

metamorphosis



VOL.3, NO.1 METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION FEBRUARY 1984

PHALLOPLASTY IN VIRGINIA

Norfolk, Virginia is now emerging as the world's center for total penis construction, owing to the pioneering efforts of a surgical team affiliated with the East Virginia Medical School.

Seven complete male organs have now been fashioned without use of the inflatable penile prosthesis, according to team leader Dr. Charles E. Horton, professor of plastic surgery. Cases have varied from congenital absence in two boys aged 9 and 11 to lawn-mower and tractor traumas to cancer resections and severe burns.

Thanks to the use of an innervated flap whose nerve trunk is attached to the pudendal by their microsurgeon, Julia Terzis, all of their patients have sensation and one has achieved intercourse with orgasm. Second operations are planned to provide "stiffeners" for all seven patients.

The 12-hour operation, with the assistance of urologist Charles Devine, urologist Patrick Devine and microvascular surgeon David Gilbert involves use of a rectus abdominis flap, usually covered with a dorsal is pedis segment containing the critical nerve that is anastomosed (joined/sutured). They also construct a urethra--to the tip of the penis--that has functioned in all cases.

The Norfolk team's latest success came after a nurse handed a urologist the wrong medication for injection into the scrotum. Intractable circulatory shutdown was followed by sloughing of the entire penis in a 21-year-old man who was about to be married. He is the patient who..

MMRF Notes

The first Board meeting for the new year was held on January 29th, at which time the draft Constitution for the MMRF was unanimously approved by the Directors. A copy of the official Constitution will be submitted to all paid-up members of the MMRF upon availability.

We are very gratified to announce the newest addition to our Board of Professional Advisors: DR. ROBERTO FARINA--a plastic surgeon who performs sex-reassignment surgery--including phalloplasty--in Sao Paulo, Brazil. He is also the author of TRANSEXUALISMO (a comprehensive medical reference--containing numerous illustrations and photographs on the surgical procedures, etc.--written in Portuguese and published in 1982).

On January 28th, MMRF Directors Rupert Raj and Susan Huxford participated in a seminar sponsored by the "WE HELP YOU" (WHY?) GROUP ([REDACTED] Toronto, Ontario M5B 2C2). Mr. Raj spoke about "female-to-male transsexualism" and Miss Huxford (who is also the Executive Director of FACT and the Director of GenderServe) defined/explained what "gender dysphoria" is. (This seminar was the first of a series of free, informative seminars on "gender and sexual identity" to be presented by the WHY GROUP in Toronto through 1984).

On February 10th (Rupert Raj's 32nd birthday) Mr. Raj will attend the Valentine's Party sponsored by FACT Toronto.

On February 22nd, Rupert Raj and Susan Huxford will guest-appear on "CITY LIFE" (CITY-TV, Channel 57) in Toronto at 2:30 pm.

On March 9th, Rupert Raj will present the history, objects, services, membership benefits and the publica-

(cont'd. on p.10)

(cont'd. on p.6)

SCARRED FOR LIFE

I am taking up my pen to write this letter to alert pre-op F-M TSs not to jump at, accept and trust the first plastic surgeon willing to perform the mastectomy (as in my case!).

Prior to the operation, I discussed at length with the plastic surgeon (recommended by the Clarke Institute) the type of incision that would be best for me as I develop "keloids" (scar tissue) after surgery.

I was informed by the plastic surgeon that he would use either the "keyhole" method or a small incision under each breast. (I was only a size 34A!).

After the operation, I awoke to discover I had been "slashed" right across the chest! When I questioned the surgeon he had nothing to say except the fact that he "thought" it was best for me! When the stitches were removed and I was sufficiently healed, I also discovered that the nipples (which were scaled down) were just stitched on "haphazardly"! One is stitched on horizontally and the other vertically! Even a "fool" could see the difference!

I have sought the advice of my own G.P. and two other plastic surgeons on corrective surgery but have been advised against it as it would only make matters worse due to my keloid problem.

I have now resigned myself to the fate of never being able to sunbathe topless, swim or wear my shirts unbuttoned too far down. I found out much too late AFTER the operation certain facts about the surgeon's work on other transsexuals.

