

Jason Cromwell Headlines December Meeting

by Max Valerio

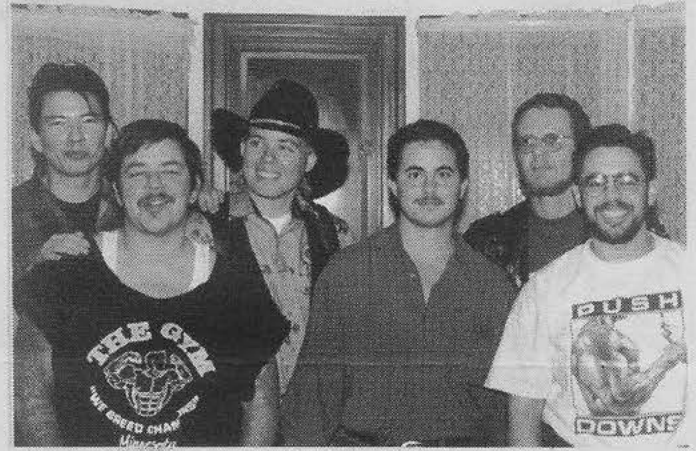
Jason Cromwell, Director of the Ingersoll Gender Center in Seattle, made an appearance at the December support group. Jason, an FTM himself, has lived as a man now for over twenty years.

Currently working on a Doctorate in Anthropology, Jason spoke at length about his Doctoral thesis, which will concern the formation and articulation of FTM gender identity. Jason stated that he is "anti-psychology-oriented" and compared his method to Anne Bolin's, whose book, *In Search of Eve*, also utilized an anthropological approach. He does not believe in administering psychological tests, but is interested in the individual articulation of feelings and beliefs concerning gender identity. Jason is hoping that this research will help answer such questions as "How do we form our identities?", "Where did this come from?", and "How did we get to know that?". Although not interested in psychology per se, he is attracted to symbolism, specifically, the "gender portrayal of symbolism." By not using the more common "medical illness" model to contextualize transsexual experience, Jason hopes to reconfigure our understanding of ourselves as non-traditionally gendered people.

He initiated this research last year by creating a questionnaire for FTMs which he circulated widely in both England and the United States. Next year, he wants to visit three cities and speak to a number of FTMs in each one. High on his list of cities to visit are San Francisco, Atlanta, and Montreal (for its international perspective). Florida is another region that he is considering visiting.

Jason wants to hang out with his FTM subjects, focusing on 'all aspects' of their lives. He said, "I have no theories, no damn hypothesis." He is looking for FTMs who are interested in being a part of this groundbreaking research. He will assure your anonymity and no one's name will be used. If this project sounds interesting to you (and you live in one of the areas mentioned), contact him at the following address:

J. Cromwell, 6113 39th Ave. South, Seattle, WA 98118



at December meeting...

The Year In Review

We've had an action-packed year at FTM, and in the gender community at large. Holly Devor attended the November FTM social, and Jason Cromwell spoke at the December support group, both organized by Sky Renfro. It's been the year of the lesbian transsexual here in S.F., with the Bay Times controversy raging over whether or not to admit MTF's to the Michigan Women's Music Festival. Our history connects us to women's and oftentimes lesbian issues-and this enriches our experiences/our lives, as men. It's exciting to see MTF friends fighting for transsexual rights, and really getting somewhere.

The men's community, as usual, has to deal with the raging testosterone factory, which places an enormous focus on sexuality. Several queer zines this year have touched on the issue of FTM sexuality, running the gamut from straight men to faggots to transsexual men who like to gender-bend in the female direction. Whereas FTM's have in the past been invisible, this seems to be changing. FTM Transsexuals, Transgenderists, and cross-dressers have been appearing regularly on the "talk show circuit." Leslie Feinberg, author of *Transgender Liberation* and *Stone Butch Blues*, made a rare appearance at the Women's Building to present a slide show of passing women. Leslie is a transgender activist and a strong ally for the FTM movement. Speaking of allies, check out the news section for new FTM groups you might not know about. Meanwhile, the newsletter is being re-organized,

and might look a little different. Let us know if you have any good ideas for next issue. The deadline for submissions is April 1, and anything we receive is subject to 'edit.' However, don't let that deter you from sending in those interesting articles, letters, and news tidbits.

Surgically-speaking, we have made good solid progress, but still no cigar. On the other hand, there's no telling what the new year will bring, and we wish you a happy and productive one. --FTM Staff

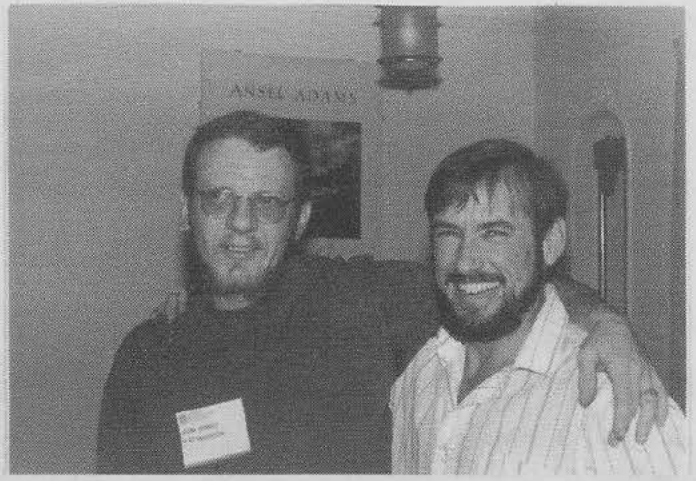
We Are Living History by James

Twenty-eight people attended the October Informational meeting and heard guest speaker, historian Susan Stryker talk about the history and politics of transsexualism. Susan serves on the Board of Directors of the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society, and she says the Society is engaged in a genuine effort to find and incorporate the history of other sexually marginalized peoples such as transsexuals. She invited us to submit materials of an historical nature that would help the Society to document the role of transsexuality in our lives.

