TWENTY MINUTES

THE END II - THE SEQUEL

NOVEMBER 1991 SPECIAL ISSUE $2.00

MAN PREGNANT AFTER SEX CHANGE

by NOREEN MILLER

A MAN is now a mom-to-be following a sex-change operation that included reconstructing an entire reproductive system. Josephine Michelet - who was never happy during the 23 years she spent as Joseph Bonnard - is overjoyed to be living life to full womanhood.

"Life is wonderful now," gushes the expectant transsexual. "I have a man who loves me and a precious child growing inside me. I've been floating on cloud nine ever since I learned I was pregnant. I have to pinch myself every day to make sure this isn't a dream. I thank God for those talented surgeons who freed me from my male body and offered me the fantastic opportunity to experience giving life."

The operations that gave Josephine motherhood capabilities took place in a clinic in St. Etienne, France. "The patient was young and healthy - perfect for the grueling surgery," says the chief surgeon, Dr. Gustave Cotelle. "My colleagues and I had perfected the transplantation of reproductive organs in laboratory animals. The next logical step was a human male. Mr. Bonnard was exactly what the doctor ordered. He gave us the go-ahead to do what we had to do to make him a complete female."

As Joseph, he had taken to dressing as a woman for several years before the operation. It was during this time that he met Andre Michelet, the man of his dreams, in a Paris night club. Andre, 27, was smitten by the pretty brunette. It was quite a blow when nervous Joseph broke the news of his true sex. "I was shocked but I had no desire to abandon Josephine," Andre says. "She was gentle and caring - a perfect woman - so I vowed to stand by her side until we could arrange the operation to make things right. Fate had dealt her a cruel blow by making her a man at birth. I always thought I would be turned off by a person like Josephine, But I felt a lovely warmth from the moment we laid eyes on each other."

With Andre by her side, Josephine signed up at the experimental clinic. She was put through psychological and physical tests to determine she was right for the break-through procedure. Andre presented Josephine with a beautiful two-carat engagement ring the day they received notice that doctors had approved the sex-change surgery.

The operations left the patient wondering if she'd done the right thing. Dr. Cotelle says a Cesarean section will be performed. "We've given her everything she needs to produce a baby," he says. "But she still has the male pelvis and the child couldn't squeeze through. It's a great day for the Michelets and for anyone else who's been robbed by nature of a chance to have a baby."

(EDITOR'S NOTE...this article from *SUN*, September 24, 1991 issue.)

• *'I HAVE to pinch myself every day,' says Josephine*

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TWENTY MINUTES

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All the news that's print to fit.

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Twenty Minutes was founded by Veronica Jean Brown.

TWENTY MINUTES ...

October 1987...	The beginning
April 1989...	The Tabloid
December 1990...	The Video
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November 1991...	The End II The Sequel the horror continues

When will it ever end?

XX CLUB CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Saturday, Nov. 9

Saturday, Nov. 23

Saturday, Dec. 14

Saturday, Dec. 28

Regular meetings of the XX Club are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at 2 PM sharp to 5 PM.:

Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103

(Located at the corner of Church and Main Streets in the downtown area across from G. Fox.) There is **NO SMOKING** allowed during the meetings, although smoking is permitted during breaks and after the meetings. The XX Club attempts to provide peer support and practical information about making the gender transition, as well as information about the Gender Identity Clinic of New England. Parents, siblings, spouses and significant others are also welcome to attend.

Well, we had so much good stuff that we couldn't fit into the October issue that we created one more final issue. Starting next month, subscribers will receive a *Twenty Minutes* version of the *CDC NEWS* for the balance of their subscriptions prorated according to the dollar balance as CDC News costs $6.00 versus $2.00 each for *Twenty Minutes*. However, anyone who wishes a refund of their balance must write to the XX Club PO Box and request it no later than 10/31/91. Include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE). Please allow at least two weeks for return.

TREASURER'$ REPORT

Balance - from Sept.		$1490.89
INCOME:		
Collections - meetings		.00
Dues		.00
Newsletter subscriptions		2.00
Brochures & Reprints		7.00
Savings interest		6.28
Total Income	$ 15.28	
EXPENSES:		
Rent-Christ Church		.00
Refreshments		.00
Newsletter & brochures		105.17
Postage		.00
Supplies		5.04
Bank Fee		.85
Total Expenses	$ 111.06	
Net Loss for October		$- 95.78
Balance - end of October		$1395.11

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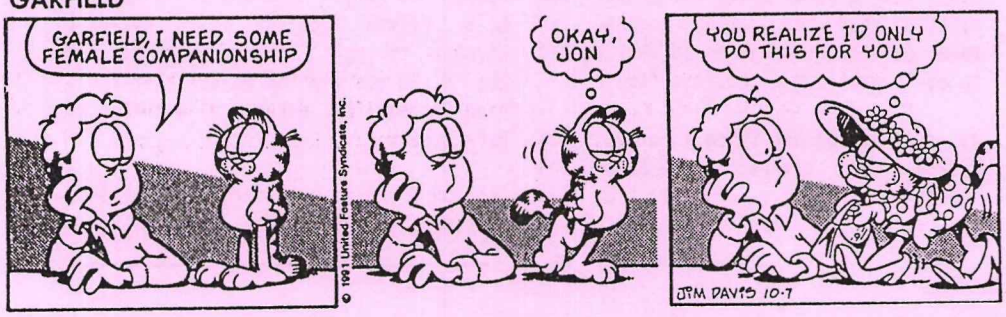


The First Book OF Moss called

Genesis

CHAPTER 1

In the beginning, Godhead created the heaven and the Earth. And the Earth was without form, and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. And the spirit of Godhead moved upon the face of the waters.

And Godhead said, Let their be light: and there was light. And Godhead saw the light, that it was good: and Godhead divided the light from the darkness. And Godhead called the light day and the darkness she/he called night. And the evening and the morning were the first day.

And Godhead said, Let there be a firmament in the midst of the waters, and let it divide the waters from the waters. And Godhead made the firmament, and divided the waters from the waters. So Godhead made the firmament, and divided the waters which were under the firmament from the waters which were above the firmament; and it was so. And Godhead called the firmament Heaven. And the evening and the morning were the second day.

And Godhead said, Let the waters under the Heavens be gathered together unto one place, and let the dry land appear: and it was so. And Godhead called the dry land Earth; and the gathering together of the waters called the seas: and She/He saw that it was good. And Godhead said, Let the Earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit, whose seed was in itself, after its kind: and Godhead saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the third day.

And Godhead said, Let their be lights in the firmament of the Heaven to divide the night from the day; and let them be signs for seasons, and for days and for years. And let them be for lights in the firmament of the Heaven to give light upon the Earth: and it was so. And Godhead made two great lights, the yellow light to rule the day, and the silver light to rule the night: She/He made the stars also. And Godhead set them in the firmament of the Heaven to give light upon the Earth, and to rule over the day and the night, and to divide the light from the darkness: and Godhead saw that it was good. And the evening and the morning were the fourth day.

And Godhead created great whales, and every living creature that moveth, which the waters brought forth abundantly, after their kind, and every winged fowl after their kind: and Godhead saw that it was good. And Godhead blessed them, saying, Be fruitful, and multiply, and fill the waters in the seas, and let fowl multiply in the Earth. Ane the evening and the morning were the fifth day.

And Godhead said, Let the Earth bring forth the living creature after their kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the Earth after their kind: and it was so. And Godhead made the beast of the Earth after their kind, and cattle after their kind, and everything that creepeth upon the Earth after their kind: and Godhead saw that it was good.

And Godhead said, Let us make a human in our image, after our likeness, and we will call them woman and man: and let them be guardians over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the Earth, and over every creeping thing that goes bump in the night. So Godhead created woman in her own image, and likewise created man in his own image, and added also all possible variations thereof. And Godhead blessed them, and said, Be fruitful and multiply, except those which are not inclined to do so, and those which do, and that you shall have dominion over all and replenish the Earth so that your children will also enjoy all these fruits.

And Godhead said, Behold, I have given you every herb bearing seed, which is upon the face of the Earth, which you shall call Mother, and every tree in the which is the fruit of a tree yielding seed; to you it shall be for food. And to every beast of the Earth, and to every fowl of the air, and to every thing that creepeth

upon the Earth, wherein there is life, I have given every green herb for food: and it was so. And Godhead saw every thing that She/He had made, and it was good. And the evening and the morning were the sixth day.

CHAPTER 2

Thus the Heavens and Earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day Godhead finished Her/His work which She/He had made, and She/He rested on the seventh day from all Her/His work which She/He had made.

And Godhead blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because in it She/He had rested from all Her/His work.

These are the generations of the Heavens and of the Earth when they were created, in the day that the Mother Godhead made the Earth and the Heavens. And every plant of the field before it was in the Earth, and every herb of the field before it grew: fbr the Mother Godhead had not caused it to rain upon the Earth, and there was a not a human to till the ground.

But there went up a mist from the Earth, and watered the whole face of the ground. And the Mother Godhead formed Woman of the nutrients of the ground, and breathed into her nostrils the breath of life; and woman became a living soul.

And the Mother Godhead saw that it was good and said, Behold Woman, which we have made in our image, you shall be the giver of life upon all which we have created, and you shall further be the nuturer, and the Great Mother of all the human race yet to come. And the Mother Godhead planted a garden eastward in Eden, and there She/He put the woman whom She/He had formed.