I am, however, blessed with a wonderful wife who has stood by me for more than ten years now. Anyone else, I am sure, would be "put off" by the huge red bumpy scar tissue across my chest but it hasn't affected her feelings for me in any way as she cares for ME before and after surgery.

I hope that this letter will serve

as a "red alert" to all pre-op F-M TSs to investigate and find out more from others who have been through the operations as to what the surgeon's results are AFTER!

I would also like to express my appreciation and thanks to Rupert Raj for the tremendous work he is doing for F-M TSs through METAMORPHOSIS. Keep up the good work! I also wish all readers a good year.

--"Scarred For Life"

Dr. Benjamin's Birthday

Dr. Harry Benjamin, "Pioneer Saint and Father of Transsexuals", author of THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON, founding member of THE SOCIETY FOR THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY OF SEX, and, honorary member of THE HARRY BENJAMIN INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA ASSOCIATION, celebrated his 99th birthday on January 12, 1984. On behalf of the MMRF, the editor wishes to extend his belated birthday greetings as well as his deep gratitude for the sensitive support and compassionate aid rendered to transsexuals in the past by the good doctor.



**metamorphosis medical
research foundation** (INC.)

*Gender Dysphoria Syndrome - Female-to-Male Transsexualism
*Genitourinary Deficiency - Phalloplasty, Penile Prosthesis

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DEAR RUPERT

My wife and I look forward to your newsletter. We know it must take a great deal of time getting it all together and you do a very good job on it. I just wish there was more.

I was wondering if any of your readers could tell me where or how they found THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON?

The only place here that has it is the Ohio State University Library but they won't let non-students take out books. The city and county libraries have very little reading material on transsexual matters. I have found only two books on your reading list in them.

At first I thought I just wanted to get the surgeries over with and fall back quietly into my life again. Now, the more I read that there are others out there like myself, I want to search and read and get as much knowledge as I can to maybe help someone else along and also, to help myself grow. It is good to realize that you are not alone. I know of another TS who has had surgery but won't even share any information or talk to anyone else about it. I guess I might have been like that if I hadn't found your newsletter and two others I get.

I have been lucky as most of my friends have accepted my sex-change surgery. I don't have much family left and what's left were never close so I really can't judge how they feel. I told my friends and some neighbors what I was about or had done and that I haven't changed inside. I am still me--just, the outside is a little different.

--C.E., Columbus, Ohio

Thanks for the newsletter. It's the best gender newsletter around--so full of the most recent info'. It's great that you put so much into it, keeping us all informed about the latest in technology, books, etc. Thank you for all of that. Will it be possible to purchase xeroxed copies of literature from the France Symposium? Do you know if Dr. Laub

was there and gave any presentation? How much is the book, FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALISM and where can I get a copy?*** That article about Jerry Sousa in the National Enquirer totally "blew my mind". He was so male when I met him. Do you have any correspondence with him/her?****I wonder if it's possible that maybe it isn't true?!***** Thanks again for all the love, understanding, encouragement and strength you give to all of us who are lucky enough to be counted among your friends.

--John (*The H.B.I.G.D.A. plans to publish the proceedings of this gender dysphoria symposium sometime in the unspecified future.

**Dr. Donald Laub and his colleagues presented a paper on vaginoplasty.

***The book costs \$25 for Americans and is available in the U.S.A. from: Routledge & Kegan Paul of America, Ltd., 9 Park St., Boston, Mass. 02108. It costs \$51 for Canadians and is available in Canada from: Oxford University Press, 70 Wynford Dr., Don Mills, Ontario M3C 1Z9.

****No. *****It is probably true-- I know of two other such cases: Post-op F-M TSs who surgically reverted to their previous gender (female.)

Your newsletter is the best out you know. Keep up the good work. In mid-February I'll have the mastectomy and hysterectomy and be able to get on with my life even better.

--R.P.A.

