

metamorphosis magazine

VOL. 5, NOS. 3-4 *THE MAGAZINE FOR F-M TRANSSEXUALS* JUNE-SEPT. 1986

Double Issue

Feature Article:

HEALTH INSURANCE AND
THE TRANSSEXUAL

Book Review:

HIGH HEARTS

Two Tributes:

DR. HARRY BENJAMIN ('THE
ARCHITECT OF HOPE') DIES

REV. CANON CLINTON R. JONES
RETIRES (THE SADDEST OF DAYS)



Film Reviews:

SECOND SERVE

THE MYSTERY OF
ALEXINA

Personal Profile:

WHERE ANGELS TREAD
(The Story of "Sonny")

News, Letters,
Poetry, Cartoon,
Ads, and more...

MOTTO: "It's who you are, not what you are, that counts."

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RUPERT RAVES...



Rupert's "back in the saddle" - enraptured with a brand new personal computer.

Happy Thanksgiving to our readers south of the border...

My apologies for the very lateness of this double issue (Nos. 3-4) of the magazine (I'm about 4½ months behind schedule) but there are very good reasons for the long delay: firstly, I was experiencing "burn-out" and apathy during the months of June through August, as well as frustration and depression due to being out of work for most of June and August, and anxiety re money matters; secondly, I was very busy with overtime work (two government contracts) in July and part of August; thirdly, I was very ill with bronchial pneumonia and nosebleeds during most of September (I had to go to the hospital emergency several times and have to undergo surgery - a septoplasty possibly in late December or early January to prevent the nosebleeds from re-occurring); fourthly, I had to vacate my former residence and find a new place to live the end of September (and help my cat "Patches" re-adjust to our new living quarters)...

Anyway, I'm "back in the saddle" again - busy with a recent media blitz (two TV shows and a newspaper article), providing overnight accommodation for out-of-town members, hosting "housewarming" parties for F-M and M-F members and friends, answering a backlog of mail, compiling research for the

manual, chairing Board of Directors meetings, counselling, providing peer-support and editing this double issue of the magazine...

My heartfelt thanks go to Micheline Johnson (M-F subscriber) for driving from Ottawa to Montreal to buy us ("on approval") a personal computer (Comterm, 1 disk-drive, 256K, IBM-compatible) on sale for \$699, and shipping it to my door. (I'm recommending to the Board of Directors we purchase this model from Micheline). My grateful thanks also to Denise (M-F colleague) for donating several software packages (WordPerfect, WordStar, Data Base III Plus, MS-DOS), and, to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (a recently disbanded Toronto gay group) for giving us a \$200 donation, and to Dr. John Money (Professional Consultant) for contributing towards our computer fund. Now, all we need is a letter-quality printer (preferably Panasonic or Epson) so, please keep those contributions coming! Thanks ever so much...

My sincere appreciation also goes to: Dr. Gosnell Duncan - for shipping us a second experimental model of a penile prosthesis to test (to be reported on next issue), Dr. Lenard Hughes - for giving us copies of Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary and Campbell's Urology, Vols. 1-3, Joanna Clark - for sending us her fourth revised edition of Legal Aspects- Vol. 1), and, Dr. Milton Edgerton, Dr. Roberto Farina, Dr. David Foerster, Dr. David Gilbert, Dr. Ira Pauly and Prof. S.S. Ratnam for sending me published papers and/or photographs on surgical procedures, hormones, and psychological aspects of gender dysphoria for my research files for use in the compilation of the manual. Professional Consultants and other professional readers, please assist likewise. Thank you...

See ya' in December, friends, with another magazine double issue...

MMRF NOTES...

May 20: Holistic health practitioner Dr. Gosnell B. Duncan of Brooklyn N.Y. sent a second experimental model of the "penile prosthesis" to MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj.

June 2: Joanna M. Clark of J2CP Information Services, San Juan Capistrano, Ca. sent Rupert a complimentary copy of her book: TRANSSEXUALISM: Legal Aspects - Vol. 1 (Fourth Revised Edition, 1986) for MMRF's reference library.

June 7: MMRF Board Member Dr. Lenard M. Hughes and wife RoseAnn presented Rupert, in person, with Taber's Cyclopedic Medical Dictionary (11th ed.) and Campbell's Urology - Vols. 1-3 (4th ed.) for MMRF's reference library.

June 15: MMRF Honorary Life Member Susan C. Huxford and MMRF Professional Consultant Stephen E. Parent attended a reception for The Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones, D.D. - in recognition of his 40 years of service at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Conn. Canon Jones also served on the committee of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England.

June 24: MMRF Board Member John Daniel tendered his resignation because of his non-support of MMRF's "new direction". Two new members have been invited to serve on the Board and will be officially welcomed once approved by the other directors at the next Board meeting in Sept.

June 30: Seventh World Congress of Sexology President Prof. Prakash Kothari of Bombay, India has accepted an invitation to serve as a Professional Consultant to MMRF.

THE UNINVITED DILEMMA: MMRF has sold 63 copies and 13 Research Supplements, to date.

Personal Computer Fund: \$853.48.

PERSONAL COMPUTER: MMRF M-F subscriber Micheline Johnson shipped a personal computer (Comterm, 256K, 1 disk-drive, IBM-compatible, \$699) to MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj on Oct. 21 "on approval". He will submit a report to the Board of Directors at the upcoming Nov. 8 meeting, recommending authorization to purchase the machine (and a second disk-drive) with the monies in the computer fund. Rupert has also been donated several software packages (WordPerfect, WordStar, Data Base III Plus) by fellow colleague Denise. Many thanks Micheline and Denise! Readers, please keep sending donations so we can buy a letter-quality printer.
* * *

Transsexualism On Television

MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj, GenderServe Director Susan C. Huxford and Senior Research Psychologist Dr. Ray Blanchard (Gender Identity Clinic, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry) were featured guests on the pre-taped talk show "Lifetime" (CFTO-CTV, Ch. 9, Toronto, Ch. 13, Kitchener) to be aired Nov. 6, 1 p.m. The segment focussed on TSism.

MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj, his sister Amala, J2CP Information Services Co-Director Joanna M. Clark, her father Ed, Arizona Institute of Electrolysis Administrator Dr. Nancy S. Ledins (a former Roman Catholic priest) and Gender Identity Center of Colorado Director Tomye A. Kelley were the featured guests on the Sally Jessy Raphael show (WTNH-TV, Ch. 8, New Haven, Conn.) taped before a live audience on Nov. 3, 10 a.m. - to be aired in Toronto on WIVB-TV, Ch. 4, Buffalo, on Dec. 1, 10 a.m. (Please write or phone: Sally Jessy Raphael, 1000 Market St., St. Louis, Missouri 63101 (314-444-5155) to find out broadcast time for your area). The programme focussed on relationships. The hostess' attitude and the audience's reaction were quite positive.

DR. HARRY BENJAMIN ('THE ARCHITECT OF HOPE') DIES

German-American endocrinologist Dr. Harry Benjamin - specialist in transsexualism and geriatric medicine - died Aug. 24 at his Manhattan apartment. He was 101 years old.

Widely considered to have been the first student of the phenomenon to which he assigned the name "transsexualism", Benjamin distinguished the condition from both homosexuality and transvestism and realized transsexuals required medical assistance. So, with like-minded psychiatrists and surgeons, he treated transsexuals - progressing from psychiatric evaluations to hormone injections and to sex-reassignment operations if warranted - despite strong opposition from other doctors.

In 1966, Benjamin - who was popularly known as "the Father of Transsexuals" (and dubbed as their pioneer saint) - wrote the first comprehensive study of transsexuals THE TRANSEXUAL PHENOMENON.

Benjamin was born a banker's son in Berlin and migrated to the U.S. in 1913. He is survived by his wife, Greta, whom he married in 1925, and a sister, Edith Seelig. A memorial service is planned in the fall.

MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj has been in correspondence with Dr. Benjamin since 1978 - at which time he accepted Raj's invitation to serve on the Advisory Board of the Foundation For The Advancement Of Canadian Transsexuals (FACT) and also, presented Raj with an autographed copy of his book (which was later borrowed and never returned!). Raj has sent the doctor birthday greetings and complimentary copies of Gender Review and Metamorphosis over the past 8 years, and has featured him or published his photograph in the June 1978 (No.1) and July 1979 (No.5) issues of Gender Review -



DR. HARRY BENJAMIN

the FACTual Journal - and the February 1985 (Vol.4, No.1) issue of Metamorphosis. (As a personal aside, Raj received his first hormone shot in Benjamin's New York office in October 1971 - administered by his former colleague Dr. Charles L. Ihlenfeld).

The passing of Dr. Benjamin marks a milestone in the history of transsexuals. The good doctor will be sorely missed but his memory will shine on - both for his outstanding contribution to the treasury of medical scientific knowledge, and for his compassionate care of a rare class of people, troubled by a conflict of gender identity, who were without hope till he came along - Harry Benjamin, M.D. - "the Architect of Hope"....

* * * * *

(Limited back issues of our Collector's Edition, Vol.4, No.1, February 1985, featuring a front-page story on Dr. Benjamin's one-hundredth birthday reception, are still available for a limited time for \$3).

HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE TRANSEXUAL

By Joanna M. Clark, Community Of
Religious In Service To America

Editor's Note: Most men, regardless of sect, profess to believe their God is a merciful God. Surely then, it is enjoined upon man that he be compassionate in imitation of his God. Yet, in practice, many of us unconsciously set limits to our compassion. The lines are generally drawn where we are confronted with a way of life seemingly so alien to our own that fear of the unknown leads us into harsh judgements of our fellow man. If we confuse difference with separation, we are forgetting that all men are manifestations of the one God, and that no man may be set outside the human pale. Even before Jesus, the Roman author Terence said: "I am a man; nothing human is alien to me." If each individual is sacred to God, we might do well to perfect ourselves in the recognition of God's likeness in every one of our fellow men.

The natural by-product of ignorance is prejudice, and the only antidote for the disease of prejudice is knowledge. Both scientific knowledge and religious, or humanistic, awareness offer means by which prejudice against the transsexual may be dispelled. Specialists in the physical and psychological sciences have long agreed, and offered convincing proofs to this effect, that masculinity and femininity are not opposites, but related polarities along the spectrum of human qualities. Our masculine or feminine identity is never so unambiguous as "common sense" may suppose.