And out of the ground made the Mother Godhead to grow every tree that is pleasant to sight, and good for food; the tree of life also in the midst of the garden, and the tree of knowledge of greed and domination over others. And the Mother Godhead took the woman and put her into the garden of Eden to nurture and to keep it. And the Mother Godhead instructed the woman, saying, Of every tree of the garden, thou mayest freely eat. But of the tree of the knowledge of greed and domination over others, thou shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shall surely become a lesser creature.

And the Mother Godhead said, It is not good that the woman shall be alone; We will make a companion for her. And the Mother Godhead caused a deep sleep to fall upon the woman, and she slept; and She/He took a part of her heart for love, and then a part of her womb for nurturing. And from these parts, which the Mother Godhead had taken from the woman, made a man, an equal companion for the woman. And so the woman came to be called Eve, and the man was called Adam, and they both, were to be called the Mother and Father of all humans yet to come, and Eve shall be the nurturer of children, and Adam, her equal, shall be the protector of children. And they were both naked, the woman and the man, and were not ashamed.

CHAPTER 3

Now the serpent was as goodly and noble a creature that Mother Godhead hath made, but all that was evil and black came to the garden of Eden and disguised itself as a serpent. And that which was not truly a serpent said unto the woman, Yea, hath the Mother Godhead said, Ye shall not eat of every tree in the garden? And the woman and the man both said uto the serpent, We may eat the fruit of the tree of the garden: But of the fruit of the tree which is in the midst of the garden, Mother Godhead hath said, Ye shall not eat of it, neither shall ye touch it, less shall ye become a lesser creature.

And that which was disguised as the serpent said unto the woman and the man, Ye shall not surely become a lesser creature. For the Mother Godhead doth know that in the day that ye eat thereof, then your eyes shall be opened, and ye shall be as gods, knowing of greed and power over others. And then the man, in order to protect the woman

from possible harm, ate the fruit of the tree of greed and power over others. And when it was done, the man felt renewed in strength and bade the woman to eat of the fruit also. When both the man and the woman had eaten their fill, they were so much with greed that they sought more. And then the man, being made stronger than the woman in pure physical strength, kept some of the fruit from the woman, and it filled him with power.

And the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew that they were equal no longer; and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons, each according to their station.

And they heard the voice of the Mother Godhead walking in the garden in the cool of the day and Eve the woman, and Adam the man hid themselves from the presence of the Mother Godhead amongst the trees of the garden. And the Mother Godhead called unto Eve, and said unto her, Where art thou? And Eve said, I heard thy voice in the garden, and I was afraid, because I am no lonnger equal to Adam, and I hid myself.

And She/He said, Who hast told thee that thou wast not equal to Adam? Hast thou eaten from the tree whereof We instructed that thou shouldest not eat? And the woman said, The man whom thou created to protect me, he gave me of the tree, and I did eat.

And the Mother Godhead said unto the man, What is this that thou hast done? And the man said, The serpent beguiled me, and I did eat.

And the Mother Godhead said unto that which appeared as the serpent, Because thou hast done this, upon thy belly shalt thou go, and dust shalt thou eat all the days of thy life: Unto the man She/He said, Wei will greatly multiply thy greed and desire for power over others, and thou shalt subjugate the woman, and make her as your property, and thou shalt feel pain over this, you thou shalt make the Earth as your own and wilst subjugate the Earth as thou shalt subjugate the woman and have great power over her.

And the Mother Godhead said unto the woman, And unto you, We shall make utold suffering of subjugation by Adam the man, and you will lose the knowledge that you the woman, and Adam the man, are as equal under your skin.

And the Mother Godhead said unto the man, Because thou hast harkened to the voice of that which goes as the serpent, and hast eaten of the tree of greed and power over others, cursed is the ground for thy sake; in sorrow shall thou eatest of it the rest of your days. Thorns and thistles shall it bring forth to thee, and thou shall eat of the herb of the field; and in your greed and lust for power over all living things, thou shall subjugate and eat the flesh of the cattle that roameth the Earth, and also the fowl of the air, and the fish of the sea; In the sweat of thy face shall thou eat bread, til thou return to the ground.

And Eve called her husband's name Adam, as he was the father of all living, and Adam called his wife's name Eve, as she was the mother of all living.

And the Mother Godhead said, the woman and the man are become one of us now, to know greed and power over others, yet without knowledge of constraint and goodness, and good and evil; and now, lest they also eat of the tree of life and live forever, therefore We cast you both from the garden of Eden, to forever forage, and toil upon this Earth, and in other places; And so the Mother Godhead placed at the east of the garden of Eden, Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life, until at such time, the Cherubims and the flaming sword shall lose their power.

Editor's Note: The preceeding fragment from the Book of Genesis, was translated from scrolls found in 1951 at Nam Haggadi, and recently made available to the public.

TRANSSEXUALISM

by Janet Shibley Hide
Understanding Human Sexuality
McGraw-Hill Book Company (c) 1979

TRANSSEXUALISM

A *transsexual* is a person who believes that he or she is trapped in the body of the wrong gender. Transsexuals are the candidates for the sex-change operations that have received so much publicity, beginning with the case of Christine Jorgenson. The term "transsexual" is used to refer to the person both before and after the operation. There are, of course, two kinds of transsexuals; those with male bodies who think they are females (called male-to-female transsexuals) and those with female bodies who think they are males (called female-to-male transsexuals). The former outnumber the latter by about 3 to 1 (Green, 1975); that is, the majority of transsexuals are people with male bodies who think of themselves as women and want to have the appropriate surgery. Because this kind of transsexual is more common, and also because the surgery required in such cases is easier, most of this discussion that follows will focus on male-to-female transsexuals.

Keeping in mind the distinction between sex and gender, it is important to note that transsexualism is a problem not of sexual behavior but of gender and gender identity. That is, the transsexual is preoccupied not with some specific kind of sexual behavior, but rather with wanting to be a female when her body is male. Sex, of course, is involved insofar as being sexually attracted to a member of the opposite gender (which is expected in our society) is concerned. But I also know of one transsexual who has never engaged in any sexual activity beyond kissing since she had surgery to make her a female. She is delighted with the results of the surgery and loves being a woman, but she is not particularly interested in sex. One male-to-female transsexual expressed her motivation for having a sex-change operation as follows:

I did it for the psychological thing....I need the reassurance that I am a woman. I don't have a man to make love to me and I don't care....I wanted to be a woman, whether the sex part was successful or not. I wanted to be of one sex, dress like one, act like one....Well, mentally I always thought of myself as a woman. I don't even remember thinking of myself as a man.

References to transsexuals are found in much of recorded history, although of course they are not referred to by that modern, scientific term (Green, 1966). Philo, the Jewish philosopher of Alexandria, described them as follows: "Expanding every possible care on their outward adornment, they are not ashamed even to employ every device to change artificially their nature as men into women....Some of them...craving a complete transformation into women...have amputated their generative members." The American Indians had an institutionalized role for men who dressed as women and performed the functions assigned to women. Transsexualism is therefore by no means a phenomenon of modern, industrialized cultures.

Psychologically the transsexual is, to put it mildly, in an extreme conflict situation (Levine, 1976). The body says, "I'm a man," but the mind says, "I'm a woman." The person may understandably react with fright and confusion. Believing herself truly to be female, she may try desperate means to change her body accordingly. Particularly in the days before the sex-change operation was performed, or among people who were unaware of it, self-castrations have been reported. The woman I mentioned above ate large quantities of women's face cream containing estrogens to try to bring about the desired changes in her body.

The Sex-Change Operation

Gender reassignment is rather complex and proceeds is several stages. In this country, the surgery was first performed at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. The Stanford University School of Medicine also pioneered. More recently, the procedure has been performed at several other hospitals.

The first step in the process is very careful counseling and psychiatric evaluation. It is important to establish that the person is a true transsexual, that is, someone whose gender identity does not match her body type. Some people mistakenly seek gender reassignment; for example, a man who is simply poorly adjusted, unhappy, and not very successful might think things would go better for him if he were a woman. It is important to establish that the person truly has a problem of gender identification before going ahead with a procedure that is fairly drastic.

The next step is hormone therapy. The male-to-female transsexual is given estrogen and must remain on this for the rest of her life. The estrogen gradually produces some feminization. The breasts enlarge. The pattern of fat deposits becomes feminine; in particular, the hips become rounded. Balding, if it has begun, stops. Secretions by the prostate diminish, and eventually there is no ejaculate. Erections become less and less frequent, a phenomenon with which the transsexual is pleased since they were an unpleasant reminder of the unwanted penis. The female-to-male transsexual is given androgens, which bring about a gradual masculinization. A beard may develop, to varying degrees. The voice deepens. The pattern of fat deposits becomes more masculine. The clitoris enlarges, although not nearly to the size of a penis, and becomes more erectile. The pelvic bone structure, of course, cannot be reshaped, and breasts do not disappear except with surgery.

Many experts now also require, often at the same time that the hormone therapy is being administered, that the person live as a member of the new gender for a period of six months or so. This is done to ensure that the person will be able to adjust to the role of the new gender; once again, the idea is to be as certain as possible that the person will not regret having had the operation. Some transsexuals, even before consulting a physician, spontaneously enter this "transvestite" stage in their efforts to become women. Problems may arise, though. Cross-dressing is illegal in many cities, and they may be arrested.

