

TWENTY MINUTES

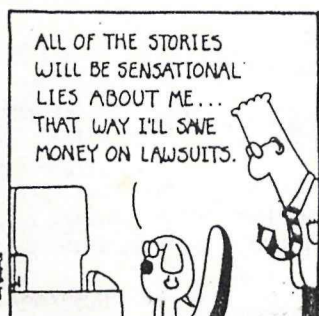
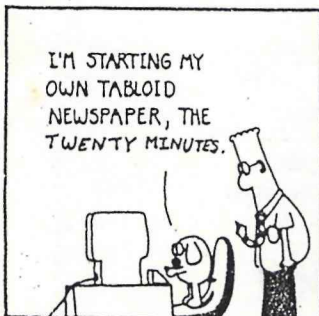
AUGUST 1991

\$2.00



DOING DONAHUE

Veronica and Paddy of *Wildside* with Donahue.



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by Michelle Hunt, RN

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TWENTY MINUTES

The XX (Twenty) Club, Inc.
PO Box 80690
Forest Park Station
Springfield, MA 01138

SUBSCRIPTION RATES:
\$2 per single copy
\$5 for 3 months
\$20 for 12 months

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CONGRATULATIONS to Co-editor, Sonia and to XX Club president, Ann, for getting approval for SRS at the June board meeting of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England.

All the news that's print to fit.

This newsletter is funded entirely through subscriptions and the sales of educational materials. All written contributions welcome. A backlog of material may prevent the immediate publishing of submitted articles. *Twenty Minutes* is not responsible for the opinions expressed or accuracy of information provided by the writers of unsolicited or solicited materials. Parts of this newsletter may be reproduced provided source credit is given. *Twenty Minutes* was founded by Veronica Jean Brown.

The views and opinions expressed in *Twenty Minutes* do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the XX Club, or the Gender Identity Clinic of New England. Nor do references to specific programs, services or products constitute endorsement by either. Readers are cautioned to make any changes in treatment based upon such information by consulting a physician.

XX CLUB CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Saturday, Aug. 10

Saturday, Aug. 24

Saturday, Sept. 14

Saturday, Sept. 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.

From **THE ICONOCLAST**
by JoAnn Roberts
Renaissance News, June 1991

SPRINGFIELD, MASS. - You know, if they cleaned up their act, I wouldn't have much to write about...

The April (Fools) issue of *Twenty Minutes (The Twenty Club)* carried a cartoon by Lila, who I assume is a transsexual. (You'll soon learn why I made that assumption.)

The cartoon is titled "Anatomy of a Crossdresser" and shows a badly drawn female figure (Lila is no artist) with a number of "call outs" in engineering parlance.

Here are a few choice examples:

- #1 - Short, black hair showing through blonde wig.
- #4 - Beard shadow/stubble.
- #5 - Linebacker shoulders.
- #6 - Arms shaved (but only halfway).
- #16 - Makeup smudged on collar.
- #18 - Enough nose hair to braid.

It goes on and on like that. Cheap shots. Definitely unfunny stuff with lots of repressed anger.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance - from June \$1666.79

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	150.20
Dues	60.00
Newsletter subscriptions	155.00
Brochures & Reprints	42.00
Video Sales	60.00
Savings interest	7.29
Total Income	\$ 474.49

EXPENSES:

PO Box Rental	46.50
Rent-Christ Church	150.00
Refreshments	74.44
Newsletter & brochures	99.99
Postage	57.18
Supplies	25.71
Video production	33.99
Bank Fee	.85
Total Expenses	\$ 488.66

Net Loss for July \$ -14.17

Balance - end of July \$1652.62

INCOME STATEMENT 1990-1991

Balance from F.Y. 1990 \$1666.77

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	324.83
Dues	60.00
Newsletter subscriptions	1250.50
Brochures & Reprints	273.25
IFGE Sales	18.00
GF Sales	38.00
Video Sales	141.00
Printing Fees	3.75
Donations	313.00
Savings interest	98.43
Total Income	\$2520.76

EXPENSES:

PO Box Rental	82.50
Rent-Christ Church	250.00
Refreshments	337.18
Gifts	84.78
Advertising	21.00
Newsletter & brochures	821.27
Postage/phone	633.43
Supplies	200.03
Video production	94.77
Bank Fees	9.95
Total Expenses	\$2534.91

