

## NEW RESEARCH PROJECT ON TRANSSEXUALISM

An innovative research effort to discover the causes of transsexualism, was announced recently. Dr. Nancy Ledins, director of the Alpha Gamma Project has been awarded a three year, private foundation grant to study the possible linkages between transsexualism and reincarnation.

Dr. Ledins will study 450 transsexuals using "age regression," to see if any patterns emerge which might give clues to certain persons' perceived inability to live in the sexual/genderal role of birth. If such clues exist, she believes, it will be possible to help the person adjust to the current genderal role instead of changing to the opposite gender role.

Ledins noted that "our current methods of dealing with the transsexual are basically medical and psychiatric. While well-meaning in purpose, the drastic upheaval which results makes me believe there is another key. Our goal is to search for more humane and reasonable answers to this phenomenon."

"Our project will specifically try to determine whether reincarnational imprinting tends to 'short circuit' current lifestyles for some people. If so, it is understandable that when a heavy crisis occurs in early life, there would be a regression into a more 'peaceful' or 'serene' lifespan of the past. If this is the case, I would see a way of re-establishing a more congruent lifestyle without resorting to surgery or other explosive changes."

Like all good research, the project is a "crapshoot" as they say. We may end up with lots of dust in our hands or we may hit some paydirt. The Alpha (androgyny) - Gamma (gyandry) Project attempts no magical solution; undertakes no supra normal methodology; promises no results. We have a hope or thread (promise) which, in research becomes the 'state of the question.' At the moment, we are asking a question in hopes that we may find a new answer.

If you are interested in getting further information about the Project, please write to Dr. Nancy Ledins, Dept. OI, Suite 207, 6155 Fulton Avenue, Van Nuys, California 91401.

## THE TV/TS DIRECTORY

The Institute in collaboration with Tiffany Club, has compiled an extensive list of organizations and services, for social contact, publications, legal and counseling services, boutiques, and programs, with addresses. This valuable booklet is available from the Institute and costs \$4.50. The listings cover a wide range of areas throughout the United States and Canada.

## LAW SURVEY PROJECT

At the Legal Aspects seminar, held during Fantasia Fair 1979, it was suggested that we do a survey with regard to Crossdressing and the Law. This is a monumental task of compiling by state, what laws there may be concerning crossdressing, the nature and extent of these laws, if, how and when these statutes are or were enforced. In addition, what the extent and nature may be concerning Local Ordinances in various communities.

As a beginning, we are asking our readership to find answers to the following questions, and sending these back to us. It is important that we have the data you are able to compile for us by the end of September 1980.

Suggestions for getting answers to the questions asked:

- Go to the legal section of your public library. Ask the librarian to help you locate State Laws related to cross-dressing, female impersonation, and transvestism.
- Go to the legal department of your local community or make a telephone call to your City/Town Hall. You do not have to give your name or address. Ask for information about any local ordinances that specifically prohibit crossdressing acts in public and under what circumstances.

Please send back the completed "Cut off" questionnaire and any xeroxed information you were able to obtain to the Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, Box 368, Boston, MA 02215. Your assistance with this project is gratefully acknowledged.

- |  | Yes                      | No                       |
|--|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. Is there a State Law that prohibits crossdressing?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. Has this law ever been enforced, to your knowledge?   | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. What is the year that such a law was enacted in your state? _____   |                          |                          |
| 4. Which state are you from? _____   |                          |                          |
| 5. Does your city/town have a Local Ordinance prohibiting cross-dressing?  | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. If possible could you provide us with xerox copies of both the State Law from your state and the Local Ordinance from your local community? | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

## THE LABYRINTH FOUNDATION

An established and ongoing complete gender center serving the needs of *Female to Male Transsexuals* can be found in Yonkers, New York. Called the Labyrinth Foundation, its services include:

- Intake consultation with a professional counselor and sex therapist.
- Recommendation, after extensive blood and urine analyses, for suitable dosages of male hormones.
- Being an Intermediary between client and relevant social contact and other professional organizations.
- Provide information on how to transit, satisfactorily, from the current gender lifepattern to the "new man" lifepattern.
- Provide information on the current status of the technique of reassignment surgery for *Female to Male Transsexuals*.
- Strict Confidentiality with regard to problems discussed between the client and the Foundation.

For further information, contact:

Dr. A. Tournabene, Director  
The Labyrinth Foundation  
122 Windsor Terrace  
Yonkers, New York 10701

## A CALL FOR ARTICLES

For subsequent issues, we invite our readership to submit articles, either professional or personal, about some aspect of the paraculture, to the editors.

