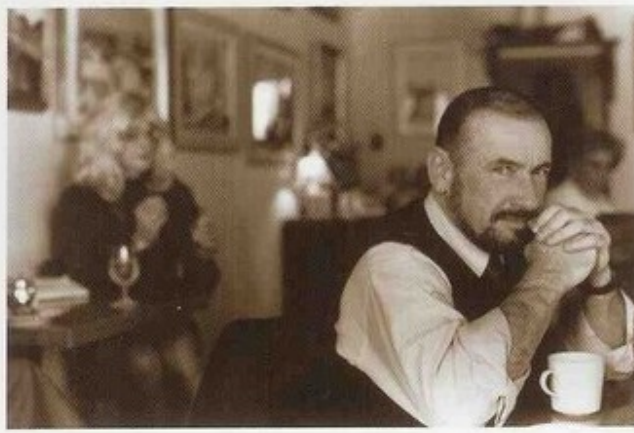
August 18, 1995 (Part Two of Two)
Written and delivered by James Green
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The transsexual transition period is characterized by profound physical change and tremendous social stress. And for transgendered people who choose not to undergo a physical transition, though you are spared the economic pressure and risks of physical change, life is no less stressful socially. There is no hierarchy implied here; I'm simply talking the realities of daily life in genderland. It is very easy to become self-absorbed and pre-occupied with one's gender; unfortunately this can quickly become tedious for those whose all-consuming passions lie in other realms.

Communities are built on continuity, on traditions, on recurring events, on legends re-enacted in ritual ways, on shared values, on agreement. Who is driving? Are we there yet?

Here in San Francisco, a handfull of transpeople, supported in the clinch by about sixty people who were willing to testify at public hearings and several local psychotherapists, worked for about 18 months to educate public officials as to the nature of transgender and transsexual ex-

perience and the extent of discrimination, especially institutionalized discrimination against us. We were resoundingly successful because our efforts led to the passage of protective legislation so that all of you visiting this weekend, and all of you who live or work in this City and county, have recourse through the San Francisco Human Rights Commission should you suffer adverse treatment because of your transgender condition, or in the event someone identifies you as transsexual. This is a great achievement, but let me tell you something about what it's like to work on projects



like this as a transsexual man. First of all, at every meeting, everyone asks you where are the other guys? Well, they're busy, they can't get away from their jobs, they don't care about civil rights, they're afraid of coming out? I don't know what the answers are, and I'm not asking for a response. I'm asking for you to think about what I'm saying, that's all. Don't react, don't defend, just think about it. Then, of course, there is always the embarrassing moment when, in a roomful of ac-

tivist male-to-females and Human Rights Commission staffers, someone says, "We can't make a decision on this without involving the FTMs, why aren't there any FTMs here? Where are the FTMs?" And I'm sitting right there, been there all the time, participated in every meeting... This is sort of a backhanded compliment, I know, but it makes me wonder what they think I'm doing there, and how seriously they take my remarks. Furthermore, when the City let it be known that they would hire a contractor to write the report on discrimination against transgendered people, and I bid on it, I heard through the grapevine that there was some resistance to giving me the contract because I am a white male. Could this be construed as discrimination against a me as a transsexual? That's a rhetorical question that bears some consideration. Well, I did get the contract, and Supervisor Hallinan did propose the legislation, and we did win the issue, but after that the press was all about men in dresses. Mention of FTM presence or issues was absolutely minuscule. Several times at the courthouse, when the press was doing interviews, I stood by and listened as reporters inquired who wrote the report, and when I was pointed out to them as the author I could see them looking right through me, looking past me to find the man in a dress who must have written the report and whom they would want to interview. More than once a reporter asked me incredulously, "You wrote this report?" They assumed because of my "normal" appearance that I wouldn't be newsworthy. Yet I did do several interviews with reporters who were very ap-

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BOOK REVIEW

by Logan DeLay

On the surface, I have a lot in common with Blaine Paxton Hall, author of the recently published memoir *Hestia's House* (2003, Hazelhurst House, Pinehurst, NC). We are both white, middle-aged men with college degrees and professional careers. We were both born female. And we were both born to parents who lacked the inclination and/or resources to care for us.

Given these similarities, I might have expected that Hall would be telling a life story that resonated with my own. In fact, our lives took very different paths. I had the good fortune to be adopted by a stable, caring, supportive family. My relationship with my family wasn't perfect, but my own gender issues were the primary difficulties I faced in my childhood. In contrast, Hall's childhood was marked by deprivation, insecurity, and a lack of basic human affection. Indeed, Hall doesn't recollect questioning his gender until he was around 30 years old. As he points out, "actually, all I knew in my youth was that I was hungry."

Hall shares his recollections of his life, framed by a description of his mid-life pilgrimage to Woodstock, Illinois, location of the Woodstock Children's Home, where he'd spent most of his childhood. He describes this home for orphaned and abandoned children in great detail, almost painstakingly documenting the history of the facility, and features of the buildings. Perhaps this fascination reflects his quest for a literal home of his own and for the emotional sense of "home."

