

*Journal of*

*Male Feminism*



*1980*

*No 1*

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*Journal of*  
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Editor: Glenda Rene Jones

Associate Editor and Secretary of the Alliance,  
the lovely and beautiful Phyllis Robbins.

The article "Going Public" was based in part on interviews with Ms. Betty Ann Lind and Ms. Ariadne Kane. Both of these people have had extensive experience in public. Ms. Kane in particular has appeared numerous times on television. The article, however, represents the views of the editor only. Total agreement by the interviewees is not necessarily implied.

The International Alliance for Male Feminism is incorporated not for profit in the District of Columbia. The purposes and aims of the Alliance are three fold: to serve as an educational agency to inform the public and those in the professional community about the phenomenon of cross gender identity, to help those with gender identity conditions to lead a happier and more fulfilled life, and to act as a clearing house for accurate and up to date information in this area.

One very important thing for any person with a gender identity condition to realize is that they are not alone. Indeed, there are millions and millions of others. To that end we work actively to promote social interaction among crossdressers and their family members. While most crossdressers do not obtain sex reassignment surgery, for some this is indicated. The Alliance to this end maintains a broad base of professionals that these persons may visit. We also maintain resources for those having marital and family problems to seek aid.

Membership in the Alliance is open to anyone over the age of 18 who agrees to abide by our bylaws as they relate to behavior which will not bring the Alliance into disrepute and protection of the security of the membership.

Those interested in inquiring further should write the address shown inside the front cover and request the membership packet. Since this consists in part of back copies of our Journal, indicate what, if any, Journals you already have. Included also is a membership application. To defray our cost, the price for this is \$5.00. It is more than worth the price. Cost for a one year membership is \$20 US. The cost of the member package can be deducted from the first year's dues.

The Alliance publishes the Journal of Male Feminism quarterly, the non-confidential membership directory annually with periodic updates, and various newsletters. (The only information ever mentioned about anyone in the Journal or directory is first femme name and number unless additional information is specifically authorized.)



## THE STATE OF THE ALLIANCE AND THE STATE OF THE CULTURE

by Glenda Rene Jones

This past year has been a good one for the Alliance. Although membership remains about what it was in mid 77-78, we have gained roughly 100 new members. We expect in the near term to get several new applications back from those we have sent out. Our longer term prospects are also quite strong. Recently a mention of the Janus Information Facility appeared in Dear Abby which has netted them over a thousand responses. Since the Alliance is one of the agencies which Janus refers, it has bulged our mailbag in the past few days. We are continuing to add professional people to our mailing list many of whom give us a number of referrals.

Last year, 1979, since the middle of April when Linda and I assumed the leadership, the Alliance took in \$3340.80, spent \$3194.32 leaving a balance at the end of the year of \$146.48. Our balance as of this writing is about \$750, however the present Journal will come out of that.

Our major continuing priority is to provide to the membership an avenue of communication for the discussion of the problems and joys of the crossdressing lifestyle and associated matters. It is very gratifying

to hear from the many people who the Alliance has helped and your happiness and welfare is our main reason for being.

We are concerned over the somewhat high rate of marital discord and divorce in the culture, however, in the absence of accurate statistics, it is mostly an observation. Our society as whole certainly has a high divorce rate.

We will certainly continue working closely with many other groups sharing interest in this common work. In this issue of the Journal is a writeup on Golden Gate, a group for whom we have a great deal of respect. Other groups will be mentioned in future issues of this publication.

Again let me remind you of the work being done by Outreach in bringing our message to many millions of people. Recently Ariadne appeared on the Phil Donahue show and this Spring, Playboy magazine will run an article on last year's Fantasia Fair. Our message is getting out. Let me suggest that if you have not already done so to send Outreach a contribution. Five dollars will put you on their mailing list.

Lastly I sincerely hope that 1980 will see a year of cooperation and working together by the various groups in our culture. Petty bickering and competition has no place when there are much more important things to be doing.

The situation is not totally pessimistic. We have much to be thankful for. I remember well back in 1964 when two of my co-workers lost their jobs when the fact of their crossdressing was discovered. One for the "crime" of walking down the street (late at night which is not cool) and the other for sending pictures through the mail. Today, of course, it is entirely legal to send someone a picture of yourself and most places getting read on the street will net you a stare and perhaps a remark, but that is about all.

The battle certainly is not won. There still exists a great deal of ignorance. It is extremely unfortunate that crossdressing is still considered a psychological "disorder" in the face of homosexuality being considered a "lifestyle preference". In time we can hope these barriers will be broken down. Then too, there is the perennial problem that a housewife who wears men's slacks can go freely into the supermarket without incident whereas her husband in a skirt is labeled deviant. This distinction is particularly true when divorce and child custody cases are being decided. It is not time for complacency. It is a time for rational coordinated action.

*Henda Rene Jones*

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## ATTITUDES

by Trudy N. 200 IA-52302

First of all, I want to say how happy I am to have this opportunity to be able to share some of my feelings.

When I think of my husband being a transvestite and of the 14 years we have had together, it brings to mind a large span of feelings. His transvestism has provoked feelings of anger, hate, disgust, respect, love and admiration. I am very happy to share these feelings and also my ideas with you. I hope they will give hope and understanding to all of you whether TV, spouse, lover, family member, or friend.

I learned that my husband was a TV shortly after we met. To be honest I didn't know what it really meant, the fact that he wore women's clothing at times. We both believed that with the right kind of counseling and therapy this would go away and he would no longer be "abnormal".

As the years passed, he became more frustrated, more ashamed, and more guilty. I hated this transvestism. I never allowed him to discuss his feelings nor his needs. I saw his crossdressing as a great threat to my womanhood and our marriage. I believed that if I were a better wife, he would be able to give up this strange compulsion. I would burn his clothes, humiliate him, and we seemed to grow farther apart. - I considered his transvestism as his greatest "fault" and my greatest enemy. I kept track on the calendar of the times he would be gone from home pursuing this interest.

I remember in particular once when he suggested that he believed he would be a lot happier if he could crossdress at home. I considered crossdressing to be offensive and disgusting.