The article should be at least two 8½x11 doublespaced, typewritten pages in length. They should be received at least one month prior to the date of publication of the Newsletter. Dates of publication are April 30, July 31 and November 30.

The Editors reserve the right to edit all materials for publication, to conform with space requirements and standards of good taste.

## KANE APPEARS ON THE MORNING EXCHANGE IN CLEVELAND

On April 17, Ariadne Kane was invited to appear on the Morning Exchange, a popular video talk show serving a viewing audience of over 200,000 in the greater Cleveland Area.

Among the issues covered were, crossdressing and the need to express the feminine side of one's total personality, the practical avenues for achieving social tolerance, as a crossdresser, in various social settings, problems associated with crossdressing and androgyny.

For 36 minutes of real time, Ariadne discussed these issues with clarity, in a non-defensive open media environment. Part of that time was used to answer questions phoned into the station by the viewing audience.

The talk show hosts, director and the Morning Exchange staff were very helpful, interested in the subject and made her appearance on the show a most rewarding educational experience for all.

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**SEX CHANGE** by T. Kando

a book review by A. Kane

This book describes the post operative adjustment of feminized transsexuals. Rather than focus on the etiology of TSism, it deals, in depth, with the social relationships of a group of new women (Male to Female sex changes). It describes how each of these new women get on with the business of living after reassignment surgery and, their individual approach toward a satisfactory sexual/gender identity. Four types of adjustment are identified by Dr. Kando; the housewife, the stripper, the aspiring housewife and the career woman. This study shows their wide variation within the value system of middle class respectability. Yet each of these new women seems to subscribe to the conventional stereotypes of womanhood. In addition, Dr. Kando found that this group of new women are more "conservative and unliberated" than randomly sampled conventional males and females.

He believes that reassignment surgery is an important step for these people, toward the achievement of middle class acceptance, by society.

This book has value in that it is one of the very few that gives an overview of the transsexual element of the paraculture, from a sociological standpoint. Kando's study provides insight as to how the transsexual defines sex and gender, in terms different from the conventions of our society. Through their perspective, one sees American Culture, with regard to sex, as a narrow, monolithic, normative system, dominated by rigorous middle class standards. Furthermore, it reveals that while their attitudes and social definitions put her at variance with other cultural groupings, particularly the dominant societal more structure in which she lives, the new woman continues to sustain interaction with all major influences in the dominant society. A good discussion is provided to illustrate how the new woman negotiates her "social reality."

It is recommended reading for helping professionals as well as paraculture members.

NOTE: This volume is available from the Institute at a cost of \$10.95 plus \$1.75 for postage and handling.

**ESTROGENS AND CANCER** by Lauren Harrow

"Science News"(5/3/80, p278) has recently issued an update on "Estrogen Therapy and Breast Cancer" which should be of interest to those who are either presently taking female hormones, or who are thinking about doing so to develop their body in a feminine way.

The article reports on a recent study (Journal of the American Medical Association, 4/25/80, Ronald K. Ross) in which comparisons were made between women in 2 separate retirement communities near Los Angeles. A group of 131 patients with breast cancer were matched with 262 control subjects of the same age, class, race, and marital status. A 2.5 fold higher than normal risk of breast cancer was found among those women using high doses (1.25mg daily for at least 3 years) of estrogen. It is worth noting that 1.25mg daily is also the amount that is frequently prescribed in transsexual instances to feminize the body.

The report claims that its results are "biologically credible and consistent with the findings of the 1976 National Cancer Institute Study." Ross and his colleagues estimate that a woman undergoing 1.25mg estrogen replacement therapy daily, at age 50, for 3 years increases her probability of getting breast cancer "by age 75" from 6% to 12%. Ross feels that these are sizeable increases which "carry sizeable differences in mortality. . . . the benefits of estrogen therapy at this dosage level would need to be extremely great to warrant such risk."

An editorial accompanying the report criticizes the California study saying that a similar 1977 study found no excessive risk. They further maintain that the dosage of 1.25mg results in increased risk, and is two times that which many thoughtful physicians would prescribe. All are in agreement that further studies are needed, but that long expected "latency" period make for a long wait before there will be more conclusive answers.