In the first half of his book, Hall recalls his tumultuous early years, living with his family in a series of Chicago apart-

ments. His parents consistently neglected the most basic needs of both the author and his younger sister. But it was the author who was the primary target for his father's routinely cruel and disdainful comments and unpredictable bouts of violence. Showing both resiliency and a determination driven by need, he took advantage of every available resource in his neighborhood, and sought to spend as much of his time as possible away from home: at school, after-school programs, and subsidized summer camps.

Periodically, the author and his sister were placed in temporary foster homes, but when Hall was 11 years old, they were given up permanently by their parents. Both he and his sister were sent to live at the Woodstock Children's Home as wards of the state. Hall makes it clear that this was, in many ways, a better home. There was routine, meals were provided on a regular schedule, and the children were transported to school and recreational facilities. There were even some fun times and occasional glimmers of caring from the staff. Yet the children at the home were only minimally provided for, and the paid house-parents were a far cry from a warm or supportive family. As he matured, Hall became increasingly sensitive to the stigma of being a "Home kid," who was unwanted by his own parents. He also became painfully aware of his aloneness in the world.

In the second half of his book, Hall describes his persistent efforts as an adult to pull himself up by his own bootstraps, achieve the stability and security he had always craved, and become a productive member of society. Much of Hall's

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(Continued from Book Review page 7)

adult life continued to be a struggle, as his successes in school and the workplace were regularly threatened or undermined by rejections, displacements, and run-ins with bias and bureaucracy. Ultimately, however, he did succeed in achieving a stable marriage as well as a satisfying and relatively secure career in the medical field.

Given that this is the memoir of an FTM, it is striking how little coverage is given to gender issues or to his experiences in transition. There is no discussion of how being an FTM may have affected his strong connection to the church, nor of how it affected dating, intimacy, or sexual relations. There is the harrowing account of how his girlfriend walked out and left him to fend for himself, right after driving him home from his outpatient mastectomy (most significant for Hall as yet another rejection). Otherwise, one gets the impression that for Hall, being an FTM is just one more thing to worry about being outed and rejected for – as being a “Home kid” was for so much of his life.

The inside cover of Hestia’s House describes the book as “a literary memoir.” Sometimes it seems as though he is sharing these experiences for the first time, right there on the page, and that he really needed to vent many years of anger and frustration. Hestia’s House is a survivor’s story. It does fill the important role of documenting the diversity of FTM experience, and providing insight into the life and personality of a “throw-away child” who made it despite the odds. □

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In late August FTMI had a calendar Launch party in San Francisco that attracted some of the pin-ups and some of their admirers:

Clockwise from top Tom, Andrew & his partner, Pat, the ever present Red, Cole and Deborah, our new FTMI Lou Sullivan chapter facilitator Logan DeLay his Fiancé, Eve and Todd Whitworth (aka Mr October 2006)



By Hugo Rupp

Dr. Lori Kohler had held a mythical position in my relatively juvenile T-mind (that is, for about 2-3 years now) since my TG and TS vet friends always mentioned her as the best instance of referral when my pesky questions about T got onerous to them –which was often. Old timers, so is my experience, never want to go over again and again what for them is old hat, and who is to blame them?

Especially since more and more people at least in the Bay Area are considering if not traditionally trans-sexing then not yet traditionally transgendering or gender-fucking with the aided bonus of hormones. For all those who seek to modify their bodies by making use of the body's innate potential for hormone-induced change, the pursuit of knowledge about what changes to expect is as good as a passion and there are few who would do ho's without doing quite some research, even though said research is pretty much limited to what the medico-cultural establishment has deemed worthy of spending resources on. While this establishment may engage in its protocols for researching FTM/transmen situations according to its not always palatable parameters, said population has not been idle either and come up with its own no longer merely folkloric collection of knowledges, or rather, self-knowledges.

Dr. Kohler, in this schema, has the crucial and admirable position of mediator between these exogenous and endogenous (to cull from ho-speak) research formations. She is a well regarded member of the medical establishment but she also has a long-standing and very open-

minded relationship with the sex/gender communities, quite a number of whom have been her patients. Where top-down medical administrators prefer to impose their heuristics on their patient constituencies, Dr Kohler (bottom-up) listens to hers and integrates what she hears from them into her own clinical and socio-cultural approach to them. The result of this approach emerged, on Aug. 1, 2005, as very constructive and simply quite satisfying without closing matters off

by pronouncing some mechanistic manner of 'Drs. doing things with trannies in a certain set way'. Rather, the slightly experimental quality of embarking on a hormone journey was given its dues, as were the open-endedness of this enterprise and the fact that there are many ways to link body modifications with identity projections. To give an idea what a lecture by Dr. Kohler can provide for a listener, let me present some of my personal impressions as well as summarize some of the wonderfully practical and inconclusive data she offered to us at the recent lecture/workshop at the GLBTQI Center on Market Street.