Susan also told us that Lou Sullivan (founder of our FTM group) bequeathed about \$3000.00 to the Gay and Lesbian Historical Society for the express purpose of organizing an art exhibition documenting transsexual lives, and the Society is working on that by soliciting photos and artwork and even journals--anything that will represent the TS experience. Anyone who wants to contribute artwork for the exhibit should contact the Society at P.O. Box 424280, San Francisco, CA 94142, USA; phone (415)626-0980.

Susan has also spent considerable time reviewing the materials that Lou left to the Historical Society. He left "cartons and cartons" of journals, correspondence with medical professionals, medical and psychiatric literature, historical records of passing women, and more. She invited anyone who wants to look at the Lou Sullivan Collection to contact the Society for an appointment.

Susan reminded us of the tremendous historical significance Sullivan has for transgendered people and for the medical and psychological establishments. Lou came up square against those establishments because he refused to lie about the fact his sexual orientation was homosexual--he identified as a gay man. Gender programs across the board did not recognize this as a legitimate lifestyle, and denied Lou treatment (surgery) for his transsexualism. Lou struggled to convince the establishments of his legitimacy, and succeeded in convincing the professional communities that there is a difference between gender identity and sexual orientation. He kept putting himself out into the professional communities, saying "we're



(Jason Cromwell and Jameson Green)

out here, we're out here," and finally they listened. Lou was able to make a number of friends in the professional communities and, in 1987, the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association considered Female- to- Male issues publicly for the first time, and in 1989 Walter Bockting delivered a paper to that same organization challenging the prevailing practice of denying services to persons who identified as "queer." In large part because of Lou's insistence that he be taken seriously, the professional service providers have made great strides in their understanding and fairness, and these advancements benefit us whether we identify as gay or straight.

Susan also talked about the institutional support that exists now for transsexuals to come together and talk about ourselves. She cautioned that we are still considered to be mentally ill; our position is a pathologized one that gives the medical/psychological world control of gender. She talked about the gay and lesbian struggle to de-pathologize homosexuality, and pointed out that, while we still require medical services, our condition must be de-pathologized if we are to achieve full respect and equality in society as transgendered individuals.



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We have a great deal of work to do on more than our own transitions if we are to live in a world where gender expression is not policed, or where binary gender systems are not used to enforce arbitrary hierarchies.

In answer to the question, "why do you think gender is the hot topic of the '90's?" Susan said "Gender as a category in our culture is really under assault. We're all fascinated with the idea of sexual difference, and there's a war going on between people like us who feel oppressed by the gender system the way it's set up and people who want to maintain it in a very rigid way. There's all sorts of cultural politics going on about trying to fix the meaning of the body...and transsexualism becomes the focal point for the debate between essentialism and constructionism--is there some sort of innate meaning in our bodies, or is the only meaning our bodies have constructed by the culture?...Transsexuality tends to be a gray area around issues of construction because we have overtly constructed our gender, and so people discussing these issues find a great deal of material in transsexualism. The problem in that for me is that it is people talking about us and not talking to us...and this often leaves no room for transsexuals to have any legitimate subjectivity. It leaves us completely constructed by the medical discourse on us: we're not real people, we're just...acted upon. We have these identities which are constructed for us by the psychoanalytic/medical establishment." "Our existence and our own experience of our existence becomes the means through which we're denied," said someone else in the room. "Right," said Susan. It just goes to show we must find the language to express our experience of gender, and not let ourselves be used by non-transsexuals to reinforce their own theories that they, in turn, will use to oppress us.

That's enough food for thought and there's plenty to think about. Another event at that meeting was an announcement by Chris and Titian that they will donate a Polaroid camera to the FTM group to aid in our collection of post-op photos for our reference library. Thanks, Guys!

And while we're still on organization topics, I'd like to take this opportunity to announce that at the January, 1993, meeting I will call an Administrative meeting to be held either Tuesday February 9, or Sunday February 14 (following the Social meeting) to plan the future structure of FTM and the election of officers. I want to get more people involved in running this group, so all interested parties please contact me and join me at the Administrative meeting. Call me for more info: (510) 658-0474. Thanks, Everyone, for your help in making FTM the organization that it is!

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Geraldo -- Well Done FTM Show by Francis Uaura

In September, I flew to New York with Stafford to join 3 FTM panelists from New York (Ilsa, Vol and Dee), plus Marjorie Garber, author of Vested Interests, to tape a "Geraldo" show which aired a month later, on October 8. The theme was "women who dress, work and sometimes pass as men." Prior to the show, an independent film company, The Wide Angles, friends of Stafford, informally videotaped Stafford getting ready, including a few shots of myself at various stages as I came in from my room next door. It was a sweltering hot day, and as we walked down the street in our best three-piece suits with the crew still filming, bystanders commented "those men must be models," thinking we were shooting a commercial.

Geraldo's producer had done in-depth phone interviews with each of us and promised an "informational, non-sleazy" show. The promise was kept, resulting in an excellent show on FTM cross-dressers and transgenderists. The producer's home-work on FTM's came across in succinct one-liners that Geraldo read off a prompter in a thought-pro-voking series of questions addressed to the panel. The panel represented a range from a cross-dresser living as a woman (myself), to several FTMs who have worked as or been mistaken for men.

The panelists met prior to the show and talked over strategies of getting our points across to a possibly hostile audience (we needn't have worried; we were met with enthusiasm, interest and support). We all had good rapport with each other, and were fairly considerate on the show in giving the floor to each other as we made our individual statements. Ilsa, with dark slicked back hair, black horn rims and bow tie had me renaming "her" Clark in my mind as a female name did not fit, but he preferred to use it as a further twist to the very masculine appearance he created. Vol, a well-dressed FTM of color, who was asked to stand and show off his fashionable suit fooled Geraldo's security guard who stopped him when he approached the women's room before the show. Dee, with crewcut and missing teeth (knocked out when he defended a woman), charmed the audience with the expression "gender treachery" to describe his adventures in confusing the public about his nebulous gender.

