Metamorphosis

Vol.1, No.3 "THE NEWSLETTER EXCLUSIVELY FOR F-M MEN" June 1982

NEW RELEASES:

FIRST F-M TEXTBOOK!

The only extant text on female-to-male transsexualism will be published (hopefully) this summer by Routledge & Kegan Paul and will cost approximately $25. The author is Leslie M. Lothstein, Ph.D., Co-Director of the gender program at the University Hospitals of Cleveland. Apparently, the reviewers have been quite flattering. I do not know about you but I cannot wait to purchase my copy and read it cover to cover. Thank you Dr. Lothstein for such a much-needed and long-overdue reference on f-m tsism. I plan to review the book once it becomes available.

LEGAL SEX

Canadian Law and: homosexuality/rape/bestiality/artificial insemination/incest/venereal disease/sex change/prostitution/censorship/sexual discrimination/exhibitionism/abortion. By L.E. & F.A. Rozovsky, Doubleday Canada Limited, Toronto, Canada; Doubleday & Co. Ltd., Garden City, New York, 1982 ($10). Chapter 12: SEX CHANGE: What Is It? Is It Legal?, Sex Change And The Law, Who Pays?, The Legal Effects, Change Of Name, Change Of Birth Certificate, Change Of Passport, Is Sex Change A Defense To A Crime?, Marriage, Claims For Benefits, Discrimination.

ON ACCEPTING THE UNACCEPTABLE:

A GUIDE FOR RELATIVES AND FRIENDS OF THE TRANSSEXUAL. Susan Huxford, B.A., B.Ed., Oct. 1981 ($2.50). GenderServe, P.O. Box 291, Stn. A, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8.

TRANSSEXUALS: A SPECIAL REPORT

By David Perlman, Science Editor, San Francisco Chronicle, Nov.1981.

The above is an excellent newspaper article on transsexualism: definition, history, numbers of transexuals, cost of sex reassignment, follow-up studies, and, etiology.

There are photographs of Christine Jorgensen, Renée Richards, Doctors: Paul Walker, Donald Laub and Norman Fisk. There are quotes by no less than 17 sex experts on various aspects of gender dysphoria.

The American Psychiatric Association defines 'transsexualism' as: "a persistent sense of discomfort and inappropriateness about one's anatomic sex, and a persistent wish to be rid of one's genitals and to live as a member of the other sex." The APA holds that the classical transsexual has long been totally and irreversibly convinced that he or she is trapped in the wrong body, despite his or her genetically determined sex at birth.

Historically, the idea of TSism is an old one and legend even recounts that the Emperor Nero once 'married' a transsexual slave.

The number of persons seeking a 'sex-change' is estimated at anywhere from 30,000 to 70,000. The number of transsexuals in America who have already undergone gender reassignment (coming from all social classes, all races, and all religions, and include many professional men and women: physicians, attorneys, corporate executives) is estimated at 3000 to 7000.

(cont'd on p.8)

DEAR RUPERT

Thank you for METAMORPHOSIS--finally a publication for the F-M only! How badly we've needed it! I wish you great success. I would like to help out with contributions now and then. You have my permission to reprint excerpts only from my booklet, "INFORMATION FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE".

I read your first issue and feel a need to take issue with some of the statements therein.

As I read through your lead article, "F-M TS DEFINED", I began hoping it would end with a bit of a reprieve from the classic textbook definition....Give some of us a break from the hard line! I truly doubt that all (or even most) of us have had exactly the kind of experiences/background/feelings outlined in your classic F-M definition. I know it took me a long time just to determine that I was in fact transsexual because my experiences/background/feelings were not textbook. Not all of us were rough-and-tumble tomboys who bitterly resented female pubescence and were turned off by boys. Not all normally-born men are that way and I see no reason to deny a F-M TS his true identity as a man because he doesn't fit the mold. It is now okay to be quiet, sensitive, warm, and non-heterosexual, and still be a man.