In 1977, our lives took a big turn for the better. At this time we had been living in the Twin Cities for about 7 years. We became involved in the Program of



Human Sexuality at the University of Minnesota. Our marriage was under a lot of stress and we felt very lost.

It was in this Program that we finally received guidance and understanding. We both came to see that transvestism is a part of him, a part that is utterly important to himself as a person. I understand that his need to crossdress cannot be ignored. It is essential for his well-being to be able to be free to express himself and to communicate with other TV's.

I believe that I have experienced a complete turn-about as far as my attitude goes. Crossdressing is no longer a threat to me. Since I have accepted my husband as he is, I can see real advantages to our relationship. He is very warm and understanding and is able to respond to the needs of others. He isn't afraid to show feelings of kindness, gentleness and I am happy for him that he doesn't have to prove he is a rough, Macho guy.

Because we can be open and honest with each other, I am free to express my limitations. It is still somewhat difficult for me to look at magazines that have pictures of transvestites in them. I can't understand exactly why they adopt feminine names. But these limitations are OK. We never achieve perfection and complete understanding of everything in life. But I feel it is necessary and important to grow to allow change to take place. And above all, to be fair to others and let them be the best person they can be.

I am most willing to correspond with others who possibly are in a position that I have been in and to share and exchange thoughts and feelings.

## THAT INFAMOUS MEYER-RETER REPORT

It came as no surprise in one sense. The word had been out for sometime that Johns Hopkins was getting out of the sex change business. As a "stocking stuffer" paper to satisfy the "publish or perish" syndrome, it might have caused a few cocktail party comments and been promptly forgotten. It didn't stop there, however. After the paper, "Sex Reassignment", by Jon K. Meyer MD, and Donna J. Reter appeared in the Aug. 1979 issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, headlines started appearing in every newspaper in the country including the Science Times section of the prestigious New York Times.

NO MORE SURGERY FOR TRANSSEXUALS!!

TRANSSEXUAL SURGERY FOUND INEFFECTIVE

TRANSSEXUAL SURGERY DOESN'T WORK

The paper starts out well enough. The history is reviewed and it is pointed out that sex reassignment preceded by hormonal castration became well known with the work of Christian Hamburger on Christine Jorgenson. The early work in this country reported by Drs. Money and Schwartz is cited and, of course, the work of Dr. Harry Benjamin.

From there the authors summarize their study on 100 patients who applied for sex reassignment at Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic. They were evaluated and rated before and after on a Adjustment Scoring System which took into account problems with the law, economic success, intimate relationships, and degree of psychiatric help. As pointed out in the paper, about half of the original group was unavailable for follow-up. Of those who could be located, the group was broken down into three groups: 15 who eventually obtained surgery through the Johns Hopkins program, 14 who obtained sex reassignment elsewhere, and 21 who did not obtain surgery.

Using the scoring system described, their original or initial scores were tabulated and compared with the scores in the follow-up stage. For each of the three groups the mean and standard deviation of the scores are tabulated. (Mean is the average of a group of numbers and the standard deviation is a measure of the spread of the numbers.) All three groups showed improvement on the scale used to measure adjustment. The greatest improvement was in the Hopkins operated group, next those who decided against or otherwise did not obtain the operation, and least improvement was among those who obtained the operation outside the program.

At this point the authors draw their conclusions. They note that only 52% of the original group could be located for follow-up. The main conclusions are:

- a) None of the operated patients voiced regret over the loss of their original genitalia (or modification thereof).
- b) All groups showed improvement of roughly the same amount.
- c) "Sex reassignment surgery confers no objective advantage in terms of social rehabilitation, although it remains subjectively satisfying to those who have rigorously pursued a trial period and who have undergone it."

conclusion c) is a direct quote from the paper.

If the headlines had simply come and gone, it might have been considered more trouble than it was worth to pursue the matter. In December, however, Psychology Today published an article of its own by Richard M. Restak of Georgetown Univ. School of Medicine which took the Meyer paper and expanded it with some additional papers. The straw, however, to break the camels' back was to give the paper mention in Playboy and Penthouse Magazines.

It became apparent that the Alliance must comment on this paper. It is not that we are particularly desirous of becoming embroiled in controversy. We are quite content to merely comment on those matters of more immediate interest to the paraculture. We did, however, contact Dr. Paul A. Walker of the Univ. of Texas, talked with Dr. John Money of Johns Hopkins, and with Dr. Nancy S. Ledins. Dr. Ledins is very knowledgeable on this subject as she is both a recognized research psychologist as well as a male-female transsexual.

Dr. Money's main comment was to the effect that the Meyer report represented the views of Jon Meyer and not necessarily those of Johns Hopkins or the other members of the Gender Identity Team at John Hopkins. That Meyer published his report without consulting with others at Johns Hopkins. Dr. Walker made it very clear that he did not agree with the conclusions of the Meyer report and that the Univ. of Texas at Galveston would continue with their program of evaluation and screening of those desiring sex reassignment and that surgery would continue to be performed in those cases where evaluation and screening indicated same.

The most devastating criticism of the report lies in the statistics of same. No one expects everyone else to be knowledgeable in a field as rigorous and as precise as the field of statistics. Indeed, it is not any trivial matter to absorb this field. Still, although, a person may be a competent MD, this says nothing for their understanding of statistics. Statistics is not "black magic", but a very highly developed science. As with any discipline, it takes years of training and experience to become expert.

In order to draw the conclusions the authors drew in any statistically meaningful sense would have required a data base in the order of 300. For the sample size involved, the odds of drawing their conclusion and being wrong are in the order of 90%. In short, the conclusions are statistically totally meaningless. Intuitively, one would go along with the conclusion that

screened patients fare better than those who did not submit to screening as it is consistent with experience from many other sources. While conclusion c) above may represent an editorial opinion of the authors, it is not proven by the data. Neither is it an opinion shared by many of Dr. Meyer's peers.