The controversy and misconceptions the public still has continued on this show regarding TS versus TV, and gender versus sexual orientation as separate issues. I was the only bisexual on the panel, the rest identifying as lesbian (and Stafford as straight man). The panel addressed these topics from various angles, in their individual styles, hopefully gaining more understanding. Stafford and I also furnished photos of our feminine aspects which were projected during the show (Stafford as "drag queen," myself as "femme," plus one with my husband in his female persona, Roxanna). We were each queried as to whether we had considered a sex change. When I mentioned I had "thought about it," Geraldo momentarily went expose and jumped on it. I kept the audience hanging until after commercial break, and then stated that I wasn't TS, although I wouldn't mind having masculine secondary characteristics. The issue of men's fashions for women was overplayed with recent fashion photos. Several panelists tried to set the record straight, stating that the true cross-dresser would buy actual men's clothes, having them altered to fit, and not purchase these "false" masculine fashions for women. Two women in the

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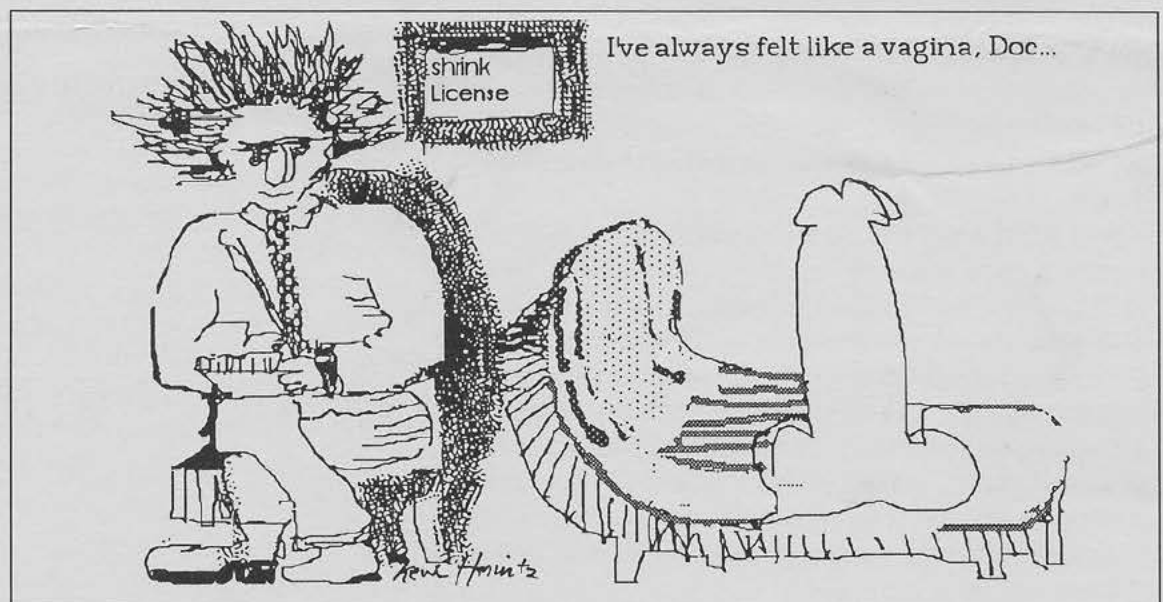
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audience were chosen to be made over by make-up artists from Alter Image, transformed behind the scenes into men, and brought out at the very end of the show. One was a leatherman, the other a studious intellectual, both done well, especially considering they were only given a half-hour.

Marjorie Garber was brought out during the second half of the show, not given much time to speak, but validated that this lifestyle was normal for us, and that cross-dressing and transsexualism have been around for years, historically. The audience seemed amazed to learn that Joan of Arc had been burned at the stake for cross-dressing, and the gay freedom movement had begun out of the harassment and arrest of a cross-dressed woman in a New York bar (Stonewall), and the subsequent riot that ensued when a number of drag queens came to her rescue. Photos from Ms. Garber's book *Vested Interests* were presented as well. Her presence was the main reason I had agreed to do one more talk show (this was my third), and I was relieved to see how well it turned out.

(Friday, 1/29, at 7:30 p.m., Marjorie Garber will speak at Black Oaks Bookstore, located at 1491 Shattuck, Berkeley)



What's In The News?

FTM Groups Proliferating Like Rabbits

FTM groups are springing up everywhere! Ft. Lauderdale, Florida has a new group with the working title "Eden Society." Write to **Maxwell, Eden Society Editor, P.O. Box 22742, Ft. Lauderdale, FL 3335-2742**, to suggest title and logo possibilities.

An East Coast Female-to-male Group calling itself ECFTMG held its first meeting March 8, 1992, in Watertown, Massachusetts. In addition, this group has started a newsletter, "Gender In Formation", whose first issue came out in April of 1992. This is free, if you write to ECFTMG, P.O. Box 38-3303, Cambridge, MA 02238.

The Australian Transsexual Support Association, P.O. Box 212, New Farm Queensland, 4005, and a separately published monthly newsletter, "Boys Will Be Boys" (P.O. Box 1349, Strawberry Hills, Sydney, Australia 2012), are excellent contact sources overseas as is "Boy's Own," FTM Newsletter, 376 Upper Brook St., Victoria Park, Manchester M13 OEP.

Testosterone Patch Study has good results

Over the last couple years, the testosterone patch has been tested as an alternative method to shots, mainly in the segment of genetic male population which suffers from testosterone production deficiency. Doctors say the patch is a huge improvement over standard testosterone injections because it delivers a natural form of the hormone through the skin, directly into the bloodstream. Not only does the patch stabilize the amount of hormone released into the bloodstream, it also considerably improves bone mass. Hopefully, the patch will be attempted with FTM's as an alternative for those who do not react well to the shots.