Further, in the article, "F-M MEN AND LESBIANS", another rather harsh statement is made: "Often the penis-less F-M man will not allow his lover to touch his genitals. Those who allow their...mates to stroke their hormonally-enlarged clitoris do so on the mutual assumption that this is a 'mini-penis' or 'little phallus'. Who knows what our mates assume? And is it really necessary for us to deny our lovers, precious and special as they are, our whole bodies simply because we are physically handicapped? The blending of male and female in us can only be resolved by each of us in our own way while we always look toward the ultimate goal of the masculine. Your quote by Martino supports my viewpoint, "The sexual activities will always differ between partners whether heterosexual, homosexual, transsexual." Because we are men, it means nothing more to accept vaginal insertion as it does for us to accept anal insertion.

I believe my 2 above-stated points are important to many F-Ms and to our community. I would welcome your publishing this letter to begin an open discussion of them.

I wish METAMORPHOSIS a long life.

--Louis Sullivan, San Francisco

I am a 29-year old female-to-male transsexual. After many years of avoiding or misunderstanding my situation I am at the point where I feel cross-living is the step I must take. I am interested in making contact with other females-to-males--particularly those who are pursuing or hope to pursue a lifestyle as a gay man, as I do. I hope eventually to re-locate to California (San Francisco or L.A.) but for the time being I must remain in Cleveland. Do you know of any support groups/individuals in this or other areas who might be interested in corresponding with me to exchange information and support about cross-living?

--E.J. [redacted] Cleveland, Ohio
(Write c/o METAMORPHOSIS.--Ed.)

STEVE DAIN, M.A.

THERAPIST, CONSULTANT, SEXOLOGIST

EXPRESSION OF SEXUALITY
GENDER IDENTITY

P. O. BOX 684
UNION CITY, CALIF. 94587 (415) [redacted]

DEAR RUPERT (cont'd from p.2)

Congratulations on METAMORPHOSIS!

...it occurs to me many TSs have not considered a number of possible factors which may have contributed to their plight such as:

Attempts by doctors or parents to assign a sex to a child in order to please the desires of one or both parents to provide various types of therapy to support the assignment.

Some animals (including humans) do not have a definite gender at birth....well meaning persons assign them to one sex or the other. Sometimes this is not compatible with the inner feelings or psyche of the person so assigned. Here too, attempts are made to adjust the individual to the assigned sex, chemical or surgical attempts are made.

...I have encountered persons clearly masculine in stature, build, voice and interior character who have been raised to believe they were female, having severe problems convincing those about them that they were indeed female. A mere change of clothing put them in their natural habitat.

Conversely, I remember a beautiful blonde young lady (possibly a hermaphrodite) who had been assigned to the male gender. On reaching puberty she developed breasts which were promptly excised in order to confirm the assigned gender; however, her body form was very feminine as were her interior feelings. When drafted into the army and stripped, everyone laughed at his diminutive genitalia. His parents had him/her under the "care" of a psychiatrist at age 22 who tried to teach him/her how to be a man even by example, on double dates. She finally...stopped trying to pose as a man. Gratefully, her mother helped her become the beautiful young woman she really was. Some psychiatrists understand and some do not.

...God maintains a certain balance in all natural populations between males and females and at times we see physical metamorphoses from one gender to the other. When it is His prudent opinion the balance should be altered at times, He uses a reserve of neutrals. But at times He has made striking transformations from one sex to the other throughout the animal and human world.

--Dr. Reed Erickson, Director, The Erickson Educational Foundation, Ojai, California

(cont'd on p.4)

A HANDBOOK FOR TRANSSEXUALS, by Paula [redacted] 70 pp., published privately. This book is the blueprint! Eight years in the making. Tells what to do, how, why, where, and even whom! An absolute must for all who contemplate a sex-reassignment. $5.95 ppd., [redacted] [redacted] [redacted] Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE - A NEWSLETTER WRITTEN BY AND ABOUT TRANSSEXUALS (CONTAINS ADS). $2 PER COPY: $12 PER YEAR. PAYABLE TO PHOEBE [redacted], [redacted] GEORGIA 30354

Comprehensive Health Care Center, Inc.
Individual, Couple, Family and Group Therapy