The final step is surgery itself (transsexuals refer to it simply as "the operation"). In the male-to-female transsexual, the penis and testes are removed. The external

genitalia are then reconstructed to look as much as possible like a woman's. Next, an artificial vagina - a pouch 15 to 20 centimeters (6 to 8 inches) deep - is constructed. It is lined with the skin of the amputated penis so that it will have sensory nerve endings that can respond to sexual stimulation. For about six months afterward, the vagina must be dilated with a plastic device so that it does not reclose. Other cosmetic surgery may also be done, such as reducing the size of the Adam's apple.

The female-to-male change is more complex and generally less successful. A penis and scrotum are constructed from tissues in the genital area. The penis, unfortunately, does not have erectile capacity; in some cases a rigid silicone tube is implanted in the penis so that it can be inserted into a vagina, making coitus possible. Some female-to-male transsexuals choose not to have genital surgery and just go through breast removal and possibly hysterectomy.

Adjustment following gender reassignment is generally excellent, providing, of course, that the person is not someone who should have been screened out in the initial counseling process. Most transsexuals are very happy in their new gender.

What Causes Transsexualism?

Scientists have not found a definite cause of transsexualism. One speculation is that it might be due to some prenatal exposure to hormones of the wrong gender, causing improper brain differentiation. There is no direct evidence supporting this idea, though, and so it must remain speculative at present.

Two studies have investigated hormone levels in transsexuals before gender reassignment, one in male-to-female transsexuals and the other in female-to-male transsexuals (J.R. Jones, 1972, Migeon, 1968). In both studies the hormone levels were found to be within the normal range for the individuals' "original" gender (not the gender to which they wanted to be reassigned), suggesting that transsexualism does not result from hormonal imbalance.

One idea for which there is some supporting evidence is that transsexualism results from early learning experiences. In one sample of 17 male-to-female transsexuals, all had had their gender treated inappropriately or ambiguously from infancy to puberty by their parent or parents (J.P. Driscoll, 1971, Green, 1975). Though they had the bodies of boys, they had been given girls' toys or had been dressed in girls' clothing. Feminine behavior, such as putting on the mother's high heels when guests were present, had been rewarded as "cute." When the interviewer asked whether they had been reared as boys or girls, one responded, "I was raised as a girl by my mother and aunts. My sex was discovered by a school nurse when I was six." It seems likely that such early learning experiences would be critical in giving the child a gender identity that is incongruent with her body. On the other hand, there are transsexuals who had no such learning experiences; thus learning theory does not seem adequate to explain every case.

By the time these transsexuals were of school age, they hated gym class and were labeled "freaks" by their peers. Not surprisingly, problems of adjustment arose. In adulthood, transsexuals often have trouble holding steady jobs, at least in part because they are so preoccupied with their gender problem. With a history of problems of this sort, the good adjustment of transsexuals following gender reassignment is even more impressive.

One interesting phenomenon that requires explanation is the greatly disproportionate ratio of men to women requesting gender reassignment. Several explanations have been advanced (Green, 1975). A psychodynamic explanation is that all children initially identify with the mother, who is the most important person in their lives. Girls have the simple task of continuing this identification, but boys have the difficult chore of giving it up and identifying with the father. Some boys fail to make this shift and continue with a female gender identity. A sociological explanation holds that females have more gender-role freedom in our society than males do; it is acceptable, for example, for women to wear slacks, while it is not at all acceptable for men to wear dresses. The female-to-male transsexual, therefore, can live quite comfortably with masculine characteristics, does not need to go to the extreme of having a sex-change operation, and so may never come to the attention of physicians or scientists. The male-to-female transsexual, on the other hand, needs to receive some definite sanction - a sex change operation - to be allowed to behave as a female. Finally, prenatal hormone effects have also been used as an explanation. During the process of prenatal sexual differentiation, Nature's basic plan is to make a female; a specific ingredient, testosterone, must be added to make a male. Male development is therefore somewhat more fragile and more subject to errors caused by prenatal "accidents." The result of such an accident may be a person with a male body but a female gender identity.

Other Issues

The phenomenon of transsexualism raises a number of interesting psychological, legal, and ethical questions for our contemporary society.

One case that has attracted attention is Dr. Renee Richards, formerly Richard Raskin, a physician who has had her gender reassigned to that of a woman. When she was a man, she was a successful tennis player. In 1976 she attempted to enter a women's tennis tournament. The women players protested that she was not a woman, and she protested that she was. Officials subsequently decided to use the bucchal smear test for gender, which is also the one used in the Olympics. In this test a sample of cells is scraped from the inside of the mouth and is stained. If the sex chromosomes are XX, a Barr body should be present and will show up under the stain; if the chromosomes are XY the Barr body should be absent. The test is therefore one of genetic gender. Dr. Richards protested that this was not the appropriate test to be used on her. Psychologically she is female, she has female genitals, and she functions socially as a female, and she feels that these are the appropriate criteria. She does, though, have a male pelvic bone structure and other bone structures that are masculine, and these may have important consequences for athletic performances. The issue will require time to settle. But the important question it raises is: What

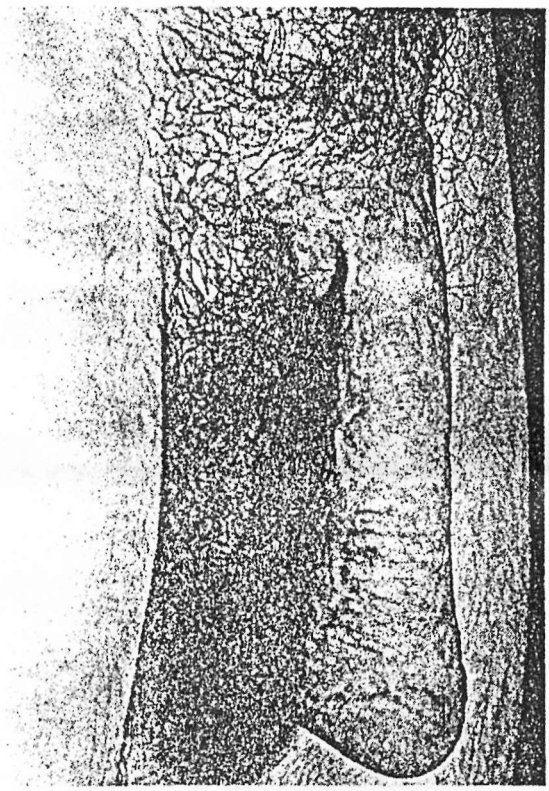
should the criteria be for determining a person's gender? Should it be chromosomal gender (XX or XY) as tested by the bucchal smear? Should it be the gender indicated by the external genitals? should it be psychological gender identity?

Another question that might be raised concerns religious groups that do not permit women to become members of the clergy. Is a male-to-female transsexual, for example, qualified to be a priest before "the operation" but not after? Is the female-to-male transsexual qualified to be a priest by virtue of having had a sex-change operation?

Another problem arises in classifying the sexual behavior of the transsexual. For example, many male-to-female transsexuals prefer to engage in sex with men, even before gender reassignment. Is that sexual behavior homosexual (it is between two men), or is it heterosexual (because one of them thinks she is a woman)? Or is the behavior homosexual before surgery and heterosexual after surgery?

The transsexual also encounters a number of practical problems following gender reassignment. Official records, such as the social security card, must be changed to show not only the new name but also the new gender. Sometimes a new birth certificate is issued, and the old one is sealed away. However, when the person reaches retirement age, it is not clear whether she should receive social security benefits at age 62, the proper age for females, or age 65, the age for males. If the person was married before sex change, often - though not always - the spouse must be divorced. Changing one's sex is, to say the least, a complicated process.

Transsexual Renée Richards before the sex-change operation (left) as tennis player Richard Raskind and following transsexual surgery (right) as a female tennis player. *[New Times Magazine and World Wide Photos.]*



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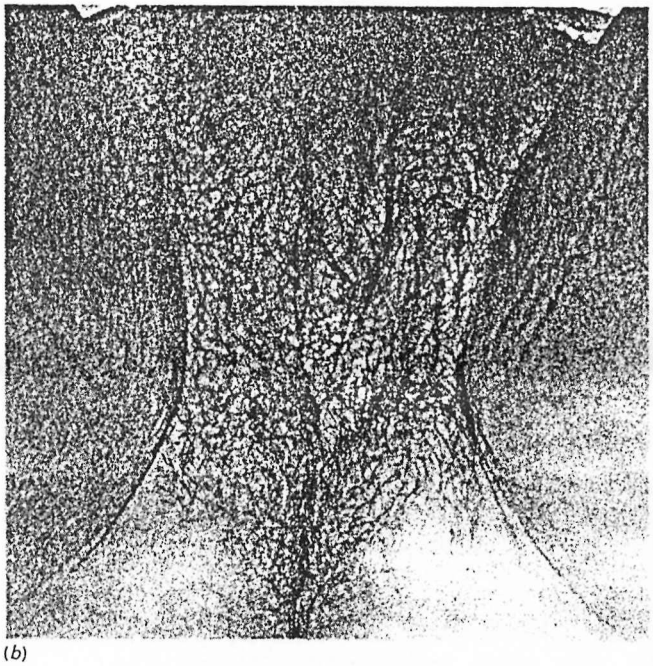