Even if we are not scientifically inclined, each of us can prove this truth for himself. Look inward: honest introspection easily reveals any one of us has some interests, characteristics, prefer-

ences and tendencies we normally regard as properly belonging to the opposite sex. The current revolution in sexual roles, where our absolute definitions of masculine and feminine have begun to break down and shade into each other, reflects our growing awareness of this inner complexity.

Our bodies, too, will bear this out, for it is quite apparent that to some degree we all carry the characteristic physiognomy of the opposite sex.

We have only to intensify, by many magnifications, the sense of discomfort our own slight conflicts in sexual identity produce, to begin to understand the motivation of the transsexual to resolve a conflict that is absolute, and that hampers at every turn his desire for a fulfilled life.

Some persons who sincerely believe they object to sex reassignment surgery on moral grounds may concede the highest morality lies in providing relief from suffering, yet deny the right to this relief to the transsexual. These same individuals may hold that suicide is a mortal sin, while refusing to recognize that the transsexual who does not obtain medical help may well, in his desperation, choose death as the only alternative to his radical alienation from life.

Most religious philosophies affirm that the goal of life within a religious context is totally functioning, fulfilled man - man alive. The realization of the integrity, the wholeness, of each individual is his inalienable right before man and God. The transsexual, torn by the conflict between his physique and his psyche, often miserably unable to function even on a minimal level, let alone to fulfill his unique individual talents and contribute them to society,

(cont'd.)

knows he can claim this God-given right, now that there is expert professional help available to him. Who would deny his suffering fellow man such help on moral grounds?

The spiritual integrity of the transsexual requires that his physique be adjusted to his inner sense of self. Since we no longer equate physical alteration with mutilation in the case of most surgical procedures, can we not apply the same standard of judgement to sex reassignment? Then we may more readily acknowledge that a spirit in conflict with the body is justified in claiming the right to be freed from this handicap.

The philosopher of religion, Allan Watts, in one of his many publications, The Book On The Taboo Against Knowing Who You Are, discusses the basis of this claim to self-realization. "Every individual is a unique manifestation of the Whole, as every branch is a particular out-reaching of the tree... Thus the soul is not in the body, but the body in the soul.... (The individual) may be seen... as one particular focal point at which the whole universe expresses itself.... This view retains and indeed, amplifies our apprehension that the individual is in some way sacred." In other words, the transsexual is as sacred as all others in the expression of the mystery of God's universe.

It is on behalf of the right to fulfillment of the sacred individuality of the transsexual, and in the highest traditions of morality and brotherhood, that CORISTA (Community Of Religious In Service To America) publishes this report on a growing social problem in America.

Introduction

During the late 1970s private health plans became more generous in providing coverage for preoperative evaluation, sex-reassignment surgery, related therapies and hospital costs. This was due in part to a number of events: (1) the establishment of multidisciplinary gender programs, (2) the work of dedicated professionals, such as Harry Benjamin, M.D., Paul Walker, Ph.D., and Donald Laub, M.D., (3) the establishment of minimum "standards of care" by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, and (4) a number of "positive" judicial decisions, ruling sex reassignment as non-cosmetic and medically necessary in properly selected patients.

Although Federal Employee Health Benefit Plans began excluding benefits for sex reassignment as early as 1974, it was not until August 1979, following publication of the Meyer/Reter study, with subsequent worldwide press coverage, that exclusion clauses began to appear on a widespread basis in privately issued insurance policies. The Meyer/Reter study was published shortly after the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) financed study, which was published without news-media commentary or notice.

Following these events, the race to studies critical of sex reassignment was on, with the National Center for Health Care Technology (NCHCT), and the Office of Health Research, Statistics and Technology (HRST) and Public Health Service (PHS), financing studies which they have relied on heavily to instruct

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

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Rupert Raj, B.A.
Executive Director

federal agencies that federal funds are not to be used to fund or pay for sex-reassignment surgery.

More recently, a Federal District Court in Atlanta, Georgia, issued a ruling in the case of Rush v. Johnson, finding that transsexual surgery was experimental in nature and that Georgia's prohibition of said services to transsexual applicants was rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest in protecting the public health. The court also found that, the state's determinations that sex-reassignment surgery was not generally accepted by the professional medical community as a proven and effective treatment, and that there was no authority or evidence that the surgery is safe and effective, were reasonable. The decision effectively confirmed the position taken by HCFA in 1981.

Much publicized and often quoted, the Meyer/Reter study was the turning point, despite critical reviews and a general lack of acceptance within the professional community. The study has, however, been a rallying point for private individuals, bureaucrats, and government entities seeking to end or severely limit sex-reassignment surgery in the United States.

The trend today is towards a full denial of benefits related to transsexual surgery. A trend that is most unfortunate considering: (1) the prevalence of the phenomenon, (2) the mental anguish characteristically suffered by the transsexual, and (3) the vulnerability of this group to abuse, discrimination and exploitation.

Judicial Response

A search for cases involving transsexuals and health-related issues was conducted in May 1985, utilizing both LEXIS and WESTLAW.

The search produced less than a dozen cases despite the fact there are clear indications that more have come to trial. The majority are either settled out of court or never go beyond the trial court level.

The first medical necessity case to come before the court was Denise R. v. Lavine. Denise R., a male-to-female transsexual, having lived fully as a female for 18 years, was denied medical assistance for sex-reassignment surgery by the New York City and State Department of Social Services. Neither the City or the State questioned the diagnosis, but determined there was insufficient evidence to find medical necessity.

The New York Appellate Court ruled in favor of plaintiff, holding the state commissioner's denial of services as arbitrary and capricious. On appeal, the Court Of Appeals reversed the appellate court decision, concluding that "(w)here an administrator adopts one of several conflicting opinions," the court could not "assume the role of either social agency or legislative body."

On facts similar to those of Denise R., an adult male-to-female transsexual appealed from a decision by the Minnesota State Welfare Department denying medical assistance benefits for sex-reassignment surgery. The trial court affirmed the Welfare Department's decision; however, on appeal, the Minnesota Supreme Court reversed the decision. The Supreme Court held that: "(1) the total exclusion of transsexual surgery from eligibility for medical assistance payments was void; (2) the standard of medical necessity requiring applicant for benefits to prove by conclusive evidence that requested medical treatment will eliminate disability and render applicant self-supporting was invalid; and (3) the Welfare Department's determination to deny medical assistance benefits was arbitrary and unreasonable."

(cont'd.)

Again, on facts similar to those in Denise R. and Doe, an adult male-to-female transsexual applied for reimbursement under Iowa's Medicaid Program. The facts of the case were not in dispute. Reimbursement was refused, however, by the local Social Service office. The Commissioner of the Iowas Department of Social Services upheld the decision on the basis that the State of Iowa's Medicaid plan specifically excluded coverage for sex-reassignment surgery.

The petitioner, Pinneke, filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Iowa, and the court ordered state and local officials to reimburse Pinneke. Additionally, was awarded as compensation for mental anguish and suffering. State and local officials appealed.

The Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court's decision, holding that " (1) Iowa's denial constituted an arbitrary denial of benefits based solely on diagnosis, type of illness or condition, and (2) Iowa's policy of denying Medicaid benefits for sex-reassignment surgery was not consistent with the objectives of the Medicaid statute.

The medical necessity and cosmetic surgery issues first came before the California courts in 1978. G.B. v. Lackner and J.D. v. Lackner involved claimants applying for sex-

reassignment surgery under the state's Medi-Cal medical assistance program. The Director of Health Services (Lackner) denied benefits in both cases on the ground that "the proposed surgery was to be performed solely for cosmetic purposes and was therefore not covered under the Medi-Cal program." The trial court entered judgement, in both cases, for defendant Lackner. The claimants appealed and the Court of Appeal, First District, reversed and remanded with instructions to the trial court to issue a Writ of Mandate.

Both Lackner decisions treated transsexualism as an illness and recognized the medical necessity and reasonableness of the surgery for the plaintiffs. In regards to the cosmetic surgery issue, the language of the J.D. decision is most noteworthy - "As stated in G.B. v. Lackner: We do not believe, by the wildest stretch of the imagination, that such surgery can reasonably and logically be characterized as 'cosmetic.'"

Recently, a Federal District Court in Atlanta, Georgia, issued a ruling in the case of Rush v. Johnson. This case actually began in 1976-77 as Rush v. Parham, with the federal district court ruling that state officials had to pay for the requested surgery, and the state appealing the decision. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit held that (1) the state should have been permitted to show at trial that the Georgia Department of Medical Assistance had a ban against making payments for experimental treatments because treatment is not medically necessary, and (2) that transsexual surgery is such a treatment.

Richard C. Freeman, the District Court Judge who issued the court's ruling on June 9, 1983, and who also issued the court's prior ruling in 1977, began by briefly describing the history of the case and

(cont'd. on p.10)

TRANSEXUAL VOICE

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THE SADDEST OF DAYS

By Stephen E. Parent, Director,
TranScend Counseling Services

At 4 p.m. this afternoon, June 14, 1986, I attended a Festival Choral Eucharist along with around 300 other people. It celebrated the 45th anniversary of The Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones. It was a service of Thanksgiving for his 40 years of service at Christ Church Cathedral in Hartford, Conn. and the beginning of an end of an era. This coming January, The Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones is retiring.

Canon Jones was the founder of the XX Club, the first group of its kind in the United States. It was a place for transsexuals to come together, meet, talk out mutual problems, learn from one another and not be alone in a hostile world. Under the direction of Canon Jones, the group grew to a point where officers were elected and it became a duly registered educational foundation in the State of Connecticut. It established a constitution and a set of by-laws. All this was done under Canon Jones' ever-watchful loving eye, directorship and leadership.

Many questions remain unanswered as to what the future of the group will be, but as long as he is remembered, I would hope the XX Club will remain alive both in spirit and in actual existence for those who need its services. It is certain we can give the man no better show of respect than to keep up the tradition he started and nurture the group with the love he shared with all.

There were many present who shared my sad feelings today. Among the ecclesiastical participants were The Right Rev. Arthur Warmsley, Bishop of Connecticut and The Very Rev. Stephen H. Gushee, Dean of Christ Church Cathedral. Along with



THE REV. CANON CLINTON R. JONES

the 14 celebrants, 28-member choir, and six acolytes in the procession, there were 52 members of the clergy representing every branch of Christianity.