Here in Brazil our F-M TS patients have serious legal difficulties, as TS surgery is not yet performed in University Hospitals. A few patients however, were successfully operated by Dr. Roberto Farina (penile implants). He recently published a book where surgical steps are described. At the moment, in our Gender Dysphoria Clinic, we are taking care of a F-M TS with genetic mosaicism (45X0/46XX/47XXY). This unusual case will be published in due time and I will send you further details.

--Dorina Epps, M.D., Endocrine Unit, Hospital das Clinicas, Sao Paulo, Brazil

(cont'd. on p.9)

IN THE NEWS

ALTER SEX, NOT NAME, Daily News, Feb.17, 1983 (re: Michelle Neff).

TWENTY YEARS FOR KILLING TRANSSEXUAL WIFE, Daily News, Feb.17, 1983 (re: Robert Ferrara and wife Diane)

POLICE OFFICERS WHO DON'T FIT THE MOLD: TS Veteran, Gay Rookie, Washington Post, Feb.27, 1983 (re: Bonnie Davenport and Bobby Aimstead)

TRANSSEXUAL PRISONER TO GET SPECIAL HOUSING, San Francisco Chronicle, April 16, 1983 (re: Anna M. Mostyn)

SEX AND THE SINGLE CREATURE: For Some Plants And Animals, Changing Sex Is The Best Way To Reproduce, National Wildlife, April-May 1983.

TRANSSEXUAL BIAS BILL DEFEATED IN SENATE, San Francisco Chronicle, May 13, 1983.

CHANGE IS GOOD FOR THE SOUL, Atlanta Weekly, July 3, 1983 (re: Phoebe Smith).

SEX-CHANGE COP BACK ON JOB, Daily News, July 13, 1983 (re: Jennifer McCormick).

REAL WOMEN DON'T HIT MEN, Toronto Sun, July 23, 1983 (Two TS prostitutes assaulted client and two policemen).

SEX AND SIZE: Dimensions in nature for males and females, Natural History, August 1983.

FASHION NEW PENISES FROM PATIENTS' OWN TISSUE, Medical Tribune, Vol. 24, No.18, Aug.31, 1983.

MY AGONIZING DECISION--WHY I CHANGED MY LITTLE BOY INTO A GIRL, National Enquirer, Sept.13, 1983 (re: Kylie Anne Kendle).

SEX-CHANGE BRINGS MAN LOVE, HAPPINESS, JET Magazine, Oct.10, 1983 (re: Sharon Davis, authoress of: A FINER SPECIMEN OF WOMANHOOD).

SURGEONS REATTACH MAN'S SEVERED PENIS, Toronto Star, Oct.13, 1983.

COPS SUSPEND SEX-CHANGER, Daily News Oct.23, 1983 (re: Jennifer McCormick).

ROOMMATE CHARGED IN TRANSSEXUAL'S DEATH, Toronto Star, Dec. 1983 (re:

David Thomas Muir and Martha Babb).
TRANSSEXUAL PILOT REINSTATED: Toronto Sun, Dec.29, 1983 (re: Karen F. Ulane).

PARENTS DEMAND SCHOOL SHIFT TRANSSEXUAL CLASSES (Miami Beach), 1983.

MOORE SUPPORTS TRANSSEXUAL (Long Beach, CA), 1983 (re: Sara Jane Moore and Anna Maria Mostyn).

HIM OR HER BECOMES A BLUR IN '82 MOVIES, Los Angeles Times, 1983.

ANIMAL FEMINISM, Omni Magazine, 1983.

SEX AND THE SPLIT BRAIN, Omni, 1983.

WHY WE HAVE SEX, Omni, Dec. 1983.

THE BIONIC LOVER, Omni, Dec. 1983 (re: impotence, silver-wire implants, anal electronic stimulators).

SURGERY IN CHINA RESTORES MANHOOD, Toronto Globe And Mail, Jan.2, 1984.

HY-ANTIGEN: The Genetic Key To Maleness, source & date unknown.



REPRINT ARTICLES AVAILABLE!

Reprints of the following PM-I articles are available at \$3.00 each or \$10.00 for the complete set.

How to Make and Use a Urinary Assist Device (UAD).

Making and Maintaining a Baculum. (Interview)

Male Hormones (includes how to properly give yourself injections).

