

hedesthia

INCORPORATING
TRANSFORMATION
NEW ZEALAND.

EST-1972

P.O.BOX 78-026.
AUCKLAND. 2.
NEW ZEALAND.

REF 11/6/73

PHONE 763-523

Nov 8, '88

Lou Sullivan
Editor
F T M

Dear Lou,

Thank you for your letter and enclosed issue of FTM, which I found most interesting. I had written to Rupert Raj several times over the last year and received no reply, and had also not received the last issues of Metamorphosis Magazine, so I wondered what was going on. It is disappointing to learn of the discontinuance of Metamorphosis, but from reading the excellent FTM newsletter I feel sure you will be able to carry on the good work.

Could you please fill me in on what happened to Metamorphosis and Rupert? ...I understand he is now a gender worker.

I am definately interested in receiving FTM; could you also send the back issues plus the copy of the L.A. Times article mentioned (SAE enclosed). I have also been meaning to write to you in a personal capacity as I saw your name on the Metamorphosis Pen Pal list...please tell me more about yourself.

There is also your booklet 'Information for the F-M Cross dresser and Transsexual'. Is it still US\$6? If so I would like to order a copy, for use by myself and Hedesthia.

I don't know how much you know about the club, so have enclosed a couple of information sheets.

There are several F-M members who I had referred on to Metamorphosis, so I will also give them your address.

Thank you for contacting me..... after not hearing from anyone for so long I thought I was going to lose touch with the overseas F-M scene. Best wishes for the continued success of FTM....I would like to contribute in any way possible. Hope to hear back from you soon.

Regards,

Paul Johnson.

P. Johnson

HEDESTHIA

An Organisation representing Transgenderists throughout New Zealand

Inc TRANSFORMATION.
A Service on Trans-sexualism
and for Trans-sexuals.

HEDESTHIA CENTRAL
NATIONAL SECRETARY
P.O. BOX 78-026
GREY LYNN
AUCKLAND 2.

HEDESTHIA is a voluntary organisation that befriends and offers assistance to Transvestites and Trans-sexuals. The people that run it are themselves Transvestites and Trans-sexuals. They understand the problems that can arise when a person finds that he/she has a compulsion to cross-dress or live in the gender role opposite to which they were born.

HEDESTHIA has a nation-wide membership of people from all walks of life. There is a Central Headquarters in Auckland and chapters in other main centres. We hold meetings in private homes where members can meet others to discuss and find out more about their lifestyles. We do like members to be "dressed" when they attend meetings, but this is not mandatory. (changing facilities are usually available)

HEDESTHIA publishes a newsletter called "TRANS-SCRIBE" which is sent to members 6 times per annum. It is full of interest and members can submit articles to be published in it.

HEDESTHIA has an extensive library on the subjects of Transvestism and Trans-sexualism and members can borrow books from it. We have specialized knowledge in many areas that can be of great assistance to Transvestites, Trans-sexuals and other interested parties. We do ask for a small annual membership subscription which goes towards the running costs of HEDESTHIA ie printing, postage etc. We also ask prospective members to fill in a membership application form. All details on this are kept highly confidential. We are willing to address organisations, clubs, groups etc on the subject of Transvestism and Trans-sexualism.

Please address all enquiries to the National Secretary or phone Auckland 763-523
Friday nights only.

TRANVESTISM AND TRANS-SEXUALISM: A PERSONAL OBSERVATION. by Suzan Kratay National Co-ordinator of HEDESTHIA.

There are several reasons why a person might Crossdress. The main ones being;-

1. For a theatrical performance or revue.
11. As a disguise.
111. A Homosexual or Drag Queen may use it to attract another person.
- 1V. A Transvestite to enable them to express the feelings of the opposite sex.
- V. A Trans-sexual to express the feeling of belonging to the opposite sex.

Masculinity and Femininity are generally considered to be biologically determined, inseparable from sex and therefore unchangeable. We do not believe this to be so. Sex and Gender are not the same thing. Sex is a matter of anatomy and is determined by various biological factors. Gender on the other hand, is a matter of psychology and sociology. It is a social invention and gender roles are learned responses culturally determined and largely artificial. The requirements for each role vary from culture to culture and from one era to another. Thus we learn to be masculine or feminine because our anatomical sex at birth dictates what role we should be trained in. However, in cases of mistaken sexual identity, children have been reared in the gender opposite to their true sex and have learned to live the role adequately. This would indicate that we all have the capacity to be trained either way.

In view of this it should be obvious that in each of us there are potentials traits, talents interests and characteristics which could, if the situation were appropriate be developed along the lines (gender) of the opposite sex.

This being the case it should be no surprise to realise that in some persons these potentials are stronger and nearer the surface of the personality than in others and that they seek expression.

One of the principle manifestations of gender in our present society is clothing. It is natural therefore, that in those persons who have a rather larger quota of traits and interests which, in our culture, are those considered to be of the opposite sex, will, in many cases find it satisfying to express this phase of their personality in the attire that is appropriate to their choice.

Thus the phenomenon of TRANVESTISM comes into existence.

HEDESTHIA is a social and therapeutic organisation that exists for the purpose of serving the specific needs of Transvestites, Trans-sexuals, Androgynists and Hermaphrodites both male and female. Our general interpretation of these terms is as below;

transvestite: one who EXPRESSES THE FEELINGS of the gender role of the opposite sex.

TRANS-SEXUAL: One who EXPRESSES THE FEELING OF BELONGING to the gender role of the opposite sex.

HERMAPHRODITE: One who possesses the PHYSICAL ATTRIBUTES of both sexes.

PSEUDO-HERMAPHRODITE: One who possesses the MENTAL ATTRIBUTES of both sexes.

ANDROGYNIST: One who finds COMPATIBILITY in expressing the alternate feelings of either sex.

Of course, a person may BE any combination of these interpretations to a greater or lesser degree. There is definitely NO BLACK OR WHITE in the world of TRANVESTIA but rather varying shades of GREY.

HEDESTHIA achieves its aims by offering to members the opportunity of meeting at a social level, in group discussions of a therapeutic nature aided by educational talks and related tapes. Also through a library service to members. It also offers counselling services and various other minor services as related to a person's gender preferences and persuasions. Communication is considered an all important facet esp as many members live in small towns without direct contact with other members and to this end a bi-monthly magazine called TRANSCRIBE is published. Through it, the news views and gossip of the organisation is circulated to all members.

To facilitate the function of HEDESTHIA we have established REGIONAL AREAS each with its own CHAPTER or the potential for one. Each Chapter is controlled in a semi-autonomous manner by the AREA CO-ORDINATOR Who in turn relates to HEDESTHIA CENTRAL. Whose function it is to direct, create and co-relate policies and activities for all.

Further enquiries should be addressed to HEDESTHIA CENTRAL

Box 78-026

Grey Lynn AUCKLAND 2.