The audience held such notables as Garrett Oppenheim, Susan Huxford, XX Clubbers past and present, representatives of the gay and lesbian community, street people who have come to know and care for Canon Jones, senior citizens whom he has helped and members of the congregation. Attendance was by invitation. A reception followed in the Parish House. It took close to an hour to make one's way through the reception line to shake hands. The Rev. Canon Richard Mansfield, Jr., the organizer of the affair, mentioned the ushers counted 461 people in attendance. The church was jammed to the rafters. Both balconies filled and there was standing room only. A tribute to the man loved and admired by so many.

(cont'd.)

A tribute, but a sad one. I could not help the tears that came to my eyes during the two standing ovations Canon Jones received. Tears brought on by the recognition of a loss to our community. A gap being left that will be so hard to fill - if it can be filled. I doubt there will ever be another such man.

Where can another individual be found who will give so unselfishly and with so much love and devotion to so many? Where can another be found who will strike out in favor of those condemned when it is still unpopular to do so? A Don Quixote, who walked in the footsteps of Christ and threw down his gauntlet for those oppressed will be awfully hard to replace in our minds and in our hearts.

A gap will be left. A hole in a lot of lives will not be filled and we can only hope someone with half the stature and capabilities of Canon Jones comes along to help those oppressed. We will miss the man, yes, but more than the man, we will miss his love.

What is his concept of love and how does he have so much to give? He is one of the rare true Christians, one of the Ghandis of the world. That is how he has so much to give to everyone. As to his concept of love, it is more than the Biblical sense of loving one's neighbor and suffering the little children to come unto Him. It is more than the shepherd. It is probably the same feeling many of us have for The Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones.

In the words of another, who has remained for some time anonymous, but often quoted, I can say:

"Love is giving with no thought of getting. It is tenderness enfolding with strength to protect. It is forgiveness without further thought of the thing forgiven. It

is understanding of the thing forgiven. It is understanding of human weakness, with knowledge of the true man shining through. It is quiet in the midst of turmoil. It is trust in God with no thought of self. It is the one altogether lovely, the light in the mother's eye, the glory in the sacrifice, the quiet assurance of protection.

It is in the expectation of our Father's promise coming true. It is the refusal to see anything but good in our fellow man. It is the glory that comes with selflessness and the power that comes with assurance of the Father's love for His children. It is a voice that says "no" to our brother, though "yes" might be more easily said. It is resistance to the world's lust and greed, thus becoming a positive law of annihilation to error.

Love...the one thing no one can take from us..the one thing we can give constantly and become increasingly rich in the giving. Love can take no offense, for it cannot know that which it does not conceive. It cannot hurt or be hurt, for it is the purest reflection of God. Good. It is the one eternal indestructible force for Good. It is the will of God, preparing, planning, proposing always what is best for all His universe."

This is Canon Jones' creed, whether he puts it in these words or not and it is the love that was returned to him by every member of that congregation today. He will be missed and we showed him; he is respected and we showed him; he is loved and we haven't told him yet. We are losing a tower of love and strength; today we showed him a Thank you, tonight I miss him already. The man who has shown all so much love and has always had an encouraging word. In missing him, I will not be alone, but accompanied by many....

* * * * *

HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE TS
(cont'd. from p.7)

the prior district and appellate court rulings and the nature of the court's "present" proceedings as directed by the Fifth Circuit.

Using the somewhat limited guide lines established by the Court of Appeals, the district judge made a lengthy set of findings of fact and conclusions of law, concluding that: 1) transsexual surgery was experimental in nature and that Georgia's prohibition of said services to transsexual applicants was rationally related to a legitimate governmental interest in protecting the public health, and 2) the state's determinations that sex-reassignment surgery was not generally accepted by the professional medical community as a proven and effective treatment, and that there was no authority of evidence that the surgery is safe and effective were reasonable.

The first cited case involving a private health carrier was decided by the New York Supreme Court in 1979. The Davidson facts were again similar to preceding cases and were not in dispute. Davidson's insurance carrier, Aetna Life Insurance Company, refused to bear the cost of medical expenses, alleging: (1) Gender dysphoria is not an injury, (2) Transsexual surgery is cosmetic in nature, and (3) Surgical intervention is not necessary and is unreasonable. The court found in favor of Davidson, finding the surgery "cannot be considered to be of a strictly cosmetic nature," and that the "sex-change operation of the plaintiff is of a medical nature and is feasible and required for the health and well-being of the plaintiff."

A single arbitration case was found utilizing DIALOG. The case involved an employee of Ohio Steel Tube Co. and a member of Steelworkers, Local 3057. The arbitrator

found the employee, who had transsexual surgery in addition to hormonal treatment and counseling, to be "ill" and entitled to insurance benefits under the contract's program of insurance benefits.

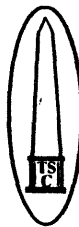
Overall, the court's position appears to be one of indecision as it grapples with the issues. While the majority of decisions involving the extending of health care benefits to transsexuals have been in favor of the plaintiff, the Rush decision sets a precedence that is sure to be relied upon by other jurisdictions, just as the Lackner and Davidson decisions have been relied upon.

Public Agency/Private Companies Response

CHAMPUS: The Civilian Health and Medical Program of the Uniform Services (CHAMPUS) is a medical benefits program provided by the Federal government to help pay for civilian medical care rendered to spouses and children of active duty uniformed services personnel, to retired spouses and children, and to spouses and children of deceased active duty personnel.

With one exception, medical benefits for military dependents are not available for any medical service or supply directly or indirectly related to sex reassignment (transsexualism or hermaphroditism) including psychotherapy, prescription drugs and medicines, and

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surgery. The one exception is for otherwise covered services and supplies in connection with surgery performed on a child less than 10 years old to correct sex-gender confusion (ambiguous genitalia).

MEDICARE: There has been a great deal of misunderstanding about Medicare's payment policy for sex-reassignment surgery because of certain erroneous and misleading newspaper reports that received widespread publicity during late 1978 and early 1979, alleging that Medicare had decided to cover this procedure.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) clarified Medicare's position in 1983 with the issuance of HCFA Transmittal No. 833, declaring sex-reassignment surgery to be experimental in nature. Consequently, Medicare does not provide benefits for sex reassignment.

PRIVATE COMPANIES: A survey of private health plans in mid-1985 resulted in the following list of companies providing health coverage for sex-reassignment surgery and related therapies:

Connecticut General
John Hancock Company
Massachusetts Mutual Life
Metropolitan Life
Prudential
The Equitable
The Hartford
The Travelers

The key issues in obtaining benefits from those companies providing coverage (the above list is by no means complete) for sex-reassignment surgery and related therapies will be the lack of a pre-existing condition and adequate documentation that the patient has been diagnosed in accordance with the minimum "standards of care" established by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association

thus establishing that the requested procedures are medically necessary.

Conclusion

The severity of gender dysphoria syndrome, specifically transsexualism, is undisputed. The deliberate withholding of treatment, whether psychological, hormonal, or surgical, has resulted in numerous cases of attempted/completed auto-castration and/or suicide. The withholding of treatment, regardless of form, can generally be attributed to purely economical reasons. Stated simply - if you can afford treatment, you get it. If you can't, you don't.

The Federal government's categorization of sex-reassignment surgery is based more on moral issues than sound scientific evidence. Further, the denial of benefits by many insurance companies appears to be arbitrary and based on type of diagnosis, illness or condition, rather than on sound medical and scientific evidence.

In psychological distress (often suicidal) an individual consults legitimate and respected medical authorities. These authorities evaluate the individual and recommend sex reassignment as the appropriate treatment modality, assigning a medical diagnosis/label of "transsexual". Society reacts by stigmatizing and punishing that individual for simply following the advice of highly-trained and licensed physicians, who are practicing medicine under government authority, and who possess the most exalted credentials their profession can bestow.

At the same time, possession of an academic degree in a behavioral science does not necessarily attest to the possession of sufficient training or competence to conduct psychotherapy, psychological counseling, nor diagnosis of gender identity problems. Consequently

(cont'd.)

HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE TS (cont'd)

on occasion, it is quite possible some emotionally-disturbed individuals could follow possibly poor advice of eminent medical authorities in their attempt to relieve their distress. Regrettably, society continues to, more often than not, stigmatize and punish these individuals even after the initial diagnosis proves to be inaccurate and sex reassignment is no longer pursued.

When an individual seeks out medical advice from a qualified professional and follows that advice, it is inappropriate for society to deny that individual equal protection under color of law. By denying such protection society is being unnecessarily and impermissibly punitive to the exercise of a medical option, just because society, at large, might find the option offensive.

Every member of society, regardless of race, national origin, religious belief, sex, sexual orientation, or sexual status (transsexual, hermaphrodite, etc.) should be entitled to be judged and to live under a government of laws, free of prejudice and the weakness of a government of men or women acting without laws to regulate their treatment.

When an individual seeks medical help, society should act to protect that patient's rights, as it has so appropriately done with victims of cancer and other life-threatening diseases. A patient in distress and seeking medical assistance for a gender identity disorder, should be evaluated in accordance with the "Standards of Care", established by the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association. If a transsexual diagnosis is confirmed, then that patient should be extended the same basic protections under color of law any other patient might be extended, ie.

- 1) Protection from harassment and discrimination on-the-job and/or in maintaining a home;
- 2) Protection from loss of employment, solely on the basis of being medically diagnosed as "transsexual" and, subsequently, following the advice of competent medical authority; and
- 3) Protection from arbitrary denial of insurance benefits, based solely on a medical diagnosis of gender dysphoria syndrome, specifically, transsexualism.

Since 1965, approximately 10,000 Americans have undergone sex-reassignment surgery. Follow-up studies, while admittedly flawed, indicate marked improvement with no physical restrictions in the recipients' lifestyle. Many non-achievers, after sex-reassignment surgery, have become high achievers, with survival rates equal to the normal human life span and post-operative suicide rates reported at 2.1 percent or less.

Clearly, sex-reassignment surgery is the treatment modality of choice, in properly selected cases, and can no longer be considered experimental.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR: Joanna Clark is the author of Legal Aspects Of Transsexualism, and a long-term activist for transsexual rights.

