

ABOUT OUR GET-TOGETHERS

Get-Together #5, held March 27, 1988, was a real success, with another recordbreaking attendance. Eighteen female-to-males accompanied by eight lovers and/or friends heard our "Old Timers Panel" speakers, FTM granddaddies Steve Dain and John Garrigues. Many know Steve and John best from their parts in the 1985 HBO Special, "What Sex Am I?"

After telling a little about themselves, the panel opened the floor to questions. Some topics covered were the long-term effects of testosterone (nutrition, sex drive, weight gain/loss, hair loss); Depo-Testosterone (a synthetic hormone) versus Delatestryl (a natural hormone); how to handle job transitions; and whether or not to tell others of your past. In response to a question on how to handle a long-established negative body image (a common problem for transsexuals), Steve suggested a trip to the nearest shopping mall: he feels a good, hard look at the many varieties, shapes and sizes of the human male there should help alleviate any FTM's poor self-image!

FTM Newsletter #3 in its new expanded format was available to attendees, as were copies of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association Standards of Care.

Six FTMs put their names in the hat, hoping to win the drawing held after the panel for two copies of Benjamin's classic, **The Transsexual Phenomenon**. Mike B. won the illustrated copy, while Mike V. clinched the non-illustrated one.

Our next Get-Together, a "Fathers Day Summer Social," will be held June 19 in the beautiful home of one of our members, giving us more time to socialize with old and new friends and to finally meet those with familiar faces from previous Get-Togethers. As a special treat, we will be showing the video, **Second Serve**, starring Vanessa Redgrave as Dr. Richard Raskin, surely the finest female-to-male performance on film. Several copies of **Emergence** will be available for \$6 on a first-come, first-served basis, along with a few other books of interest.

Several FTMs have expressed interest in a panel of wives and girlfriends of FTMs at a future Get-Together. If any of you ladies are willing to sit on such a panel, contact Lou at Identifying Information Redacted, San Francisco Identifying Information Redacted.

FTM's IN NASHVILLE

Dare, a gay and lesbian newspaper published in Nashville, Tennessee, features a series entitled, "Women in Suits: Drag Kings?" FTM hopes to obtain a copy, which will be made available to our readers.

ON BUYING SHOES

By Hal

Genetic males have big feet! This is almost certainly not news to you, but for some of us it does present a problem in changing over to the male role. Until you tried to buy men's dress shoes, it may have been easy to ignore just how big a difference there is. But then you find that many men's shoe stores do not carry sizes smaller than 8! That's a man's size 8 and corresponds to a woman's size 9½. (To find the man's size corresponding to a woman's size, subtract one and a half.)

So - if you wear a woman's size 9½ or larger, you are lucky and only need to read this article out of general interest. If not, maybe I can offer some helpful hints. First, some more bad news. The smallest men's shoe size made is a 5, corresponding to a woman's 6½. If you wear an even smaller size than that, you will have to content yourself with wearing boy's shoes. To avoid the embarrassment (if it bothers you) of shopping in the boy's department, I can only suggest that you order shoes by mail through Sears or similar outlets.

In sizes between (men's) 5 and 8, availability of the styles you want will vary from store to store, and generally decrease toward the lower end of the size scale. Look in the Yellow Pages under "Shoes" - the ads for men's shoe stores will sometimes specify the sizes they carry, especially if they do have extra small or extra large sizes. Florsheim, Wright, and RedWing are some shoe brands that come in small sizes. Sometimes you may have to place a special order to get the size/style combination you want. The store will probably have a catalog that shows which styles come in your size--ask to see it.

I have been disappointed to learn that most companies that offer shoes by mail-order also do not carry the smaller sizes. The only one I have found that offers a good selection is the "Elevator" shoes from Richlee. If you would like the height-increasing feature, these are a good choice. They really are not obvious, are well made, goodlooking and not too

SHOE SIZE CONVERSION CHART

Womens

4	2½	youth
4½	3	youth
5	3½	boys
5½	4	boys
6	4½	boys
6½	5	boys
7	5½	boys
7½	6	mens
8	6½	mens
8½	7	mens
9	7½	mens
9½	8	mens

expensive. To get their catalog, write to: Richlee Shoe Company, P.O. Box 3566, Frederick, Maryland 21701. The major problem I have with them is simply that I feel embarrassed to take them off and suddenly become 2 inches shorter.

Also, you may want to consider the option of starting to wear shoes somewhat larger than you've been used to. It is always possible to put an insole, heel pad, tongue pad, etc. into a shoe to make it a little more comfortable if it's too large - also you can wear thick socks. But I have also found that I can simply get used to a looser-feeling shoe by persisting in wearing it. Even the difference between size 5½ and size 6 makes it noticeably easier to find what I want.

Finally, when you do find what you want, be sure to keep track of what worked. Try to remember such things as the store, the brand name, style name, and the exact size so that in the future you can repeat your success.