One problem that is readily acknowledged in attempting follow-up studies on operated transsexuals is that they fade into society and cannot be reached. That Meyer and Reter could find 50% is good. Still, it brings up the fact that any such follow-up sample is going to be severely biased. One certainly cannot infer anything from previous test scores unless this inference can be proven.

Our position on the matter of transsexual surgery is unchanged from where it has been in the past. If a person has thoroughly considered the consequences - and there are many, has lived out in the opposite role long enough to feel totally comfortable in it and able to cope with it (this is commonly agreed to be at least a year), has their head screwed on straight so they are making a rational decision, are single, can pay for the operation, and can make a living afterward, we can only say "go with God with our blessing."

The quality of the operation has improved tremendously and the results nowadays if obtained from a good surgeon are usually cosmetically and functionally very good.

While transsexual surgery should never be available "on demand"; it is in the final analysis cosmetic surgery and its main justification is to allow certain people to live happier and more fulfilled lives. The job of gender identity clinics is to perform necessary screening and evaluation before surgery, but not to play God.

## BENJAMIN'S SCALE

Words such as "TV" and "TS" are frequently thrown around with rather casual definitions. Many times, for example, anyone who has not actually had surgery is referred to as a TV. Other times the term TS is used to mean any person thinking about it. In order to clarify the matter it is sometimes useful to refer to Benjamin's scale. This scale, devised several years ago by Dr. Harry Benjamin, is a very good measure of where a person lies in the culture and can provide a good insight in to ways of dealing with life.

It must be emphasized strongly that there is not a hierarchy involved on the scale. True, some individuals who need an ego boost may try to "pull rank" by implying they are "better" than someone else because they feel they are higher on the scale, but that is their problem. Indeed who has not wished at times they were perfectly normal?

Scale 0: Is a person who by the usual definition of the term is normal. A person with no desire whatever to dress and with no erotic response to clothing. In another words, Mr. average Joe Blow.

Scale 1: This is a person whose only interest in clothing is from the erotic point of view. He may be into lingerie, shoes, girdles, or whatever, but has little desire to dress all the way. This person lives an otherwise normal life, is usually heterosexual, but may be gay simply in proportion to the population. His interest tends to be sporadic and he certainly is not interested in hormones or any type of operation.

Scale 2: This person will live outwardly a very normal life. He will occasionally want to dress "all the way", but the interest is still largely fetishtic. He is definitely not interested in doing anything to alter his male appearance and may from to time "throw the clothes away" and forget it. Benjamin notes that that this person may under favorable conditions be able to remiss (lose the desire) through psychotherapy.

Scale 3: This person is the true transvestite. He desires to dress frequently and attempts to "pass". This person will usually have considered the operation, but never obtains it. He might experiment with hormones, but probably not take them on a regular basis. Psychotherapy in this case is rarely successful.

Scale 4: This is the borderline transsexual. This is frequently a transitory state with the person tending to move either closer to being a transsexual or moving back to being a transvestite. He dresses as much as possible, but usually does not find relief with clothing alone. He has considered the operation seriously, but does not go that far. Sometimes he is helped with hormones to achieve better emotional balance.

Scale 5: This person is a true transsexual, but may or may not obtain the operation depending on circumstances. This person is usually always on hormones and has little interest in sexually performing as a male. This person will live full time as a woman if at all possible.

Scale 6: This person is a transsexual of high intensity of discomfort in the male role. He hates his male equipment and urgently requests sex reassignment. Usually this person will obtain the operation one way or the other. Hormones are always indicated, but will only provide partial relief.

Anyone who has been into the culture over a period of time will generally after a while get a pretty good idea of where they lie. There is an important exception and that is when a person first comes out of the closet. If the desire to dress has been repressed over a period of years and comes out explosively, a person can sort of go from 1 to 6 in a thrust like a rocket. A person's true position will, however, finally be determined. It is for this reason that a person just coming out of the closet not attempt to seek reassignment surgery too quickly nor throw himself on high doses of hormones right away. As has been pointed out, makeup can always be creamed off and clothes taken off. None of these things are irrevocable.

One very fun and painless test that will provide a lot of insight is to be in a situation where one can dress as much as they want whenever they want. Such a situation is provided by weekend or week long events. If during the week and afterwards a person finds himself quite satisfied and losing their desire, it is a good indication of a low position on the scale. The reverse indicates a higher position. In particular, this is the reason for reputable gender clinics and surgeons to insist that a person live out full time for at least a year before obtaining surgery accompanied by hormone therapy.

It is also quite important to know one's position on the scale before entering into marriage or other deep committed relationship. If one knows they are a scale 2-3 it is a much different situation for a marriage than a scale 4-5.

Further reading: The Transsexual Phenomenon by Dr. Harry Benjamin.



Again, the kingdom of the Heavens  
is like the merchant seeking  
beautiful pearls.

When he found one very precious  
pearl, he went out and sold all  
he had in order to possess it.

Matt. 13:45 The Michaelian  
Translation.



## WHY SEX AND GENDER?

The most maddening question of all is, "why?" You take any ordinary little boy and put a dress on him for a play or whatever and about all you will have is possibly an embarrassed little boy. After the play he goes on wearing what every little boy should wear with no desire to go on wearing girl things. Little girls are a bit more fortunate, they at least can wear jeans and shirts without as much embarrassment even if going the whole route with boy's shoes and all might cause a stare. Even so, for a play or whatever, few little girls would want to continue to dress as a boy.

Psychologists have maintained for a long time that gender identity is wholly a product of childhood upbringing. The classical Freudian explanation for male transvestism goes along the line:

A young boy upon discovering that he is sexually attracted to his mother realizes also that his father is a competitor to this desire. He makes the adjustment of wishing to become a girl in order that he can have a desired close maternal relationship.

In the case of transsexuals, the favorite explanation is that the boy was raised by a dominant mother, passive father, and sees the female as the superior sex. There are, of course, TV's and TS's who fit that general mold. There are TV's who like their mothers and TS's raised by dominant mothers. This explanation leaves more or less open the question of female to males. In the case of female to male TV's, the question is nicely bypassed by simply pretending that they don't exist. In the case of TS's, it can always be argued that men make more money in this society and have more prestige. No doubt the main reason for not being as concerned about female to males is that male behavior on the part of females is much more accepted by our society than the opposite. As Dr. Money of Johns Hopkins put it, "it is much easier in this society to be a tomboy than a sissy."