(cont'd. on p. 32)

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POETRY:

* * * * *

THOSE AMONG US

Those among us
who are not
who and what
we've always been told we should be;
Those among us
whose hearts and minds
do not fit the mold
of the body we are judged by;
Those among us
helplessly and hopelessly
trying to accept
the cages and traps of the flesh
that our real Selves are enclosed in;
For who is to see
so deep - so far into us -
within these shells
of skin and bone and hair...
Who is to taste
our true longings for life and freedom -
unencumbered
by the roles we're forced to play?
How many among us
have gone astray from the norm -
failing the tests
Society imposes upon us...
But what is the true measure
of masculinity or femininity?
To whom does it matter
that our own bodies
are our tormentors -
Not because we love our own kind,
for that is not the case -
But because we hate ourselves,
our reflections and our roles...
because we despise what we are??

--Steven Wells

* * * * *

Man says he's out of place

By Sylvia Brooks
Dispatch Staff Reporter

MARYSVILLE, Ohio — Some men might relish a term in the Ohio Reformatory for Women, but Erik Martin Gray, 38, wants out.

Gray, whose arm is decorated with a tattoo of a black panther in the grasp of a python, is the mother of three sons.

He lives in an uncharted zone between sexes. He also lives in prison, where he resents being treated as a woman.

DURING AN interview, Gray wore a shirt and a salmon-colored skirt. He was proud of the tattoo, embarrassed by the skirt.

The Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction knows Gray as Marilyn Tanner.

He was arrested in December in Findlay, Ohio, on a charge of gross sexual imposition involving the 13-year-old daughter of a female lover. The victim's mother was charged, too. Plea bargains reduced both charges to endangering children. Both defendants are at Marysville.

At the time of sentencing, there was a question about where Gray should be sent. A doctor hired by the state decided Gray was more female than male, and he was put in a private cell at the reformatory.

His name has been legally changed to Erik Martin Gray, and he is listed as a male on his driver's license.

GRAY HAS undergone two sex-change operations. In 1982, he had a hysterectomy. Later, his breasts were removed. He has received male hormone injections and had taken hormone pills before entering prison.

His voice deepened, and Gray had a mustache when he entered Marysville. Prison officials made him shave it off, and he shaves every day.

He plans two more operations, the construction of male genitals and a tummy tuck.

"I realized I was more male than female when I was 5 years old," Gray said. "I remember one Christmas when

my brother got a double-holster gun set and I got a doll. I took the doll and bashed it against the wall and took his guns.

"My dad always took me hunting and fishing. My brother was jealous because I was Dad's favorite. I was going to join Cub Scouts, but they wouldn't let me."

GROWING UP, Gray refused to wear skirts and was embarrassed in girls' locker rooms. Gray was a loner.

The strain of feeling like a man in a woman's body pushed him into an early marriage, he said. Gray became pregnant and started to drink more and more.

"I thought maybe if I had a child it would help me be more of a woman," Gray said. "It didn't. I feel like more of a father to them than a mother."

Gray had another child while married, and a third after a divorce.

"I knew they were going to be boys," he said.

GRAY DENIED he did anything with his lover's child and believes his male-female status, and the publicity it received, led to his conviction.

Some mistake in reincarnation may have caused his problem, he believes.

"I used to fantasize ... I toyed with the idea that I was a man in my past and for some reason came back in a woman's body."

Gray said he is "not very good psychologically. They have gone out of their way to destroy my male identity."

Prison officials said they will respect Gray's wishes and let him wear trousers. And he will be allowed to take hormone pills again if a doctor prescribes them, officials said.

THE LACK of hormone pills has caused problems, Gray said. "I am having body aches and pains, muscle twitches and I am not sleeping well."

When he arrived at Marysville he was wearing a man's suit and male underwear. They were confiscated.

"And, before here, I was using the men's restroom," Gray said.



Dispatch photo by Glen Cumberledge

Erik Gray says women's prison is emasculating him

(COLUMBUS DISPATCH, Aug. 25, 1985.
Reprinted here by permission)

IN THE NEWS...

50,000 AMERICAN MEN ARE REALLY GALS - AND THEY DON'T EVEN KNOW IT!

Weekly World News, July 29, 1986. (Biomedical researcher Dr. David Page of the Whitehead Institute in Cambridge, Mass. says these men have two X chromosomes (with a small piece of the Y chromosome attached to one), look, act and sexually behave as males but are infertile and don't produce sperm. Finnish medical geneticist Albert de la Chapelle says occasionally these men develop breasts and have underdeveloped testes).

SEX-SWAP DAD'S PLEA: "I WANT TO BE A MOMMY TO MY 7-YEAR-OLD SON!"

(photo incl.), Weekly World News, July 15, 1986. (Post-op M-F TS Stephanie Lawrence, 31 - a lawyer's assistant from Phoenix, Arizona - vows to appeal the Iowa Supreme Court's ruling to deny her rights to visit her son because she would not be a good influence. She says District Judge Edward DeSilva's decision is a violation of the 14th Amendment).

2 IN DRAG SLASH, ROB N.Y. PRIEST,

Toronto Sun, July 13, 1986. (Two transvestite prostitutes slashed priest Thomas McDonnell, 49, in the neck, chest and thigh in a robbery attempt on a New York subway, but were later nabbed by police. The two female impersonators wore padded bras, high heels and makeup).

MOM-OF-THE-YEAR EXPOSED AS MAN

(photos incl.), The Sun, July 1, 1986. (Post-op M-F TS Sheila Larson, crowned "Mother-of-the-Year" in Manchester, England, must return her crown contest judges rule after she revealed to an audience of 1,000 she was once a man. Officials call her "a sick woman or man, or whatever...and not worthy of our award." Sheila's husband John and his three children were shocked at her never-before-revealed confession and refuse to talk with her).

WOMAN TURNS INTO MAN AFTER KIDNEY TRANSPLANT: She's A Clone Of Male

Donor (photos incl.), The Sun, June 24, 1986. (Former salesclerk Sally Moyle, 34, is slowly changing into a man after receiving a male kidney in a transplant operation says Dr. Mary Carberry, director of Australia's Transplant Foundation. Physician Dr. Dennis Cahill says Sally is taking on her male donor's characteristics: smoking cigars, cursing and whistling at the nurses. Performing surgeon Dr. Christopher Chikanovich says the change happened overnight and next morning Sally began speaking in a male voice and adopted the name of her male donor. Dr. Cahill adds she's grown 3" taller and gained 25 lbs. since the transplant and is now growing a moustache. Dr. Carberry says the male kidney is so dominant it's taking over Sally's body. Dr. Chikanovich says she may actually become a clone of her donor and may eventually turn completely into a male).

WIFE CHANGES SEX AND WEDS MOTHER-IN-LAW, Examiner, June 10, 1986.

(Post-op F-M TS Sadaam (née Batima) Al Hussein, 29, wed ex-husband Amin's mother, Azzia, 60, after the two fled their home near Damascus, Syria in fear for their lives. Both Moslem, a lesbian relationship was unthinkable (because the Koran condemns homosexuality as blasphemy) so Batima underwent surgery to become a man in Sweden, and was later joined elsewhere in Europe by Azzia, where they married. Sadaam regularly writes his two children in Syria but never from the same city twice because his tremendously-humiliated ex-husband - a top official with the Syrian secret police - is out to slaughter him and his mother-in-law-cum-wife).

MAN, WHAT A WEIRD WEDDING! : Sex-Change Surgery Turns Gal Into Groom & Guy Into Bride (photos incl.), National Enquirer, Jan. 21, 1986.

(cont'd. next page)

IN THE NEWS... (cont'd.)

(Post-op M-F TS Susan Bond, 51 - a burly construction-worker before undergoing sex-reassignment surgery three years ago - and post-op F-M TS James Chapman, 29 -halfway through surgery to become a man - wed Dec. 18, 1985 in Leeds, England. Registrar David Simpson, who performed the ceremony, said the unusual marriage is legal under English law because the union involves a man and a woman - even though, on paper, Susan is the husband, and James the wife. Post-op M-F TS Helen Sinclair was the bridesmaid).

STRANGE CASE OF THE TRANSVESTITE SPY, Examiner, June 10, 1986.

(French diplomat Bernard Boursicot passed state secrets to his oriental lover - cross-dressing Chinese exotic dancer and spy Shi Pei Pu - whom he believed was a woman when the two met in Peking, China in 1964. Chinese intelligence agents got Shi to tell the naive diplomat Shi was pregnant with his child and Boursicot believed he had fathered a boy called Du-Du (who was actually the illegitimate son of a Chinese peasant). Seventeen years later, Shi and the boy unexpectedly visited Boursicot in Paris, France - where French intelligence caught the ill-fated lovers, sentencing them to 6 years in prison).

BIONIC VALLEY IS SHAPING MEDICAL FUTURE, Wichita-Eagle Beacon, Nov. 24, 1985. (Donald Olsen - director

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STEPHEN E. PARENT, M.A., DIRECTOR

of the University of Utah's Artificial Heart Research Laboratory in Salt Lake City - and the biomedical engineers there are designing and developing a variety of artificial organs, including: a man-made urinary tract (comprising ureters, bladder and urethra); synthetic controlling sphincters (implanted and controlled by electricity) to replace the natural muscles in the digestive and excretory systems; and, an artificial fallopian tube (being tested in sheep) to replace malfunctioning tubes in women.

SEX-CHANGE PATIENT STIRS OFFICE FLAP!; Gals Must Share Powder Room With Guy, Weekly World News, Nov. 5, 1985. (Pre-op M-F TS Victoria

(née Victor) - a probation officer at the Hall of Justice in San Francisco - was given permission to use the ladies' room by department chief Arlene Sausser, who consulted with a psychiatrist, a psychologist and the U.S. Dept. of Justice. But some of the female employees felt uncomfortable to share their restroom with a person who still has male sex organs, and charged Arlene violated their civil rights).

IS THIS ANY WAY TO TREAT A LADY?

(photo incl.), Weekly World News, Oct. 29, 1985. (Pre-op M-F TS Lav- arita (now Vanessa) Meriwether - a convicted murderer incarcerated at the Indiana State Reformatory in Michigan City - filed suit in federal court against the Indiana Department of Correction, claiming she is being improperly housed in an all-male prison and denied necessary hormone medication (several years ago, prison officials seized her estrogen pills). She faces 35 years in prison for stabbing a man who picked her up at a transvestite bar where she worked, and became belligerent upon discovering her male sex status. (Vanassa is Secretary-Treasurer and Co-Editor of the "Transsexuals In Prison" newsletter).)