MORE FTM FILMS!

The San Francisco Lesbian & Gay Film Festival once again brings us a rare female-to-male film. **Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Popular Press** is a 1984 West German film in which the wealthy young man Dorian Gray is played by female actress/model Veruschka von Lehndorff. It will be shown one time



Dorian Gray in the Mirror of the Popular Press

only, Wednesday, June 22, at 9 p.m. at the Castro Theatre in San Francisco, phone (415) 621-6120.

Also at the Castro as part of the Festival will be a lecture with film clips and slides entitled "A Queer Feeling When I Look at You: Hollywood Stars and Lesbian Spectatorship." The presentation will begin at 7 p.m. on Friday, June 24, and will feature scenes from the 1930's of female-to-male crossdressing, including Marlene Dietrich in **Morocco**, Greta Garbo in **Queen Christina**, and Katharine Hepburn in **Sylvia Scarlett**.

Advance tickets for the above Festival events are available from Captain Video, 2358 Market St., San Francisco, (415) 431-9227.

The Castro Theatre will also show **Victor/Victoria**, the hilarious 1982 version with Julie Andrews as the not-very-believable Count (Sunday, June 26, 9 p.m.), and **My Life As a Dog**, with an adolescent FTM as supporting actress (Friday, July 29, 8 p.m.).

LOS ANGELES TIMES PLANS FTM ARTICLE

The Los Angeles Times is preparing an article about the female-to-male phenomenon. They expect to print the article the end of this month.

OTHER GENDER MEETINGS IN THE BAY AREA

While **FTM** is the only meeting for female-to-males only in the Bay Area, you might want to check out the other gender dysphoria groups inbetween times. Be forewarned that you may be the only female-to-male in the room, but much can be learned from those going in the opposite direction.

Transvestites & Transsexuals Rap Group (women and men) meet the first and third Wednesdays and last Friday of each month at the Pacific Center in Berkeley. For more info, call [redacted]

Transsexual Drop-In Support Group meets every Tuesday from 8:00-9:45 p.m. at the Pacific Center. See phone number above for more information.

Transvestites/Transsexuals and Friends Transgender Group with a very large and active membership meets 8 p.m. the last Thursday of each month. Contact [redacted] San Francisco [redacted] or call [redacted]

FTM "MALE" BOX

Dear **FTM**:

A Mr. Humphreys gave me a paper about **FTM Newsletter**. I have not seen it in Canada. It asked for contributors. I would like to have a branch of the **Newsletter** started in Canada. There are some transsexuals in Canada. I am trying to start up a newsletter called Tran News Service. I would like to know where I can get some contributors. If you could send me a sample of your newsletter, maybe I could have a branch of your newsletter distributed in Canada. I would like to work with you for the good of transsexuals. I hope to hear from you soon.

I am,

Alan [redacted]
[redacted]
[redacted]
Ottawa Ontario Canada, [redacted]

Dear Alan:

Thank you for your letter. We are a growing group of female-to-males in the San Francisco Bay Area who get together every 3 months. **FTM Newsletter** is published for our meetings, so we are especially pleased to see it has reached Canada!

With the recent folding of Toronto's **Metamorphosis Magazine**, it seems **FTM** is the only publication exclusively for the female-to-male. For this reason, we look forward to expanding our readership and will consider any contributions you might make to **FTM** of articles, letters, announcements, cartoons, etc.

Enclosed are all back issues of **FTM**; we will place you on our mailing list for future issues. Please inform other female-to-males of **FTM** through Tran News Service, and feel free to reprint our articles in your newsletter. Let us know if we can help in any way - "for the good of transsexuals."

Editor, **FTM**

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

Contributors: Lou Sullivan, editor; Kevin Horwitz, and Hal

Dear FTM,

Thank you for your booklet about the female-to-male crossdresser and transsexual. Although I've read it a dozen times from cover to cover, every day I pick it up and roam through it. It has been my salvation in a time when I have felt so alone. I found it clear and easy reading with a touch of gentle humor. I only wish I would have known about it sooner.

I am a female-to-male transsexual. I live in Hawaii with my partner Janet and our new edition (9 months old). Six months ago I came to terms with my transsexualism. Although I've known since I was a child that I was born into the wrong body, it's taken me 25 years to awaken the courage in myself to step out the door. I am more in line with life than I have ever been. Living in Hawaii has me pretty much isolated from the kind of support that I know I need. I'm being seen by a very wonderful doctor who is working with one other female-to-male. Unfortunately I do not know who this person is, so there is no one to share with. I have so many unanswered questions, so many uncharted thoughts that I lay awake at night for hours wondering how will I know, how can I know the answers. Although I know a lot of the answers must come from within, still I can't help but feel like having someone to share with who has been through the change would help a great deal. So I'm asking you if you know of anyone who would be interested in writing to me. If you know of someone, please share my address and phone number with them.