I don't know why I had this notion, but I expected Dr. Kohler to be a type of cross between John Money and Nurse Ratchet; my less than irrational phobia of things medical may have been a culprit there. What a surprise then when it turned out that Dr. K. is a tall stately woman in handsome slacks with a poker face and a deadpan delivery that cracked up the audience in 2 seconds flat. Dr. K. organized her lecture by collecting our questions – and there were sundry, from neophyte to quite choice.

Here is a sampling:

- What types of administerable T are there?
- What is the difference between T enanthate, T cypionate, patch, and implant?
- What do mg, ml, cc refer to in T-administration?
- What changes and side-effects can be expected over time?
- Especially, is it true that aggression is a side effect of T?
- (SOFFAs especially sought to know on this one.)
- Does the age of transition impact T-taking and how?

- And: Do older transitioners have different side-effects since they have aging bodies some of

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OUT & ABOUT



FTMI International teams up with the National Council on Alcoholism and Other Drug Addictions Bay Area (NCADABA) in a space saving move.

FTMI was offered the chance to use a portion of the NCADABA booth space at the Castro Street Fair, if FTMI helped to set up and break down. Marty Rawlings-Fein is a volunteer at FTMI as well as the NCADA. Marty set up and broke down the booth and helped to promote FTMI and the FTMI Calendar *The Men of FTMI International* to the queer positive crowd at the fair. Find more info about NCADABA at <http://www.ncadaba.com/>.

The End of An Era

FTMI drops it's outdated office space — pictured to the right the former cramped FTMI office. The archival information from Lou Sullivan that has been kept by FTMI for almost 20 years has been shipped to join the Lou Sullivan collection at the LGBT Historical Society in San Francisco. The FTMI office will continue to exist in virtual form with an online office. Located at www.ftmi.org.



This virtual office gives FTMI faster response time when it comes to answering toll-free phone calls — which are forwarded directly to the cell phone of a board member — and better coordination of resources.

Information is now accessible to any

FTMI looking for it 24/7/365 day a year.

FTMI is no longer putting all of the work on one or two dedicated board members who live in San Francisco. FTMI is advancing be an international organization with the ability to effect change in the community.



(Continued from page 9)



which may already have other medical complications?

Are there any studies on the effects of T on

- FTM/transmen T-takers going off T to bear a child and going on T again? (The answer to this one was not sweet but simple: No.)
- Can post-top surgery chests be used to nurse babies, i.e., can they still lactate? And do breasts grow again under the influence of pregnancy-induced hormones?

What happens to the female reproductive organs under T?

Does one have to have a hysterectomy?

Does T cause (especially uterine) cancer?

What about balding; what can be done to prevent or undo it?

What about the voice: will it stay low when T is discontinued?

What is exogenous v. endogenous T?

Most of the answers will be familiar to FTMI newsletter readers so I will skip the obvious, but let me present some of Dr. K.'s comments on the less typical questions. No, chests can't lactate when breasts have been removed by bilateral mastectomy with nipple reconstruction; actually, what Dr. K said was, poker-faced, when nipples have been cut off and glued back on again. But otherwise they can. The effects and side-effects of T are many, both permanent and ephemeral, but sometimes it can't be decided whether an effect is actually decisively T-induced or rather a combination of various factors, including cultural ones. Aggression is such a hairy effect or side-effect (the line between these 2 categories cannot be neatly drawn in any case, since what for some is an effect (i.e., what they desire), for others is a side-effect (what they don't desire but take in stride as collateral fact or damage).

Studies on aggression and T are still inconclusive overall since they contradict one another. From her talks with patients, Dr. K. gathers that aggression seems to

come into play more when there is too little T in the body, i.e., during hormone withdrawal. What, for purposes of comparison, is a definite effect (nobody seems to call that one a side-effect) is that T amplifies the libido; general T-growls from the audience affirmed this safe determination. Aggression, by contrast, has much to do with the feelings of the feeler (rather than eyes of the beholder) and so cannot be reduced to T alone. A sense of entitlement to aggression, as a means of expressing social dominance, for example, very much depends on whether the link between aggression and dominance is a culturally strong and validated one. (In the contemporary U.S., I would think it is a safe bet to consider this link very strong indeed – a culture that links social dominance to cool reason or stoic serenity would consider aggression primitive and backward).

Furthermore, to biologize such an entitlement (to reduce it to exogenous or endogenous biological factors) is, so I'd see it, to machinize it: Take T and get instant dominance! Forget (in the Marxist sense) about the itinerary of producing this dominance – just enjoy the effects if you're on the end that can dish out! Needless to say, our culture strongly ties aggression and dominance to masculinity; so all of us not born with little T-factories attached to our bodies and relying on exogenous T-delivery systems, we could just kiss dominance good-bye if T hadn't been synthesized sometime in the 1930s! And a last thought on that, so nobody knows a person on E who is aggressive? But is female (i.e. E-linked) aggression instantly recognized as dominance? And if not, what does this say about the allegedly biological link between aggression and dominance?