New FTM Movie Premieres in NYC

Monika Treut, internationally renowned director, recently completed a documentary film about FTM writer Max Valerio. The film, which consists of an interview with Max and footage shot in New York, recently was shown in theatres there. "Max" is the title and it is part of a larger series of documentaries that include Annie Sprinkle (of Linda/Les and Annie fame), and Camille Paglia - the controversial author of Sexual Personae. The series is called "Female Misbehavior".

Court Says France Must Accept Sex Changes

Paris- Overturning a tradition of refusing to legally recognize sex-change operations, France's highest appellate court ruled recently in favor of transsexuals' right to state their chosen gender on government documents. This means that now transsexual marriages will be fully legal, and it is a highly favorable sign in the continued struggle for legal rights.

100 Girls in one town suddenly become boys

A bizarre hereditary condition has turned more than 100 girls into men, stunned genetic experts report. The strange cases of sexual confusion were discovered in 1978 in Jebaliya, an Arab town in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip where intermarriage has caused many people to carry a gender-bending gene. Incredibly, many young girls suddenly grew beards and developed muscles and male sexual organs after reaching puberty, declared Dr. Ariel Rosler of the Hadassah hospital in Jerusalem.

Research found they had been males all along who suffered from a genetic condition that kept their true gender hidden until puberty.

In most cases, the former girls cut their hair and began dressing like men-- but many need surgery to function sexually as men.

Models: Fashion's Gender Benders

Paris- Call it drag, call it cross-dressing, or call it gender illusionism, the time seems ripe for androgynous male models to don women's clothing publicly. Apparently, the fashion world has begun accepting gender-merge as a part of its motif, and are even paying people to do this.

FTM's Interviewed in Brat Attack

Brat Attack no. 3, the zine for leatherdykes and bad girls, contains a racy interview entitled "Female-to-male transsexuals Talk About the Big Switch." S.F. locals Billy, Mike, Sky, and Shadow discuss the why's and wherefore's of their gender change. Sky speaks of his "shape-shifter" or "bigendered" stance. ...worthwhile and informative reading!

Dyke Boy Fantasies In Frighten the Horses

Trish Thomas interviews Matt, an FTGM(female-to-male gay man), in a revealing interview which centers on his sexuality, and is powerful especially because he achieves a sense of 'boyiness' within a lesbian context (Issue #10).

FTM MALEBOX

Dear FTM,

I must say that I found the last issue intriguing, and more than a little dismaying. Not in the newsletter itself, but in some of the content. However, I guess it was bound to happen. Although I had hoped that since we all share the commonality of our transgenderism, we could learn from each other's differences, whatever they may be! I had hoped that none of us would attempt to advocate separating our numbers due to our differences. But baggage is baggage... And Rhonnie Reed seems intent upon segregation. And in many forms! There is no better way to tear a community apart than to pit one member against another.

I would like to share with all of you, and Mr. Reed, my first FTM meeting in San Francisco. When I first walked in, I was introduced to a thin, pale man who showed signs of illness. This was Lou Sullivan who was suffering through the later stages of his battle against AIDS. I learned later in the meeting that he identified as gay, which astounded and relieved me. It meant that I wasn't the only one. Standing next to Lou was Jamison, very business-like but friendly, greeting all of us with a smile to match Lou's, and a hearty handshake. I learned later that Jamison had a girlfriend.

Point is, that on that initial meeting, sexual orientation didn't matter. We had a common denominator that bound us together, our gender identity. The very fact that many of us feel we were born in the body of the opposite gender, the struggles that each of us have experienced because of that common issue, gave us something that no one can take away. Not one of the people I have met through this group has ever treated me as an "other" because of my leather, my SM lifestyle, or my bluntness. Until now... Rhonnie Reed, I take great offense.

Also, on behalf of my MTF sisters who suffer from the same dilemma, but from the opposite end of the spectrum; (you obviously do not know many, or possibly any, MTFs), surgery for an MTF is LESS EXPENSIVE than surgery for an FTM, but it is far from cheap! Nor is it quick. You must not know about electrolysis, or skin smoothing, or the bone shaving surgeries. These are procedures (often times expensive, and painful and ongoing) that counter the harshness of testosterone. I know of several MTFs who work the streets and sell their sexual favors, just to make the money they need for these procedures, their hormones and cosmetics. Not one that I have spoken to enjoys this way of life, but it is a means to an end. As for "successful", not many of these surgeries are what I would call "successful". Many of these people do not retain sexual function or sensation; others have difficulty simply

urinating. I suggest tht Mr. Reed take a second look at The Spirit and The Flesh. The message that is passed to the people through the *winkte* is not one of power in the way that the white man defines it. I invite you to take the words of that book into your heart and look unto others as human beings. Better yet, you might seek out someone on the Red Path who might have the patience to teach you the reality of berdachism. Berdachism and transsexuality are not one and the same.

One final note: I noticed that you had an awful lot of suggestions in each of your letters. It would be nice to see you implement your words with actions. I am tired of standing on the front lines, opening my mouth, having my face rearranged and my bones broken, while one of my Brothers tells me how I should not dress and how WE should run our meetings. Some of your organizational suggestions hold merit. I invite you to get off your couch and get involved with the group to help it grow, instead of trying to tear it apart. It works better if we all work together instead of dividing, like different breeds of cattle.

My attire and lifestyle are a part of who I am. They are a badge to my struggles. I felt no animosity from my brothers when I first came to a meeting, even as a minority. We can only show newcomers that they are not alone as FTMs. Perhaps amongst our diverse numbers they'll find someone they can relate to. I say we encourage them to cultivate the strength to explore who they are...and who we are.

In the Human Spirit,
Shadow

← Dear FTM, →

Enclosed find a donation which I hope will be helpful even though it is small. I think this is an important organization for both resources and support and I am grateful that it exists.

I am 42 and have been an FTM TV all my life. However, it wasn't until a year ago that I met anyone like myself and was introduced to this group. Although I feel this group is geared more toward the FTM TS, I do think I can come to the group and be supported. And I know you understand how important that support is. I have always felt so different and so alone in the world-- like some kind of freak. It has been comforting to know that there are others out there.

