

Gender Review

COMPLIMENTARY

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SOME DEVELOPMENTS IN PHALLOPLASTY

Phalloplasty is the surgical art of constructing or re-constructing the male phallus. Early efforts on the part of surgeons were directed to the repairing of damaged or amputated penises as the result of wounds received in warfare or in accidents.

The loss of one's phallus — one's male organs — is a shattering blow to the genetic male and leads to serious psychological complications. To most men, the loss of the sex organs is identical to the loss of manhood. That is why so many genetic males take a very dim view of the M-to-F transsexual. The "Father of Modern Psychology", Sigmund Freud, suggested that genetic females have a sense of inferiority because they lack a phallus and gave the name penis envy to this state. Today's feminist would say that Freud was a male chauvinist to suggest such a thing. The fact is that there can be no procreation — no continuation of the human race — without both male and female sex organs, in spite of artificial insemination and test-tube babies.

It must be admitted that the F-to-M transsexual has a colossal penis envy, just as the M-to-F has something Freud never thought of — a vagina envy. The problem is that it is far more difficult to add to the human body than it is to take away. The problem is multiplied when the addition involves something that was never there before.

In the unborn foetus the gonads (sex organs) start off in the position of the female ovaries. As a male child develops, these gonads move down to occupy a sac, or scrotum, between the legs. This scrotum is formed by the fusion (join-

ing) of two flaps situated on either side of the duct, or tube, through which the gonads have descended. These are the testicles, and the join between the two flaps is clearly visible on the male scrotal sac. The gonads do not descend in the female. Instead a duct develops into an uterus and a vagina. The flaps are still there, but they do not fuse together; instead they form the labia on either side of the vagina.

It can now be seen that the construction of a scrotal sac in the F-to-M transsexual is a comparatively straightforward procedure; if the labia can be joined, the sac is formed. However, there are no gonads (testicles) to fill the sac and no way of getting them. The gonads that the F-to-M had (the ovaries) have been removed by an operation known as oophorectomy, which is part of a complete hysterectomy. Even if the F-to-M had them, they would be useless in the scrotum; their function was changed from

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SPECIAL F-to-M ISSUE

RECEIVED AUG 1 9 1985

SOME DEVELOPMENTS IN PHALLOPLASTY (cont.)

that of testicles months before the child was born.

A scrotal sac can be formed; the construction of testicles appears to be out of the question. Even with the insertion of artificial "balls", the phallus is still incomplete. A penis is needed. How can this be made when there is nothing there? Not only that, the urethra (the channel through which one urinates) is considerably longer in the male than in the female. How can it be lengthened?

Dr. John G. Kenney, representing a team from the gender identity programme of the University of Virginia at Charlottesville, VA, spoke of techniques used to reconstruct male genitalia in over 30 patients in a paper presented at the 8th. International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria held in Bordeaux, France in September 1983. The method has been applied to F-to-M transsexuals with some success. The standard method of preparing an abdominal flap is used to construct the penis, but the first stage is carried out at the same time as the hysterectomy and oophorectomy are performed. The urethra is constructed in a novel manner. The bladder is inflated (it must, of course, be emptied first) and a tongue some 28 cm. (11 inches) is cut from top to bottom, leaving the bottom end still attached. This flap is opened out in the form of a strip which is folded lengthwise around a catheter (a thin tube) and sutured (stitched), thus forming a narrow tube, still attached to the bladder. The two sides of the bladder are then pulled together and re-sewn along the line from which the flap, or tongue, was cut. The repaired bladder is somewhat smaller than before. After a six weeks period, the newly constructed urethral tube is inserted in the new penile flap and the neo-penis is completed. I noted at the time, since the presentation was illustrated by slides, that the end product looks rather like a sausage. This is, unfortunately, the case with many examples of phalloplasty. Dr. Kenney claims that the neo-penis can be used for both urination and intercourse and claims that his patients have been satisfied with the result.

A second presentation was made by Dr. C.L. Puckett of the University of Missouri Health Sciences Center. Unlike Dr. Kenney's patients, Dr. Puckett's considered intercourse more desirable than urination; his neo-penis cannot be used for voiding. Erection in the male penis is caused by a flow of blood into the corpus spongiosum. This tissue cannot be created surgically, so artificial means must at present be employed to obtain erection. The Missouri team favours the hydraulic inflatable penile implant (HIPI) and claims that patient satisfaction has been excellent. This writer finds this hard to believe in view of the statistics presented. Sixteen patients had had phalloplasty at the Center over a period of six years, and every patient had had at least one complication. Sixteen of twenty complications were the fault of the HIPI: there had been seven cylinder ruptures, four pump malfunctions, two were found to bend on erection and three of the implants moved. Furthermore, the tissue around the pump encapsulates (hardens) after some time, and makes its operation difficult. Nevertheless, because of cosmetic surgery to produce a glans, the aesthetic appearance of this neo-penis is good and, because the clitoris is positioned at the base of the penile shaft, all patients claim orgasm.