Female-to-male Surgery.

To: Gateway Gender Alliance
POB 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088.

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ON TRANSEXUALISM

Today, I am a changed man. Actually, I mean that quite literally because, twelve years ago, I was a woman. That's right, a woman who underwent a "sex reassignment" operation to become a man. For, my esteemed colleagues, I am a transsexual.

A transsexual is a person who has the "gender identity" of the opposite sex. That is, a woman who believes "he" is a man "trapped" within a female body, or, a man who is convinced "she" is a woman "imprisoned" within a male body. In my own case, ever since I can remember, say from about five years of age, I always felt, intuitively and persistently, that I was more masculine than feminine--in my feelings, my thoughts and my actions. Moreover, I was convinced that Nature had played some terribly cruel joke on me, and that I really should have been born a boy.

Now, transsexualism, as a matter of fact, has virtually little or nothing to do with sex, but, it has everything to do with gender identity, that is, one's sense of being a boy or a man, one's sense of being a girl or a woman. Furthermore, it is only within the past twenty years or so, that transsexualism is now becoming recognized as a bona fide medical condition called "gender dysphoria syndrome". Unfortunately however, to this day, no two sex researchers have yet been able to agree upon a common cause.

One of the most important things I would like you to remember about this extremely complex phenomenon, this highly controversial condition, is that transsexualism is qualitatively distinct from both homosexuality and transvestism, for these two types of behaviour are principally concerned with sex: in particular, with sex-partner preference, and, with sexual expression, respectively; whereas, transsexualism essentially deals with gender.

Now, you are probably wondering, "Exactly what kind of people are...

transsexual?" And rightly so. Well, I can tell you one thing. They are an extremely diverse lot. For example, transsexuals may be: young or old, male or female, black or white, (red, yellow or brown), Hindu, Christian, Jewish, Buddhist or atheist, brilliant or ignorant, rich or poor, ugly or beautiful, successful or failures, and, passable or "readable" (in their new gender roles)--in short, there are as many different kinds of transsexuals as there are transsexual individuals.

So, you are probably asking yourselves, "What has all this got to do with me?" Well, I will tell you--three things: awareness, understanding, and respect. Please be aware that transsexuals are not homosexual, transvestite, or sexually perverse. Please understand that transsexual people are tragic victims of a medical mystery, and therefore, their decision to "change their sex" is not solely based upon free choice, but rather, is dictated by the peculiar nature of their medical condition. And finally, please bear in mind that transsexuals are unique individuals who deserve at least the same measure of minimal respect that is due any other human being.

--Rupert Raj

THE MAN WITHIN

*I feel something stirring
Hidden inside this womanish shell.
It is always re-occurring:
The man within.*

*I sense something burning
Here inside this female hell.
It is forever churning:
This maleness within me.*

*I think something's drowning
Deep down inside this lonely well.
It is finally sounding:
This maleness within me.*

*I know something's surging
Just inside this Venus' cell.
It is Adonis emerging:
The man within--breaks out!*

--Rupert Raj

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

DID YOU HAVE ANY NEGATIVE REACTIONS TO THE MALE SEX HORMONE (TESTOSTERONE)?

"I developed cystic acne but have it fairly under control with the use of Accutane."

"A little acne, few hot flashes, gained more weight."

"Cirrhosis (liver disease)."

"Temporary mood swings, violent temper, acne, overweight, hot flashes."

"Small amount of water retention especially about the abdomen, unpleasant vaginal discharge, and uncomfortable increase in libido directed towards my female genitals."

"Rise in blood pressure."

"Hair loss, acne, little overweight."

"Thyroid problems, liver disease."

"Itching, elevation of blood pressure, acne, overweight, hot flashes."

April's Question: HOW DID YOU MEET YOUR GIRLFRIEND/FIANCÉE/WIFE (OR MALE LOVER FOR GAY F-Ms) AND WHAT WAS HER (HIS) a) INITIAL REACTION and b) SUBSEQUENT REACTION TO YOUR TRANSEXUAL STATUS/TRANSITION? PLEASE ELABORATE.

* * * * *

MMRF NOTES (cont'd. from p.1)

tions of the MMRF to FACT TORONTO.