* * * * *

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

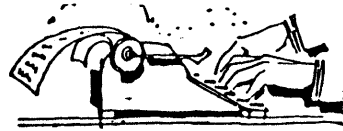
Dear Rupert:

I'm a pre-op F-M TS, 37 years old, have had a total hysterectomy and am an inmate in a women's prison. I've been here about 10 years but hope to soon be going home. I really need to make contact with you so I can learn of the latest surgical procedures and prices...

I'm very impressed by all the literature you sent me. I really do appreciate it...I've read Dr. Mario Martino's book and found it to be a powerful one. We need all the F-M TS books we can write. There's much more info' on M-F TSs and very little for the F-M TS!

Have you been able to discover a new technique for decent phalloplasty? That's the thing we really need - a completely self-working penis. I heard there were some penis transplants being done. Is this factual? I want to know the price range for phalloplasty now!*

I'm presently in the process of putting together a newsletter for transsexuals in prison (T.I.P.) - to be ready to go for March of 19-86. It's purpose is to help incarcerated TSs by giving them names of other TS inmates to correspond with. It will also include contacts for legal and medical help. You see, we TS inmates really have a rough time of it. The various prison administrations in the U.S.A. want to keep us out of sight and deny us our hormones. It's a tough battle for us both in the courts and the prison setting. T.I.P. will be a nationwide organization. Upon my release, I plan to set up a national office where incarcerated TSs can contact me to help them in their proper placements in certain medical facilities. The officers of T.I.P. are: M.J. Ashford (a.k.a. Frank) - President, Allyn Scribner (a.k.a. Lynn Marie) - Vice-President*** and Vanessa D.



Meriwether - Secretary-Treasurer*** (cf. "Is This Any Way To Treat A Lady?", page 16 of this issue).

I want to sincerely thank you for your most generous offers of assistance to get T.I.P. off the ground and functional. I know with your help and co-operation T.I.P. will be a great success. I've been racking my brains to figure out who we could get to do our printing and since you've offered your help, I've found the answer to our prayers. Since we're charging a moderate subscription rate and now have a bank account to handle our money, we could send you a check to cover printing costs. Please let me know if you'd be willing to do this.

I willingly welcome you aboard as a mediator, advisor, consultant to T.I.P. I realize we're a fledgling organization and will need a tremendous amount of help and positive direction. So, I'm elated to have your expertise available to us. When I came up with the idea of T.I.P., I didn't realize there would be so much work involved - all the planning, bank accounts, publishing, etc. It's a big undertaking and a very difficult project but I'm sure me and ole T.I.P. will make it - especially with the help of friends like you...

We've now got some official stationary and Vanessa has written a "Charter, Goals and Policies" for

(cont'd next page)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd.)

T.I.P....I've been getting good comments on the T.I.P. newsletter. Thanks for printing it. We've been getting a lot of mail - all from M-F TSSs. I haven't received one letter yet from a F-M TS (except for one from C.E. - who said he'd had a good time at your conference in Canada). Maybe there ain't none!

It'll be awhile before we print our next issue of T.I.P. I can't afford to publish it every month. I've got to figure out a way to raise some money for the printing and postage expenses. We're checking into doing a TV documentary hopefully sometime this year, also, possibly a "60 Minutes" program. Do you have any suggestions for good publicity projects and also, a way to raise funds?

Thanks for inserting a free ad in your magazine and for submitting ads to other TS publications. I really do appreciate all you've done to help us out...I'm looking forward to receiving a copy of your next magazine. I'll work on an article for publication in it.

Yes, T.I.P. is a dream that's coming right along. I just hope all goes well and we don't end up in a damn court battle - one never knows when dealing with uneducated prison authorities. I'm now in college and my schoolwork takes up a lot of my time but I do plan to continue to publish T.I.P. upon my release. Then I'll have a lot more time and money to devote to it.

In freedom of identity,
Your 'Bro', Frank****

*(*One source says such experiments are currently being conducted on animals - primates; another source tells me a phalloplastic surgeon was considering the possibility sometime ago but has now abandoned the idea; and a third source advises penile transplants are "in the realm of science fiction at this time.")*

***It's somewhere between \$5,000-\$50,000 - depending on whether the "urinary hook-up" is included; if so, it's between \$15,000-\$50,000.*

****Read Lynn's well-written article: "LOCKDOWN: The Incarcerated Pre-operative Transsexual", published in the TV-TS TAPESTRY (Issue 45, 1985). Contact her by writing: Allyn Scribner #380398, Darrington, 2-3-9, Route 3, Box 59, Rosharon, Texas*

*****Contact Vanassa at: Indiana State Prison, P.O. Box 47-24493, Michigan City, Indiana 46360. 177583.*

******Contact Frank by writing: M.J. Ashford, 1479 Collins Ave., Marysville, Ohio 43040.*

* * *

Dear Mr. Raj:

Your magazine is of great interest, so please accept our check for a year's subscription...Networking with you and your organization would be a very beneficial concept, and 'yes' we would be willing to do so. I hope that this letter indicates to you our enthusiasm to work together as much as we are capable of doing. Thank you again, and congratulations on your work.

Sincerely yours,
Michelle Poll, Metamorphosis, Long Island City, New York

* * *

Dear Rupert:

A few more finishing touches and IFGE will be in business. I think we finally have the formula

(cont'd. next page)

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd.)

that will allow us to get our collective act together. It's kind of exciting. We have a way for qualified non-profit organizations and services to become affiliated, a way for virtually everyone (organizations, services, professionals, commercial people and just plain folk) to network and to benefit, without compromising anyone's identity, security or anything else. We are on our way and I want your support. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Love,
Merissa Sherrill Lynn, Director,
International Foundation For Gender Education, Wayland, Mass.

* * *

Dear Rupert:

Your new format and quality of articles in METAMORPHOSIS MAGAZINE are terrific. Keep up the good work. Enclosed is a copy of the Outreach Book & Reprint Catalog, and information on the Fantasia Fair for 1986. We would appreciate your including something about this Outreach Program in your next issue. Interested parties should write for details. I will be in California in August, attending the American Humanistic Psychology Conference and then on to San Francisco to lecture on the full dimension of this paraculture (including F-M TSism). I am doing some counseling and have several F-M clients. Send down any updated in-

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formation you would like me to distribute. Thanks. Stay in touch.

Warmly,
Ariadne Kane, Director, The Human Outreach And Achievement Institute,
Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston,
Massachusetts 02215

* * *

Dear Rupert:

We really regret not being able to get away for your convention as we wanted to meet you very much. We also wanted to meet Susan Huxford, Stephen Parent and Jude Patton. We're trying to have "cross-gender" added to Title VII of the Civil Rights Act... We are also interested how Stephen Parent began his vocational service for TSs... We'll definitely be there next year.

Lynn & Jerry Montgomery, Directors,
Montgomery Foundation, Inc. Gender Dysphoric Association, Decatur, Ga.

* * *

Dear Mr. Raj:

I was pleased to hear Kim Stuart sent you a copy of my dissertation abstract. Copies of my full dissertation may be ordered by any library through University Microfilms International (pub. no. 86-12,820). Your interest in comparing F-M transsexuals with masculine lesbians is very interesting to me. The lesbians in my sample ranged from masculine to feminine but definitely saw themselves as women and had no desire to change. There clearly is a difference between masculine sex roles and male core gender identity... I plan to continue my psychotherapy practice with people with gender-related issues. I am also very interested in reading a copy of your journal and would appreciate a copy. Thank you.

Sincerely,
Terrie A. Lyons, Ph.D., Lake Oswego, Oregon

* * * *

(cont'd.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd.)

Dear Rupert:

Sorry I couldn't get to Chicago. I've wanted to meet you for years! (GGA Windy City Chapter President) Sharon Renee Hart mentioned you're doing things for TSs in prison... would be interested to know more. I get a large number of letters from TVs and TSs in prison all over the country...did some work in the Wisconsin prisons earlier this year and know some of the miseries they must have to endure from staff - lack of enthusiasm/bias.

We've recently incorporated American Lifestyles Information and Education Services, Inc. (ALIES), a non-profit research and educational organization.- perhaps similar to MMRF in more ways than Window To The World Services, Inc. (WTTW) is. It's a non-membership organization. We'll be doing surveys, writing material for professionals, doing speaking engagements panels, seminars, etc. I'm executive director.

WTTW and ALIES together, I hope will combine to make one of the most solidly-structured organizations available to help people in any stage of exploration or living our lifestyles, as well as helping professionals learn by educating them and putting them in touch with other groups. The Alien (American Lifestyles Information and Educational Newsletter) will become our exchange publication with organizational listings...target date for the first issue is Aug.1.

I'm also writing to commiserate /empathize with your frustration in getting so little return for so much work, time, energy, commitment. I know you, like I, do this mostly because we believe in it and are committed to helping people avoid the pitfalls we experienced, not for thanks, but it is so sad when so many take us for granted. Even more frustrating is to

know they'd rather avoid thinking and just escape to their misery, rather than take advantage of the support, friendship and growth we offer. I doubt if that will ever change. I keep hoping, but the years (almost 7) roll by with only a dent in people's indifference, occasionally, to keep me persevering.

On a personal note, your magazine and the fact you are there is a blessing to me. Your magazine helps me explore a nagging concern that I avoid most times that I am probably a F-M TS myself, if I can use that term without offence 'cause I am not capable of pursuing avenues to unleash the male within actively. So, I remain, perhaps, a brother in spirit!


Dee Dailey, President, Window To The World Services, Inc.; Executive Director, American Lifestyles Information and Education Services, Inc., Waukesha, Wisconsin

* * *

Dear Rupert:

Thanks for all your good wishes and the nice things you say about the SHAFT (Self Help Association For Transsexuals) Newsletter. I always enjoy reading your Metamorphosis Magazine, and give permission for you to reprint anything that appears in our Newsletter (including the poems from the SHAFT portfolio) at any time unless I specifically indicate to the contrary. I look forward to reading your

(cont'd.)



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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd.)

poetry anthology when it appears.

Best wishes, Sincerely,
Cheryl Warren, Editor, SHAFT News-
letter, Self Help Association For
Transsexuals, 46 Liddell Way,
South Ascot, Berkshire, England

* * * SL5 9UX

Dear Mr. Raj:

I am president of the Washing-
ton DC/JANUS group, which serves
primarily male-to-female transsex-
uals.