Jude Patton, M.F.C.T., PA-C

Laguna Hills Medical Arts Center
24953 Paseo De Valencia, Ste. 17C
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

Office (714) [redacted]
Res. [redacted]

DEAR RUPERT (cont'd from p.3)

Thanks for your newsletter and your letter. You personally sound very interesting. Is it possible that we could correspond with each other on a personal basis? We have so much in common: philosophy, religion, mysticism, occult, psychology, sexology, novels, scrapbooks, bicycling, music and transsexuality--oh yes and writing--writing is my life force. You seem to be a profound person--I'd really like to know you better. How old are you?

I'd love to write for your newsletter. I am acutely interested and I will subscribe because I'm hungry for any information on f-m TSism.

Oh, sometimes being the way I am is very agonizing. There is a very special woman in my life who wants to spend the rest of her life with me and who accepts me as a man but I feel handicapped. There's so much that is painful to me right now--like not being able to know what it feels like to be inside the woman I love, and, monthly periods--these make me feel like some sort of a freak, these humiliate me and disgust me to the point where I sometimes wish I were dead. I am a man and this physical/gender mix-up is hard to dealwith. Surgery is a hope but even that--well, I hear chances of functioning sexually as a man are slim and also, must be terribly expensive. I somehow feel trapped.

Tell me, what is the best method of flattening the breasts? After surgery, do you still have periods?

Please take care. You are a God-send!

--Khalil [redacted], [redacted] *Virginia*

METAMORPHOSIS: "The Newsletter Exclusively For F-M Men And Professionals". Copyright 1982. Subscription: $12 for 6 issues. P.O. Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4. Editor: Rupert Raj, B.A. Artist: Katherine A. Johnson.

TS NEWSLETTERS

BEAUMONT SOCIETY NEWSLETTER, BM. Box No. 3084, London, U.K. WCIV6XX*

The BI-LETTER, Lee Risemberg, The Bi-Social Center, 7136 Matilija Ave., Van Nuys, CA 91405 *

CROSSROADS CHATTER, Grace Bacon, Box 3013, Flint, MI 48502 (SASE) *

GENDER REVIEW, Susan Huxford, Box 291, Stn. A, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada L8N 3C8 ($6 per year)

METAMORPHOSIS, Rupert Raj, Box 5963, Stn. A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4 ($12 per year)

OUTREACH NEWSLETTER, Ariadne Kane, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215 ($10 per year) *

PHOENIX MONTHLY-INTERNATIONAL, Georgia Saunders, Gateway Gender Alliance, Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088 ($20 per year) *

RENAISSANCE UPDATE, Jude Patton, Box 11341, Santa Ana, CA 92711 ($10 per year)

SHAFT (SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANSSEXUALS) NEWSLETTER, Judith Cousins, 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, U.K. (£8 per yr.)

TAMS & TISSUES, David Cassidy, Transvestites A Montreal, Box 153, Station Victoria, Montreal, Quebec, Canada H3Z 2V5 ($12 per year) *

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE, Phoebe Smith, 764 North Ave., Hapeville, GA 30354 ($12 per year)

TVIC JOURNAL, William Thordsen, 1104 Broadway, Albany, NY 12204 ($12 per year) *

TV/TS TAPESTRY, Merissa Sherrill Lynn, The Tiffany Club, Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778 ($25 per year) *

* TS <u>and</u> TV

DR. LESLIE LOTHSTEIN ON PHALLOPLASTIC SURGERY

While I have facilitated several women through sex reassignment surgery I continue to be pessimistic about phalloplasty (penis construction). I first thought it was related to our surgeons' poor surgical techniques. Now, 8 years later, I am convinced that no surgeon in the country (not even Dr. Laub at Stanford; Dr. Reynolds in Oklahoma) can provide a functionally acceptable penis, no less an aesthetically appearing one. In fact the only photos of an aesthetically acceptable penis were presented in an article by R. Kluzak (in a Hungarian journal, Rozhledy v Chirugik 47:254-260, 1968). While I have seen slides of several American surgeons, I am impressed that they only show the best results and their colleagues often tell me stories which make it appear that the slides are only exaggerations at best.