There has been only one thing that has given me pause, and that is owning the label of cross-dresser or transvestite. I guess it parallels the time years ago when I had to own the label of lesbian. But that was different somehow-- maybe because being a lesbian was well-defined by society and at least I was aware that some literature was available on the broader subject of homosexuality. I had no idea that the feeling I had of always wanting to wear boys' and then men's clothes could be described by some

label. And it never occurred to me that there were any other women who felt that way. I guess we all want to believe that we are totally unique!

In conclusion, let me extend my thanks to all of you who work hard and give of your own time and energy to make the group and the newsletter a reality. It is appreciated. Sincerely,

Theresa Frieden

Dear FTM,

I don't know how I got on this company's mailing list, but I thought I'd pass it along, since many of us fall into the 'short' category. Also, the enclosed roll of stamps should be useful in the next mailing. Thanks for being there,

Jeff Shevlowitz

(Thanks, Jeff, we'll consider the stamps FTM's Hanukkah gift, alright?--ed.)

Those interested in the Short Sizes Inc. catalog should write to the following adress:

Short Sizes, Inc. (Distinctive apparel for the shorter man), 5385 Warrensville Ctr. Rd. Cleveland, OH 44137 (216)475-2515.

Dear James,

I was sorry to read in the October issue of FTM that you will be giving up the editorship, even if it is to move on to bigger and better things. Good luck in finding a replacement.

I am writing to let you know that at the Southern Comfort conference, Anne Bolin had a wonderful idea, and one that I wished I had had myself: as I was telling her how difficult it was to get material from men, she suggested that Jason Cromwell be guest editor of an issue of *Chrysalis Quarterly*. It was no sooner said than done.

And so, Jason will be editor of issue #8, which will deal entirely, or at least mostly entirely (Jason's call) with men's issues, and which should be out about this time next year. That gives plenty of lead time for articles from you and other men. Submissions can be sent to him C/O **The Ingersoll Center, 1812 East Madison, Seattle, WA 98122.**

Our commitment to men is not limited to a single issue of our magazine. We hope to see a continuing stream of quality material from and about men. If we do, we will publish it. Promise.

DallasDenny Exec.Dir., AEGIS, P.O.Box 33724, Decatur, GA 30033(404) 939-0244.

Dear James (c/o Dallas Denny),

...Finally, and most dear to my heart, as we discussed at the holiday, I am most anxious to let it be known that Tri-Ess absolutely welcomes female to male crossdressers, their spouses and families, as full voting members of Tri-

ESS. Obviously, we will have to create ministries especially for them. Having both talked and written to several female to male crossdressers, it appears that their needs and thought processes are much the same as those of male to female crossdressers. It will take time to work with our new female- to- male members, learn their needs, and respond to them appropriately. The first female-to-male crossdresser to break the barrier, then, must be a person of deep understanding and empathy. As you know, Dallas, my commitment to including FTM crossdressers is heartfelt and absolute, and I would appreciate any help you could give me as to how to minister to their needs, what organizations to write, or any other help with which you can possibly supply me. My intentions are honorable, but I feel rather like a waif in a dark forest, and I don't want to step on the toes of established female- to- male support organizations. Any assistance you might offer would be highly valued. I look forward to hearing from you again soon. May God bless you and keep you in His loving care.

Love,

Your sister /**Jane Ellen Fairfax, P.O. Box 1105Alief, Texas 77441-1105**

Dear FTM,

For those of you who are looking for a urinary device, have I got an idea for you. A fellow FTM brought this device to my attention which is so reliable, he uses it at urinals right next to the genetic males. The device is cheap, discreet, portable, and easy to use. I recommend it highly and know of others who do likewise.

Essentially, all that was done was to take the plastic, clear lid off of a salsa tub (any thick plastic lid will do, such as that which comes off of a large can of coffee). Next, trim the sides so that the plastic is round, about the diameter of your hand and lies flat. That's it! Now you're ready to learn how to use it.

To use, roll the plastic into a funnel so that the far end is smaller than the close end. Next, place the larger, curved end under you so that the flow is directed forward by the funnel. It's that easy. Be sure to practice at home first.

This may not be as fancy as some of those urinary devices out there, but it does the job. As I said before, it's cheap (which I'm sure none of us wants to spend any more money than we have to), discreet (we don't need the embarrassment of having something more obvious fall out of our pocket), portable (fits into your front pocket easily and without any obvious bulging) and easy to use (which hopefully you will shortly discover). Good Luck.. By the way, if any of you guys have made any other "new discoveries," please write me and let me know. I'm always trying to keep as updated as possible. Thanks.

David Schreier, [REDACTED], Federal Way, WA 98003

Transgender Through a Socialist Lens

by Kevin Horwitz

Leslie Feinberg's "Transgender Liberation: A movement whose time has come" adds a powerful voice to our burgeoning stockpile of literature on gender-related topics. The 22 page pamphlet traces historical and political origins of transgenderism and its subsequent repression.

Feinberg traces the rise and fall of transgenderism thru a Marxist lens. She considers, for instance, the shift from shared to private ownership and other causative factors in the decline of matriarchal societies. The numerous accounts of transgendered individuals and societies are both enriching and informative.

In an excellent introductory paragraph entitled "Breaking the Silence," she says that "transgendered people are mistakenly viewed as the cusp of the lesbian and gay community. In reality," she says, "the two huge communities are like circles which only partially overlap". Feinberg addresses this sense of alienation when she says, "we are trying to find the words, however inadequate, that can connect us, that can capture what is similar about the oppression we endure."