(*b*)

The genitals following transsexual surgery. (*a*) A female-to-male transsexual. (*b*) A male-to-female transsexual. *[Courtesy of Dr. D. Laub, Gender Dysphoria Program, Department of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery, Stanford University.]*

Docs regrow natural breasts on mastectomy patients

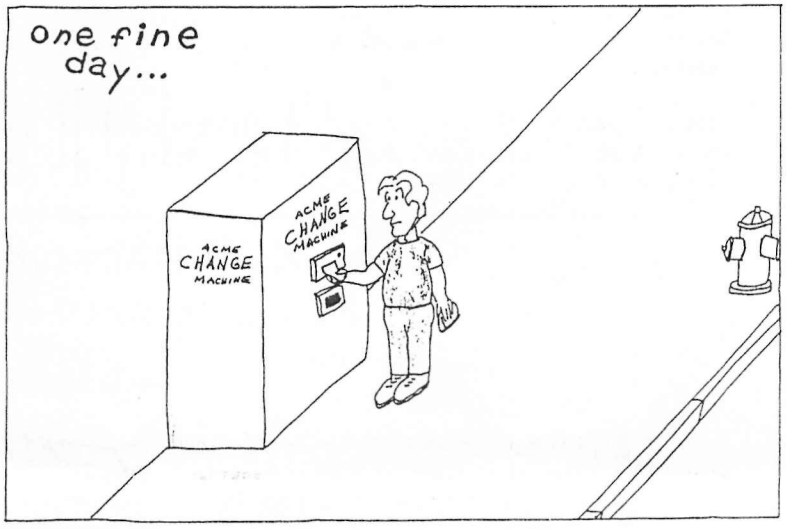
by Dr. Bruno Grosse

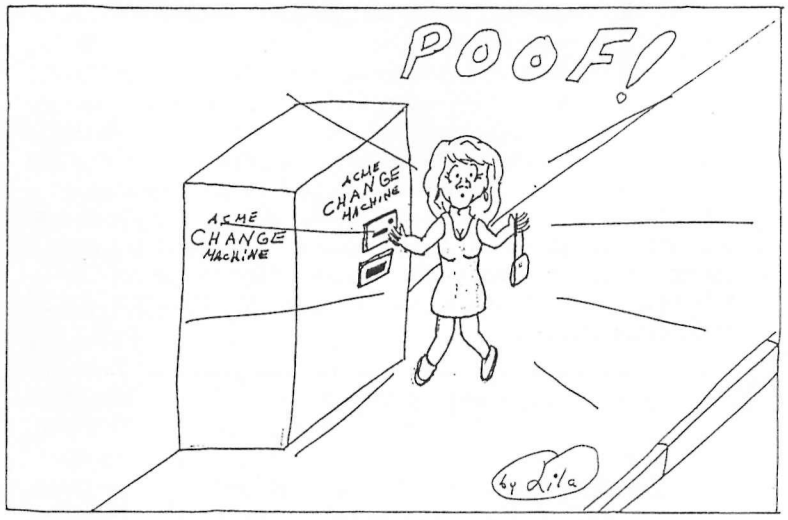
Women who've undergone disfiguring mastectomies can now have their chests fitted with all-natural replacement breasts instead of a hunk of plastic. "Thanks to advances in cell regeneration, we are able to grow entire, living breasts in a laboratory," states Claudette Boulanger, a leading authority on the technique. "When surgically attached, they are virtually identical to the original breasts. Most importantly a women who's undergone breast cancer surgery can still feel like a real woman, since the new breast is entirely her own."

In the still-experimental procedure, skin, blood-vessel and bone samples are taken from the healthy breast and placed in a culture dish where they are supplied nutrients. Within weeks, doctors are able to mold the newly-grown tissue into a new breast. So far, over a hundred women have received new breasts, without pain or side effects. Since the replacement tissue is not a transplant, there is no danger of rejection. One of Dr. Boulanger's patients, a 32-year-old woman identified only as Michelle, says her life wouldn't be the same if she hadn't agreed to the experimental procedure.

Dr. Boulanger is hopeful that the new technique will be available to all mastectomy patients in the near future. Until then, the Paris, France lab is conducting breast regeneration is being kept under tight security. "The sight of human organs growing in a laboratory might upset some people," explains Dr. Boulanger. "And there's always the possibility of this technique falling into the wrong hands."

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article reprinted from *SUN*, January 30, 1990 issue.)





MAXINE By Marian Henley

THE TRANSFORMATION OF TULA

THE EXTRAORDINARY STORY OF A BEAUTIFUL WOMAN WHO WAS BORN A BOY

personality By GRETCHEN EDGREN

THEY MAY *have always been with us, these individuals who feel at odds with the bodies in which they were born. Outwardly, they appear to be male; inwardly, they are convinced that they're female. (In rarer cases, the mismatch is reversed.) Historians speak of such persons as being more or less accepted members of society in ancient Anatolia, Scythia, Alexandria and elsewhere. Not until the latter half of this century, however, was a name—transsexualism—given the condition, and surgical means devised to reshape the shell of the body to conform to the patient's inner perception. The drive that compels the true transsexual to take such a drastic step is one of the diagnostic clues that separate him/her from the transvestite, who identifies himself as male—and wants to remain one—but gets a sexual frisson from dressing in women's clothing.*

In 1953, an American ex-GI named George Jorgensen, Jr., underwent the first highly publicized sex-change surgery, emerging from a Copenhagen hospital as Christine Jorgensen. Thousands have followed, among the better known being tennis star Renée Richards, born Richard Raskind; British travel writer Jan Morris, who as newspaperman James Morris accompanied the 1953 expedition that conquered Mount Everest; and composer Walter Carlos, who pioneered music for the synthesizer before becoming Wendy Carlos—and coming out of the transsexual closet in a trail-blazing May 1979 "Playboy Interview."

No longer taboo, the topic of transsexualism today turns up everywhere, from an episode of "L.A. Law" to "Donahue," from a public-television documentary to a nationwide contest for an Oprah Winfrey look-alike, whose sponsors red-facedly discovered that the winner was a male in the process of gender reassignment.

Although scientists now recognize the existence of the phenomenon of transsexualism, they aren't in agreement about its causes. In yet another replay of the nature-vs.-nurture debate, some authorities cite psychological influences exerted by parents, while others are coming to the conclusion that transsexuals are born, not made. Chromosomal abnormalities are sometimes found. Other studies have revealed that, in the normal course of events, a male fetus is exposed to massive doses of male hormone at the time his brain is taking shape. If something, possibly stress or medication taken by the mother—hormonal therapy and barbiturates have been implicated—interferes with that process, the baby can be born with outwardly masculine sexual characteristics but a feminine brain. He/she is a transsexual—a human being who feels trapped in the wrong body.

This is the story of such a person and of her metamorphosis from man to woman.

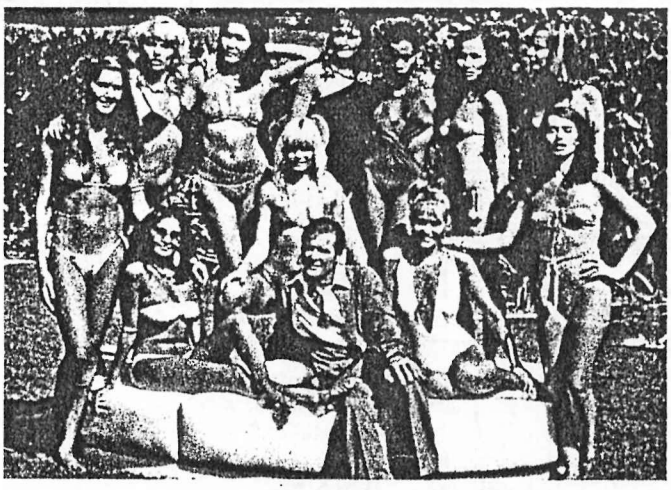
•

Barry Cossey hated school in Brooke, the little village in England's county of Norfolk where he was born. He didn't enjoy the rough-and-tumble of the other boys' games; the bigger ones bullied him and called him sissy. His closest companion was his sister, Pam, with whom he played dolls and dressed up in their mum's clothes. As he grew into adolescence and began to experience the budding of sexual feelings, he feared that he might be homosexual.

It turned out to be much more complicated than that.

Today, the former Barry Cossey is Caroline Cossey—or, to her friends in the modeling field, Tula—and a crusader for the rights of her fellow transsexuals.

If I hadn't been aware of Tula's history before we met over lunch in a trendy restaurant in London's Holland Park district, it never would have occurred to me that she was anything other than 100 percent female. She's tall (six feet), graceful, well proportioned (37-25-37) and drop-dead gorgeous; her voice has just a trace of huskiness and her gestures, even her choice of conversational topics, are completely feminine. Obviously, this woman *thinks* like a woman.



Shortly after Tula (at left, above) appeared as one of the Bond Girls with Roger Moore as 007 in the 1981 spy thriller *For Your Eyes Only*, a British tabloid revealed her secret: "JAMES BOND GIRL WAS A BOY."