I have been through the pain and difficult post-operative period with several of my female patients. The situation is quite dismal. I find myself becoming more involved in the therapeutic aspects of transsexualism and increasingly disenchanted with surgery.

As for our experience here. The surgical techniques involve three stages in which an abdominal tubicle flap is shaped into a penis. By the third stage a complete hysterectomy and oophorectomy are performed. Artificial testes are implanted if requested. The penis can be made erect with the insertion of a rod. No urination is possible through the penile tube. Sexual intercourse may be accomplished by use of a rod inserted through the penis. Our surgeons have done at least 4 phalloplasties. The results varied. All patients needed multiple hospitalizations for continued procedures and repairs (none of this is stated by the surgeons in advance but should be routinely expected). One of the patients' penis fell off and another patient needed several skin grafts due to necrosis of penile tissue (a common occurrence but almost never reported by the surgeons because they fear patients won't come to them for surgery). I consider this to be a serious surgical complication but the surgeons only consider near death as being a surgical complication.

All procedures involve long stays in the hospital. The costs for surgery vary from surgeon to surgeon; they tend to be more reasonable at our hospital. The transsexual who pays more does not necessarily get a better job done. The prerequisites for surgery are several years of psychotherapy; residence in Cleveland; enrollment in the Gender Identity Clinic. Patients are not accepted from other clinics just for surgery.

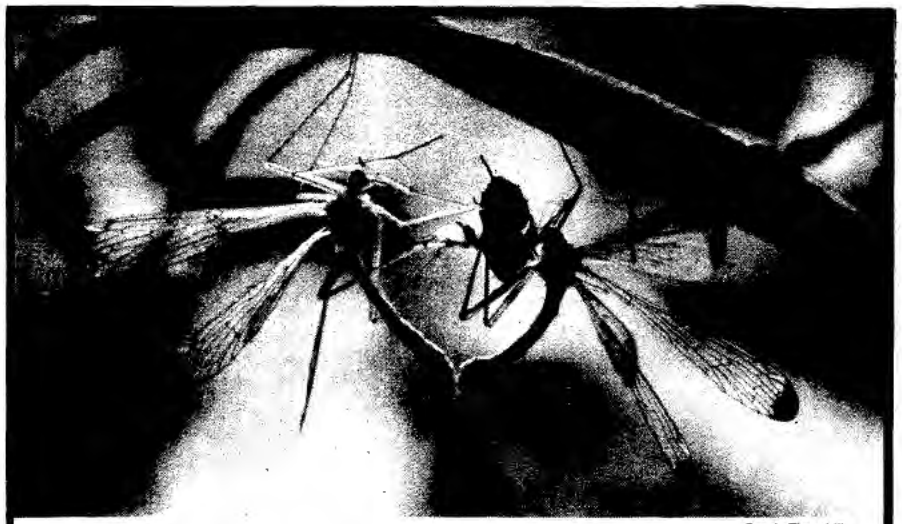
While I remain unconvinced about the overall effects of female-to-male surgery, Dr. Laub's work is probably the best in the country and he deserves credit for the work he is doing. I recently heard from him that new experimentations with penile prostheses are being investigated.

--Leslie M. Lothstein, Ph.D. ABPP
Co-Director, Gender Identity Clinic, University Hospitals of Cleveland

August Issue: URINARY ASSIST DEVICE
F-M GAY MAN (Profile)
STEVE DAIN (Profile)
PERSONAL ADS
October Issue: PENILE PROSTHESES

ACLU TRANSSEXUAL RIGHTS COMMITTEE
ACLU OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
633 SOUTH SHATTO PLACE
LOS ANGELES, CA 90005

Membership: $20 p/yr. Limited Income Membership: $5 p/yr.