A third procedure is being developed jointly by Dr. Donald R. Laub (Stanford University Clinic, Palo Alto, CA) and Dr. David A. Gilbert, who works with Dr. C.E. Horton (Norfolk, Virginia). The greatest disadvantage with current phalloplasty is that the neo-penis has no sensation, no feeling. This is because it contains no nerves. As a result, some neo-penises can suffer necrosis (die) and fall off without the owner sensing that such a calamity is taking place. The problem is to find another part of the body from which to obtain donor nerves without seriously disturbing sensation in that area. Dr. Laub has been working on the aesthetic appearance of the penis and upon providing a conduit such that urination can be safely accomplished without infection. He has experimented with the use of a vein from the forearm

(Continued opposite)

SOME DEVELOPMENTS IN PHALLOPLASTY (conc.) to provide the urethra, and a nerve from the same place to provide sensation. This seemed to have met with some success, but the scar on the inside of the lower arm was not a pleasant sight. Dr. Gilbert presented a one-stage microsurgical procedure in which flaps from the inside of the legs were used, together with five deep pudendal nerves. At the time of the symposium there had been seven cases, of which only two had been transsexuals. There had been a high rate of complications and one case had been a failure. Once again, there was serious scarring at the donor sites and my reaction was that this procedure is still very experimental.

I met Dr. Gilbert once more in New York this past January. He confirmed that the slides shown in Bordeaux had been made soon after the surgery. As time had passed, the scars had become less obvious. Furthermore, nerve tissue taken from the inside of the upper arm seems to be producing a more satisfactory result.

The F-to-M transsexual is warned of the high cost of this type of surgery. He is accordingly advised to balance very carefully the cost against the chances of a satisfying outcome.

— Susan C. Huxford.

* * * * *

A VERY GRIMM TALE

by E. Sopp

(This year marks the bicentenary of the birth of the elder brother Grimm)

Once upon a time, a very long time ago, there was a little log hut hidden deep in the heart of a forest. People very seldom passed that way and those who did seldom looked in at the window. It seemed to have few inhabitants and was of interest only to a few adventurous men who ventured sporadically into the woods.

As time went by, men changed their way of living. A new mechanical, industrial and scientific age was born. The towns became cities, the cities spread into the forest and eventually surrounded the hut with its small window. The hut-dwellers had multiplied and needed a bigger house which, in turn, required more windows. The inhabitants of the surrounding city found that they now had more windows through which they could observe the tenants. At the same time, the inhabitants of the house, looking out of the windows, became envious of the life that seemed to be enjoyed by the people living on the outside. They wanted to come out into the open, but when they did so, they found that the city-dwellers did not want them. They were different.

Certain wise men from a temple in the

city, that was dedicated to the Goddess of Learning, brought their telescopes, their stethoscopes and their microscopes and proceeded to sound out the house and its inhabitants. If one of these ventured out of the house he was promptly escorted to a house of inquisition known as a clinic, popped into a specimen bottle, labelled, dissected and put under a microscope.

The wise men scratched their bald pates (for which reason some of the less respectful citizens called them eggheads) and wondered what name they could give to this house. In 1949 a learned man named Cauldwell, who was steeped in an old world tradition of Dog Latin, suggested calling it "Psychopathia Transsexualis". The other citizens thought that this was a bit of a mouthful, and shortened it to "Transsexualism". The people who lived in the house did not like this at all.

By this time, the little forest hut had grown out of all proportion and was becoming a veritable mansion. Like England during the nineteenth century, the citizens of Erewhyve (pronounced 'Ere-we-leeve) levied a window tax. (Geographical note: Erewhyve's twin

(Continued overleaf)

A VERY GRIMM TALE (continued)

city, Erewhon, lies just across the river Styx. The citizens of Erewhyre have a problem pronouncing the letter 'r'). Many of the tenants in Transsexualism could not afford to pay the tax; others preferred to live in the darkness. They dared to venture out only at night in the hope that they might share a bed with some warm, needy person — blankets were in short supply in their house and many of them had to sleep on the floor. Besides, they could always hope to gain enough money for to-morrow's breakfast, even if they did eat it in the afternoon.