The desire to short-change culture and to privilege biology, even if it's a synthetic biology, is a very strong one in lots of constituencies, but mostly in those who stand to gain from this privilege. We should be wary of it. So on to: Balding – oh yes, the concern with aesthetic side/effects is not at all a sign of vanity (i.e. an air headed overestimation of the trivial, of the emptiness that is akin to death) in many T-challenged people's opinions, but rather a big building block in this body/identification project trans-people (and bio-people!) on T are busily en-



(Continued on page 18)

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(Continued from Green page 6)

preciative and highly impressed with my ability to articulate the issues. Did any of my remarks make it into print? No. The stories were all about men in dresses! Does it matter that the world doesn't know we exist, or doesn't take us seriously? You bet it does. The issue of whether or not we get surgery, especially good surgery is based upon how seriously we are taken. The issue of whether or not we can transition openly on the job without fear of reprisal or repercussion is based upon how seriously we are taken. Issues of safety when passing for crossdressing women are based upon how seriously we are taken. Invisibility does not equate with acceptance. Invisibility can breed contempt because invisibility is one of the conditions that contributes to ignorance. Ignorance hurts us. It keeps us in closets that are too small for us to be healthy. It keeps us contained by our own fears.

And we SHOULD be afraid. We should be afraid of losing our lovers, our families, our jobs, our freedom, our civil rights. We should be so terrified that we can find a way to stand up and say "NO MORE!" Maybe that way is to write letters to people who CAN do something publicly. Write a letter of support, write a letter of complaint, write a letter advising someone. When you see something written in a magazine or newspaper that is ill-informed or inaccurate or insulting to transgendered or transsexual people, write a letter. Don't use your own name if you don't want to. Or when you hear about trans-people protesting something and you agree with the action, go on down there and help them out. You don't have to say you are transsexual or transgendered, you only have to say that you support the rights of transsexual or transgendered people. Think about it. Who's driving? Are we there yet?

Does everybody understand the term transgender? I know that many transsexual men and women object to the term because they feel that having gone through transition their body and their gender are in alignment and so they are not transgendered. Here is an excerpt from a letter I wrote to the San Francisco Bay Times, published October 20, 1994:

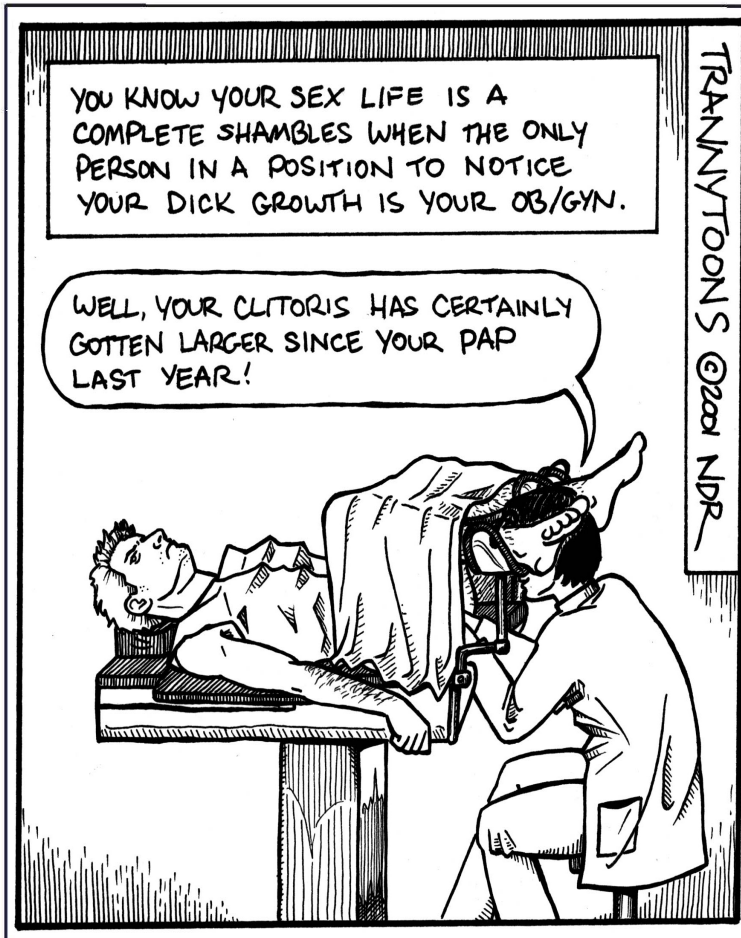
"Many transsexuals and transvestites are heterosexual, which is one reason why the gay and lesbian community does not want to have anything to do with them. (And some of the transpeople don't want to be associated with homosexuals, either. Too bad.) With regard to the social construction of gender, sexual orientation is a moot point. Most people have not learned how to separate sex from gender, and the sloppy use of language in our society doesn't help matters.