Janet and I were talking last night about how she too wished there was someone to talk with. She too feels alone. So once again if you know of anyone who would be willing to write to her or call, or if you know of any reading material that would be good to read, please let us know. Janet too has many unanswered questions. We are in couples counseling, yet there is nothing like sharing with someone who has been down the road.

I did call Steve Dain and it was a pleasure talking to him. He is really a good source of information and I know he is there for me, yet I know I need to foster more relationships. So if you know of anyone who would like to share with us, please don't hesitate. I really wish there was a publication that we could write in and share our experiences. It's unusual for me to be this out because for the most part I'm a very private person.

Warmly,

Daniel

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Dear FTM,

I desire to thank you most assuredly for the information you provided as to others whom may be able to provide F-to-M TS literature. It is, alas, a great shame there is not more F-to-M materials available to the general public. I have sent a copy to Danny in Brazil—he goes “ape” over any literature on F-to-M TS, no matter if in English or Portuguese.

Thank you for sending a copy of **Emergence**. I have not as yet finished with it. Am slowly digesting everything and anything contained in its pages. I am amazed at ever so many things that the F puts up with afore the actual hospital trips to become M.

I now begin to fully understand what my FTM friend has been writing of all these years to me.

Too, definitely did appreciate **FTM Newsletter #3**. I like it immensely. Too bad there are not many, many other publications like it.

Ever fondly,

An MTF friend

EMERGENCE, by Mario Martino

Emergence is the only contemporary FTM autobiography, published in 1977. It is now out-of-print and unavailable in bookstores. We've scrounged around some used bookstores and found several copies, which will be on sale at our next Get-Together for \$6 each. If you miss out on one of these copies, try Books Etc., 583 Castro Street, San Francisco, (415) 621-8631. They have quite a few used copies of **Emergence** for \$10 each.

ANOTHER FTM BOOK IN THE WORKS

After four years of researching the life story of Jack Bee Garland, Lou Sullivan recently signed a book contract with Alyson Publications of Boston and received a cash advance toward his biography of Garland. Garland was an FTM in San Francisco from



Jack Bee Garland

1869-1936, having lived the last 40 years of life passing as a man in a time when no hormones or surgeries were available. “It wasn't easy finding a publisher,” Lou said. “The mainstream press thinks it's a gay story, but the men's press thinks it's a woman's story, and the women's press thinks it's a man's story.” The book should be out sometime in the Spring of 1989.

After publishing *Metamorphosis* ("the only magazine for the female-to-male only") on a regular basis since February 1982, Rupert Raj, the editor, informs us that the magazine has been discontinued "on account of chronic burn-out." FTM regrets this, and wishes to thank Rupert for his many years of devotion to a job well done. We will definitely miss *Metamorphosis*. Rupert will continue his services as a "Gender Worker" and can be contacted at P.O. Box 1224, Station A, Toronto Ontario Canada M5W 1G7, (416) 769-7170.



Rupert Raj

The following classified Personals ad appeared in the June 1988 issue of *Coming Up!*, a reputable gay/lesbian monthly in San Francisco:

Patiently Seeking My Hero

Creative, beautiful, bright, slender, loyal Femme, 34, with both psychological and spiritual perspective, cultured yet unaffected, desires pursuit by ardent, exceptionally masculine, handsome, muscular, Butch woman (or female-to-male transsexual) over 5'5", who is self-assured, not afraid to wear a Tux!, emotionally mature, decisive, but not overbearing; with a big heart; willing to relocate to Southwest. No smokers, substance abusers, please! Reply to Box [Redacted] *Coming Up!*, [Redacted] San Francisco, CA [Redacted]

'Very feminine' groom ordered to drop pants before wedding

LONDON TELEGRAPH

COPENHAGEN — A West German couple's wedding went beyond the traditional when the bridegroom was ordered to drop his trousers to prove he was a man, a spokesman for the mayor in the small town of Aabenraa has confirmed.

"We had to make sure," said the spokesman, Ehlert B. Nielsen, who declined to identify the couple.

"We have a lot of foreign marriages here, and we have to be careful," Nielsen said.

The officials were concerned about the Friday ceremony because the groom "looked very feminine and was heavily made up," Nielsen said. A mistranslation in the man's West German identity papers also had labeled him as a "tochter" or daughter.

A local policeman was called to

the office, Nielsen said, and the man was asked "to go into an adjoining room to drop his trousers" so the authorities could check to make sure he was indeed a man.

"He was, and we married the couple," Nielsen said.

"They took it quite well considering," Nielsen added. "They could see that under the circumstances we were in doubt and promised to have the groom's papers corrected when they got back to West Germany."

If the couple had waited another six months to get married it probably would not have made any difference whether the groom was male or female.

At the end of 1988 a new law comes into effect in Denmark providing for registered partnerships between individuals of the same sex.

Under the law, couples of the same sex will be able to marry.