At length the situation became unbearable. People inside the house wanted to get out. Certain people on the outside, who liked to be seen in shiny white armour (it was really quite rusty on the inside) did not like that. They talked to the city fathers who were dazzled by the shiny white armour (being a little old and rusty themselves, they did not realize that some joints needed oil). The city fathers spoke to their own knights in blue (they were all officers), who promptly apprehended the more adventurous "transsexuals" (the name by which the inhabitants of the house were now known) and took them to an unheated house (hence called "The Cooler"), known locally as the "Don". This name derived from the worshippers at the temple of Learning who recalled that, in their student days, they had

been disciplined by "dons".

The citizens of Erewhyre now became alarmed. The Don was overcrowded and the building of more coolers would raise their taxes. The tenants at Transsexualism had paid no window tax and the wise men had become so numerous that they could not all look through the few small windows. There was only one thing for it: they must knock a few holes in the wall from outside and enlarge some of the existing windows. So that they can direct others to what they consider to be the right window, they have given their windows names: psychology, biology, sociology and a host of others.

One of the largest windows is named psychoanalysis, and at the top of a ladder looking through this window into the house of transsexualism is a man named Leslie Martin Lothstein. Through the window, which needs cleaning and is seldom open, he is looking into a room which is occupied by some unusual people. They are undoubtedly human, although the wearers of the creaky white armour do not treat them as such, but, while supposedly girls, they are behaving like boys. While looking through his sometimes cloudy window of psychoanalysis, Dr. Lothstein has written about these people in his book Female-to-Male Transsexualism: Historical, Clinical and Theoretical Issues.

* * * * *

COMING EVENTS

AUGUST

- 9 FACT Toronto Party
- 17 5th. Annual Steak or Clam Bake (Tiffany Club)
- 20 GGA Windy City Chapter Meeting (Chicago). This group is also planning a picnic at Lincoln Park. For details, phone (312) 472-4518.
- 23 FACT Hamilton Meeting.
- 31 Tiffany Club General Meeting.

SEPTEMBER

- 6 Lesbian and Gay Friends of Concordia, Montreal: Monthly Coffee House.
- 13 FACT Toronto Meeting
- 13 Wives Support Group (Tiffany Club)

SEPTEMBER (continued)

- 13-15 9th. International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria, Minneapolis.
- 20 INITIAL MEETING OF FACT LONDON (see FACTual News)
- 21 FACT Ottawa Meeting
- 21 Fall Open House (Tiffany Club)
- 27 FACT Hamilton Monthly Meeting.

OCTOBER

- 4- 6 Tiffany Club Wives Support Group's 2nd. Annual Fall Outing, Provincetown, Massachusetts.
- 11 FACT Toronto Monthly Meeting.
- 18 FACT London Monthly Meeting.
- 18-27 11th. Annual FANTASIA FAIR (For details, apply Head Office)

FACTual News

A GENDER REVIEW Supplement

Summer, 1985

IS THIS WHAT YOU WANT?

Although we make it clear to the gay community that there is a distinct difference between gender identity and sexual orientation, it is FACT policy to co-operate with the gay community in all matters where we have common cause.

FACT appreciates the notices that have been received at Head Office and by the Chapter of FACT Toronto regarding GAY PRIDE DAY. Information concerning this and associated activities have been received from Toronto, Montreal and Edmonton. We hope that Gay Pride Day throughout Canada and the United States has served further to draw to the attention of the public the gross discrimination that is practised against gays and other sexual minority groups in a so-called "free" society. Transsexuals, gays and lesbians alike know that they are held prisoner in that "free" society.

FACT does not participate in the activities of Gay Pride Day because such an association would only serve

to reinforce society's conviction that all transsexuals are, ipso facto, homosexuals, when they are not.

In spite of this long-established policy, it has come to the notice of Head Office that a placard or banner bearing the initials FACT was carried in Toronto's Gay Pride Day Parade. This banner, so it is reported by a member of the gay community, was carried by a large person who presented a caricature of M-to-F transsexualism. When enquiries were made of the Secretary, Chapter of FACT Toronto, it appeared that such a display had not been sanctioned by the Executive Committee of the Chapter. Is someone attempting to pour ridicule on transsexualism? Do we have a saboteur in our own ranks?