"Transgender" is one of those bewildering concepts which sometimes delineates the gender movement, as in 'transgender community,' or can refer to persons who fall into the large open spaces between 'transsexuals' and 'transvestites.' While Feinberg, perhaps consciously, avoids defining what cannot be defined, she attempts to clear away some of the debris. In so doing, she raises more questions than she answers. Ours is a tremendously diverse movement "whose time has come," as Feinberg aptly puts it. It is exciting to witness first attempts at forging a language with which we can speak to one another. I am looking forward to reading anything that Leslie Feinberg publishes in the future, and want to thank her for writing this one.

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This Man Becoming: The Hurt

By Titian

I had to do what all others may come to do. The first steps to becoming carry the most anguish. I couldn't wait for the storm to be over. I paced a trench into the carpet before I realized what I was doing. I suddenly didn't know and didn't care where I was. As I daydreamed the worst, I made others around me uneasy. I realized obsessing was wasting my energy, but I knew that no matter what I did, the feeling was not going to go away soon, only with time.

I arrived at my mother's residence. When I turned the motor off, the silence felt good. I took a deep breath, and it wavered out, followed by the thud of my heart. My resolve was as calm as the silence. The calm was now and it made this time precious. I got out of the car, bringing potted lillies for my mother. I couldn't hear my heart anymore, but my hand shook the basket with every pulse as the pressure in my chest became greater.

My attitude was all over my face- my mother instantly noticed and her smile curved down. We had our hugs and kisses and then we sat down. As I took deep breaths to start, she immediately asked me if I was a lesbian. Next, she asked if I had been raped. I said it was nothing like that, and asked her to bear with me. I knew she thought there was some sexual issue about me. The rush in my ears was enormous, like a wind.

"My spirit is male, my body is female, and I am taking steps to change my body to fit my mind," I told her, and it was as if I could see all the energy drain out of her in slow motion. The pain came flooding into me as I watched her go into shock, her tears welling and spilling, while my eyes stayed dry.

What I experienced next was uncanny. It felt like there was an exchange of energy--like electricity, potential being transferred. As my mother's feelings seemed more and more deeply hurt, relief came to me and for the first time, in the midst of this dreadful event, I became excited about my future. It was as if my life was not going to start until I came out. Now my eyes teared--they welled with joy, but I held back spilling them. Though the joy felt intermingled with guilt, I was finally free. My mother's mouth quivered, but I felt a slight smile creep over my face. As I tried to explain more, the initial sensory overload prevented her from listening. I felt I had to keep talking because I didn't have much time to be in her company, and keeping silent seemed cruel after shocking her this much. Finally, she prompted me to stop, with a wave of her hand. She closed her eyes and dropped more tears. My eyes were still dry, and felt as if they sparkled with glee. Thru the visit, we didn't go out of control...

We raised our voices, a bit annoyed with each other. We laughed about past and dearly departed friends. Then she became serious again... she told me her religious views and that I did not have her approval, but she still loved me and would be there for me. I said my philosophical views were totally opposite of hers and that I operate my life as such. I said that I had been living with pain almost all of my life and I had never been happy. She interrupted me, asking about 'what pain?' I said that just because you couldn't see pain, didn't mean it wasn't there. I said I had found a solution to my problem. If I could never take steps to change, I would have checked out long ago because after suicide, everything is painless. That didn't seem to phase her. The silence seemed welcome then.

The next day I visited, I found I could not stay as long as I had the previous day. I developed a headache. The guilt was intense that day, and with whatever my mother was feeling, I knew she was no better off- so, we mostly sat in silence, feeling each other's company.

Much of my pain came from the fact that there isn't much of a support system for parents and significant others. Mother expressed a dire need to network with peers. In this case, Mother is the necessity of invention. I called her when I got home. Our conversations about my transition consist of why I am doing this. Now, there is not much communication over the telephone because it's fast and easy for us to get into arguments, and she doesn't want to hear what I have to say about my transition. When it is necessary to bring it up, she avoids the subject altogether as if I had said nothing about it. So I don't bring the subject up anymore. Her seeing my change will have to make her believe. I am there for her, but she is not there for me right now and I never felt so hurt. A new kind of silence has developed which will involve a period of isolation. The gap between us has opened to chasmic proportions. I hope we can ride this phase out. I have provided two individuals for her to network with, but I don't think she will be communicating with them anytime soon.

Mother knows nothing of this strange man coming forth; she doesn't want to know this man. She defies me my transitional name change. As I push everything female to the background (but not out), she pushes it toward me (the way she writes and says my female name with more emphasis now). As I came out to my mother, I couldn't believe this was happening to me, I asked myself why my life couldn't be more charmed. I'm sure my mother asked herself the same question. What have I ever done to deserve this? I conclude: we deserve it because we live. Much guilt derives from me in that I feel I am piercing someone else's heart to free mine. I can't control that, or even try, and I've had to come to great resolve finding this out. I know there are people from whom I must walk away, but enlightenment doesn't make it any easier. All that I can think is : what price freedom? Although it

would hurt like no other pain I've known, I am willing to lose everything for the sake of a life that is more comfortable, emotions more bearable.

I came home to an empty house. I found myself crying for help, seemingly using up resources, neglecting others, isolating myself by pushing away. I had to put another relationship on hold because I was dealing with a plethora of emotions. It seems as if I won't have the love I want until I'm out of my chrysalis and ready to fly. I wonder if the worst of this pain is over. Pain makes you blind. Aside from not being able to help others, I couldn't help myself.. It all seems a test of time, and I wait to be in a position to look back on it. Analogously speaking, my plane seemed to crash and burn, but now, slowly but surely, I'm salvaging myself from the emotional mess, and I'm finding much to rebuild on.

No matter how much you tell them you are one and the same, those who would love "her" find it hard, almost impossible to love "him." The longing for acceptance and belonging has never been stronger. The humility is crushing. Never in my life have I felt so alone. But I think that this particular pain only adds to my constitution. It helps me to persevere knowing this, it keeps me from breaking down all the way. The hurt...I believe this is necessary--necessary to this man becoming.