Aside from not fully explaining the scope of gender identity problems, one can find countless exceptions to the rule. Some TV's do have a fondness for their mother as do many straight guys. Regardless of anything else, psychoanalysis has been shown to be a dismal failure in treating gender dysphoria. Recent research, however, is suggesting that gender identity problems may be much more physical than previously supposed. While no one is going to say that the entire answer has been uncovered, certain research results are extremely fascinating.

It has been known for many years that many sexual changes can be observed in animals and humans due to hormones being either added or taken away. Eunuchs have been around for centuries and used (or misused) for tasks requiring masculine strength with an absence of male sex desires and a generally feminized appearance. Hormone therapy, of course, is a standard part of sex reassignment. Another interesting study is the case where a prenatal or very young animal has a change in normal hormone patterns. For example if a newly hatched female chicken is given male hormones "she" will develop a comb and look like a rooster. More interesting is that "she" will act like a rooster. The bird will stake out territory, fight other cocks, and go after the hens even though sterile. Similarly a male chick who is either castrated (caponized) or given female hormones will grow up looking like a big hen and again act like a hen. Similar experiments can be carried out with rats. Female rats can be masculinized by giving them male hormones shortly after birth. Later on they will try to mount other females and otherwise act like a male. Similarly a male rat who is castrated at birth and deprived of testosterone will develop into a girl-acting rat who will assume the female mating position when approached by other males. Another facet of this research is that the learning behaviors of masculinized female rats very closely approximate those of natural males and vice versa.

Similar results can be observed in monkeys. If an ape, pregnant with a female fetus, is given male hormones in

the 12th week or so of pregnancy, the female fetus will emerge quite masculinized. "She" will want to mount the mother as young males do and mount other apes. The intensity of this change will be in proportion to the hormones given.

Up until fairly recently, the brain was considered to be a totally asexual organ. It was believed that all characteristics pertaining to gender were programmed in. That is, a boy raised as a girl would act as a girl and vice versa. As it turns out, however, the brains of male and female animals are actually physically different. Figure 1 is a sketch of the brain of a male and female rat showing the differences. The brain of a masculinized female rat closely resembles that of a male and similarly for a feminized male. Another very interesting experiment is to introduce radioactive estrogen into animals and observe that it concentrates in the very areas of the brain where the sexual differences are noted.

One question which can be raised at this point is whether there is any evidence that this applies to humans. There is, of course, the indirect evidence, that the binding of estrogen in the brain is very consistent between all species of animals. In short, the areas of the brain involved are the same in the case of birds, fish, and mammals. One piece of evidence, however, involving humans which can be studied directly is with those having a rare enzyme deficiency. During the development of a normal male fetus, testosterone is released and metabolized by the body in order to bring about the development of the male genitalia. When a person has this abnormality, the male organs do not develop and the person is born appearing female when in fact the person is an XY male.

Specifically around a couple of small towns in the Dominican Republic, 38 people were born with this condition presumably due to inbreeding. Female appearing at birth, they were raised entirely as girls. They wore girls' clothing, played their games etc. At puberty, however, a very remarkable thing happened:

they began to develop the genitalia of males. Their clitorises enlarged into penises, and their "overies" descended to become testicles. With a change in voice these girls became young men. The interesting thing, however, is that all but two of them began to act like men and were more than happy to assume the male role. Many of them married as though they had been boys all their life.

As stated before, this research does not prove that all gender identity problems are entirely physical, but it certainly indicates strongly that there is a physical predisposition. It also points up that the difference between sex and gender is quite real indeed. That sex is determined by what is between one's legs whereas gender is the "sex" of the brain. Being a physical function of the brain it is also not surprising that psychoanalysis is not effective since it deals with a brain's programming and not its basic structure. Further results of research in this area will indeed be very interesting.

Further reading: Science Magazine (AAAS), 7 Sept. 1979, p 985.

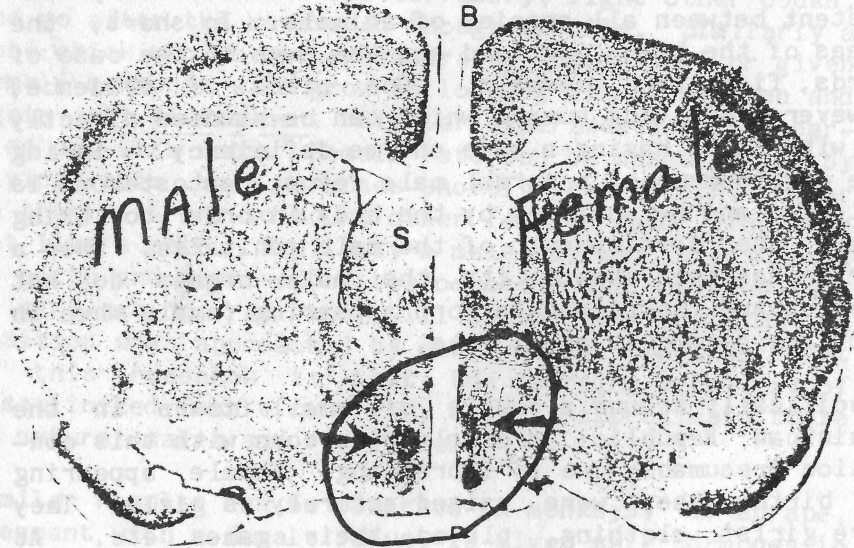


FIG1 MALE FEMALE BRAINS



Mary 2-AZ-85



Betty Ann 100-IA  
-52



Janet 73. MD-21



Michelle 108-NJ-08



Ariadne Kane  
Outreach Inst.  
Box 368  
Kenmore Sta.  
Boston, MA 02215



Julia 20-OH-44



Rona 130-VA-24



Susan 38-ONT  
(Thank you Canada!)