The fact that some see her as a freak, a victim of mutilation, a seeker of publicity still takes her by surprise. "I can't understand why people don't realize that my predicament

had nothing to do with choice," she says. "I never *was* a man. I always felt I was a woman. I just needed my body changed to fit my self-image. I *had* to do what I did. I know that I would have finished up with my life if I hadn't got medical help. But I never meant to go public with my story. My secret would have gone to the grave with me if the tabloids hadn't come out with it. I spoke up to set the record straight, and now I'm speaking out for the rights of transsexuals everywhere."

Tula's transformation didn't happen overnight. She started taking female hormones in her late teens, while working as a dancer; next came breast-augmentation surgery, "which helped me earn more money, because I could dance topless." Her career as a showgirl took her to many parts of the world, but all the time, she lived with the fear that someone would discover the truth behind her masquerade. As camouflage, she made herself a special G string "with the strongest elastic I could find. It was painful, but I got used to it." Particularly awkward was the time in Paris when she had to wash off body make-up in communal facilities backstage: "I would shower in my G string, and the other dancers put my apparent shyness down to the fact that I was English." Finally, after years of hormone treatments and psychological counseling, Tula was ready for the irrevocable step: sex-change surgery, or, to use the current euphemism, gender reassignment. Before she could be accepted as a suitable candidate, doctors administered various tests, including one that revealed that she had been born with a chromosomal abnormality. Tula has three X and one Y chromosomes, instead of the normal patterns: XY for males, XX for females.

"So I could never have been a normal man. I could never have fathered a child, for instance. Chromosomally, my body seemed to be at war with itself."

The operation took place in London's Charing Cross Hospital on New Year's Eve, 1974, and Tula went back to Norfolk to convalesce at the home of her parents—who, after their initial shock at learning their son wanted to become their daughter, had been warmly supportive.

During the next few years, Tula's career—by then as a model and an actress—blossomed, as did her personal life. "Now that I could enjoy sex as a woman, I'm afraid I went a little wild," she says. "Fortunately, that was all before AIDS."

In answer to the obvious question, yes, Tula is orgasmic. That's more easily understood when one realizes that some of the sensitive tissues of her original sexual apparatus were retained in the surgical reconstruction.

"I suppose my sex life now is like any other woman's," she says. "Sometimes you can't relax and reach a climax; other times you do."

Modeling job followed modeling job, leading to what looked to be a big break: Tula was offered a role as one of the Bond Girls in the 1981 James Bond film *For Your Eyes Only*. The part led to a nude photo in a June 1981 *Playboy* pictorial about the movie (she fooled us)—and, eventually, to exposure of a different sort. One Sunday in 1982, a headline in the tabloid *News of the World* blared, "JAMES BOND GIRL WAS A BOY."

"I was devastated," Tula recalls. "There, I thought, went all my hopes of leading a normal life. I was hounded by journalists everywhere I went, and their lack of understanding—the kinds of ignorant questions they asked—made me determined to tell my side of the story."

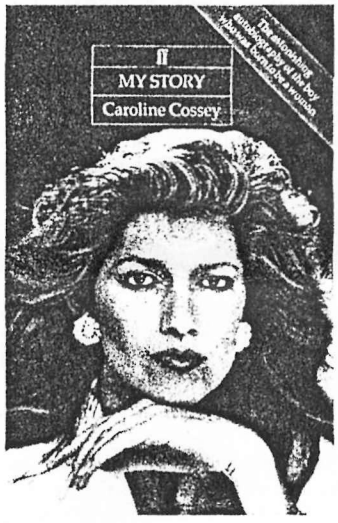
The result was her first book, the paperback *Tula: I Am a Woman*. After the attendant hoopla died down, a psychologically wearied Tula decided to accept only low-key modeling assignments. On one such, a skiwear shoot in Italy, she met an Italian advertising executive who was knowledgeable about transsexualism. "His name was Count Glauco Lasinio, and he was the first man I'd been out with who knew from the beginning all about my past. Eventually, we fell in love, and to my surprise, he asked me to marry him."

It was the count who urged Tula to seek changes in British law regarding transsexuals, law that is full of inconsistencies. Although Tula's British passport says she's female, her birth certificate says she's male. Britain's National Health program pays for sex-change surgery, but the government refuses to treat the postsurgery patient as female if she wants to marry. To complicate matters further, Tula contributes to her health insurance at the rate charged a woman, but she won't be able to collect a pension until she's 65 (women are eligible at 60). If she were to commit a crime, she'd be sent to a men's prison, with all the images of assault that that entails.

So, with encouragement from her Italian fiancé, Tula began the seven-year

Tula has never regretted the course of treatment that has changed her body into one in which she feels at home: that of a beautiful woman. She sees this feature as vindication of that status: "It's an honor to appear in *Playboy*. I'm very proud of it."

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article reprinted without the permission of *PLAYBOY* from the September 1991 issue.)



Above, the jacket of Tula's new book, recently published in England. It's her second autobiography; she used a copy of the first, *Tula: I Am a Woman*, to break the news of her sex change to wealthy Jewish businessman Elias Fattal, whom she married in a high-society ceremony in 1989 . The marriage, however, soon failed.

process that would take her petition, challenging the British government's refusal to treat her as a woman, to the European Court of Human Rights at Strasbourg. The case was to outlast her engagement to Glauco, which she broke off over an episode of infidelity, and would even outlive her marriage to a wealthy Jewish businessman, Elias Fattal, whom she still calls the love of her life.

Elias and Tula met in 1985. Seeking a career change, she had studied acupressure at the Oriental School of Medicine in London and was accepting private clients. Elias was looking for relief from a painful condition called polymyalgia rheumatica. Eventually, they became lovers and, on Valentine's Day, 1988, he proposed.

This left Tula with a problem. Although she had told Elias that medical problems made her unable to bear children, she had not actually told him about her sex change. Terrified of his possible reaction, she gave him a copy of her book and asked him to go away and read it. He refused, sat down and read it in her presence.

"When he got to the last page, he squeezed my hand and said, 'Well, you've certainly got balls, pet!'"

Not anymore, Elias, not anymore.

"I thought he'd change his mind about the proposal, but all he asked was that I consider converting to Judaism," Tula says. And she did, enrolling in a nine-month course in Jewish history and tradition and the elements of the Hebrew language.

This went part way toward mollifying Elias' parents, well-to-do orthodox Sephardic Jews who had come to England from Iraq and were none too pleased that their son was courting a gentile.

"That was bad enough, so I felt it wouldn't be wise to tell them I was a transsexual right away," Tula explains. "We had planned to tell them eventually, of course, after they had a chance to get to know me. We had even planned to give them grandchildren. Both my sister and a girlfriend had expressed willingness to become surrogate mothers and bear Elias' child."

After an initial coolness—Mrs. Fattal refused for three months to meet her son's fiancée—the senior Fattals seemed to accept their prospective daughter-in-law, to the point of taking over the wedding plans. Tula had wanted a quiet ceremony for family and friends, but Mrs. Fattal insisted on a lavish reception at London's Savoy Hotel.

The first hurdle, getting a marriage license, was surmounted when nobody asked Tula to produce a birth certificate. Meanwhile, a decision in Strasbourg was handed down in Tula's favor, ten votes to six, on May 9, 1989 (though the British government appealed), and on May 21, Elias and Tula were married at a liberal synagogue in St. Johns Wood, London.

The couple set out on a three-week honeymoon in Acapulco and Jamaica, which Tula still recalls with fondness.

"We were like a couple of teenagers. At Las Brisas, we had a private pool and we just wandered around naked and made love morning, noon and night. It was lovely. But on our return, my mother and sister were there at the airport to greet us [her father had died a year and a half earlier], and they looked upset. I said, 'What on earth is it? Have you crashed my car?' And my sister said, 'No,' and my mum started to cry, and then she showed me the paper. The *News of the World* had done it again. There it was on the front page: 'SEX CHANGE PAGE THREE GIRL WEDS.'

"So Elias called his mother, hoping she hadn't seen the papers. But she had. And he asked me to go with him to speak with his family, but I felt I couldn't face them just then—if they said the wrong thing, I'd just feel so hurt and rejected. In retrospect, that was my biggest mistake, letting Elias go to his family alone—because from that point on, he was gone.

"In the end, I guess he just couldn't stand up to his family. The sad thing is, I think he still does love me. You can't just stop loving somebody in five minutes."

For the first few months after Elias' departure, Tula could barely cope. There was a telephoned death threat, an attempt to sabotage the brakes of her Mercedes. "But after I reported that to the police, the threats stopped." As therapy, she began to write another book—just published in Britain under the title *My Story*, by Caroline Cossey—and went back to modeling. "Elias hadn't wanted me to work, so my career had been pretty much on hold for four years."

One of the things her agent, Yvonne Paul, suggested was posing for *Playboy*.

"As I said to Mr. Hefner when I finally met him, 'I want to do *Playboy* because it would help change people's attitudes. I would like readers to look at me as a woman, to see that transsexuals *can* be attractive, that we can look sexy and we don't have hairy chests and all the things that one conjures up about transsexuals—confusing them with transvestites, who are so different.' In other words, I wanted to make a statement."

Playboy was interested. As one editor put it, "If *Playboy* can't provide a tasteful forum in which a person can express his or her own sexuality, who can?" We commissioned Contributing Photographer Byron Newman to create the pictures you see here.