Our readers may express their opinions to FACT Toronto, c/o 519 Church Street Community Centre, 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 2C9 or to the Editor, Gender Review.

FACT WELCOMES A NEW AFFILIATION

It is with very real pleasure that FACT welcomes an affiliation with the Alberta TV and TS Contact Club. The following is an extract from their introductory letter:

"The club is primarily for transvestites, transsexuals, and their admirers...."

"We work personally with each member, depending on the individual's needs. We are a social group and information source for transvestites and transsexuals as well as a one-to-one contact club. We offer help in the form of make-up advice as well as where to shop without hassle or embarrassment. We also provide and recommend social areas where our lifestyle is accepted. We have monthly parties in a private home where members can meet

and become friends. We also have a newsletter which carries members' coded classified ads.

"All information about members is completely private and confidential. We are registered as an Alberta Society and are listed with Calgary's community services.

"There is a membership fee of \$35.00 that is payable only after a prospective member has been interviewed and found acceptable to the club.

The Alberta TV and TS Contact Club may be reached at P.O. Box 4667, Station 'C', Calgary, Alberta, T2T 5P1. The telephone number may be obtained by bona fide enquirers from FACT Head Office.

Members of FACT in the Calgary area are encouraged to contact this Society.

HERE AND THERE....

with the Executive Director

This report covers the three months of April, May and June 1985.

HEAD OFFICE

The flow of correspondence into Head Office continues to exceed the figure for 1984. This second quarter shows an increase of 17%. In addition, the Executive Director has found it necessary to issue a further Directive (No. 5) and also to draft a formal contract governing the collection of membership dues by Chapters. She has also made three presentations at the university level, all of which have required individual preparation. The office load has been so considerable that Miss Huxford found it necessary to delay her own summer vacation by nearly three weeks and, even then, was unable to prepare this issue for publication in late June, as intended. She managed to get away for twelve days and then returned to Hamilton for a meeting of the Hamilton Haven and in order to work on this issue. The office was closed from July 11-25 inclusive.

In view of developments since Head Office re-opened, it is intended to remain open until Friday, August 23. The office will close at 5 p.m. on 23rd. and will remain closed until Monday, September 23.

This means that all material for the Fall Issue of Gender Review must be mailed so as to reach the Hamilton P.O. box by September 21. The Fall issue will be published during the first ten days of October

Our readers should not think that Miss Huxford is about to take off for another month's holiday. While her summer retreat is on Manitoulin Island, she will have to drive to London, Ontario, for a public relations meeting at the University of Western Ontario on September 11. From there she plans to drive to Minneapolis for the 9th. International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria, which is being held September 13-15. She will return via Sault Ste. Marie for a short stop-over on the Manitoulin before driving

to London for the inaugural meeting of the Haven of FACT London on Friday, September 20.

It also means that the Haven of FACT Hamilton will meet on Friday, August 23rd, (the regular fourth Friday) and NOT the 30th. as proposed at the July meeting.

PUBLIC RELATIONS AND EDUCATION

The second quarter of 1985 saw the furtherance of public relations on behalf of the Federation. Two lectures were given in Buffalo on April 22, one in the State College, where Miss Huxford was entertained at luncheon by Dr. Tom Weinberg, and the second at the State University, where Professor Lechner-Hyman was the hostess. That evening a delightful dinner party was held in the home of Prof. Lechner-Hyman at which it was a joy to meet again her husband, Drs. Vern and Bonnie Bullough and Ms. Marcia Buhl, the present President of the Western New York Society of Sexuality Professionals.

On her return to Canada, the Executive Director had the pleasure of meeting with Dr. Peter Grant, the Chief Psychiatrist in the St. Catharines General Hospital. Dr. Grant subsequently attended a meeting of FACT Hamilton.

Considerable time was spent during May in an effort to establish some sort of rapport with the authorities at the Hamilton-Wentworth Detention Centre. In spite of the needs of a female inmate and the good offices of the Prison Chaplain, your Executive Director found her efforts to be frustrating and a waste of time. She has therefore adopted the policy that she will not visit inmates at this Centre unless she receives a formal request to conduct an interview without the intrusion of a dehumanizing plate of glass.

On June 19 Miss Huxford presented a workshop entitled "Counselling Trans-
(Continued opposite)

HERE AND THERE....(continued)

sexuals" at the 7th. Annual Guelph Conference on Sexuality. This was well received and highly rated. She attended the whole Conference from the evening of June 17 to the afternoon of June 19. Prior to that, she had been the guest in St. Catharines on June 9 of Ms. Sheila Nicholson, a Ph.D. candidate in the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality, San Francisco, who is currently undertaking clinical work at McMaster University. Together, they attended a meeting of Gay Outreach, Niagara.