Merissa S. Lynn  
Box 426  
N. Hampton, NH 03862



Diane 132-NY-11



Eileen 6-NJ-07



Kathy 128-FL-33

## FUN, GAMES AND FANTASY

by Linda Phyllis Robbins



I would like to discuss some ways to make sex more fun.

By far the most important prerequisite for Class A sex is the mutual interest and desire on the part of both partners. Time for this most important activity should be put aside and be devoted to having a total sensual - sexual experience. All other cares and thoughts must be laid aside. The focus must be on the moment.

Because privacy is so important, the kids need to be bedded down and the phone unplugged or turned down under a pillow. I know some friends who hire a sitter, then go out to a motel where they can be totally undisturbed.

This is time for a set: candles, incense, music and anything else you enjoy. Time for the scented bath or shower together and a bottle of bubbles. Most important: don't rush the experience.

Here you can surprise him with a new satin number of your own. Satin gown and matching panties. Slip a gown and panties on him. Tease by telling him that he must wear them (or any other of his favorite fantasies.) Dance, finally undress each other and maybe give each other a scented oil rub down.

You might want to masturbate in front of each other. This can be a real first for some lovers!

Sharing and communication are important. Share your likes and dislikes. Be willing to experiment with what turns you on. Try getting into your head to see why you have been hung up on certain things.

Honest communication and a true willingness to give and to understand will lead to a wonderful sex life.



## GOING PUBLIC

For many people going into public is the epitome of the entire experience of dressing. It is a special feeling of satisfaction when a sales person says, "I have this over here ma'am." The feeling when a gentleman wanders over at the airport and says, "Hi, I am Jim West, I was wondering if I might buy you a drink?" Usually going out into public proceeds without incident. There is that sinking feeling of having the police person stop you going out of the lady's room and saying, "Pardon me, but may I see some identification? Just routine, but we have had some complaints of a person answering your description harassing people in the restroom." Pulling out a driver's license with "Joe Blow" thereon. For every instance of any trouble, there are thousands of times when nothing happens out of the ordinary. Yet, before one goes into public, certain things ought to be taken into account.

Three important things need to be taken into account before one ventures into public for the first or first few times. We shall discuss a) technical pointers to consider, b) handling the more commonly encountered situations, c) a frank discussion of the risks involved.

### Technical Considerations

To many people, "passing" is synonymous with "not being read". Actually they mean somewhat different things. When a person passes it means that a person with whom they are dealing has no doubt whatever that they are in fact a woman. Being read on the other hand is where the other person has no doubt that you are a man dressed as a woman. The only time you are ever read is where another person has no doubt that you are a guy dressed as a gal. In between these two lines is a "no woman's land" where the person has doubts, but no conclusions. The first line of responsibility when going into public is to keep from being read, at least to the greatest possible extent. Later one can strive to pass.

No one in the culture likes to be cruel. When someone asks, "how do I look. Can I pass?" You like to answer, "Hey you look really nice. I really like that dress." The person will beam and you will be a good guy. On the otherhand suppose the person is as readable as a green horse on main street at midday? You might say, "Well most ladies don't have that much forearm hair and you should trim the hair from your nostrils." Not as popular to be sure, but honest. We come to a first of several rules of thumb: If you want to go into public, be able to accept honest objective criticism from your sisters. If your head is only in the space of accepting compliments, leave your dressing to your living room or an organized meeting place. The only real solid way of developing the poise and appearance which will insure your passing is constant striving for perfection and the willingness to take constructive criticism. Taking this in a good natured manner means people won't be afraid to make a comment when it is appropriate. Nothing can replace this one to one feedback, but here is a list of the things most commonly overlooked.

a) Presense of sideburns. Even though your wig may adequately cover the side of your face, a slight breeze may blow it aside revealing long sideburns. This is a dead giveaway. Women don't have such long sideburns.

b) Hair protruding from the nose or ears. Here it is anatomically possible for a woman to have such hair, but it is considered really gross. Any woman who sees you with such hair is going to really wonder about you.

c) Improper beard control. Nothing is more of a dead giveaway than having a five o'clock shadow. Women can have a small amount of facial hair showing, but the male beard line is very unmistakable. (See the article in the 79-3 Journal on beard control.)

d) Improper figure. While there are flat-chested women with relatively broad shoulders and narrow hips, these gals have been at it all their life. A lady with a baby need not be concerned about her curves merely to pass. A male attempting to pass, however, should not leave such an easily corrected matter unattended to. A pair of simple breast pads or "falsies" are easily and cheaply purchased. One can purchase breast prostheses which look entirely natural. These are expensive and not really necessary. Similarly, padding for one's rear end is quite inexpensive. Most males are overweight and going into public is one good incentive to diet and get some extra pounds off. A good exercise program is very valuable as well.

e) Although it is an obvious one, many males attempt to go into public with hair showing on either the forearms or legs. Admittedly this is a problem (as with long sideburns) in that removal of this hair for femme enhancement purposes can interfere with one's male role. It is a decision one must make. Still to pass in public does require that legs and forearms not have hair showing.

f) The tendency for most TV's is to overdress. Before going into public, observe what women wear to the beauty parlor, to the shopping center, to the grocery etc. If it is a choice, tend to dress down rather than up.

g) A masculine voice and manner of speaking. There are quite a few women with deep voices. It is true that one should make every effort to develop an acceptable feminine voice, an even more important point (or at least as important) is to develop a feminine manner of speaking. A trivial example, but one which led to the arrest of a hapless crossdresser in the lady's room was when a lady asked, "Oh dear, will you help me with this broken slip strap?" Had the person replied, even in a deeper voice, "Such a nuisance, you would think they could be made better. Have you a safety pin?" the person would have passed or at least not been read. Instead he replied, "See what I can do ma'am." And the shit hit the fan.

What the technical factors really boil down to is that a male who wants to pass in public as a woman must be prepared to compromise some of his maleness. While one can have a hairy chest (provided that the hair doesn't lick up over a blouse), a lot of other body hair simply must be removed for the result to be effective. "Letting go", that is giving one's self totally to their femme side is cardinal to passing in public. Holding back, hanging on to some or all of one's male self can make all the difference.