We have recently started a sup-
port group here for F-M gender
people since some of them felt a
real lack of common interest with
the DC/JANUS group. We have been
in operation for about over a year
now and the group continues to
grow rapidly - from two people
then to about 10 now. We know
there are many more people who
could benefit from meeting others
like themselves and we're anxious
to get the word out that we exist.

The group is mixed, as you might
expect. Some have undergone exten-
sive surgical and hormonal reassign-
ment procedures, others are just
beginning with psychotherapy. Some
are patients of ours and others
have other therapists or are not
currently involved with therapy.

I'm wondering if there might
be ways in which we can cross-
fertilize each other's efforts?

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I'm passing along information about
your upcoming annual general meet-
ing next April. Perhaps some of the
people here can make plans to attend.

I look forward to meeting you
one of these days in the near fut-
ure and to beginning a mutually
beneficial relationship.

Sincerely,
H. Martin Malin, Ph.D.(c), ACS,
President, DC/JANUS, Washington,
D.C.; Sexology Associates, Inc.,
Bethesda, Maryland

* * *

Dear Rupert:

Not much has changed concerning
Trans-Form. We are still a small
group that consists mostly of M-Fs;
we have no newsletter. We meet ev-
ery other Sunday at 7:30 p.m. at
my apartment. Only about three usu-
ally show up. The rest are still
in hiding. Our most active member
recently moved away. Hopefully, it
will pick up.

I could probably find something
to write about if you are in need
of material. One topic I think is
important is one's self-image as a
male or female, and how the old
image gradually changes.

Take care, With friendship,
Joe Ellman, Director, Trans-Form,
P.O. Box 747, Madison, Wisconsin

* * * 53703

Hi -

I'm enclosing \$3 for sample mag-
azine. I also am editor of the Los
Angeles Transsexual Yellow Pages.
It is 35 pages and has an extensive
bibliography. If you're interested
in a copy, send \$10 postage pre-
paid....Our female-to-male club is
called "Under Construction" and we
meet every Sunday. There are about
13 of us.

Thanks,
Stephen L. Drake, 9036 Duarte Road
#35, San Gabriel, California 91775

* * * (cont'd.)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR (cont'd.)

Dear Rupert:

I like the new style of your newsletter which has become a magazine. Putting out any sort of newsletter is not an easy task, so I really appreciate the work you do on it.

I have enjoyed reading The Uninvited Dilemma. The style of presentation and the content is one of the best I have read on the subject. Thanks for bringing it to my attention.

I have been thinking about the purposes that transgender organizations are formed to serve. At one time, I thought all such groups should be open to persons of all transgender situations. As I have become more deeply involved in several organizations and really listened to what the members need, I have come to the conclusion that organizations that support one aspect of the paraculture serve a very definite need. Each different transgender situation (F-M TS, M-F TS, TV/CD, etc.) has very different needs. While there is benefit to coming together as a WHOLE community, many of these needs are so different they can only be met by organizations whose focus is narrower - such as MMRF. As a result of this change in my own philosophy, I have found that I can better serve each organization, although I personally work at supporting all people with transgender concerns.

I attended the Eastern Region Meeting of The Society for the Scientific Study of Sex in Philadelphia in April to present a paper.

Peace,
Roger E. Peo, Ph.D., Board Certified Sexologist, Androgyny Unlimited, Poughkeepsie, New York

* * *

Dear Mr. Raj:

At a meeting of our Board of

Directors, concerns were expressed regarding the welfare of transsexuals involved with the criminal justice system. Our member organizations felt that, despite our goodwill, we have no expertise in such specialized services and we have noticed that there are few community resources.

We would like to offer our support and encouragement to you in the development of appropriate programs and services for transsexuals in the criminal justice system. Please feel free to contact our Association if we may be of any assistance to you in criminal justice issues affecting women.

Good luck in the development of your organization.

Yours truly,
Mary-Liz, Greene, Vice-President,
Chairman, Social Action & Issues
Committee, Canadian Association of
Elizabeth Fry Societies, Ottawa, Ont.

* * *

Dear Mr. Raj:

I have received your letter in which you request that I propose that the Human Rights Code, 1981, be amended to include transsexualism as a ground of discrimination.

You have observed that the proposed ground of sexual orientation and the ground of sex could not be applied to instances where a transsexual has been discriminated against.

I have forwarded your letter and enclosures to the Chairman of the Standing Committee on the Administration of Justice, Mr. Andy Brandt, for his consideration. This Committee is reviewing Bill 7 and has approved Ms. Gigantes' proposal that sexual orientation be added as a ground of discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code.

Yours sincerely,
William Wrye, Minister of Labour,
Toronto, Ontario

* * *

FILM REVIEWS: SECOND SERVE

Reviewed by Lou Sullivan

"Second Serve", a made-for-TV movie on the life of Renee Richards features the most spectacular female-to-male crossing job on screen. Dr. Richards, as you may recall, is the ophthalmologist and professional tennis player who went male-to-female several years ago. Actress Vanessa Redgrave portrays Richards, changing in the course of the movie from a 22-year-old Yale man to a 53-year-old woman, but it is Redgrave's mastery of the male persona that makes this film great.

There is no question that Redgrave is well-acquainted with her male side. Some viewers believe the part must have been played by a male actor, for Redgrave is nearly flawless as a man. (Of course it is her, but I am sure it was not her hairy abdomen we saw during the first "dressing" scene!) Redgrave's chiseled facial structure is perfect for passing; the well-done five o'clock shadow and prominent use of Redgrave's throat (complete with Adam's apple!) helped alot. She did an excellent job keeping her voice within the male range...truly an accomplishment... although her English accent kept slipping through. In addition, Redgrave's clothing was big on shoulder pads. I did notice some negligence in breast-binding, but nothing that distracted from the total effect.

I never read Richards' book, on

which the movie was based; however, I found the storyline a bit trying. The flashbacks of being forced by his psychiatrist mother to wear dresses when he was a little boy (really crying and hating it) were very offensive. Surely this reinforced the belief among viewers that giving a boy "girl's" things is what makes a transsexual. But, if only half of the events were true, Richards had one hell of a time in making the transition - years of psychiatric torture, the worst fear of all transsexuals happens (her endocrinologist withdraws her hormone prescription after she

has already begun); she is beaten up in a bar by soldiers after being "read" in Casablanca; and the first time she is approved for surgery, she changes her mind on the verge of signing the consent form!

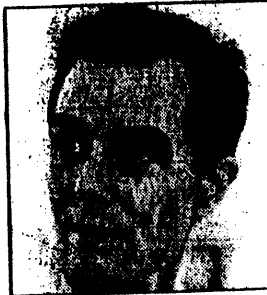
This movie did help portray to viewers a real person who happened to be a transsexual. Noting said it better than the scene in which Renee, now female, becomes "dad" again while speaking on the phone to her son, to the bewilderment of the men around her. We see what a truly great actress Redgrave is when we see Richards being masculinely-unaccustomed to women's clothes. I especially liked the warmth and friendship shown Renee by the TV/TS support group she attended, and hope this encouraged other crossers to seek a peer group. (My friend got a real kick out of the commercials for paste-on fake fingernails, no doubt aimed at all the male-to-

(cont'd.)

Two Faces Made-for-TV: Renee Richards

"Second Serve," a made-for-TV movie about Renee Richards, will be broadcast by CBS-TV on May 13. Richards was an ophthalmologist and tennis star who became a woman.

The role will be played by Vanessa Redgrave, pictured here in both genders.



SECOND SERVE (cont'd.)

females in the viewing audience). But the movie never explained how Richards changed her physician credentials and only briefly touched on her battle to play tennis in women's tournaments.

What we did see was a brilliant performance by a sensational actress who makes a more convincing man than she does a woman. I still say "this ain't the first time Redgrave has crossed!

* * * * *

THE MYSTERY OF ALEXINA: Based on a true story of a hermaphrodite. A film by Rene Feret, starring Vuillemin and Valerie Shroh. In French, English subtitles.

Reviewed by Lou Sullivan

This film is based on the book Herculine Barbin: Being the Recently Discovered Memoirs of a 19th Century French Hermaphrodite (New York: Pantheon Books, 1980). How could a film-maker possibly do justice to such a publication? Not easy, and though The Mystery of Alexina falls short of its mark, it is still a worthwhile film to see.

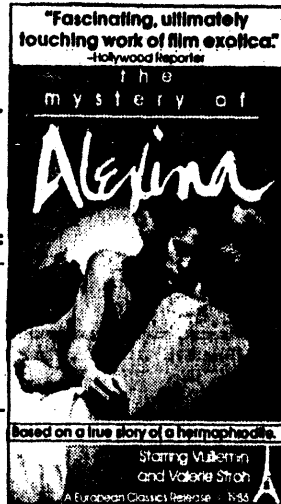
It begins as Alexina goes off into the world on her own to begin a job as a teacher in a girls' school. When she falls for Sara, another teacher, Alexina must face what had been avoided her whole life - the fact that she was a true hermaphrodite. Alexina foolishly turns to the priests and bishop, who instruct her to change her birth certificate to 'male' and begin living as a man. "I", Alexina wrote, "who had been raised until the age of 22 in religious houses, among shy female companions

was going to leave that whole delightful past far behind me, like Achilles, and enter the lists, armed with my weakness alone and my deep inexperience of men and things."

This could have made for a fantastic film, but Feret tampered with the facts and offered instead a sensationalistic, shallow story. The film would have us believe Alexina was rejected by Sara and that Sara's mother swatted Alexina repeatedly when she returned as Abel. The book tells us it was Abel who ran away from them. Sara's mother had begged her to stay, but Alexina wrote, "I cannot doubt that, if if I had known how to manage the situation, my future would have been different. Today, perhaps, I would be her son-in-law." The film also conveyed that Abel committed suicide after hearing that Sara had wed another, but in fact, Abel's suicide was many, many years later.

The book reveals Alexina had a "completely feminine urethra, a vaginal opening about 2" deep, an enlarged imperforate clitoris," but in the film we never learn the details of Alexina's physical state...we are led to believe she is a male transvestite. The omission of this important information is inexcusable. This could have been a very sexy film, but this still photo used in the movie's ad was the most revealing frame in the film.

I enjoyed Vuillemin, a French cartoonist chosen for his androgynous appearance, in the lead role as Alexina/Abel. On first glance at Alexina, I wondered why they chose a woman to play the part, and couldn't wait to get a look at her chest to find out for sure. His voice was also perfectly ambiguous. (cont'd.)