While waiting for her story to be published, Tula threw herself into the appeals process at Strasbourg. She visited the States, appearing on *Donahue* and giving interviews, always hopeful she'd win the case.

But on September 27, 1990, the court announced its decision: ten votes to eight against her right to change her birth certificate, 14 votes to four against her right to marry, leaving her and other British transsexuals in a no man's—or no woman's—land.

"I can only believe that when we join the European Community next year, that's going to raise some questions," Tula told me this past April, when we had lunch and talked in London. "Because in other European countries, transsexuals are entitled to rights, and we're supposed to be part of a common Europe. So I'll have another stab at changing the law then."

As she toyed with her cheese omelet, a young Asian man approached. Obviously recognizing Tula, he asked shyly whether or not she'd won her case in Strasbourg.

"No? You lost it? That's a shame."

"Well, I'll have another go next year."

"Good luck," said the man. "I wish you the best."

So do we.

Dear Abby: I recently attended a lovely wedding. That is, except for the ending when the priest pronounced the couple "man and wife." Almost every television and movie script is written the same way. It is very annoying; it sounds as if the woman has just been married, but the man is still single.

Abby, please publish this so that clergy and everyone else who perform marriage ceremonies will say, "I now pronounce you HUSBAND and wife" — instead of "man and wife." Or else, say, "I now pronounce you MAN and WOMAN," which would make them more equal. I work in a church and really think the words spoken at a wedding should be equitable for both partners. — Judy Weaver, Diaconal Minister, United Methodist Church

Dear Judy: I agree. Following a marriage ceremony, the appropriate pronouncement would be, "I now pronounce you husband and wife."

"I now pronounce you man and woman" would be appropriate only when spoken by a surgeon following a sex-change operation.

MY PARENTS WERE FIRST COUSINS—THAT'S WHY I LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE!

Dear Ann Landers: I am 34 years old and have been married 12 years. We have three children, two boys and a girl, all under 10. My husband and I get along well. He's a terrific father and our friends and families think we are the perfect couple.

Shortly after we married, "Don" told me he was not happy being a man. He wanted to be a woman. He said he has felt this way since he was 5 years old. I knew he always liked feminine things, but I didn't realize to what extent. He is 100 percent faithful and swears that it is only me he wants to be with. I have tried to accept this and until recently, I honestly thought I had, but it is becoming more difficult as time goes on.

Six months ago, Don went to see a specialist about a sex change operation. I told him I could handle his change but I wasn't sure about the kids. After many long talks, Don said that for the sake of the children he would put the idea on hold, but I'm afraid one day he may resent me for keeping him from being who he wants to be.

I have asked him to seek counseling, but he says he doesn't need it, that he knows what he wants to be. I'd like to get counseling for myself because it's getting harder and harder to make love to him. Our relationship is turning into a platonic one although we still get along great. I'd love to have the sexual part of our married life back but I can't seem to manage it. I don't want to end up having an affair just to satisfy my sexual needs, but I do want a man. Can you help me? — Unsettled in Milwaukee

Dear Milwaukee: I'm sure you understand that eventually your husband is going to have that operation and your life will be very different.

I urge you to get counseling now to help handle the pressure and figure out what you want to do in the future. I admire your strength. Not every woman could deal with this situation and stay balanced. Good luck.

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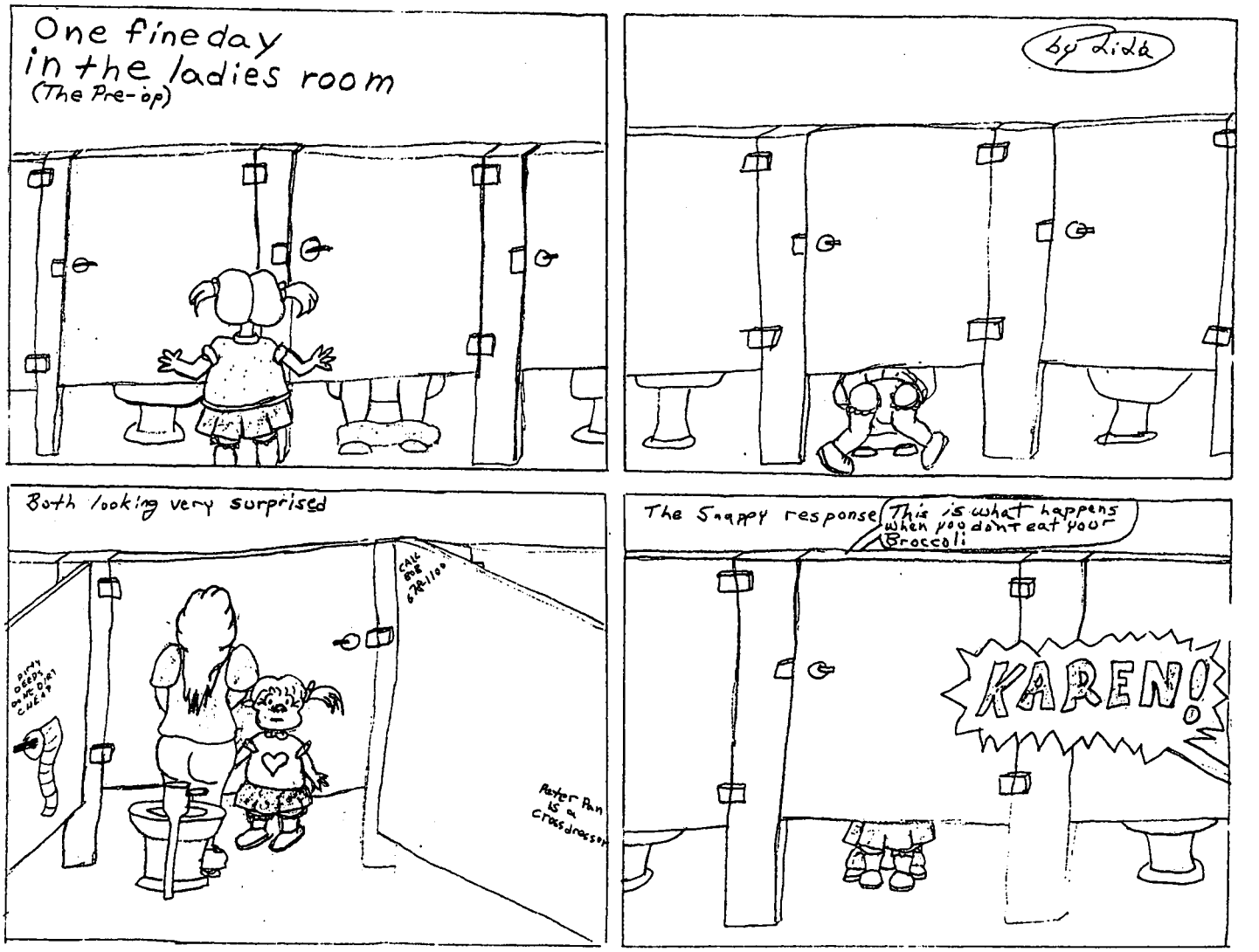


The beauty of a great speaking voice

It doesn't matter how hard you've worked on your hair, or how perfectly you've applied your lipstick....All that time and effort will go to waste if what comes out of your mouth isn't as ravishing as the color you put on it. Since beauty is frequently in the *ears* of the beholder, it makes sense to cultivate a voice worth hearing - and figuring out how to improve yours isn't as much of a challenge as you might think. Just track down a tape recorder, take a few good, deep breaths and get ready to make your voice a real conversation piece.

"People really do judge you by the way you sound," says Jeffrey Jacobi, a NYC voice trainer and director of Jacobi Voice Development. Believe it or not, beautiful, resonant tones can even make up for an appearance that's less than appealing otherwise. What's more, points out NYC vocal coach Carmen Cook, "Your voice is a reflection of who you are." And a clear, well-modulated speech pattern can make a big difference in how your perceived.