The middle of the road American sees a masculine woman or a feminine man, and he doesn't care who they actually sleep with. He's already figured out they're queer. Because of that, he assumes who they sleep with, and he's ready to kill to protect mom and apple pie. In other words, it's not about sexual orientation--it's about gender expression and interpretation. Likewise, it's not about whether as a transsexual you have changed your sex or your gender--it's still about gender expression and interpretation in real-time, in the physical world. If one is to be honest about it, it's queer, whether anyone likes it or not.

"As a transsexual man, I describe myself as having changed the sex of my body, but not my gender. Because I am transsexual, I sought to align my body and my spirit, psyche, soul, gender expression, so I changed my body to manifest that. Not all transgendered people do this. Transgender does not mean changing gender. It means going across gender. Now, if gender is both expressed and interpreted, then it may be said of my experience in both a female and a male form that I was transgendered when I expressed my male gender through my female body, but in my male body I am no longer transgendered because my expression and your interpretation of my gender will not conflict. The fact that I am no longer physically transgendered does not erase my experience of that state, or my empathy for the people who are consciously or unconsciously living in that state and enduring the prejudice and abuse of people whose own identities are severely threatened by transgendered people, whom they interpret as embodying the dissolution of order in the very cosmos because gender boundaries have been crossed.

"I am willing to take on the label of transgender as an "out" transsexual man because I believe it is the broadest possible category under which transpeople can unite. I don't care who other people sleep with. I do care that people have little tolerance for difference, for diversity in race, religion, physical bodies, sexual orientation, or gender identity. I care that people are murdered for expressing themselves, or for being different. As a transsexual man, even though I can "pass," I will never be "normal;" I have a unique history of which I am not ashamed. It gives me a perspective which I feel privileged to have, and it does not make me any less a man. I am willing to take on the label of transgender because I believe it will ultimately help bring about greater understanding between people so the world can be a safer place for all of us. I hope that other people will look inside themselves

(Continued on page 14)



“Here I Am”

Here I am
This is me
Here I am

This is he
Who was I when I was young?
When had all this Pain begun?
Was I already someone when I
Was inside her?
Was it really me who tried
To deny her?
Was the truth always there
To be discovered?
Am I shameless now and
Fully recovered?

Here I am
This is me
Here I am
This is He!

Written by Jesse Doty, J.D. 10-10-05.

(Continued from page 5)

Online Community: We have two online community e-group lists for members. One is for FTMI announcements only and one is for discussion, support and information for FTMI members and potential members. You can subscribe at http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM_International and http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FTM_International_Discussion

Website: We've launched a new FTMI website with updated resources at <http://www.ftmi.org> with a form and links for updates from our members and ask for your help in listing additional resources.

Ongoing: We have shuffled around the board duties. Levi has been acting President for most of this year while Zion has been on leave, so we've named Levi as President and Zion as VP. When Zion comes back from leave, he will concentrate on leading an FTMI New Men's Group. We've had many requests for this group. Todd has been juggling being treasurer for three groups and has been facilitating the FTMI monthly meetings for more than two years so we've named Alexander as Treasurer and Logan has volunteered to facilitate the monthly meetings starting in 2006 alongside Todd. Marty has served as acting Secretary for over a year and been editing the Newsletter single-handedly, we've named Marty the Secretary and brought in Alexander as the Newsletter Editor. Our volunteer Jennifer has been leading the SOFFA meetings and is looking for a volunteer

replacement for 2006.

Upcoming: We want to focus on providing strong FTMI representation to the San Francisco area. So we have created The FTMI San Francisco Lou Sullivan Chapter as our flagship powerhouse chapter with over three hundred members. We plan to develop other chapters next year and to strengthen the ties FTMI has with international cognate groups and will be expanding our international services. We are applying for grants for projects to meet identified community needs, and will keep you informed about our progress and new developments.

Volunteering and Support Opportunities: We appreciate the many hours of time donated by all our volunteers and the dues and donations of all our members and friends. We hope when you can you will support the work of FTMI with a small donation, those small gifts add up, and to all of you who have given so much to FTMI -- THANKS!

Your FTMI Executive Board!



Levi Zion Alexander Martin

(Continued from Green page 12)

and recognize their own transgendered qualities, stop being afraid of being associated with other queer people, and own their own humanity. I believe this is evolution of consciousness, and it starts with each of us."