Net Loss for fiscal year \$ -14.15

Balance for F.Y. 1991 \$1652.62

NURSES NOTES:

A CASE FOR THE REAL LIFE TEST

By Michelle Munt, RN

Much has been written in the pages of *Twenty Minutes* during the past few months about the need for the Real Life Test. This period of at least one year during which a hopeful candidate for SRS must live, work and play in the gender role they have chosen. The purpose for this 'test' is not to see if the TS has the 'Right Stuff' to stick it out for 12 months living full time as a member of the opposite sex. The reasoning behind the RLT is to allow the individual time to come to their own understanding about what their life will become, to begin to integrate into their surroundings and to reach a knowledgeable and informed decision about desirability of SRS as it applies to their own special set of circumstances.

The Real Life Test when used correctly, will almost guarantee that a TS will become a well balanced person who is able to contribute to society in their new role following surgery. Unfortunately, it would seem that many TS's view the RLT as something to short cut and/or bypass entirely. Just the fact that a conference is being planned to help POST-OPERATIVE TS's become integrated and accepting of what they have done physically, indicates to me that somewhere along the line something has gone terribly wrong.

Perhaps the first place to look for what is 'broke' would be the Standards of Care as defined in DMS III. These guidelines, in case you have never read them, are obviously not written to protect the TS...nope, they are definitely written to protect the medical establishment. If they were meant to protect the sexual dysphoric from themselves, they would have stricter criteria. I know of very few post-op's who feel the medical and psychiatric standards they had to meet to get SRS were strict enough. The ones who do feel that the Standards of Care were too restrictive are, for the most part, the least successful with their transition. The thoughtful, honestly reflective and successful post-op's are not saying "I got mine, but I don't want you to get yours", what most will say is "I got mine TOO EASILY. I hope you get yours, but give it a lot of serious thought".

When I was running the Gender Dysphoric program in Brussels, the first thing that I would look at in the prospective candidates dossier was 1) How long they had been role changed, and 2) Did all of their supporting documents indicate they were being truthful. It never ceased to amaze me how many TS's would claim to have role changed 4 or 5 years previously and yet their drivers licenses, pay check stubs, insurance etc., were still made out in their MALE NAMES. The required photographs would invariably show a person with a blue beard and a bad wig. And their letter would invariably indicate that, while they were not divorced and did not plan to get one, it was 'different' in their case. Of course, they and their spouse were going to continue as lesbian lovers, etc. I always considered this a red flag because it is my own personal feeling that the LAST THING a successful SRS candidate needs while they are trying to find a new identity, is the albatross of an insecure ex-spouse hanging around their

neck. Any TS who tolerates a manipulative 'significant other' who is unable or unwilling to make their own way and carries them along as unnecessary baggage is NOT ready for SRS, and I don't care what their argument is!

Assuming that the system is, in fact, not performing as promised, how do you go about fixing it? The obvious place to start is with the Standards of Care. These should be overhauled with the goal of serving the patient's needs at least as well as the legal needs of the medical community. A good place to start is with the Real Life Test, which should be lengthened to TWO YEARS and criteria developed to allow for monitoring the individuals progress. The RLT should, as much as is possible, be made 'cheat proof'.

Any income produced by the TS must be produced in their chosen gender and sexual role, and must be verified. Separate criteria should be developed to ensure that self employed people are not cheating. Any income from retirement should be disallowed...receiving retirement pay is NOT earning your living in your chosen role. Retired TS's should be required to work a certain number of hours each week in a public environment, and in their chosen roles. This should be monitored.

Electrolysis should be completed at least to the point that the individual can go a minimum of 3 weeks between treatments, and a color photo taken with direct flash does not reveal a blue beard under all the beard cover.

A divorce should be mandatory. No divorce, no surgery...period.

The SRS candidate should be able to demonstrate proper social skills in their chosen role. Social contacts that do not include true interpersonal relationships, such as communicating with a number of others via computers and bulletin boards, DO NOT COUNT. If you are not able to be in social situations at arm's length with others, you are NOT ready for SRS...to think otherwise is unrealistic.

The guidelines mentioned in this article are, unfortunately, still a long way from what is needed to fix a system gone wrong. I truly hope that at the next world meeting of the Harry Benjamin Foundation, steps are taken to close some serious holes in the system and to restore integrity to the medical and psychiatric communities who are genuinely trying to help those who are actually gender dysphoric, and to make it harder for those who find it easier to call themselves a TS rather than admit to the truth of what their sexual leanings really should be labeled.