THE MYSTERY OF ALEXINA (cont'd.)

The San Francisco newspaper calls this "an off-beat film with an interesting performance by Vuillemin, who plays Alexina managing to look profoundly confused for an entire 90 minutes." Be sure to read the book even if the film comes your way.

BOOK REVIEW: HIGH HEARTS, by Rita Mae Brown (New York: Bantam Books, Inc., 1986)

Reviewed by Lou Sullivan

I discovered HIGH HEARTS - hot off the press and supposedly about a woman who fights the Civil War as a man - but it left mine low. I had to force myself to finish it.

This book is clearly more about the lives and concerns of the slaves on the plantations than of our heroine, Geneva. Chapters go by in which she isn't even mentioned. When she is, Geneva (referred throughout by her female name and pronouns) is portrayed as a disgusting character, surrounded by graphic descriptions of the carnage and suffering of the battlefield, with repeated declarations that she is a "born soldier" and loves war.

Geneva joins, we are told, to be with her new husband, with whom she constantly conflicts. We haven't an inkling why these two like each other, much less love one another. Brown portrays Geneva as so more stereotypically macho than he (she's even 2"

taller!) and makes him such a wimp that it's beyond belief, making this story trite and simplistic, eg., "The one thing Geneva liked about hard fighting was that she didn't have to do the dishes."

No one suspects Geneva, and everyone, including her entire wealthy traditional Southern family, has no problem accepting her as a man. No one even tries to talk her out of it. I began to feel that this woman-passing-as-a-male was just a ploy of Ms. Brown's to hype her novel. Certainly she wasn't interested in making that a central or understandable part of her story.

How is Geneva found out? While bathing nude in a creek, she rescues her colonel from drowning:

"'Jimmy,' he whispered in shock, 'you lost your cock.'
'You're delirious.' Too late, she realized she was naked."
'This man is in the arms of a nude woman and his reaction is "you lost your cock"? And she did not realize she was naked? Come on!

I may try to re-sell this \$17.95 dud at a second-hand bookstore. In sharp contrast, I've recently purchased (for \$100) one of the original 250 copies of The Female Review, published in 1866 - the autobiography of Deborah Sampson, who really did pass as a soldier in the Revolutionary War. This is a priceless classic, next to Brown's throw-away dime novel - not even worth buying in paperback.

(Next issue: FREEMARTIN, a F-M murder mystery reviewed by Rupert Raj).

A southern woman is always a lady.

Except when she has to be a man.

Geneva Chestfield becomes Jimmy Chestfield so she can join the Confederate Army and track up her soldier husband—in this Rita Mae Brown's debaucherous, witty funny new novel of true love and mistaken identity. Inevitably, Geneva/Jimmy's situation leads to all the outrageous complications you'd expect from the author of *Runaway Jungles*, *Badass Death* and *Banders Democritus*—and to a lot more you can't even begin to imagine.

#11 One With the Wind had been written from the point of view of soldiers in the miles of back. It might have read something like this... Brown's style is energetic, her message humane and her characters unconventional and lively.—Publishers Weekly

#Brown's female characters, always her strength. Don't let us down here: they grab their milieus and shake it all things fall out as they please.—Arkun Reviews

RITA MAE BROWN

HIGH HEARTS

BANTAM

PERSONAL PROFILE: WHERE ANGELS TREAD (The Story of "Sonny")

For as long as I can remember, I've always felt like a boy instead of the girl I was told that I was. I was an army brat. My entire life has been full of pain and turmoil as only the transsexual can possibly understand.

Because of my father's army career, we moved around alot. When I was very young, he was stationed in Germany. The only children I had to play with were boys. That was fine with me. I thought I was a boy. It was just accepted...always had been. I was the happiest then that I was ever to be! We played war games and the like. As an only child, when the weather didn't permit us to play outside, I'd lock myself in my room and drape sheets over furniture, making tents and playing Tarzan or the big game hunter.

As I grew older, the boys' games we played became rougher. We played ball alot. Suddenly, mom began to caution me about always playing with boys. She wanted me to find little girls to play with. After all, she said, I was a little girl, not a little boy, and I had a heart condition.

"But I don't want to play with girls!" I protested. "And I am not a girl!"

That's the first realization I had that things were not as I thought they were. Mom argued with me for a long time, explaining the difference between me and my friends.

"I'm not a girl! I'm not!" I cried.

Gradually, however, she convinced me. I went around for years afterwards trying to kiss my elbow, because I'd heard that if you do this you'll change sex. It did not, however, slow me down where my friends were concerned. I was just

as mean as any of them! After all, couldn't I lick them all? That must prove something.

Shortly after that, we moved. There were more girls to pal around with but I always sought after the little boys in the neighbourhood. I felt like one of them.

As I grew older, I became a loner. It was easier to stay in my room and play my secret games, and avoid the hassles with my parents. I became an avid reader. As an only child, the loneliness I felt was overwhelming.

Mother and daddy weren't getting along well. They argued all the time. Mother spent a lot of time weeping. I hated to see her like that. I hated him for making her cry so much.

He bought a restaurant. He was to do the cooking and she'd wait tables and act as cashier. I'd go there after school and stay out of sight until closing time.

One night when the restaurant was empty, a particularly nasty argument erupted between them. He locked the doors; I hid in the kitchen, afraid. I'd always been afraid of him. He was big and powerful. loud and abusive. I was tiny and no match for his strength. Now, he was yelling and cursing. I peeked out as mother ran toward the door. She treid desperately to get out - to run - but it was locked. She was crying hysterically. He ran after her, grabbed her, hit her and threw her against the wall. Then he quietly unlocked the door and walked out.

It was weeks before he came back - weeks that my mother cried day and night. I hated myself for being afraid of him. I wanted to protect my mom from him but I was small - small and afraid. I made up my mind that when I grew up, I

(cont'd.)

WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

would take care of my mom. We wouldn't need him anymore and I wouldn't be a coward anymore.

I overheard my mother and her brother talking about my dad. It seems when he left the restaurant that night, he ran off with another girl - a minor who he took across the state line. Mom was talking about divorce. My hopes soared! We packed the car to move. Everything was set. Then suddenly, there he was! And there he stayed! I still don't know how he got out of the legal charges.

In elementary school I developed a crush on one of my teachers, Miss Browden. I was appalled. Something wasn't right with me! I knew, even at that age, that a girl is not supposed to fall for someone of the same sex! What was wrong with me? I hid these feelings and no one ever knew - but me.

In high school the same thing happened, only this time it was with a fellow student.

I'd learned to cover my tracks, to trust no one, so of course, no one knew of my true feelings for Patricia. I'd tried to talk to mom one day. I asked her to send me to a psychiatrist. I told her I felt I needed help. She laughed at me! Laughed! She said I didn't need a psychiatrist and continued to laugh. She never even asked what my problem was or why I thought I needed

a psychiatrist. I tried other times to tell her something was going on with me, but I could never come out with it. Besides, I knew my parents didn't believe in psychiatrists, so I continued to bury my feelings. I thought I must be gay.

My father, by this time, had declared bankruptcy and later opened a photography studio. I used to bring my girl friends home after school some days on the pretense of studying.

One day, after school, I got home just in time to see daddy ride away with two men who I later learned were FBI agents. I went into the house and found mother still stunned. She told me that daddy had been arrested. It seems he'd been taking nude pictures of women and then blackmailing them. One lady wasn't scared easily. She called the FBI. A stakeout had been placed on the post office box dad had rented. When he went there to receive his reply, he was nailed by FBI agents. He was allowed to come home to explain to his wife and daughter. The FBI men sat outside in the car. When he failed to come out after awhile, they went in. (He still hadn't told mom). They explained as he attempted to offer them a drink. He told me later that he'd planned to poison them. They refused, however, and took him into custody.

After they left, the house was strangely quiet and dark. I walked into his studio behind the house. I searched the place upside down. I found stacks of photographs of my girl friends from school - girls I'd brought home for overnight or weekend visits, girls I'd felt guilt over because they aroused feelings in me that I wanted to keep hidden. Now here they were, in nude photos, posing seductively, Patricia among them. My stomach turned. I went into the half-bath off his studio and vomitted. I splashed water on my face. When I

(cont'd.)

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WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

felt I could move again without throwing up, I walked back into the studio, picked up every photo I could find and burned them all in the bathroom sink. It was important to spare my mother this.

Daddy was sent to the federal penitentiary in Atlanta. Mom went to see him on visiting days. I refused to see him. I tried to get mom to divorce him. I was old enough now. I could get a job. We could make it on our own. I could take care of her now. She refused, however. She would wait for daddy. I couldn't understand it.

He sent messages for me to come to see him. I refused. After high school, I went to college for two years, then dropped out and went into nurse's training.

When daddy got out of jail, I moved to Atlanta myself. I was determined to find out who or what I was. Believing myself to be gay, I entered into life in the gay community. At first, it was better because I could be myself and yet find a certain amount of acceptance.

Soon, however, I found that I also didn't fit into this lifestyle. I began to notice other couples around me - gay couples. Sure, they had partners of the same sex, but usually they were happy being who they were. They didn't want to change their identity. I, on the other hand, hated my body. It betrayed me. I even slept in my jeans at night because to undress called attention to my body. I wanted desperately to be male. When I was undressed there was no way around the fact that I was biologically female. If I didn't fit into the straight world and I didn't fit the gay world either, then what was I? I began to search the libraries, the newspapers. That's when I figured out what I was. I read a book by Dr. Harry Benjamin. It was a real eye-opener! I watched a Phil Donahue

program on television in which a female-to-male transsexual was interviewed. At last I'd found where I fit in! Only, what to do now? The surgery to me was a minor fortune. And could I find a doctor who would operate with my heart condition?

My parents sold their home in Columbus and moved to Atlanta. I became ill and moved back home with them.

One night, when I was working the late shift at the hospital, my father entered my room and found a letter I'd written to a friend - the only friend I'd trusted to enough to confide in. I'd poured my heart out in that letter. My parents were waiting up for me when I got in.

Dad was in a rage! Yelling and cursing, shaking his fist at me. Mom stood in the background, crying softly. I was beginning to hate her crying! I was given an ultimatum: I was to start wearing dresses and act like a girl, and have a date with a man by the end of the week, or they were going to disown me. I was to be out of their house by noon the next day if I couldn't be "agreeable". I couldn't take my car. If I did, my father would report it stolen.