Randy Thornhill

Mating game: Scorpion flies copulate as female (right) feeds on 'nuptial gift'

TRANSVESTITE SCORPION FLIES

At mating time, the female scorpion fly darts to a male's side and coyly dips her wings. But before she will bestow her sexual favors, she demands a "nuptial gift" of food—and until she deems the gift worthy, the female holds her genitals out of reach. So male scorpion flies spend much of their nine-day adult lives foraging for suitable prey. But some of them beat the mating game. They trick unsuspecting other males into surrendering food by turning transvestite.

A male scorpion fly has three choices in finding the bugs he needs. He can capture them, which exposes him to spiders and other predators. He can steal them from other males, which is difficult. But the easiest—and safest—technique seems to be female impersonation.

The male scorpion fly is an artful mimic, dropping his wings and drawing back his genitals just like the female. After attracting another male, the transvestite doesn't always get the prey. But the technique appears to succeed often, according to a report in the journal Science by Randy Thornhill, a University of New Mexico biologist. Thornhill found that transvestites save so much time in food-gathering that they can copulate one and a half times as often as usual. Further, says Thornhill, because transvestites expose themselves less to predators, they live longer.

(THE GATEWAY, Vol.2, No.3, Sept. 1979: published by: The Gateway Gender Alliance. Reprinted here by permission.)

TRIBUTE OF THANKS

Transexuals owe a great debt of gratitude to these professionals who facilitate our *emergence* from the *labyrinth*, who help to resolve our sexual *conundrum*, who assist us through our TS *transition*, who *metamorphosize* our lives, and, who deliver our *"rebirth" (Renaissance)*.

Specifically:

the *general practitioner* who refers us to the appropriate specialist(s),

the *psychiatrist* and/or *psychologist* who diagnoses our gender dysphoria and recommends us for sex reassignment,

the *endocrinologist* who prescribes our sex hormones: antigens or estrogens,

the *electrologist* who depilates our beard and waxes our body hair,

the *voice therapist* who trains our voice to sound more like the opposite sex,

the *plastic surgeon* who removes our "old" reproductive organs and reconstructs "new" genitalia: penis and testes or vagina,

the *lawyer* who legalizes our name and sex,

the *social worker* who provides financial assistance and vocational rehabilitation,

the *peer-counsellor* who offers support, guidance, advice, information & referrals,

the *media reporter* who presents TSism as documentary not travesty, as science not sensationalism: "responsible journalism".

--Rupert Raj

FILM REVIEW:

VICTOR / VICTORIA

Directed & written by Blake Edwards. Based on the 1933 UFA-Film Viktor und Victoria. MGM & United Artists.

"Victor/Victoria stars James Garner who falls in love with Julie Andrews who is masquerading as a Polish count . The fact that he has fallen in love withsomeone he believes to be another man causes Garner grave discomfort...." This teaser in the newspaper and as a female-to-male gay man, I couldn't wait for the upcoming film. But as the ads emerged with lines like "A Disguise Surprise Comedy" and "The Feel-Good Flick Of The Year", I resolved that this film wouldn't be delving to deeply into the world of the female-to-male.

As a musical comedy, this film is very good, very funny, very entertaining. It deals matter-of-factly with gay men and crossdressers. The beautiful art deco sets, the fine camera work, the endearing characters played by relaxed professionals, the surprise turns-of-events dotted throughout the story caused the audience to clap and cry out in delight. But I had hoped for an occasional glimpse on a more serious level.

THE VILLAGE VOICE noted that "The visual conception of Julie Andrews as the bogus Victor seems patterned somewhat after the very fragile maleness of David Bowie." However, not once did I see a remote possibility of Andrews ever passing for one minute. Indeed, she seemed to have larger breasts and more makeup while in male drag than when not. Her speaking and singing voice was never modified to sound more masculine. Even when Garner confronts her with his disbelief that she is a man, Andrews flutters her eyelashes coquettishly and defends herself haughtily without a single masculine affront under Garner's unconvinced scrutiny. (No, Katherine Hepburn in SYLVIA SCARLETT still holds the prize for best female-to-male on film). Garner never did believe her to be a man, sidestepping the challenge to look at a straight man facing his attraction to another man. He never even touched Victor until he was certain he was a she.