### Handling Situations and the One's to Avoid

Our society has established certain protocols for the sexes, particularly regarding the conduct of women. Women's clothes, regardless of their erotic value to the TV, are in fact fairly uncomfortable in many cases. Hose make the legs nice to look at, but certainly are not as comfortable as good old rib socks. Sandals are delightful for someone to look at, but are not made for comfort. Similarly with skirts, foundation garments etc. Fashion is directed for women to attract attention. If one is going into public dressed, it goes without saying that they are going to be looked over to some degree. Being looked over is in fact a measure of passing rather than being read provided that the looks are those of one admiring a beautiful woman. It does mean, however, that one must move in certain manners established as proper.

As an example, consider the TV who wants to venture out and figures that late at night is nice and safe. It is dark, no one will notice the forearm hair or the beard line. So into hose, heels, a dress, and out to walk around the block. Everything is going along fine until a cop car pulls along side and the question, "can I help you ma'am?" Panic... What to do. The point here is that no (or at least darn few) women would ever venture out at night along on the streets. To much chance of being mugged or raped. A woman would take a taxi, tip the driver so he will stick around a minute until she is safely inside.

Another example is that in general, at night, a woman will not venture into a restaurant or cocktail lounge unescorted. In the cocktail lounge especially an unescorted woman is virtually asking to be picked up. If you do this, then this is the message you are sending out. The beauty parlor at nine in the morning is a woman's space where by convention she can go and expect no hassle. Provided you are good enough to not be obviously read, that is usually ok. Similarly for the department store during the day. At night, women are well aware of where they can go and not go safely.

The overall rule of thumb for handling most sticky situations can be summarized as follows:

a) Dress for the occasion as a woman of your age would dress.

b) Do not be in "combat zone" situations where nice women would not be without an escort or at least a means of transportation.

#### The Risks of Going Out

There are several risks to going out. Probably the biggest risk is that of being read by someone who knows you. We started out by noting that you have been read only when one knows that you are a guy dressed up like a girl. That will almost always be the case if someone who knows you, sees you when dressed. No matter how good you are, that is usually a dead giveaway. Even more so is if your wife is along. You can bet your sweet bippie that if your boss sees you and your wife out together, your "secret" is compromised. A fundamental question which must be answered before going out is that of whether the risk of discovery is acceptable.

While it is not a pleasant subject, let us assume that you do manage to get into trouble. Either you are read in the lady's room or some jackass runs his hand up your dress in a bar and feels your male equipment. Your have been read and you are in trouble with the law to boot.

The most important thing is not to compound the situation by resisting arrest or otherwise hassling the arresting officer. Many times even if you are arrested no charges will be filed and you will be let go shortly. Keeping a pleasant manner, being concerned about being in trouble, but not panicking is very essential. Know the name of a local lawyer who is cool or ask to talk with the ACLU. Merely knowing that you intend to exercise all of your legal rights is often sufficient to dissuade filing charges. If you do have to spend the night in jail, request to be put into an individual cell rather than a block. Having you file charges against the city or county because you got raped in jail is something they usually want to avoid as much as you. Carry in your purse all the makeup you used originally in order to make a good impression on the judge should you be hauled into court the next morning. Remember that you have rights and you need say nothing without counsel present beyond your name and address.

In this article we have summarized many of the points for a person to keep in mind if they are thinking of going into public. The technical matters to keep in mind, handling sticky situations, and the risks one takes. In the final analysis, passing is a state of mind. If a person is trying to pass, the best they will accomplish is to avoid being read. No woman ever tries to pass. She does it. Failure to pass ultimately comes about when a person is uncomfortable in the femme role. When they themselves send out the vibe, "I am doing something I ought not be doing." A woman belongs in femme attire. Probably the only way of achieving that state of mind is to simply dress so much that it is totally second nature. To where it is unnatural to even think of wearing anything but femme attire. That is why most psychologists want the pre op TS to live a year or two in the role before undergoing surgery. A TV may not quite achieve this, but many in fact do. Going public is totally natural when the femme role is totally accepted and the gender transformation is complete.

## COMMENTS ON HORMONES

At least four or five times a month we get inquires on hormones. This article is not intended to be any complete exposition on the subject, but to answer some of the more commonly asked questions.

One commonly asked question is, "where can I obtain hormones?" The answer is, "your local drug store!" The cost for a month's supply will be in the order of a few dollars. Unfortunately they can be "scored" fairly easily on the street. Unlike drugs which can cause altered states of consciousness such as barbiturates etc., in the US at least, hormones require only a simple run of the mill prescription. One is strongly advised not to obtain hormones through any other channel than a physician's prescription. It is not that there is any great proven danger for a normal healthy male to take estrogens or female hormones. Indeed there are quite a few more side effects for a female to take androgens or male hormones. Still, there may be a rise in blood pressure and in any case, the function of one's heart, liver, etc. should be checked before hormones are prescribed.

The best recommendation for a physician is probably word of mouth, although the place to start would be to look in the yellow pages for an endocrinologist or a gynecologist. There is a small chance that he or she will "throw you out of his office". If this happens, ask point blank for a physician he can recommend you visit. This is the exception: most physicians are simply interested in your health. It is important to be "up-front" and simply explain what you want. There is no hard and fast rule, but in our experience we recommend that a person first starting on estrogens to take them at a low dose for a while to see what happens. Normally this will be a low level birth control pill. For the first two or three months, nothing will seem to take place. Indeed if one stops taking them at this point there will be little or no effect. Beyond that point changes will start to take place.

The first effect is to notice a slight tenderness in the breasts. This is "puberty" in a sense. As time goes on the breasts will enlarge and develop, however, one need not fear that they will start to look like Mae West. Many transsexuals in fact have breast implants at the time of surgery as their breasts are too small for their taste. In time one's facial features will soften, more body fat will accumulate in the hip region. In short, one will begin to look more and more feminine.