1992 Financial Report

Balance as of 12/31/91	\$1121.71
'92 Donations & Interest	2171.32
Expenses:	
Newsletter Production for Issues #18, #19, #20, #21	936.32
Postage	
Meeting site rental fees (includes Jan '93)	160.00
Meeting supplies	40.26
Mailbox rental thru 8/39	90.00
1 bounced donation check	14.00
Total Expenses	1996.56
1992 Variance	174.76
Balance 12/31/92	\$1296.47

I wish to express my heartfelt appreciation to all who donated to FTM in 1992. As you can see, we have enough money to publish 3 more issues. Please do your part to help us keep this vital community alive. Every little bit helps! Thanks again!!

**Respectfully Submitted,
Jameson "James" Green**

DOSSIE EASTON

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Excerpt from the Transgender Caucus of the March on Washington

The meeting of the National Steering Committee of the National Steering Committee of the 1993 March on Washington (1/18-1/19 in L.A.), spent most of its time deciding on a name. A seemingly simple thing, but in fact, very serious and difficult political issues were at stake.

Because the transgender community endures the harshest and most vicious forms of homophobic bigotry, the Transgender Caucus sought to make our issues an important part of the march. It was the transgender community, among others, who initiated and fought the Stonewall Rebellion, beginning the modern lesbian, gay and bisexual movement. Arguments which demand that transsexuals, transvestites, cross-dressers and transgenderal people should stay in the closet so that lesbians, gay men and bisexuals can cling to imagined respectability are denying the roots of our common history and oppression.

To that end the Transgender Caucus launched a struggle to include the word "Transgender" in the name of the March on Washington. Although the effort failed to get the required 2/3 vote, it did receive a majority. The final vote was 24 for, 20 against, with 14 abstentions. The Transgender Caucus views this as a victory. We succeeded in placing the question of transsexual, transvestite, cross-dresser and transgenderal liberation at the center of the lesbian, gay and bisexual movement...

**The Transgender Caucus of the 1993 March On
Washington for lesbian, Gay and Bi Equal Rights and
Liberation**

1201 E. Pike, #950, Seattle, Wa. 98122
(206) 292-1037

Dear FTM Staff:

I don't know if you've seen the enclosed handout, you might want to print it in FTM newsletter. Are there any plans for the FTM's to meet on April 24, 1993 at the March on Washington (4/25/93)? We may be able to obtain space via the S/M Leather Contingent. This space may not be handicap accessible secure the space.

NETWORKING COLUMN

(It is the 2nd floor of where the S/M contingent may be meeting). Let me know so that I can Thanks,
Eddy, P.O. Box 2843, Columbus, Ohio 43216
telephone [REDACTED]

Dear FTM,

I have a question for you or any of the other readers. I'm going to be moving to Missouri from Baltimore, Maryland. I would like to know if you or other readers know of any T.S. doctors in St. Louis, Kansas City, or Columbia, Missouri? I need to find a doctor for check-ups and testosterone prescriptions, also possibly doctors for surgery. I hope someone can help. Thanks alot. Sincerely,
Matthew Windsel, [REDACTED] Cambridge St., Baltimore, Md. 21231

Author of history project seeks to interview American FTM's (Transsexuals, transgenderists, and cross-dressers) born prior to 1945, who have passed as men for at least two consecutive years in adulthood. Responses are encouraged from individuals of all sexual orientations, ethnic backgrounds, and occupations. Confidentiality fully respected. Please contact:

H. Merle Knight, P.O. Box 1105, Chino, CA 91708-1105; telephone [REDACTED].

Female -to-gay male /TS looking to move out of San Francisco after transition. May move to another place in California: Ojai, Santa Cruz, Mill Valley, Sonoma County. I would like to hear from FTM's in Bridge., Massachussetts (which I know not jack crap about, but it seems like a quiet yet progres sive town from what I hear). I would like to hear from ftm"s in these places (and maybe Seattle).

I assume I will be finished with this by 1995. Between now and then, I'd like reliable correspondence with FTM's from these places. If you have interest in moving to San Francisco, you can request info from me:

Rene-Kadar Omiani
#634 P.O. Box 410-990
San Francisco, CA, 94141-0990

Multi-racial FTGM seeks other Black, and Multi-racial FTGM seeks other Black, andBlack/American Indian TS gay and bisexual men. Interests: Literature, fine arts, exercise physiology, biochemistry, foreign films, natural healing arts, cafe hopping. Contact: **Rene-Kadar Omiani**, see address on previous page...

A Femme/Butch Reader, Joan Nestle; *Alyson publications, Inc., 1992, 503pgs.*

--Reviewed by Francis Daura

Joan Nestle, herself a writer, curator of the Herstory lesbian archives in NYC, and self-identified femme, has put together a unique collection of personal short stories, essays and poetry by women for whom identifying as butch or femme is vital to their lives. The stories, from the '50's (a few earlier) to the present, are entertaining and enlightening portrayals of women defiant and proud of who they are, and provides a personal look at the feelings behind this kind of relationship. Included are fictional and true adventures, erotic fantasies and historical treatises, interviews and classroom lectures. There are stories of tomboys, stone butches and role-playing couples forced into the closet during the mid-70's - 80's when butch/femme relationships and overtly masculine or feminine women were deemed "politically incorrect" by the feminist movement. More than a few stories can be read as FTM stories, as seen from the mindset or fantasies of the women involved, their way of relating to their partners, and in the confusion, pain and travails they suffer as outsiders in any community. One of the more recent contributions to the book is an insightful piece by Gayle Rubin, who sees gender as a continuum, discusses FTM's and their problems in transition. She states the need for all people to be more aware, sensitive and human toward women in transition. She also mentions that FTM's identifying as gay men are beginning to impact the gay male community, and poses the question of their acceptance there, citing the dismal record of the lesbian community as a whole in their lack of acceptance of FTM's. There is an extensive bibliography, and Lou Sullivan is credited for his FTM contributions. A diverse and thought-provoking book.