"That's not fair!" I shouted. "I paid \$200 down on that car and I've made every payment myself for a year! It's my car!"

"Well, don't forget who co-signed for it!" he yelled back. "If you think I can't have it recalled, try me!"

I ran from the room. God, how I hated him!

I called my only friend. The next day, she helped me move into an apartment. I wasn't going to let my parents run my life anymore. I, of course, left the car.

The next month, about a week before my car payment was due, I

(cont'd.)

WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

called my mother. I thought maybe they'd had a chance to cool down, and perhaps we could work out something on the car. Only, to my horror, I was told that my father had already sold it.

"How could he sell my car?" I screamed at my mother over the telephone. "The payment wasn't even due yet!"

Nevertheless, the car was gone. I took the last of my savings and bought a used car to get around in.

Later that month, mom called to tell me I had some mail there. It looked important she said. She told me it would be okay to come out and get it. I asked about dad. She said not to worry because they were having a dinner party that night and he was in good spirits. What she didn't know was that he'd been drinking all day. When I arrived that afternoon, I stood in the living room while mom went to get my mail. My father was there. He made small talk just as if nothing had ever happened. Then suddenly, he turned and went upstairs without explanation. He was gone a long time. Mother continued to talk to me in the living room. Suddenly, he came back into the room carrying a loaded .38.

"No daughter of mine will ever live to be a queer!" he exclaimed.

Mom jumped up from the sofa, "Oh my God, no! Oh, please NO!"

Gender Serve

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she screamed. She jumped between my father and me. "Run, Sharon, run!"

I ran into the hall but he'd locked the door. I was so scared that I couldn't get the door unlocked! I ran toward the back door but daddy just smiled and lowered the gun, aiming at me.

"That door's locked too," he said. "They're all locked and even if you could get outside, you aren't going anywhere. It's just you and me now."

Mom screamed again, grabbing his hand with the gun in it, struggling with him.

"Hurry, Sharon - run!"

I finally managed to get the door open and ran for my car. It was still sitting in the driveway but with four flat tires!

I ran down the street to a neighbour's house. They knew me but must have thought I'd gone mad! I used their phone and first called the police, then my friend - who took a taxi to come pick me up. She arrived about the same time the police did. Daddy, of course, denied everything. Mom backed him up by saying he never even owned a gun! As for the flat tires, he had no explanation for that. He implied I was a mental case and possibly had flattened the tires myself to make it look bad for him. After all, why should anyone doubt him? Wasn't he an upstanding member of the community? It was obvious that the police didn't believe me. They didn't find the gun but they made sure that my friend and I were safely in a taxi before they left. They also told us to call them again tomorrow and they would accompany us back to change the tires and move my car out of my parents' driveway.

After that, I became bitter and depressed. I was full of bottled up anger with nowhere to direct it. My father had harassed me on my job, had even gone to the hospital

(cont'd.)

WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

administration and had me fired. I had no family, no friends - nothing. I became so grumpy no one wanted to be around me. I blasphemed God. I thought of suicide. I tried it a couple of times but I couldn't even succeed at that. I felt that God didn't want me and neither did the devil! I became involved with a woman, and for years lived on her salary and did nothing to earn my own keep. I treated her like dirt. Nothing mattered anymore - nothing!

When I learned it was possible to have female-to-male sex-reassignment surgery, I snapped out of my shell for a little while.

Years passed before I was finally able to find a surgeon who would operate on me with my heart condition. I'd been told that I could die on the table during surgery - that my chances of waking up afterwards weren't good. I was willing to take my chances. I felt that if the surgery was successful and I survived, I could live the rest of my life as a man. If it failed and I didn't survive, at least I would die as a man. At least I would die trying!

I finally convinced a surgeon that I would take the responsibility. The decision should be mine! He agreed to operate.

I borrowed money from a friend to help with the expenses and started making arrangements to enter the hospital. The surgery was scheduled for the next morning.

Two friends went with me to the hospital on Wednesday, and one stayed with me overnight. I slept very little that night. The next morning a nurse came in and took my ring and watch. She gave me a pill, saying that it would make me sleepy and my mouth dry. I was cautioned not to drink water. She told us a stretcher would be coming for me...

Two hours passed and nobody came for me. I began to feel uneasy. Suddenly, the phone rang in my room and a voice at the other end announced that the surgery had been cancelled. Cancelled! I was told a doctor would be in to talk with me.

The anesthesiologist came into my room a few minutes later. He said that no one had consulted him about the surgery. He had my X-rays and the results of my last cardiac cath in his hands. He said that after seeing the test results, he wasn't willing to put me to sleep. He showed me the cath results which had been made the week before. He was very agitated and excited as he spoke.

"But the surgeon said he would do it!" I protested. "He's willing to take the chance and so am I! It's my decision!"

"No, it's not your decision! And I don't care who agrees to it," he was yelling. "I'm the one who would have to put you to sleep, and in all probability, you would never wake up! I'm not going to have that on my conscience."

With that he turned and left the room. I was stunned! The surgeon and the hospital gave my money back and we left. I just couldn't believe all this had happened!

I was more despondent than ever. I was doomed to a life of the damned - a life that only the TS who knows he will never have the surgery that will make him a whole person can ever know.

A year has passed... My cardiologist told me over two years ago that I'd maybe two years to live. I've out-lived that prediction but I know the end is rapidly arriving. I find it hard now to walk from the bedroom to the bathroom without my breathing echoing throughout the house. I live in constant pain. My feet and legs swell to four or five times their regular size. Breathing

(cont'd.)

WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

has become so laboured, so hard! By the time you read this, I will already be dead.

But there's something important I've learned. I would like to share this with you: No, my folks haven't come around. I'm still an outcast with my family. I've attempted to set all of my funeral arrangements in order and have made out a will for the pitiful possessions that I leave. I feel I can't do anymore. I just want to rest now.

This last year of my life I've come to realize, with the help of my friend, that there's still hope for me. But my hope is not of this world. I used to think I was such a horrible person because of the life I've led. But my friend says God forgives all.

"But I blasphemed God and that is a mortal sin - a sin that can't be forgiven," I said.

To which my friend replied, "Paul, in the Bible, prosecuted the Jews. He killed God's own people. Yet God forgave him - even made him a great missionary, sent to save the Gentiles (people like you and me). Until that time, the Gentiles weren't saved. Nothing you've done is equal to murder! Then too, Moses murdered a man but look what a great prophet he became!"

I had tears in my eyes: "Do you really think He could forgive me?"



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She took my hand, "I know He will if you'll just let Him. There is nothing He won't forgive!"

We sat for hours talking like that. I would ask if she thought, if I did get to Heaven, if I would have a new body.

"I'm sure of it," she replied, "a new body - a perfect body - tall and erect, whole, no heart condition, no more being trapped in a body you despise!"

Gradually, I came to believe her. I began to feel that I did have some self-worth. The day came when I was able to tell her: "I'm ready to go now. I know it will be alright, and I want you to know that."

Since that time, I've been at peace with myself. I look back on my life - my wasted life - and I see so much I could've done and didn't. I'm only 33 years old and I'm ready to die. I've accomplished nothing in this life, but thanks to my friend, I'm ready to face the next!

(INSIGHT, Vol. 2, Issues 2 & 3, February & March 1986; published by the Montgomery Foundation, Gender Dysphonic Association; reprinted here by permission of the editors)

(Editors' Note: This story was written as told to us by "Sonny". He died Dec. 7, 1980. He had intended to write an autobiography but did not have time to finish it. Sonny was the bravest person I've ever known, to live with death the way he did on a daily basis. I told him this many times. When he died, his parents stepped in and claimed the body. All of the burial arrangements he'd made were nullified. We learned that, although a person's will stands, their body becomes the property of the family, according to the law. As a result, Sonny was buried in the family cemetery as a girl (even though he'd been cross-living for nine years). He was buried under his original name,

(cont'd.)

WHERE ANGELS TREAD (cont'd.)

although he'd changed his name legally years ago and had bought his own marker in the name he wished to be buried under. His casket was changed and the music he'd picked out to be played at his funeral wasn't allowed. We tried to fight this in court but the law is definite. The body becomes the property of the family and it can do whatever it wants on private property. There was nothing we could do... But, if we fight to change the law through legislation, then maybe his life will have had some meaning. Perhaps, because of him, we might be able to make it easier for others who will undoubtedly encounter the same problems... If you feel the same, please write to us in care of "INSIGHT".

Post Office Box 184
San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184
(714) 496-J2CP (714) 496-5227

J2CP Information Services

J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the Erickson Educational Foundation and JANUS Information Facility. J2CP Information Services is a separate entity and is not affiliated with either of its predecessors.

J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets and literature concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, transsexualism and transvestism. This information package is available at a cost of \$25.00 to cover research, printing, postage and secretarial services. Additionally, J2CP Information Services will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, or gender programs, and peer groups near your home.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to J2CP Information Services. Please specify whether you are male-to-female, female-to-male, or transvestite when writing. If transsexual, please provide your place of birth.

HEALTH INSURANCE AND THE TS (About The Author) (cont'd. from p.12)

A graduate of the University of the State of New York, Joanna is currently Director of Administrative Services for the Gender Dysphoria Program of Orange County, Co-director of J2CP Information Services, and a member of Community of Religious in Service to America (CORISTA).

* * *

Transsexualism In The Newspaper

MMRF Executive Director Rupert Raj, GenderServe Director Susan C. Huxford, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry Gender Identity Clinic staff: Dr. Betty W. Steiner, Dr. Ray Blanchard and Mr. Len Clemmensen were interviewed by reporter Ian Browne for a full-page feature-story in the Focus section of the Sat., Nov. 15th edition of the Globe and Mail.

* * *

IFGE's First Int'l Convention

The International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE)'s Director Merissa Sherill Lynn cordially invites you to its first international convention "COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER" on Mar. 4-9, 1987, at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel in Chicago, Illinois.

The purpose is to effectively serve the transvestite/transsexual community, and also, to provide an educational resource to persons interested in issues related to gender expression and identity. The objectives are to promote self-validation and self-respect, to develop a sense of togetherness and working together to benefit all, and to provide an in-depth educational opportunity for all.

Please contact: "COMING TOGETHER", IFGE, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, Mass. 01778 (617-358-2305) for registration information. (MMRF Exec. Dir. Rupert Raj, a member of IFGE's Steering Committee, plans to attend).

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