The gay community was again contacted on June 26. This time a visit to London resulted in the establishment of a working relationship with HALO, the Homophile Association of London Ontario. This is reported in greater detail elsewhere in FACTUAL News as the visit has resulted in the establishment of a new London Haven.

MEETINGS

During the three month period under review, the Executive Director has attended a number of meetings. As a director and Recording Secretary of Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, she attended the Annual General Meeting on April 27. She was also present at the Board of Directors meeting on May 25. As Facilitator for the Haven of FACT Hamilton, she has led meetings on April 26, May 24 and June 28. On May 30 she attended the Annual General Meeting of SIECCAN, the Sex Information and Education Council of Canada.

AUDIT OF ACCOUNTS

FACT accounts have now been audited as of June 6, 1985 by one of the two auditors who report to the Federal Government on the accounts of All Saints Church (Anglican), Hamilton. The auditor's report appears below.

OFFICE CLOSURES

The FACT Head Office is normally open from Monday to Friday between 10.30 a.m. and 5:30 p.m. Closure is unavoidable when Miss Huxford conducts business elsewhere, but messages can be left with the answering service. Head Office was closed

on the following dates: April 5-8 inc. April 22, 23; May 20; June 18, 19, 26 (p.m.), 27.

AUDITOR'S REPORT

"I have examined the Vouchers, Bank Deposits, Cheques, Stubs, Accounts and find them in very good state. I must congratulate the society on having such a good secretary.

(Signed) A. H. Mellanby
Auditor."

FACT TORONTO REPORTS

The last issue of Gender Review reported that "we plan to host the second FACT Toronto 'Springfest'" on May 10, 1985. It was one of the best parties ever put on by FACT Toronto, with an attendance of 50. Everyone enjoyed themselves to the fullest. There were new faces amid the crowd and there were those who had to be turned away for good reasons. You must be of legal age to drink and entry is through the front door, not the back. We thank the anonymous donor of \$20 to FACT Toronto at the party.

"The Christine Jorgensen Story" was shown in the Pine Room, downstairs at "The 519" on Friday, June 14.

Normally FACT Toronto recesses for the summer months, resuming in the fall. This year, in appreciation of those people who need and want summer programming, the FACT Toronto Executive has decided to continue programming throughout the summer. Since summer picnics don't seem to create too much enthusiasm, we have decided to replace them with regular programmes on the second Friday of each month at 8 p.m. as usual.

On Friday, July 12, we are holding an 'Open Forum' where those in attendance can voice their opinions, followed with a Social Refreshment Hour.

On Friday, August 9, we are having a party as a replacement of the August picnic. This will be held in the Pine Room of 'The 519' from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m., reception at 7.30 p.m.

— Frankie (Barbara) Andresen

Haven Reports

FACT LONDON IS LAUNCHED

The following is reprinted from HALO Newsletter of July 1985:

"Susan Huxford, Executive Director of FACT, met with Pat Strong and Richard Hudler at HALO on June 26, 1985. The purpose of the meeting was to consider the establishment of a FACT 'haven' in London.

"Over the years, HALO has received numerous inquiries from people interested in cross dressing and transsexualism or gender dysphoria syndrome. Although it seemed that there were enough people interested to form a group, what we have lacked was the leadership to actually get a group started.

"Now that the Toronto FACT group is effectively functioning independently, Miss Huxford, who resides and works in Hamilton, feels that she can direct more of her time and energy toward the establishment of a London group. Pat Strong, the coordinator of our local Friends and Families of Lesbians and Gays (FFLAG) group, is also willing to coordinate the FACT group.

"It has been decided that the first FACT meeting will take place at HALO on the second floor at 8:00 p.m. on Friday, September 20, 1985. Meetings are expected to occur on the third Friday of each month thereafter. Both Susan and Pat will participate in the meetings until leadership can be established from within the group."

FACT OTTAWA

No news is good news?

FACT HAMILTON ESTABLISHED

A new haven has joined the circle! The Haven of FACT HAMILTON held its first meeting on Friday, March 22 at 8 p.m. with ten persons present, three of whom had travelled in from St. Catharines. A general discussion was held on the problems facing the gender dysphoric, especially in St. Catharines.