After a few months on a lower dose, one can then decide whether to escalate the dose. This can be done by taking pills as before or receiving the hormones by injection. The latter is quite a bit more efficient in that the estrogens are entered directly into the body tissues. The effects will necessarily become more noticeable faster. More development of the breasts, redistribution of body fat, and possibly an attenuation of body hair growth. It should be pointed out that hormones will not stop body hair growth nor eliminate the need for electrolysis or other hair and beard control, but many do report that their beard grows less readily.

A question asked frequently is, "will I lose my ability to enjoy sex?" There is no pat answer. People have reported total loss of libido and others, even on high doses, report little impairment. In general, and people are all different, there is some level below which the sex drive will be only minimally affected. It is safe to say that if one wants to be a "jock" with the ability to come on strong to the ladies, they sure as the world should stay off hormones. On the otherhand with an understanding partner where sufficient time can be taken with foreplay, sex may actually become even more enjoyable. Some people report that while it takes longer to achieve orgasm, it is more intense when it does come.

We invite our readers to report their experiences with hormones and from time to time we will print these comments.



Dear Glenda,

The two-part offering by Denise Cook on electrolysis was quite good. I would offer two additional comments:

1) The major problem with the Depilatron - aside from the federal injunction and they may not use the word "permanent" in advertising their product - is that they sometimes forget to tell people why it cannot be permanent! The procedure is to hold an "electrical tweezer" against the hair shaft (making sure that it doesn't touch the skin!) and applying a current. Unfortunately, an electrical current cannot proceed down the shaft because hair is an electrical insulator like glass, wood etc. Obviously, since no current goes down, under whatever magical name, it is good ole tweezing!

2) One of the main problems with alternating current alone is that electro-dessication occurs within a very narrow heating pattern, especially in 3-5 or 4-6 seconds. Since the heating pattern rises from the tip of the needle at a uniform rate, and since the lower two-thirds of the follicle must be destroyed for effective (ie permanent) hair removal, there is just not enough time for that current to spread too far on a high percentage basis. Thus, quite a bit of regrowth. However, the speed factor is quite high with a good operator.

I would like to note a third approach: the electro-blend method developed by A. R. Hinkel of Los Angeles many years ago. This method is the superimposition of the two currents noted by Denise (direct and alternating). The direct current produces the necessary sodium hydroxide (lye) and the alternating produces the electro-dessication process (alternating between the two) which also permits opening of the tissue for the hydroxide to move through. This method is no more discomforting than simple thermolysis - especially since it is the thermology setting (the alternating current) which is the determining factor in establishing the working point on any client. A bit slower than manual thermology, but less regrowth.

Nan Ledins 412-AZ-85016

## GETTING CREDIT CARDS

Many times we are asked about how to obtain femme name credit cards. Sonora W. and others have offered this advice. First off there is nothing illegal or immoral about having a credit card in another name provided there is no intent to defraud anyone. Celebrities do this all the time so they can check into a hotel as Joe Blow.

First get the card in your male name and establish the account in good standing. Next, simply write and ask for an application for an additional card. Fill in the name you want the card to bear, sign it and send the form back. That is all there is to it.

One certainly should not attempt to use the card as identification should one be stopped by a law enforcement officer. Simply using the card to purchase goods or services is quite legal.

In the same vein, another person mentioned how she opened a bank account in her femme name. Again, very simple. She called a bank and simply said that she was going to have sex reassignment and wanted to open an account in her new name even though her name had not been legally changed as yet. The bank officer simply said to come in. She did and opened the account. Many situations which we run into are solved using a simple direct approach.

• • •

Joyce Dewhurst  
PO Box 1105  
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Joyce carries a good line of cosmetics and makeup and will be happy to advise on makeup techniques. Drop her a note today.

## ON BUYING A WIG

by Stacey C. 3-AZ-85021

I am so excited that I wanted to share this. Ann, the operator of the shop where I took one of my old wigs to be cleaned and styled, said that it would be ready in three or four days. I mentioned that I might be interested in buying a new one in perhaps a different style, but had had little luck in selecting the proper styles dressed as my male self. Ann suggested that perhaps I might like to come in dressed to get the true look and feel of the wigs as I tried them on. I was thrilled, but concerned with the reaction of her other customers. She suggested that I try early in the morning or late in the day when there weren't as many other customers. She also mentioned that she had a private room for fittings. I came at nine the next morning.

I arose early in anticipation and prepared for my appointment. I made sure everything was right. My make-up was immaculate and I took care to cover every trace of beard. I dressed in a modest pants outfit of beige and yellow with a pair of wedge slip-ons. I carried a brown handbag - very daytime.

When I arrived at the shop, Ann was ready for me and I was alone with her and her assistant. For the next hour I tried on wig after wig. Every style, every color. I finally picked out a relatively inexpensive wig and Ann assured me that I would have it within a week. I left after thanking her and saying that I would certainly tell my friends. I got what I wanted, a new wig, not to mention an hour of being treated just like a lady. Ann, of course got what she wanted: sales.

Ladies you too can have this type of experience. Find a wig shop and just be upfront. Tell the proprietor that you want to buy a wig for yourself. Check that reaction. Then mention that you want to see the wig when you are dressed. More often than not it is fine especially if they open early or stay open late at night. After all, our money is just as green as anyone elses. The store I spoke of is in Phoenix, His and Hers Wig Botique, 5223 N. Central Ave.

Dear Glenda and Linda,

It is with no small degree of emotion that I am sitting here at the typewriter on a very chilly (even for Tucson) Tuesday evening. My fingers are shivering, but not just because of the cold. It is because of the intensity of what I want to say in this letter, and how best to say it.

I have a pot of coffee on and plenty of cigarettes; so I should be well fortified, but I am scared. Afraid of my own feelings and the emotional outpouring I might make to you.

I was told in as tender and loving a manner as possible by the man I am in love with of his intense lifelong longing to be a woman. He also shared with me at the time what steps he had taken, and was taking, to effect the change from male to at least part-time female. To date: hormone treatment. He plans no surgery at this time.