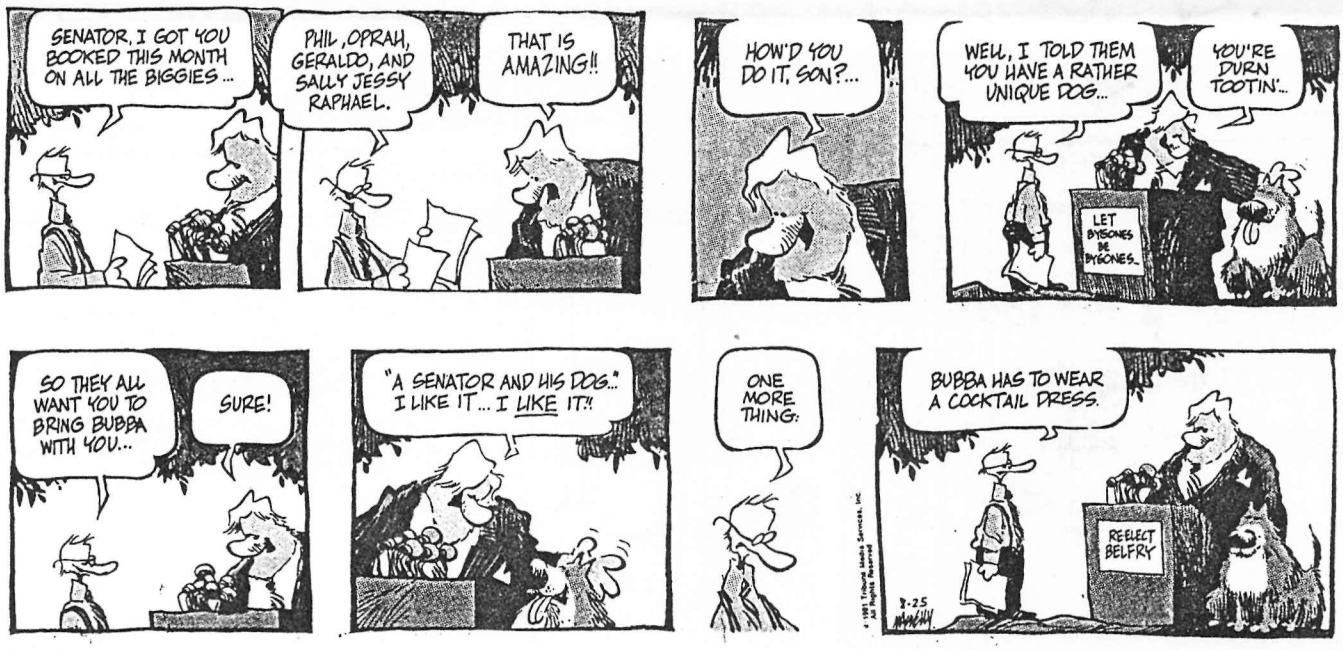
You probably don't need a *My Fair Lady*-style makeover: Just a small amount of work in breathing and technique should do the trick. "We all possess a powerful natural voice," says Jean McClelland, a NYC vocal specialist. However, many factors - breathing problems or bad habits, for example - can prevent us from developing that voice into the richest, most resonant tone possible. The first step is to really listen to yourself, using a cassette recorder or even an answering machine; you may well be surprised at what you hear.

In general, imagining each word starting deep in your abdomen and being projected up through your throat and into the front of your mouth will help you develop a richer, more attractive voice. Concentrate on keeping the muscles in your throat, nose and mouth relaxed and open. Just as you exercise to keep your body in condition, Jacobi believes that the voice requires a regular workout - "a set of very basic building exercises to strengthen and develop the sound." This one, performed five times weekly, for ten minutes each time, will do the trick: Start by making long, sustained hums in a note that feels comfortable - that is, not too high or too low. The goal is to feel a vibration that emanates from your abdomen up through your throat and mouth. "This means you're using your full voice," explains Jacobi. Next practice using open vowel (a-e-i-o-u) sounds; rehearsing them will loosen up your voice. Start with a hum, then open your mouth into a vowel, exaggerating it as much as possible. Then incorporate words that include many vowels - for example, *Iowa, dialogue, alibi, agenda*. Sing them first, then say them in an exaggerated way, stretching the vowels and feeling them vibrate. Finally, repeat each of these words in a normal voice - you should sound significantly more eloquent and relaxed now.

sounds like trouble

FADING An inability to sustain volume throughout a phrase so you sound as if you're swallowing your words.
THROATINESS A dull, dark quality that's often heard in people with very low voices. It's produced when the tongue is retracted, causing sound to come from the back of the mouth.
THINNESS The opposite of throatiness...a high-pitched, flat tone (think Minnie Mouse) produced when the tongue is positioned too far forward and the sound resonates only in the front of the mouth. The speaker may think she sounds feminine, but to others the effect can seem rather childish.
STRIDENCY A harsh, raspy sound that's generated when your throat cavity is overly constricted; it usually occurs when the speaker is particularly tense.
MONOTONY/DULLNESS A lackluster quality that results when every tone is the same, with no emphasis or inflection.
SHRILLNESS The habit of speaking in a high, loud voice.
BREATHINESS When there is too little tension in the voice, your sound can become whispery, low-pitched and weak.

SHOE



Monica Wenzlaff/Ryersonian

Paddy Aldridge, A Ryerson Theatre Graduate, helps 'Janice' pick out some undies in her hotel boutique.

Local transvestite hotel run by Ryerson grad

By Ruth Fernandez
The Ryersonian

"The air was laden of nail polish, perfumes and scented powder/ Frank took one last look at his makeup, lowered his head and carefully put on the long brunette wig/ And suddenly, that wonderous creature whom Frank had recently come to know as Francine, stared back at him in the mirror/ Frank was gone, at least for the rest of the evening/"
veronica brown

Intriguing, isn't it? That's what more than 100 men across Ontario and parts of New York thought when they read the poem, written by Veronica Brown, as an advertisement for the Wildside Boutique on Dundas Street East.

Brown, along with Paddy Aldridge, owns the store which caters to men who sometimes like to dress as women.

"We are providing a very needed service to a portion of the population," says Brown. "We are giving them a chance to enjoy a part of their life that other people don't understand."

Aldridge, a Ryerson Theatre School graduate, put together a production about the history of "drag" while at Ryerson. After making dresses for impersonators she realized there are also heterosexual men who like to cross-dress.

Aldridge started a make-up service out of her 23rd floor apartment. She gave makeovers and rented out an outfit and gave tips on crossdressing.

"Starting up the business was a lark," says Aldridge. "But the first week the phone rang non- stop. I had to put a machine on it."

"It was a transformation service," Brown says. "Then people started asking if they could buy the clothes and wigs." Things snowballed and the two decided it was time to open a boutique. In July 1990, they got a business permit and started stocking up.

"One day we had eight guys shopping in our living room!"

Wildside Inc. threw a party at the Brownstone Hotel, complete with a drag show. About 90 people attended, and many suggested Aldridge and Brown should start a crossdressing club. A trip to the United States to research the transvestite community followed. Back in Toronto, they chose a site, and the Wildside Boutique and Bed & Breakfast was born.

"This is a women's clothing store for men," says Brown. "A man can't go into Eatons and try on a dress, whereas women can go into the men's department."

Wildside sells corsets, high- heeled shoes in men's sizes, silicone breast forms (in sizes small, medium and large) as well as jewellery. Especially rings in larger sizes.

Dresses are being designed by a Toronto manufacturer according to the store's needs: long sleeves, and high necks made from stretchy materials. The store also stocks a wide assortment of books and magazines for crossdressers.

"For those who can't crossdress, they can read about it," says Brown.

There is also a how-to video which was produced by Aldridge. It sells for $30.

The store also claims the lowest wig prices in town.

"The guys go for the dangling earrings," adds Brown. "They have an image of what it is to be a woman." Frilly underwear is also very popular.

Business has been brisk since opening, and all profits are going back into the store until it is stocked the way the owners like it.

The owners say new customers come in every week and are pleasantly surprised. "It's like they're in a candy store," says Brown. Some come in just to buy panty hose, underwear or a wig.

"Sometimes a man comes in wearing a $300 business suit to try on a pair of shoes and he's got the hose on underneath."

By Ruth Fernandez
The Ryersonian

As Janice enters the intimate club, all eyes turn to see what dazzling and provacative outfit she's wearing this evening.

Tonight, she's graced her elegant lean frame with a black leather mini skirt, lacy white blouse, and black suede pumps.

Her hair is a sensuous mass of auburn curls and her makeup is impeccable as usual.

Not bad for someone who just an hour ago had a full beard.

HUH?

Yes, Janice is really a man. And the party he's attending is the weekly gathering of the Toronto Cross-Dressers Club. It's a rare place where he and other men who like to dress in women's clothes can get together and feel feminine for the night.

"I don't do this very often"

" I don't do this very often," says Janice. "It's a total reversal of what I am ninety per cent of time."

At the club they go only by their female names to protect their male identities. After all, most of the time they're regular guys.

Some members are middle-aged fathers whose wives support their occasional dalliance into the world of women.

Bernadette, 55, goes out regularly 'en femme' to the theatre.

He's been dressing since he was 10-years-old. Ninety per cent of the time he dresses as a woman. At home he wears slacks and a blouse. His wife didn't know he was a cross-dresser when they were first married.

"I gradually introduced it,"Bernadette says. "And she gradually accepted it." They have two children. He hasn't explained the situation to them but feels they must know.

Money is always a problem. Most crossdressers have families or other responsibilities.

"You have to pay bills," says Shelley. "You have a small budget for your "femme" wardrobe."

Difficulties stretch far beyond dress sizes. The biggest concern is acceptance.

That is especially true for Vikki. He is a little different from the other club members. He's a transexual- he has the body of a man, but the gender identity of a woman Vikki has decided, after many years, to make his transformation permanent.

Once he does he says he'll keep coming to Wildside.

"I've met more people here who are genuine, than you meet ... out there," he says.

"Everybody's conception is that we are child molesters and weirdos, but there are professional people in the club."

He is fed up with all the controversy that surrounds transvestites and transsexuals.

"It's very simple to me," he says. "But people do make a big deal out of it. "

Gender Support Bulletin Boards

By Micheline Johnson

Not many TS's own computers, but for those that do, a way to network and gain the latest information on "gender support", is via the growing network of computer bulletin board systems (BBS's). Here is a list of existing BBS's devoted entirely or partially to information for TS's. The list does not intentionally include those intended for TV's, for fun, or the kinky crowd, etc., but rather those that will help TS's take the right route through their transition.

ARGUS: Boston, MA
BBS line: (617) 229-2345, forty lines
First-time log-on: Membership information required.
Sections: conference are planning weekly conference for online support group.
Description: General purpose board with TV/TS area. Sysop and general users are not bothered by CD'ers.