So where is our community? Are we just too diverse to ever form community? Last June I was honored to accept a Transgender Pioneer Award from the International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, and during my little speech at the awards presentation dinner, I asked (another rhetorical question): "Who is the FTM Community?" And a very enthusiastic and well-meaning Phyllis Frye called out "You are!" And I said, "NO! I am NOT the FTM community. There is no FTM community". We are trying to create one just by naming it. It may exist someday; it does not exist now. And it won't exist until we have a chance to come together and learn to get beyond our personal issues.

This conference is an open door to that community. If you want it. If you build it, they will come. If there is to BE such a thing as the FTM community, YOU are its architects. What we accomplish here this weekend, what we each come away with, will be a part of the foundation on which our community is built. Can you envision it? Do you want it? Take responsibility. Make it happen. Prepare for community...make it so. □

Activist, author, educator, columnist: Visible Man

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Jamison "James" Green is an author and educator specializing in transgender and transsexual issues. His latest book is

"Becoming a Visible Man" (2004). As an activist, he led FTM International from 1991 to 1999. He is currently chairman of Gender Education & Advocacy, Inc. (GEA, based in Atlanta), a director of the Transgender Law & Policy Institute (TLPI, based in New York City) and a director of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association (HBIGDA, headquartered in Minneapolis). He currently serves on HBIGDA's Legal Issues Committee, chairing its Advocacy & Liaison committee, and he has been a consultant to the Standards of Care (SOC) committee. He is also a member of the Human Rights Campaign Business Council.

Conference Tapes are available from Female to Male International on top of the "Opening Ceremonies," FTMI also has:

- "Living Long Term in Transsexual Bodies"
- "Spirituality and Male Consciousness Raising"
- "Coming Out"
- "Political Legal Issues For FTM's"
- "Therapists"
- "Academic Perspectives"
- "Relationships"
- "MTF/FTM Issues"
- "Endocrinology"
- "Chest Reconstruction"
- "Genital Reconstruction"
- "Parenting"
- & "General Health Concerns w/ Final Questions and Wrap Up"

ness Council.



FTM International Malebox

FTMI,

I'm requesting some information on getting to meet women who would like to date and/or be with someone who is going through the change.

Right now I'm doing shots and up to 100 mgs and rising soon. I have not had and surgeries until further notice between my

therapists here at my Counseling and my Dr.

Charlie B.

Response Email [REDACTED]

Charlie,

I hope this note finds you well. I am one of the contributing editors of the FTMI Newsletter and received your mailing about wanting to find info on dating. We have printed your letter with a few changes:

Charlie B.

Response Email: [REDACTED]

This address I have given you is a forward that will give you an anonymous email for response to your personal ad. Because this is an anonymous email address you can receive emails at your regular address through the ftmi.org address and only respond to the emails that you want. If you want me to get rid of the forward at any point (say you find a partner) just shoot me an email and I will remove the forwarding.

Thanks for posting with FTMI!

Some other places to find partners are:

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FtM_Cupids_Arrow/

http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ftm_personals/

<http://www.otherbear.com/pers.html>

<http://www.tgconnect.com/>

<http://ftm-personals.tribe.net/>

These are just a few of the places that I found in a google search. If you can get past the immense garbage available and the shemale ads there is a wealth of information on dating available online for FTMs.

Marty Rawlings-Fein

FTMI Publications Director

(Continued on page 15)

(Continued from page 14)

Hope you are doing well. Keep up the great work with your newsletter!

In your newsletter (issue #56-Fall), there is an ad for "Mango Products". I am interested in purchasing some of their products, but don't have a computer here at home; and at the library there would be no privacy to view "Mango's" website.

Could you mail me their address or send them my address to have them send me their catalogue with prices and an address to send money order for whatever I purchase? This would be deeply appreciated and thank you in advance.

I am looking forward to reading your future newsletters!

Sincerely
Patrick

Patrick,

I hope you received the catalogue in good health. Your predicament is one that many FTMs have across the globe, no computer or internet access. That is why the newsletter will still be available in print format for luddites among us.

Marty

FTMI,

The names and places have been changed to protect everyone:

When I think about all the time and energy wasted in the transgender community around disliking each other I have to weep. I have fallen into the trap many times before and I really didn't see my part in the cycle until Transgender Day of Remembrance. Where several people whom I have actively disliked, some for a short period and others for a long while were there. Some were smug and some weren't, some had wide eyed innocence to their appearance, while still others had their guard up and bristled when other "enemies" entered the hall. If our leaders got along how beautiful the world might look. As an organizer of this year's Transgender Day of Remembrance I come away from the event with a lesson of patience and forgiveness because we don't know how long we have on this earth.

The fact that a lot of my friends are embittered enemies affects my friendships to a degree. When I ask for people to come to a party or other event, I can't ask one if I ask another because if one knows the other will be there they both will not come. In fact one of my best friends won't come to any of my parties, not a one. I thought something was wrong with our friendship until I looked at whom I was inviting to my parties: everyone. Even Don whom I didn't get along with just a few years ago, and Tom another friend who really holds a grudge against Don. I don't think Don ever let go of the fact that Tom was a potential rival to his position and Tom never got over the fact that Don was passive aggressive about the rivalry. Lets just say it is like the seating chart from hell.