I was shocked, but not surprised if that makes any sense. I told him/her that I understand, but do not comprehend. I was, or had become aware, in the less than two months we had gone together, that he carried around a great deal of pain. It was all over his beautiful face. Since telling me of his/her transsexualism, the pain in his eyes has considerably lessened.

You know how you know something is wrong, but you can't quite put your finger on it. I attributed (until I knew) my lover's pain to his former alcoholism and subsequent divorce and breakup of his family. Then I thought to myself, "He must be gay or at least bisexual." As a side note, funny how it's finally okay to be gay these days, Anita Bryant (bitch) notwithstanding. I mean they are achieving high visibility and their rights to equal treatment .... at last..

I have to admit: this transsexuality thing hit me like a thunderbolt. Yet, a lot of things suddenly became very clear to me, and being told became a blessed relief. I, a firstborn of four, who frequently throughout life cursed that I was not born male - though never dreamed of ever doing anything about it -

could not for the life of me understand how any man in his right mind would want to be a woman.

My boyfriend/lover has shown the utmost patience in acclimating me to his/her femme ways. I have to admit I like the way the hormones affect his body. Without getting clinical, I find that loving him is not only very exciting, but filled with a lot of emotion and depth as I have not experienced heretofore.

The only difficulty I still have is with clothes. I have yet to see her fully dressed, she is very patient with me because I am so understanding as to how it I will handle it.. Slacks, pantsuits, blouses, etc. seem "okay", but I am apprehensive of seeing her in a dress with makeup and wig.

I have made a decision to stay with him. This person has shown me more love, beauty, joy, and goodness than anyone in my life to date. I have missed out on too much love to throw a good relationship down the drain..

For sure our relationship has its lighter moments. Like going shopping together .. getting ears pierced .. borrowing clothes back and forth. Considering that she is 5' 9" and I am 5'! I find that I am taking more interest in hair clothes, makeup, etc. since this phase of our relationship has been in effect.

I am glad to be a member of the Alliance. I do wish to correspond with others. I read your Journal from cover to cover. very helpful.

Very Sincerely,

Wendy C. D. 214-AZ-85717

Dear Wendy,

Thank you so much for a lovely letter. I am certain that many others will also find it quite moving. In a clinical sense, a transsexual can be regarded as a person who has given a lot of serious thought to having the operation. In a practical sense, a TS is a person who is actually planning to have the operation or who has had it. Since Diane is not, then she is a TV by definition. Since he is male and you are female, welcome to the heterosexual club.

I detest labels. Many times women are apprehensive about a relationship with a TV for fear that they may be lesbian. Who cares? If you like the relationship, that is where it is at.

I do hope we can meet one of these days.

Love,  
*Glenda*  
Glenda

My Favorite Pastime

I like to dress up like a lady,  
I can either be proper or shady,  
are my stockings on straight?  
is my pinafore tight?  
Oh it's such fun to be a  
transvestite !!

Michelle M 30-OH-45042

## GOLDEN GATE GIRLS/GUYS

by Georgia Saunders

The Golden Gate Girls/Guys was founded in 1977 as a social group whereby members of the crossdresser and crossgenderist community of the Bay Area could get together on a regular basis to meet and talk with others like themselves.

After a very discouraging meeting with one of the members of the Board of Directors of a national TV group (not the Alliance) we decided that affiliation as a chapter of that, or any other group was not for us. We have continued on our own. The past year has been one of tremendous growth, not only in membership, but the range of services offered.

We now publish a professional newsletter (on the order of TRANSITION) where we exchange with other groups with whom we maintain a loose affiliation. The Gateway contains 12-16 pages of information of interest to our members and non-members reading it.

We have been fortunate to add a long time professional in the field of "image improvement" who provides a lecture/demonstration at least for the San Francisco meeting. We are trying to make arrangements for her to provide this to the San Jose meetings. We have four meetings per month: one in San Francisco, one in the East Bay and two in San Jose. Members are invited to attend any and all. We have two therapists specializing in the field of gender dysphoria who attend meetings to offer advice. Members are free to consult with them personally as well.

In addition to a Membership Directory, we publish a local "yellow pages" where the members get information concerning places to go when dressed, places to shop, councilors, therapists, and other groups. We installed an "information/hot line" in June 1979 and have had many calls. This has partially motivated the yellow pages.

We work with several other groups: Patsy Pichon, TVIC-Hartford, Susan Armstrong in Florida, Gloria Neal and others. We also work with Confide.

We will soon be adding Steve Dain, a post op female to male and a Ph.D. to our advisory staff. We feel that having an individual of Steve's stature and community popularity will attract more of the closeted female to males. We are one of the few groups to have female to male members. Our philosophy is that a group such as ours MUST open its doors to all needing us. Our only firm membership criterion is that a person must be gender dysphoric. Joanna M. Clark is lobbying in the State capitol for the advancement of rights for the gender dysphoric and is also loosely associated with us.

Any Alliance members in the area or visiting are most welcome to attend our meetings. Drop us a line at Suite 2507, 681 Ellis St., San Francisco, CA 94109. You can call us at (415) 962-8071.

Any contributions to our yellow pages are appreciated.

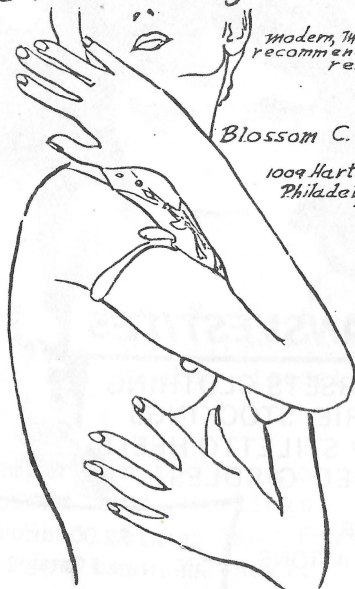
We take this opportunity to wish the Alliance the best for 1980.







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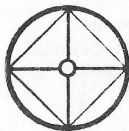
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From The Silent Explosion by Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh.

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