On March 17th (tentatively) Rupert Raj and Diane [redacted] (Director of the WHY GROUP) will be co-hosting a private St. Patrick's Party for members and supporters of the MMRF, the WHY GROUP and FACT at Ms. [redacted]'s residence. Please contact Mr. Raj (532-5769) or Ms. [redacted] for confirmation of this event.

Please help to support the MMRF by renewing your memberships/newsletter subscriptions and by contributions.

More Male Impersonation

In the past, there have been such celebrity "male impersonators" as: Katherine Hepburn in the 1936 film "SYLVIA SCARLETT", Julie Andrews in the "flick" "VICTOR/VICTORIA", Brooke Shields in the movie "SAHARA", Barbra Streisand in the picture "YENTL", and now, just recently, there are two more: comedienne Phyllis Diller, and, actress Robyn Douglass. The former posed as "Phillip Downey" for an evening with the boys at an all-men's Friar's Club roast in New York City--and not one of the 2200 guests, including some of her very best friends and even the people at her table, recognized her. So, dressed in a boy's three-piece suit (altered to fit her) she had the run of the place, even the men's room. The latter fooled unsuspecting television writers at a press conference in Los Angeles where she was seated amongst them in male disguise. Ms. Douglass will portray a woman who disguises herself as a man to get a job as a reporter in the March 12th, NBC-TV movie "MY LIFE AS A MAN".

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BOOK REVIEW

HERCULINE BARBIN: BEING THE RECENTLY DISCOVERED MEMOIRS OF A NINETEENTH-CENTURY FRENCH HERMAPHRODITE.
Trans. by Richard McDougall.
Intro by Michel Foucault.
Originally published in France, 1978.
(New York: Pantheon Books, 1980)

Reviewed by Lou Sullivan

Life is comparatively easy for us, now that medical science has found a way to "correct" our abnormalities, but what of our ancestors, those before us?

This book is of special interest to those of us who live with "uncooperative" bodies. Though not a transsexual, Barbin's situation strikes some similar chords. As a child, Barbin's body was a girl's, but adolescence did not turn her into a woman and, due to Victorian prudishness, Barbin's masculine body developed, unbeknownst to anyone, apparently even her mother. Today's endocrinologists and sex-reconstructing surgeons would have intercepted at this point, allowing Barbin to continue life as a female. But how did the sexually ambiguous survive in the past, without benefit of the "helping professions"?

The book has three sections: "My Memoirs," "The Dossier," and "A Scandal at the Convent," the latter a dime-novel story written in 1893, based on Barbin's story.

The majority of the "Memoirs" is a flowery recounting of Barbin's happy girlhood. Adelaide Herculine Barbin was born in France in 1838 and raised by nuns in religious homes. At age 20, Barbin began teaching in a girls' boarding school, where she found a best friend in 18-year-old Sara:

One evening I asked my friend to share my bed. She accepted with pleasure. It would be impossible to express the happiness I felt from her presence at my side! I was wild with joy! We talked for a long time before going to sleep, I with my arms encircling her waist, she with her face resting near my own! My God!

Was I guilty? And must I accuse myself here of a crime? No, no! Barbin slept with Sara at the school for over a year, but

In the midst of the happiness that intoxicated me, I was frightfully tormented. What was I to do, my God, what was I to decide on? My poor mind was a chaos in which I could distinguish nothing. Confide in my mother? But it was enough to kill her! No! I could not initiate her into such a discovery! Prolong the situation indefinitely? If I did so, I would inevitably expose myself to the greatest misfortunes! I would outrage the most inviolable, the most sacred moral principles!

Finally, Barbin's religious guilt drove her to confide in the bishop, telling him all.

Twenty-two year old Barbin was sent for a physical examination, and the doctor's report appears in "The Dossier." Barbin's chest and hips were those of a man; she never menstruated; she had completely descended testicles in the labia majora; a completely feminine urethra; a vaginal opening about 2" deep; an enlarged (1½-2") imperforate clitoris that could "swell, harden and lengthen"; and no uterus. Later the autopsy (also in "The Dossier") revealed that two "vulvovaginal glands" opened at the vulva, one on either side, to ducts through which semen was ejaculated; however, no spermatozoa was found in the semen. The right testicle was normal-sized, but the left and the prostate were undeveloped. There were no ovaries nor remnants thereof. The clitoris, when erect, could "attain the size it sometimes has in men who are regularly formed."