These grudges are held across time and memorial and do not have the look of something that will go away. While my friend Donna was standing on the sidelines at the Day Of Remembrance event, that she helped put together, an unidentified woman walked around the podium and started berating her for saying something about one of this woman's friends in the community (all while Marty was at the podium speaking about Transgender Panic). It was at the point when Donna made a public apology to the woman's friend, Carol, for an out of hand comment made that evening, that Carol said something to the effect of "Yeah well I am not in this alone," and blasted Donna one more time for good measure. What ever happened to the

phrase "Program Before Personalities" I know that it is a recovery saying but it fits here. I even slapped Lonnie on the back and asked him how he was doing, even though he took it upon himself to trash an all-volunteer organization to distract the community from his monumental screw up. He looked a little shocked that I would do such a thing as check in with him; I mean he knows that I know. We still had a small conversation and touched base a little but when Don walked in all conversation stopped and Lonnie went back to the deafening silence. It is just all par for the course for trans life in my town where politics and personalities mix like baking soda and vinegar.

I started to realize that people are just that, people. We are all human and we deserve to be taken at face value. Not the face we had 8 years ago but the face that we present now. Lonnie has definitely done a lot for the community; his resume speaks for itself, as does his continuing involvement in the community. Don is a leader as well, creating changes in the hearts of men and women and working to the betterment of this community. Both Carol and Donna are great mobilizers of the masses and both deserve to get credit for what they do but not at the expense of the other. Both are part of the media and both are great friends of mine in their own right. It seems so often that we are attacking those who could be our allies and if we would only let our guard down for a moment and work together we could accomplish much more.

As the names were read the world looked a little bleaker as 28 lights were extinguished and a hush fell over the crowd as the last woman read the name and how the person died. This DOR I was reminded that ones light can be extinguished at a moments notice and we have to come to a place where we can make amends, ask for forgiveness, renew old friendships and be good to one another.

I would like to thank all those that I have worked with throughout the years for being there with me during my tantrums, hissyfits and breakdowns and still liked me. My one hope is that all the so-called "enemies" in our community will be able to meet in the middle and enjoy each other's company someday. I would love to see it in my lifetime and who knows, maybe I will call Marty, Lonnie, Don, Carol, Donna and Tom for an afternoon in the park with our animals, children and selves. Perhaps this could be the start of something more beneficial for the community than passive aggressive posturing and outright confrontation. Imagine a world with adult do-overs, where we could all shake hands and call it a day over disagreements and damaged feelings. I see that world coming and it starts with me: being a more forgiving, patient, and caring individual. Wont you take my hand, start over and work to make this a trans community of which we can be proud.

Dan


Dan,

Wow! The board knows all too well the community strife you talk about. Be assured that we will be discussing your letter in the coming months. You really hit the nail on the head in regard to the personal grudges that people in our community hold against each other and we haven't heard anyone put it so well in such a succinct letter.

That being said, the Day of Remembrance is a solemn event to remember those whom have died in the past year and anyone else who tries to make it about themselves or their causes is just in bad form.

*Hang in there and remember you always have friends in us!
The Board of FTMI*

FTMI Male Box
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Email: malebox@ftmi.org
Mail: FTMI International C/O
Editor



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TENDERLOIN n. (slang):

1. A vice-ridden district of a city plagued by police corruption.
2. The name of one such neighborhood in San Francisco.

Stryker's Film, Compton's

Cafeteria Riots to be Honored

At a recent screening of *Screaming Queens* in the Castro, Dr. Susan Stryker recounted moving to San Francisco, after finishing her PhD in history at UC Berkeley, and how she came across an amazing event in the history of the queer community.

It was just a small article in a Pride zine about a riot that happened in 1966, **three years before Stonewall**, at the Gene Compton's Cafeteria in the Tenderloin. However, it was so much more than a footnote to Stryker and the inner historian took over. Stryker with filmmaker Victor Silverman's assistance found the primary sources needed and created the documentary *Screaming Queens* which shows just one of many stories from 60's radical queer activism that make San Francisco so essential to the queer justice movement.

The riot happened in San Francisco's Tenderloin district at the Gene Compton's Cafeteria. On a hot August night in 1966 a group of transgender



women and gay street-hustlers fought back for the first time in history against everyday police harassment. This act of resistance was a dramatic turning point for the transgender community, and the beginning of a new human rights struggle that continues to this very day. For almost 40 years, it was almost-forgotten until Stryker's film *Screaming Queens* recovered the story for today's audiences.

Stryker announced a community-organized event in commemoration of the 40th anniversary of this important milestone. A plaque will be laid on the corner of the old Compton's Cafeteria site at the corner of Turk and Taylor in the Tenderloin neighborhood. To stand as a remembrance to the event that changed the course of history, for the better, so long ago.