A second meeting, held on Friday, April 26, featured a panel discussion on "Employment in the Cross-Gender Role" in which Miss Diane Gedge, FACT Accredited Counsellor, Miss Paula Kirk, former Editor of Gender Review and Ms. Joan Rawbon took part. This time attendance included a member from London, Ontario.

Subsequent meetings on May 24 and June 28 were of a semi-formal nature in which members were encouraged to discuss the problems encountered in establishing the cross-gender identity.

Attendance at meetings of FACT Hamilton is by invitation only. Meetings are held in a church hall and conclude with a social hour, ending at 10.30 p.m. Details may be obtained by writing FACT Head Office or 'phoning (416) 529-7884.

A NEED: FACT KITCHENER-WATERLOO-CAMBRIDGE.

It is felt that there is need of a haven in this area. Persons interested are asked to contact Terra at (519) 893-9567 who is prepared to act as Facilitator. The Area Representative continues to be Miss R. M. Schwartzentruber. All mail to FACT Haven, P.O. Box 1842, Station 'C', Kitchener, Ontario. N2G 4R3

Gender Serve

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RUPERT RAJ, B.A.
DIRECTOR

DON'T BLAME IT ALL ON EASTERN

A letter from Dr. Virginia Prince

In your opening editorial several things struck me on first reading. I didn't think your remark about the Karen Ulane case saying that it "displays bigotry and the true religion of our neighbors to the south" was warranted. That was made worse by the statement "In Jerry Falwell's America, Mammon comes before God".

Now I am aware that a lot of Canadians have a chip on their shoulder for most anything having to do with the USA and there is some justification for it, I will agree. However, as an American I resent the implications in both of the quoted statements. To begin with, the decision of one company about one person, even when upheld by a court, does not constitute bigotry for the whole country and says nothing about the "true religion" of the country. Secondly, Jerry Falwell is an insult to the great majority of the American people since he is the leader of a group which is neither moral NOR a majority. I am much opposed to the actions of Falwell and the rest of the electronic preachers and their ultra-conservative attitudes. In view of that I even more intensely resent his being made the leader of the country in the sense of "in Jerry Falwell's America". It is ridiculous to use one person to characterize a nation.....

"Mammon comes before God in America." Since when is Canada — or any other country — so godly that material things don't come first?.....In a capitalist, private enterprise economy....material considerations ALWAYS come first. People may go to church on Sunday and feel very pious, but on Monday they do what the exigencies of their economic situation call for — within the law, I mean. I'm not including criminals.

If you were not a member of the TS community and a missionary and spokesperson for it besides, you would perhaps take a somewhat more objective view of the Ulane case. Eastern Airlines has a history of this kind of thing. Way back in about 1964 they fired a friend of mine

just for being a TV. And this came to their attention, I might add, by the fact that a TS that she had befriended tipped off the police of her going out in public. She was arrested under an ancient law about Indians painting their faces, got publicity, was released with a small fine if I remember, and that was it for the law. But she was one of the oldest (in point of service) pilots with Eastern Airlines and had one of their highest ratings. And she did her piloting as a man, of course, but just the publicity she got for the arrest caused them to force her into early retirement. All TVs got together a fund to make an appeal to the Supreme Court, but they refused to hear the case.

Now that was really bigotry, because whatever she did in her private life had no bearing on her technical ability as a pilot nor did HE appear any differently than he had for 20 years previously when on duty and hardly anyone would have known about it from the short item in the N.Y. press. But Eastern chose to make a point of it. However, I think there is something to be said for Eastern in this Ulane matter. They do, after all, have to compete with other airlines and they have to maintain a high public image of reliability. It may be unfortunate and maybe someday it will be changed, but the average Joe Shmoo of Keokuck, Iowa, doesn't understand the first thing about TSism, is bound to regard people who would do such a thing as a little weird and (so) would not particularly care to ride in a plane piloted by a woman who was a former male regardless of her technical proficiency as a pilot. I am sorry to say that were I Frank Borman, President of Eastern, and that situation came up, I would have had to refuse her commercial employment too because my first responsibility would have to be to those I work for, namely the stockholders of Eastern. I would, as its President, have the responsibility of doing all I could to make it a #1 airline and to avoid anything that might give the traveling public any reason to fly United or Delta instead. * * * *

Some Thoughts on "FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUALISM"

by Susan C. Huxford

Leslie Lothstein's book has already had its reviewers and its detractors. A well-known female-to-male transsexual has told me that he threw the book down in disgust before he was a third of the way through it. A psychiatrist working in the field of gender dysphoria syndrome said "Don't talk to me about Leslie Lothstein!" The Executive Director of Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, at first very hostile to Dr. Lothstein, seems to have tempered his own reviews of the book in the light of reviews by Dr. Paul Walker (HBIGDA Newsletter, Fall 1984) and Dr. Eileen Higham (SIECUS Report, May 1984) and others. In an earlier issue of Gender Review (Fall 1984) this author has herself asked Gender Dysphoria: A Mental Illness? in reviewing the work of one of Dr. Lothstein's colleagues, Dr. Stephen Levine.