The bishop instructed Barbin to return to her teaching job to hire a replacement, then go to her hometown to live her life as a man.

Sara was heartbroken at losing her lover. "Later I was to repent bitterly what I then regarded as an imperative duty," Barbin writes. "Society was soon to teach me that I had shown stupid weakness, and was to punish me cruelly for it." Even Sara's mother, knowing all the

(cont'd. on p. 8)

BOOK REVIEW: Herculine Barbin (cont.)

facts, begged her to stay. "Here again my inexperience was my undoing. I cannot doubt that, if I had known how to manage the situation, my future would have been different. Today, perhaps, I would be her son-in-law."

During the legal birth certificate change, Barbin discovered that a similar case had occurred in 1813.

According to my civil status, I was henceforth to belong to that half of the human race which is called the stronger sex. I, who had been raised until the age of 22 in religious houses, among shy female companions, was going to leave that shole delightful past far behind me, like Achilles, and enter the lists, armed with my weakness alone and my deep inexperience of men and things.

The scandalous gossip in Barbin's hometown tormented him, especially regarding his past relationship with Sara. Barbin realized, as we all eventually do, that it is easier to change identities in a new environment, and he left for a job in Paris.

Barbin's account of his life as a man is disappointingly brief and sketchy. He drifted from job to job, sabotaging himself by continually making contacts through people who knew him "before." His view of the differences between men and women is one of woe. He hints at some contacts with women, but Barbin was consumed by shame and self-disgust:

Among those degraded women who have smiled at me, whose lips have brushed my own, there is doubtlessly not one of them who would not have shrunk back in shame under the pressure of my embraces as from the touch of a reptile.

This incessant struggle of nature against reason exhausts me more and more each day, and drags me with great strides toward the tomb.

At age 30, Barbin asphyxiated himself with carbon dioxide from a charcoal stove.

It is over 100 years ago that Barbin lived, yet the same fears, torments and self-denigration still plague those of us whose bodies do not match our hearts. If we have something to learn from Barbin, it is "To thine own self be true!" Regardless of the condition of our bodies, we should understand that it is our hearts and minds that prevail. Instead of succumbing to the fate of our physical condition, we must realize that our bodies are merely visible forms which can and must be adjusted to most accurately portray our spirits. Time to free ourselves from mental self-destruction and afford ourselves physical reconstruction!

THE TRANSEXUAL VOICE

Written By And About Transsexuals

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TS COUNSELING

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WANTED!!!

Poems, limericks, free verse on themes related to: transsexualism, transvestism, and androgyny for inclusion in forthcoming book: ALL ANTHOLOGY OF TS, TV, AND ANDROGYNOUS VERSE. Send submissions to: Rupert Raj, METAMORPHOSIS, P.O. Box 5963, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M5W 1P4.

The TV-TS Tapestry

Dear Members/Subscribers of METAMORPHOSIS:

We are trying to build our magazine, the TV-TS TAPESTRY, into a tasteful, informative and interesting magazine that is of actual and effective service to the entire TV-TS community.

We are also interested in supporting legitimate non-profit organizations such as the METAMORPHOSIS MEDICAL RESEARCH FOUNDATION, for it is those organizations that do the most to help people.

For this reason, we are giving \$10 of each subscription to the TV-TS TAPESTRY to the non-profit organization of the subscriber's choice.

With this policy we feel we can get the TV-TS TAPESTRY into the hands of the people who want and need it, and get some money into the hands of the people who will do the most amount of good with it.

Please support us and support METAMORPHOSIS. Subscribe to the TAPESTRY.

Thank you!

--Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Editor,
TV-TS TAPESTRY, published by the
TIFFANY CLUB, P.O. Box 19, Wayland
Massachusetts 01778 (617- [redacted])

(I have found the TV-TS TAPESTRY to be one of the best--if not the best--magazine currently published for the transsexual or transvestite, the lay or professional reader. It is the most comprehensive publication available as it lists organizations, services and events throughout the world related to TVism and TSism. As well as being highly informative, it is also very interesting (and often, entertaining) as it includes letters, articles, stories, poems, cartoons, photographs--as well as business ads and personal listings--submitted by its readers. Although not particularly oriented towards the F-M TS, as such, I would, nonetheless, highly recommend this magazine to all TSs and TVs--if only for its inestimable value alone as a comprehensive, resource directory.--Rupert Raj, Ed.)

DEAR RUPERT (cont'd. from p.3)

A lot has happened to me since we've been in touch. First of all, my fiancée left me last Christmas (1982). She moved out on me when I went home Christmas. I was so hurt. She is the only person that knew about me in that town except for my doctors. Also, I have moved back to my hometown because I am having my last surgery (phalloplasty) on Feb. 14th at the University of Virginia. I'll be having urethral hook-up first. The insurance company is going to pay for the surgery hopefully. I'll let you know more about the surgery.

I had a nervous breakdown as the memories of my ex-girlfriend got to me. I need support so bad. I have no-one to talk to, no-one understands. Please get in touch or send me a copy of METAMORPHOSIS as soon as possible, and please print my name and address in it as I need other friends like us. God bless you!

--Robert [redacted] Cary,
North Carolina 27511

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PENIS CONSTRUCTION (cont'd from p. 1)
has consummated with the replacement organ, but he, too, needs stiffening. The surgeons declined to offer any more detail of the mis-medication disaster because a malpractice suit is pending.

(Reprinted by permission)

--Joseph Hixson, *MEDICAL TRIBUNE*,
Vol. 24, No. 18, Aug. 31, 1983.

PHALLOPLASTY IN CHINA

Gu [REDACTED]--a 30-year-old cannery worker in Jiangxi province in China --was the second of 7 young men to undergo a 6-hour operation to construct a penis at a medical center in Shanghai.

Gu attempted suicide 6 years ago--when his fiancée left him to marry another man--by cutting off his penis with a knife. But, he didn't even lose consciousness and after recovering, underwent treatment for "mental disorder" and later, returned to work.

Shortly after, Gu requested Dr. Guan Wenxiang, a plastic surgeon at the No. 9 People's Hospital, to operate on him--which he did.

The theory of reconstructive surgery of the penis is not new--British specialists developed a difficult 4-stage operation in the late 1940s that remained the standard procedure until the Chinese experimented to the point where they can now complete the entire process in one relatively easy step.

The most important advancement in Dr. Guan's view is the use of the skin of the forearm, which is very thin skin with little subcutaneous fat and a long blood vessel. But, this may not be suitable for Westerners because they have hairy arms.

During the operation, a large rectangle of skin is stripped from the forearm, sliced into two pieces, then rolled into smaller and larger tubes to serve as a urethra and an outer hull. A piece of cartilage from the rib cage is inserted for firmness and a layer of abdominal.

tissue is grafted to replace the skin of the donor arm. Clinical details of the procedure will be published in U.S. medical journals.

So far they have had very few complications. Gu has a small leakage in the sutured area which they are trying to correct. They have been trying to improve their procedure. For example, they operated on a boy who, while urinating in a farmyard, had his penis bitten off by a pig. Their first attempt was too thick and too short and he couldn't pass water freely. So he came back for another.

Of the 7 patients so far treated, one was the horrible barnyard case, one was Gu's self-inflicted wound, 4 were industrial accidents, and the last was a young man who, as an infant, had been mutilated by his deranged father in the belief that the child could be sent to Peking to serve as an eunuch in the Imperial Court.

In this last case, the father also severed the testicles so, they are planning to transplant the testes of a fresh cadaver into the patient and have already implanted a small plastic sphere to accommodate it.

Gu will leave hospital shortly and return to Jiangxi where one of his understanding neighbours is going to marry him.

--Allen Abel, *Toronto Globe And Mail*, January 2, 1984.

ON ACCEPTING THE UNACCEPTABLE

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