To make the characterization even harder on Andrews, she impersonates a man who is a female impersonator by vocation. She isn't up to the role--there is nothing in her drag act to make you think for a moment she may not be a real woman, even when she yanks off her wig to reveal her short haircut: she just looks like Julie Andrews with slicked-back hair.

Neither did this film present the humorous aspects of such a physical transition (well, once she complained she couldn't continue to bind her breasts or they'd end up "looking like two empty wallets"). Having experienced the farce of a female-turned-gay-male, I know it could've been a helluva lot funnier.

"Edwards seems unduly reticent in exploring all the possibilities in an Andrews characterization", continues THE VOICE. Hence, Victor/Victoria moves without stopping off for any tantalizing encounters in the lively world of what was once described as the 'third sex'. We are never made to feel uneasy over the tension between Victor and Victoria."

Edwards missed the chance, too, to write in some thought-provoking arguments in a scene where Andrews tells Garner why she wishes to continue her impersonation, other than to say, "So many things are open to me as a man that I could never have as a woman", without elaboration.

Well, it's a 'cute' movie. It is definitely worth seeing. But don't expect to identify too strongly with the female-to-male character.

--Lou Sullivan

CLGA
BOX 639, STATION "A"
TORONTO, ONTARIO
CANADA M5W 1G2

TO BE A MAN

All I really want is to be the
man I am
To be recognized, not analyzed
To know someone gives a damn.

I want to love my woman
with totality to match
the passion that she summons
from my very soul, in fact.

Muscle, sinews, skin and bone
pride and virile strength
sexy briefs and men's cologne
(my thirst is fate's to quench)

All I really want is to be a
total man
to love and live my life with
pride
as I hold my Lady's hand.

--Khalil [redacted]

"PEER-EXPERIENCED IS THE BEST COUNSELLOR"
("IT TAKES ONE TO KNOW ONE")

Metamorphosis

GENDER COUNSELLING - EDUCATIONAL SERVICES

P.O. BOX 5963, STATION "A"
TORONTO, ONT. M5W 1P4

RUPERT RAJ, B.A.
DIRECTOR

*Counselling *Education *Research
*Referrals *Information on:
*PASSING *ELECTROLYSIS *HORMONES
*SURGERY *CHANGE OF NAME AND SEX
*Counselling by mail: $15/letter
*Office Consultation: $30/session
*Lectures/Seminars: $30
*TS PASSPORT (letter of I.D.): $5
*PHALLOPLASTY: 32 pages, $16
*F-M NEWSLETTER: $12 for 6 issues
*Poems wanted for book: An Anthology Of Transsexual Verse

TRANSSEXUALS (cont. from p.1)

The cost of sex conversion surgery for a male ranges from $5500 to $9000 or more, and electrolysis can cost up to $4000, and female hormones run up to $50 a month. The price of surgical sex reassignment for a woman seeking a male anatomy may be up to $15,000. Counseling before and psychotherapy after surgery may run from a few hundred dollars to thousands.

Dr. Laub has performed 135 'sex-change' operations for males and 141 for females. Following up these patients many years after surgery has convinced Drs. Laub and Fisk that their sex conversion patients are "subjectively far happier than they had been before." Only 4 patients treated at the Palo Alto gender clinic decided to revert to their original gender roles.

The clinic's long-term follow-up studies show that females who become men seem to experience more satisfactory adjustment to their lives, even though they can only have intercourse using artificial inserts to simulate erections if they have surgically created genitals. Many report they have married successfully.

Male transsexuals are more likely to remain single after surgery and tend to be less emotionally stable than females reassigned as males. Life as a woman seems more difficult and Dr. Fisk sees a 'high hysteria quotient' in some of those patients.

The difference is probably that boys destined to become transexual show evident signs of effeminacy and thus are more likely to suffer taunts and harrassment as children than are masculine girls who are simply accepted as 'tomboys' early in life. As a result, male transsexuals trying to live as adult women find it difficult to develop close relationships with anyone--particularly with men.

(to be continued next issue: ETIOLOGY)