(EDITORS' NOTES...while we have seen many a TS cheat their way through the system over the years (those who went through the XX Club and those who didn't), we believe the length of the Real Life Test should be geared to the progress of each individual and not arbitrarily established at any given length of time. Obviously there are those who need a longer period to adjust than others but those who are able to adapt to their new role more quickly should not be penalized because of the others. No one should rush off to surgery with the unrealistic ideals that surgery is going to CURE all of their problems - because it won't! Solve your problems first...then get your SRS.)

DOING DONAHUE

by Veronica Jean Brown

Transsexuals were a rarity back in the 50's and 60's, but they became a little less rare in the 70's. When I got my first taste of estrogen back in 1977, I knew that someday I'd appear on the Phil Donahue show. That's one of the reasons why I wrote my book and kept all those photos of my transition, before, during and after. Some eight years and ten months later, I went to Brussels with a friend for the surgery. By that time, transsexuals by the dozens had appeared on the Donahue show as well as many other television talk shows.

For me, the best of the Donahue transsexual shows was the one with Bridget Poi, Joanna Clark (Sister Mary Elizabeth), Karen Ulane and Steve Dain. There was never a better bunch of well rounded transsexual individuals that ever graced Donahue's studio than these.

The middle and late 80's came and went and the 90's soon loomed on everyone's horizon. By this time, it seemed that the television talk show hosts had covered every aspect of transsexualism possible. I fully expected to see *Left-handed Teenage Militant Transsexuals*, *Second Cousins of Former Spouses and Lover's of Transsexuals*, and of course, *Former Pets of Transsexuals*. How could I, just another faded into the woodwork transsexual, ever get a spot on Donahue?

Perhaps when I got legally married to Canadian Paddy Aldridge on September 17th 1990, I thought maybe that would attract the attention of Donahue's producers. But it didn't. And no, we didn't phone the media, or make pests of ourselves in promoting this rather unique situation.

A phone call in April from Debbie Harwick, one of the six Donahue show producers was the beginning. Debbie got our name from Paula Jordan Sinclair (Thanks, Paula) from the Renaissance Education Association in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Donahue producer Debbie was looking for transsexuals in a lesbian relationship. What she got was the story of the world's first legal marriage of a post-op transsexual woman to a genetic female. Paddy and I thought this would be enough for them to do an entire show around us, but it wasn't. Oh well.

Several phone calls from New York with Debbie Harwick told us what to expect. The Donahue Show would pay all of our expenses to and from New York, limousines, food and drink. The show was scheduled to be taped and shown live on a Monday late in April and that was good for us because that was the day our business was closed.

We arrived in New York at Sunday noon. The Drake Hotel was comfortable, though I did ask for two non-feather pillows for me and my allergies. The hotel restaurant food wasn't too bad for lunch, though perhaps I've been spoiled by the many excellent Toronto eateries. That first night, we rode a taxi down to the Village and found a great little dining place. It was great paying only \$2.50 (U.S.) for a cold Heineken, instead of \$4.25-\$4.75 (CDN) for the same green bottle in Toronto. Any seasoned Big Apple visitor knows that the best restaurants are the ones away from the hustle and bustle of the tourist traps around Times Square.

On Monday morning, we walked over to the Rockefeller Plaza. You know, it's that piece of Japanese real estate in midtown Manhattan. Paddy wanted to purchase several Late Night With David Letterman sweatshirts for her brother Ron, and several friends back in Toronto, but as things happened, she never got them. We headed back to the Drake, got cleaned up and changed for our television debut. Paddy had made new dresses for us from some colourful cotton print T-shirt material.

The Donahue show was live at 4 PM and would be taped for viewing in other markets. We were instructed to meet the limo driver in the lobby of the Drake by 3:15 PM.

When we got into the stretch limo, two of the other guests were there already, transsexual Tala and her female lover. Right away Paddy and I felt out of place because of all the black leather those two were wearing. Tens seconds later, we were at the studio building and were whisked into a special elevator right past the people who made a hobby out of being a "professional studio audience.