When: June 22nd 12-1pm
Where: Turk and Taylor
San Francisco, CA

By Martin Rawlings-Fein

(Continued from page 11)

gaged in. For some, baldness may be an effect (they desire it so they look more mature-male) but for most of those I know, me included, it is an onerous collateral damage. So Dr. K. cautioned us all to start preventing early, because once the balding is done, it cannot (yet) be reversed short of costly and unpleasant transplants. But, so her upbeat message, Minoxidil works! Or so it does in many of her patients.

Finally, no, T does not cause more cancer in transpeople than in bio-people, and it may even cause less cancer. For one, TM transpeople on T don't have a prostate gland to enlarge, but even more importantly, the uterus itself is quite unlikely to become cancerous if certain precautions are taken. Most important of all is to keep taking T continuously so that the endometrium will not build up for ovulation and then get trapped by new T-administration in the body before it can slough off naturally.

All those who take a T-break and still have a functioning uterus should thus wait to go back on T until the uterus has bled out the newly built up endometrial material. The ovaries usually wither and can be prone to cancer in FTMs as much or as little as in post-menopausal women. The cervix is susceptible to cancer only by means

of STD virus infections and so can be prevented through safe sex devices. For all of us this means, regular visits to the OB/GYN should keep us as safe as any post-menopausal woman while we're already safer than bio-men, at least where the gonads are concerned.

As for other side/effects, arterial cholesterol, for example, our risk is about as great as that of the bio-male members of our families. In sum, it seemed that based on the few studies that have been done as well as on the vast resources of knowledge personally gathered by Dr. K. in encounters with transpeople on T, which T is about as safe in us as it is in bio-male populations.

The 2 hours were up in no time, and we held Dr. K over for about 10 minutes before Willy Wilkinson, from the TG Law Center who had graciously organized this lecture and regaled us with cookies and soft drinks (which prompted Dr. K. to remark that the MTFs had provided not only for better blackboard material but also for better food ...), released her from our inquisitive clutches. Anyone with questions on T could find no better means to assuage their thirst of knowledge-in-process on T than to attend one of Dr. K. legendary lectures!



trans march

San Francisco

Friday, June 23, 2006

7 pm March.

3 pm - 7 pm Speakers and Performers

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For more info or to volunteer please contact info@transmarch.org.

FTMI Board Application for Terms Beginning July 2006

Submission Deadline: May 15th, 2006 by 5:00pm

NAME: _____
PHONE: _____ EMAIL(REQUIRED) _____
DEGREE(S): _____ SPECIALTY: _____

1. Are you a current FTMI Member? YES / NO Year joined FTMI? _____
2. What do you hope to help FTMI accomplish during your tenure as a FTMI board member?
3. Describe your prior involvement with FTMI, if any, OR other LGBT organizations.
4. What strengths would you bring to the FTMI board (e.g., experience, knowledge, skills, contacts, diversity, development skills, legal experience, accounting or finance skills, etc.)?
5. Have you served on any other non-profit boards? YES / NO Please specify which ones, duration of service, and any offices held.
6. Membership recruitment and fundraising are vital to the continued success of FTMI. Each board member is expected to make a personally significant gift and to assist these efforts in some way. Are you willing to recruit members, lend your name to appeals, to write personal notes, etc.?
7. What tasks are you most interested in performing while a FTMI board member? Check all that apply.
_____ Drafting policies/position statements
_____ Being a media spokesperson
_____ Planning Annual Conferences
_____ Hosting membership recruitment and donor receptions
_____ Corporate and major donor fundraising
_____ Writing for the FTMI Newsletter
_____ Other: _____
8. We are a working Board, which means that board members perform many of the functions that staff perform in larger organizations. We request a commitment of an average of three hours per week, in addition to at least six two-hour board meetings per year. Will this time commitment represent a challenge for you? If so, explain.
9. We strive to make the FTMI board a harmonious environment. Have you worked in consensus before and how would you handle disagreements that might arise?

FTMI's work to build and strengthen FTM lives is vitally important. FTMI commits to educate Board members regarding FTMI's programs, development approaches and financial aspects of a not-for-profit organization.

We thank you for considering FTM International as a potential recipient of your time and talent.

Do you know any other qualified individuals who might be interested in serving as a FTMI Board Member?

Name: _____ Email: _____ Phone: _____

Please attach additional pages if necessary. Send your application with your résumé or curriculum vitae by email to info@ftmi.org no later than May 15th, 2006.

Female-To-Male International Inc.
740A-14th St. #216
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Questions? Call (877) 267-1440 and leave a message. Or contact Marty Rawlings-Fein at martyr@ftmi.org or 415-845-1157.



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Penguin/Tarcher**

*On the way to
rebuilding the
temple that is now
his body, he
stumbled
upon his soul . . .*

Dhillon Khosla

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