Those seeking feminization of their body may still feel that developing breasts and female body qualities is worth the uncertainty and risks. Because the report also reported a lower risk for lower levels of estrogen usage, a strategy that could be considered with estrogens would be: taking the larger dosage for only 1-2 years at most and then after as much development that can be expected has been achieved, dropping back to a smaller dosage (.625mg) to "maintain" your feminine development. Of course, most of us do not know if .625mg of estrogen will maintain our development. Thus this suggestion remains in the nature of an experiment for those taking estrogens.

### A Survey of Wives

*continued from page 1*

A: Most wives heard about this Rating System (ed. note: an "A" wife is one who totally accepts her spouse's crossdressing; a "B" wife is one who tolerates certain aspects of her spouse's crossdressing activity and rejects other aspects; a "C" wife . . . etc., with an "F" wife being one who is totally intolerant of her spouse's "hobby.") They described it as being degrading. At a certain point during the interview, many wives expressed open hostility towards this superficial system of Classification. However, when it was suggested that they offer an alternative Rating System, none responded.

Q: What is your view about the "other woman" in their spouse?

A: Response to this varied from "she is a preteen, playing dress up; somewhat spoiled and self centered, immature; narcissist with a compulsive desire to be the center of attention; he tends to overdress rather than to dress to suit the occasion; he tends to overuse makeup in the style of women he knew as a teenager."

Q: In what ways have you assisted your spouse with the practical aspects of crossdressing?


A: Half of the wives responded positively by stating that they have helped their spouse with wardrobe selection and appropriate use of cosmetics. However, the remaining half of the wives raised the question of the efficacy of assisting their spouse to "pass." These wives felt that such efforts might encourage him to take unnecessary risks. The wives who did help their spouses to "pass" felt that it would reduce the anxiety of his risk taking.

While this survey is not definitive or conclusive, Betty Ann made the following observations.

There seemed to be a common thread between these tolerant ("A", "B" wives) sensitive wives and a dozen or so wives met in other contexts that were intolerant to their spouses' crossdressing activity. The latter group rejected their spouses' behavior in the honest belief that by doing so they solved the problem of "how can I preserve what is mine?". The tolerant wives took the position that "life is a changing stream" and that if they wished to preserve anything, they would have to adapt, even if their spouses were not capable of doing so.

As one wife said: "I have the best of both: a husband who is a man in every way and at the same time he is capable of being a sister I have always wanted as a dearest friend and companion. I love them both as one."

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### Kane Presents at International Symposium

*continued from page 1*

androgyny. Highlights among these were the Role/Reversal Date, in which the males are sought after by the females in much the same manner as conventional means used by males wishing to make a date with a female; the All Male Beauty Contest in which women provided the bulk of the audience and also served as judges.

The Symposium was rich in the content of its presentations and was experiential in that both presenters and audiences interacted and participated synergistically. Let us hope for more of these programs in other major centers in the country.

# SEX CHANGE

*THE ACHIEVEMENT  
OF GENDER IDENTITY  
AMONG FEMINIZED TRANSSEXUALS*

**THOMAS KANDO**

*University of California  
Riverside, California*

BOTH BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM  
THE

**OUTREACH  
INSTITUTE**

## DRESSING UP

Peter Ackroyd

The History of an Obsession



**FANTASIA FAIR 1980**

This will be our 6th Annual Fantasia Fair. Hundreds of inquiries have been received and we are expecting the largest turnout of participants ever.

Major events include a Fashion Show, Fan/Fair Follies, Fashion/Beauty Course, An Evening with the Town/supper, our fabulous Awards Banquet and much more.

We are offering four special seminars this year. These are Legal, Medical and Sociological Aspects of the Paraculture. In addition, we are having a special Androgyny Awareness workshop which will be open to all registered participants at the Fair.

Last year we had a writer/participant from Playboy Magazine with us. He took an active part in the activities at the Fair and wrote an article about the experience. The story should appear in the November 1980 issue of Playboy Magazine.

We have published a Photoessay magazine about last year's Fair.

Entitled *Fantasia Fair, An Experience to Remember*, it is available from the Outreach Institute and costs \$15.00 plus \$1.50 for postage and handling.

If you are interested in attending this year's Fair, kindly send in your registration and remittance as soon as possible. Space is limited and is on a first come first served basis.

**Estrogens and Cancer**

*continued from page 5*

Those who are taking estrogens for the development of female characteristics should certainly stay abreast of the latest scientific studies, and not let their desires blind them to any potential dangers. There certainly can be no underestimating the fact that hormones do change your body, and in many cases do give the feminine development hoped for, but there are still unanswered questions regarding the health implications of taking female hormones over any extended period of time.

**Outreach  
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**Renewal Time**

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