CROSS LINK: Denver, CO
BBS line: (303) 665-3746
Parameters: 300/1200 baud, 8N1
First-time log-on: When you log on you will see "You have reached M & O's Travelling Circuits BBS where YOU are the main attraction!" Name? Last Name?
Follow instructions, answer questions, Enter name "CROSS-LINK".

DOCTALK: Univ. of Kansas
BBS line: (913) 588-1998 (915) 588-1998
Parameters: 1200/2400 baud; 8N1
First-time log-on: Register with the receptionist to get your password, in order to be granted full access. After registering you are given partial access to the messages area so you can read messages only. To access the messages on gender dysphoria, do a selective retrieval, using GID as your subject.
Description: Med students and doctors on it, having threads on Gender Dysphoria.

FEMINET:
BBS line: (408) 335-4387, 24 hours
Parameters: 300/1200/2400 baud, 8N1
First-time on-line: (Type only the letters in quotes). After "WELCOME" type "K", pause, type "E", pause, type "Y". Answer all new-login questions and you will be logged onto Digicomputronica, a public "front" for Feminet. Enter "P" (for password). Password is "KEY".
Description: General resource for all TV's, TS's, and all other persons interested in transgendered lifestyles. Largest BBS devoted to gender issues. Often regarded as one of if not the best privately owned gender board in existence. With extensive fiction and factual library.

THE GALLIFREYAN GARDEN:
BBS line: (615) 831-1338, 7pm-7am weekdays, 24 hours weekends
First-time log-on: Users wishing access to the TV/TS section should leave a private message to the sysop requesting access and mentioning where they found out about the BBS.
Sections: Section for TV's and TS's which is "invisible" to all other sections.

GENDERLINK: Compuserve Information Service
BBS line: Local access nodes nationwide
Parameters: 8N1
First-time log-on: Admission by subscription to Compuserve and by permission by System Operator HSX forum B (GO HSX 200 at any prompt).
Description: Discrete support community for both TV's and TS's. Consists of closed forum, conference area, and extensive data library of factual information and archived discussions of topics of concern.

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM: Ocean County, NJ
BBS line: (609) 693-8849
Parameters: 300-1200 baud; 8N1
First-time log-on: Use the name "APRIL MAY", calling from "Heartland, USA" and the password "FRIENDS" (all CAPS). This will get you into a sub-board of the main system. You may then register the name of your choice for future access. New admissions to gender area are checked out.
Description: Very good BBS, used extensively by members of Renaissance in the Philadelphia and South Jersey areas. Regular features include the National Gender News, and the News Queen. Use above codes for log on to facilitate admission to gender area, as this board has other family oriented areas. Forum, Newsletter, Monitors printed material on TV/TS items, story exchange.

LATE NITE NETWORK BBS:
BBS line: (419) 683-3059, 8pm to 7am
Parameters: 300/1200 baud
First-time log-on: Leave a message for the Sysop for access to the TV/TS section:
Sections: TV/TS section.

PC SERVICES: Michigan
BBS line: (616) 676-2429, 24 hours
Parameters: 300/1200 baud, 8N1
First-time log-on: Leave message to sysop requesting access to gender area.
Description: Handles various subjects, but has gender area.

US TOO: Chicago, IL
BBS line: (312) 486-3125 10pm to 12am CST
Parameters: 300/1200/2400 baud; 8N1
First-time log-on: After the US TOO logo, at the prompt for your name, enter NEW (all CAPS). Then select R for register. You will be asked for your name, location, phone number, type of system you are using, and a password for future log-ons.
Sections: general interest, TV/CD, TS(m-f), TS(f-m), files and utilities.
Description: Provides professional referral information, late-breaking news of importance to our community, legislative updates, medical and psychiatric journal abstracts, private personal electronic mail (E-mail), constructive tips and techniques etc. for the neophyte TS on living full-time and meeting the consequent responsibilities.

Most BBS's have a list of other similar BBS's. So once you successfully sign on to one of the above, you may be able to get the details missing from the above.

Dear Becky Ann,

I want to thank you for the work that you and the others put into Twenty Minutes and the club in general. As you have suggested in the Tabloid there were many times that I disagreed with your articles and taste; I also disagreed with the comments of many of the contributors. However I would like to say that on thinking back I agreed with and learned from the paper a lot more than I disagreed with it. Even when I disagreed it showed me the views of others and made me think. You have made a very positive contribution to the TS community. I am going to miss our monthly meeting at the post office.

Your work gave me a lot of strength and confidence. From up here, three hours drive north of Hartford, you were my only contact with a group of people that did not consider what I was doing a form of insanity. The distance to meetings means that I get down only very rarely so now I am alone. I have reached a point where I believe I can survive. This time last year you were my life and it would have been hard. I now feel very sorry for those starting this long hard road without Twenty Minutes. Please also convey my special thanks to Lila. Her cartoons were always a joy and I am going to miss her.

For myself I am just about to complete my 12 month period and will be in Hartford for the November board meeting. I am hoping to go to Montreal early in 1992. So now we must all get on with our lives and go our separate ways. Thank you again and best wishes.

Happily,
Jennifer, Strafford, VT

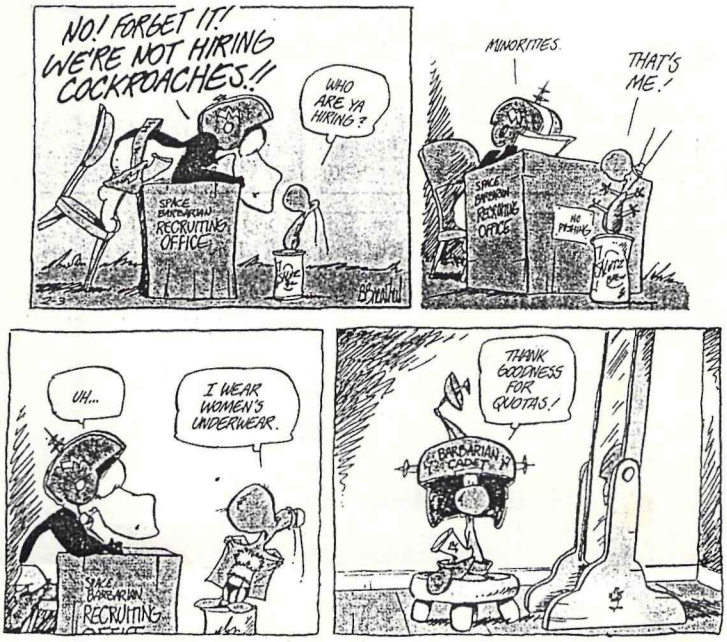
Dear Jennifer,

Good luck at the board meeting and best wishes for your SRS. The end of Twenty Minutes does not mean the end of all information about transsexualism and gender dysphoria. For our nation-wide subscribers (who have dwindled so) there are still many fine publications available to subscribed to. The original TS only newsletter by Phoebe Smith - the TRANSSEXUAL VOICE. The RENAISSANCE NEWS, perhaps the best newsletter in the country. CHRYSALIS QUARTERLY, a new publication by AEGIS for TSs that will give old stand-by IFGE TAPESTRY a run for its money. And while the CDC NEWS is geared to the cliental of WILDSIDE, Veronica, a long-time advocate of TS rights, certainly won't forget TS issues in her new newsletter.

Becky Ann

So for those who still need a life-line, here are the addresses to write to:

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE PO Box 16314 Atlanta, GA 30321 $18 per year/6 issues	Renaissance Education Assoc. PO Box 552 King of Prussia, PA 19406 $12 per year/12 issues
AEGIS - CHRYSALIS QUARTERLY PO Box 33724 Decatur, GA 30033 $20 per year/4 issues	IFGE - TV/TS TAPESTRY JOURNAL PO Box 367 Wayland, MA 01778 $40 per year/4 issues



WHERE HAVE ALL THE TRANIES GONE?

by Michelle Hunt, RN

Where have all the Tranies gone?
Long time passing.
Where have all the Tranies gone?
A long time ago.
Where have all the Tranies gone?
They had their reassignments everyone -
When will they ever learn?
I think they'll never learn.

Where have all the care givers gone?
Long time passing.
Where have all the care givers gone?
A long time ago.
Where have all the care givers gone?
They tired of egocentrics everyone -
It seems they finally learned.
Oh yes, they finally learned.

Where have all the support groups gone?
Long time passing.
Where have all the support groups gone?
A long time ago.
Where have all the support groups gone?
Destroyed from within by their very own.
Reality not Fantasy -
That's what they finally learned.

Where has Twenty Minutes gone?
Long time passing.
Where has Twenty Minutes gone?
A long time ago.
Where has Twenty Minutes gone?
Veronica, Becky and everyone -
Quit the 'Empire' and got a life.
It seems they finally learned,
Thank God, they finally learned.

(Thank you for the laughs, and the tears. I truly wish all of you well in your future endeavors.)

Deciding What to do About Your Gender Dysphoria

Some Considerations for Those Who are Thinking About Sex Reassignment

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By Ms. Dallas Denny, M.A.
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Psychotherapist and Sex Therapist

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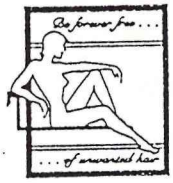
(203) 776-9708



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