Call For Submissions



FTM has plenty of ideas for projects in the works- and since surgery is still at the top of the list, we've thought of compiling a list of surgeons. If you send us a black -and-white photograph of your upper/lower surgery, and an assessment of your overall satisfaction, we'll send you a compilation of the information we get. Don't forget to include the name/address of the surgeon. Also send assessments for health-care professionals in related fields such as endocrinology, psychiatry, etc. *

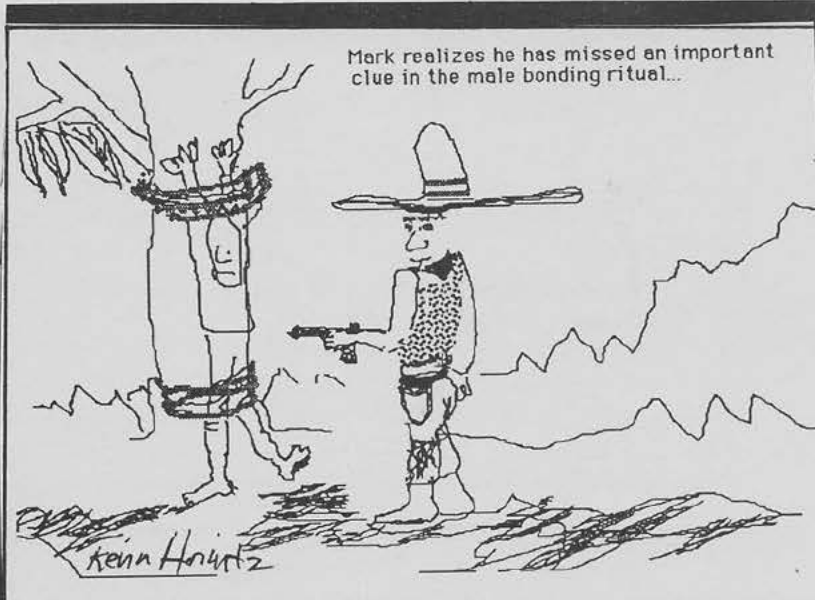
The first anthology by, for, and about the FTM experience is in the works. Make your voice heard! We need all types of written work; fiction, nonfiction, personal history, poetry, anecdotes, sexually-oriented material, and articles written by FTM's, their families, friends, and significant others. The editors of this anthology are both FTM's and would like to make this a "fun" project as well as being informative and historical. We will also be conducting personal taped interviews, and portrait-type photographs will be included. A fee will be paid to those persons whose work is selected for publication. All work should be typewritten (typewriter or computer), double-spaced and on white paper. Submissions can be as short as you like, however, and the maximum length we can accept is 10,000 words. Send all submissions to:

Anthology, 2215-R Market St., #438, S.F., CA. 94114, (415)871-0350 or (415)244-9423.

WILLIAM A. HENKIN
P S Y C H O T H E R A P Y

1801 Bush Street, Suite 111
San Francisco, CA 94109
(415) 923-1150

MFCC License No. MU 22960
Board Certified Sex Therapist



Mark realizes he has missed an important clue in the male bonding ritual...

Dear FTM Readers,

My name is Michael Main and I am a Marriage, Family and Child Therapist practicing in the San Fernando Valley in Los Angeles County (Southern California). In the course of my practice, I have had opportunities to work with FTM transsexuals, and I would now like to formally seek out FTM clients and their families and expand my practice to include them.

Based on conversations with my clients, there does not seem to be much available in the Los Angeles area, and I would like to go about filling that need. I would be interested in seeing clients individually and also in starting support groups for the FTM clients themselves as well as groups for parents, partners and children. As often as not, enough attention is not being paid to the families of people going through these important and life-altering changes, and there is much for the families to deal with, as well. I feel I have the knowledge and expertise to be of service.

If you would like additional information, please feel free to call. I look forward to hearing from you.

Michael E. Main, M.F.C.C., 14621 Titus Avenue, Ste. 216 Van Nuys, California 91402 (818) 982-3684.

Dear James,

...I've enclosed a business card and copies of our first two issues of our newsletter. In Ft. Lauderdale, we have started a referral and support group for pre/post TS' and their partners. Our group is mixed FTM/MTF. We started out small but have grown to about 20-25. The group is called The Eden Society. Our newsletter is called "Edenews." I am the editor and publish "Edenews" 6 times a year (every other month). Our next issue will be in December.

What I would like is an exchange of newsletters. We will put FTM on our mailing list, and we would like Eden Society on your mailing list to receive each issue.

Also we would like a mention of The Eden Society in FTM. Possibly insert our business card with a few words about us and our newsletter, so anyone interested in receiving Edenews can contact us about subscribing. We will do the same for you. I've written a small ad that you can use or feel free to use your own judgement:

The Eden Society, P.O. Box 227442, Ft. Lauderdale, FL. 33335-2742, FTM/MTF pre- and post-op and partners referral and support group. (Newsletter : "Edenews", \$2 issue or \$10 yearly).

FTM Meeting Schedule '93
Social..... February 14th
Support.....March 14th
Informational.....April 11th
SocialMay 9th
Support..... June 13th
Informational.....July 11th

Informational meetings are at the MCC Church, 150 Eureka, S.F. They are on the Sundays listed above, from 2-5 p.m. For locations of support meetings, contact Michael, 415-244-9423; For locations of FTM socials, contact Sky, 415-871-0350; If these persons cannot be reached, or you require additional information, contact Jameson 510-658-0474, Kevin 415-759-8638, or Shadow 252-7794.

FTM NEWSLETTER

The world's largest circulated newsletter for the Female-to-Male cross-dresser and transsexual. Published quarterly since 1987. Send correspondence, address corrections and contributions to :

FTM

**5337 College Ave., #142
Oakland, CA 94618**

Editor

Kevin Horwitz

Assistant Editor

Max Valerio

Special thanks to Jameson, Sky, Anne Ogborne, and Spotted Dog Graphics for all the assistance*

-----cut here and return-----

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