I've only been in one "green room" before and that was at the studios of CHCH Canadian channel 11 in Hamilton. That green room was spacious and comfortable with a television set just like someone's livingroom. The Multi Media Productions' green room for Donahue's guests was a makeup room into which had been stuffed two easy chairs and a couch. Along the inside wall were large mirrors and heaped upon what had once held cosmetician's tools of the trade, were piles of sandwiches, doughnuts, pastries, muffins, soft drinks, milk, candy and a large coffee urn. Funny though, no one ate a thing before the show.

The other transsexual guest, Kate, was there with her female lover. And yes, the black leather outfits did definitely out number our simple cotton dresses. Both Kate and Tala seemed like amiable people. We all exchanged nervous pleasantries and someone told an off colour joke, someone else did the same, but of course, I had to out do everyone and told one that a couple of people didn't like.

Debby Harwick popped in and told us how the show works. "If you have something to say," she said, "then just blurt it out. If Phil makes a mistake, don't be afraid to speak up."

Everyone made a last trip to the toilet and each of us in turn visited the studio makeup artist. Her duties involved highlighting everyone's cheekbones, dusting a little powder to get rid of any shine and dabbing on a little lipstick.

Five minutes before show time, Phil Donahue walked into the green room smiling and acting the part of a congenial host. His presence made me feel as though I had known him personally for years. In a show he did a couple of weeks ago, I saw Phil handcuffed on stage by a couple of police officers demonstrating to the audience their procedure for securing a prisoner. "Hello Phil," I said, "I see you got out of those handcuffs!"

Phil spoke to each of us and briefed us on what to expect on the show. His briefing was a little different than that of his producer, but the intention was similar.

Then suddenly it was time. Phil led the way and the audience cheered and applauded as he walked onto the stage. We took our seats on the stage and the audio man installed our microphones. The clock above the stage monitor ticked towards 4 PM. Cue the opening credits, five, four, three, two and one.

My friend JoAnn Roberts told me that when you are on the Donahue stage, you don't see the cameras. She was right. The cameras were there all right but the visual effect was similar to speaking in front of a large college or university lecture hall, except there was this white haired guy running around all over the place.

Phil Donahue is as energetic in person as he is on television. He bounds up and down the aisles, reaching out with his microphone. Each couple was allotted a ten minute introduction. I had brought my special photo album with pictures of my transition, foolishly thinking that the other transsexuals wouldn't have done the same, but I was wrong.

Both Paddy and I assumed that the audience reaction to our legal marriage would have been much greater than it was. But it wasn't. They really didn't seem to care. The audience was more interested in Kate's wanting to have a parental relationship with her daughter than they were in what is probably the first marriage of its kind in the world. Why, they wanted to know, should Kate force herself on her daughter, and why, they also wanted to know, did Kate father a child knowing of her transsexual feelings. When I told the audience that I hadn't had any contact with my two daughters and that I didn't want to seek them out, the audience applauded me.

By 4:20 PM, I saw the direction that the show was going. The audience was primarily interested in Kate and Tala. They were both very outgoing people. Kate had years of stage acting experience. She had all the right poses and facial expressions down pat and she even looked at the studio monitor more than I did.

There was no sense in jumping into the foray between Kate, Tala and the audience, so Paddy and I just sat there, waiting for questions directed at us. Each of us had a chance to answer questions from Phil and the audience and while each of us had things we wanted to say, the slant of the show had been cast by the producers. The actual flow of the show was controlled by Phil and the audience. In a sense, the six of us on the Donahue stage were corks swept along by a white water stream.

At the beginning of the show, Phil inadvertently dropped his microphone on the head of a woman who had been giving Kate a hard time. Good for Phil.

Near the end of the show, an unexpected phone call from my younger daughter Kristen, stole the show and the hearts of the audience. Kristen expressed her love for me and as a result of her phone call, I was put in contact with one of my daughters, now 20 years old, whom I hadn't seen since she was four years old.

The audience ate it up. I was torn between my long standing desire to not interfere with my family because of the embarrassment that my transsexualism might bring to them.

After the show, while Paddy and I were waiting outside for the limo to return us to the Drake Hotel, several members of the audience expressed their feelings about the show and how my daughter had reached out to me on national television.

Paddy and I returned to the Drake and had dinner at the hotel restaurant. The next morning, we flew back to Toronto and arrived home just in time to see the VCR switch off from taping the Donahue show.