It is not my purpose to write yet another review of Dr. Lothstein's work, but rather to offer an exposition and to attempt to discover the positive aspects that he sees through his window. If those of us whom he would label as transsexual can regard his book dispassionately, what lessons may we learn? After all, if we are to discover our own true selves, we are well advised to learn as much about ourselves as we can, even if we do not always like what we learn.

The professionals among my readers may well ask "Can a transsexual judge the condition dispassionately?" My reply is that, while they look through windows that are limited by their own training and experience, a transsexual with training and experience has done something that they cannot achieve: he or she has been inside the house. Such a person has a unique view of things; it is as though he or she could climb up on the roof and enter the house through a skylight.

From the very outset, it is obvious that much of what Dr. Lothstein writes is applicable to so-called transsexuals as a whole and not to the F-to-M exclusively. It has to be recognized that Dr. Lothstein is as uncomfortable with the term "transsexual" as is this writer. Early in his book (p.47) he indicates a preference for the use of "gender dysphoria syndromes"; nevertheless, he follows common practice and lumps everybody together as transsexual.

In making a legitimate claim to be writing the first book on female-to-male transsexualism, Leslie Lothstein deals with some common assumptions regarding the syndrome in general and applies them specifically to the genetic female. He does not consistently insist that transsexualism is a psychological state. As Dr. Milton Eber states in his Foreword, "For him the transsexual patient can only be understood through study of the complex interplay of biological, psychological, and social forces" (p.xii). Because Dr. Lothstein himself states "Robert Stoller...has been my personal mentor" (p.xiii), the gender dysphoric reader sees only the psychological viewpoint — and that a specialized one — and overlooks the fact that Dr. Lothstein recognizes the influences of social forces and does not exclude the possibility of biological forces. Lothstein does what he is best at: he believes in psychoanalysis and seeks his solutions there. Were I to write a book on the social forces that lead to gender confusion, my transsexual friends would accuse me of believing that it is all the fault of society and not biological or psychological at all. I would be in more hot water than Dr. Lothstein, because I would be stepping on the toes of politicians, clergy and others, some of whom seem to think that they live in the best of all possible worlds. These are the knights

(Continued opposite)

SOME THOUGHTS ON "FEMALE-TO-MALE
TRANSSEXUALISM (continued)"

in the shiny white armour that is rusty inside.

Who can claim that Leslie Lothstein is an unfeeling researcher when he can write "we have been privy to innumerable instances in which our patients' real psychological problems have been ignored, as they have been berated, lectured, and exhorted by clinicians to give up their transsexualism. Some people....(have) been viewed as sinners who were in need of salvation"? (p.5) There is not a transsexual or transsexually-inclined person with whom I have talked who has not experienced such a negative attitude. The tragedy is that the vast majority of these people deny the existence of any psychological problem. This is a defence mechanism encouraged, not by any psychological state, but by social forces. To some of these people the threat of committal to a "mental institution" is enough to keep them away from any "shrink", even supposing that they could afford his fees. Professional ignorance of gender dysphoria syndrome is rampant: FACT receives enquiries of the order "where can I find someone who understands?" from all over the continent.

Dr. Lothstein also recognizes the other extreme. He recognizes the existence of "clinicians who....(react) with an enthusiasm for sex reassignment surgery" (p.5). These are the clinicians who, more than any others, need to read this book and take it to heart. Unfortunately, I suspect that they will not. Like their patients, they are so dead-set against psychotherapy that they give it a wide berth. Such an attitude is understandable: it is in reaction against the majority of physicians, psychiatrists and psychologists who have so little contact with gender dysphoria syndrome that they regard the condition as deviant and psychotic. Even psychology textbooks give it scant attention.

This, however, does not excuse swinging the pendulum to the other extreme. There are too many scalpel-happy practitioners who will perform SRS with an absolute minimum of psychiatric work-up. There is also an effective transsexual

underground that spreads the news around: if you can come up with the money, we can find you the surgeon. This encourages prostitution, embezzlement, theft and uttering. The dysphoric person, caught in a web of criminality, is in and out of jail as a result and no self-respecting gender clinic will look at him (her) until (s)he can prove that (s)he is going straight. On the other hand, there are those who get into the hands of certain irresponsible practitioners who dose them up with hormones and perform clandestine castrations. These "patients" never raise the funds for complete SRS and exist in a limbo of unfulfillment. Some even swing back and forth between a male and a female identity. Others seem to have invented their own category and wish to be known as "transgenderists". Finally, there are those who achieve SRS and yet find it impossible to adjust to their new sex. These unfortunates either live almost exclusively in their original (chromosomal) sex role or adopt the sex role most suitable to the occasion. This is not a matter to be taken lightly. I have met every one of these types and Dr. Lothstein obviously knows that they exist.

One of the chief complaints laid at the door of Leslie Lothstein by F-to-M transsexuals is that he refers to them all in the feminine gender (she), even post-operatively. As a writer, I sympathize with Dr. Lothstein. I feel certain that, had he been in the shoes of my own psychiatrist and written a report on my own case from our very first meeting, he would have referred to me in the masculine gender (he). I should be disgusted if, on meeting me now, he were to refer to me as "he"; I cannot believe that he would be so unfeeling and bigoted. He would be displaying a neurosis himself.

Why, then, should he appear to be bigoted in writing? The answer is surely that he is writing a critical, systematic book for professional readers, many of whom will have had little or no experience of the syndrome. I agree with Lothstein that the present description of "Transsexualism" in the Diagnostic

(Continued at bottom p.12)

EDITORIAL

M-to-F transsexuals are faced with a problem: is a penis more important for urination or for sex? Risks are involved in either; the chances of a penis that combines both functions successfully are very small. Four papers on phalloplasty were presented at the 8th. International Symposium on Gender Dysphoria held in Bordeaux, France, nearly two years ago. These have not been covered previously in Gender Review as it was felt that Rupert Raj, using the Abstracts from the Symposium, would reach a larger concerned audience through the pages of the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation's newsletter. Since Gender Review has twice the circulation, it was decided to feature the F-to-M transsexual in this issue.

Dr. Lothstein's book, whatever may be our personal reactions to it, is deserving of close scrutiny. The F-to-M reader cannot help but feel uncomfortable in its pages. In this issue, Susan Huxford expresses some thoughts on the book as a whole. In our next issue she accuses Dr. Lothstein of character assassination in the second of her series entitled T.N.T. — Tim Not Transsexual? — an explosive issue.

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We wish to acknowledge our appreciation to Rites Publishing for the complimentary copies of Rites that have been received at Head Office. We have reciprocated by placing them on the complimentary circulation list for Gender Review.

SOME THOUGHTS (continued)

and Statistical Manual of the American Psychiatric Association (D.S.M.III; 302.5x) is inadequate and can be misleading. When a recognized authority such as Dr. Lothstein writes a book, he must be as unambiguous as possible. To change horses in mid-stream is dangerous. To refer to the same patient as "she" before the adoption of the cross-gender identity and as "he afterwards, or even

FROM OUR MAILBAG

"I wanted to thank you for sending me the recent brochure about the "Federation of American and Canadian Transsexuals".

"FACT is obviously filling an important need. Ignorance about the medical nature of transsexualism has continued to cause enormous lack of understanding by not only laymen, but many times professionals. You are doing a fine service to a needy group of patients, and I commend you for the imagination and effort behind this program."

Milton Edgerton, M.D.

President, Harry Benjamin Association.

* * * * *

"I didn't get the article completed you requested in time for publication (I am still working on it) but here are enclosed two others and a book review for publication in Gender Review."

Rupert (Raj)

(Mr. Raj is preparing an article on female-to-male transsexualism for inclusion in Gender Review at a later date)

* * * * *

"Thank you very much for your contribution for making the Guelph Sexuality Conference a major success that it was."

Edward S. Herold, Ph.D.
Conference Coordinator

(Further information on this event is reported in "Here and There...")

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to make the distinction after SRS, is unnecessarily confusing to the uninitiated reader. One of Dr. Lothstein's aims is to educate; F-to-M transsexuals must excuse him when he rubs them up the wrong way. In the first instance, in spite of their fantasy, they are "she", even if they consider themselves to be "males trapped in female bodies". For the sake of clarity, Lothstein uses "she" throughout.

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