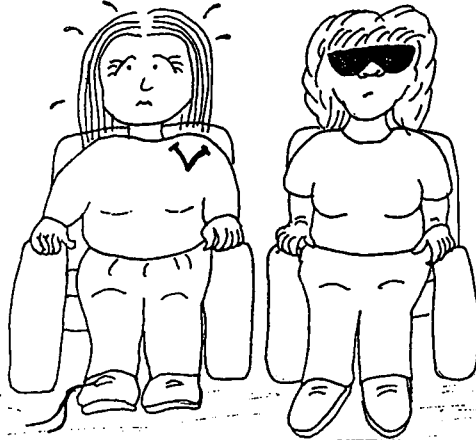
Why did we do it? Paddy and I had a story to tell that we felt was different and unique, as well as important. We knew that sooner or later someone would knock on our door. It was a decision that was difficult to make. By going public on national television, we would lose any possibility of anonymity as private individuals. On the other hand, by allowing ourselves the experience of speaking out to the world, we hoped to help people gain a better understanding of various aspects transsexualism. But then, all television talk shows that feature unusual stories are nothing more than contemporary carnival midway sideshows, so who are we trying to kid?

Step right up folks, for only ten cents, that's right folks, I said one tenth of a dollar, see Malinikov, the giant horse from Siberia, Felicity the catwoman, the man with no face, and on your way out, don't forget to say hello to Paddy and Veronica, the transsexual lesbians who are legally married!



Veronica Brown and Paddy Aldridge exchange wedding vows in Canada.

The Donahue Syndrome



Here we have a post-operative transsexual and her supportive wife, both who suffer from MEDIA-PHOBIA. The overwhelming desire to appear on national television only to find themselves freezing up before the audience.



by dila
5/91

TOP 10 MURPHY'S LAWS AS APPLIED TO THE TRANSITION

Compiled by Becky Ann

- 10 - Nothing is as easy as it looks.
- 9 - The chances of seeing someone who knows you are dramatically increased by not wanting to be seen.
- 8 - Nature always sides with the hidden flaw.
- 7 - Beauty is only skin deep, ugly goes to the bone.
- 6 - If you try to please everybody, nobody will like it.
- 5 - If everything seems to be going well, you obviously don't know what the hell is going on.
- 4 - If you're feeling good, don't worry, you'll get over it.
- 3 - Interchangeable parts - won't.
- 2 - Anything you try to fix will take longer and cost more than you thought.
- 1 - Anything that can go wrong, will go wrong.

Institute for Gender Study and Treatment

P.O. Box 126, Arvada, CO. 80001 U.S.A.

Make checks payable to Tomye Kelley, M.A.

Quantity (Number)	Item Audio Tapes	Price (each)	Your Total
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	A-13 Children of the Crossdresser: To Tell or Not	14.95	
	B-1 Female-to-Male	14.95	
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		Subtotal	
		Shipping & Handling (8% of Subtotal, \$8.00 Maximum, \$1.50 Minimum)	
		TOTAL	

YOU WANT IT WHEN?

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt. #: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Some of My Best Friends . . .

20 Things You DON'T Say to a Transsexual

by Dana Friedman

DON'T #1 "I was just talking to A CHANGE the other day and..."

To me, this suggests that you are having strange conversations with your pocket money. No one IS a change. One can ask for change, own change, ex-change, change tires, change clothes, change sides, change to a minor key and change of life, but one cannot BE a change.

DON'T #2 "You look just as good as I do."

Of course I do. And this is precisely the state of grace to which we all aspire. But more than likely you do both of us an injustice.

DON'T #3 "Well I want you to know I certainly consider you a woman."

It is a never-ending source of wonderment that well-intentioned, and otherwise very well-brought-up, people say this to me, with a light of total sincerity shining from their eyes for which any self-respecting cocker spaniel would kill. Unfortunately, this assurance turns on at least four assumptions which, upon closer inspection, prove to be entirely unfounded:

- a) my gender is a subject about which reasonable people might be expected to reasonably differ;
- b) my gender is a topic that is currently open for discussion;
- c) my gender and your perception of it, is something about which I suffer rather a great deal of anxiety and about which I am seeking some reassurance;
- d) you, since you are a non-transsexual, are in just the providential position of providing me with this reassurance I desperately seek.

DON'T #4 "I consider you as much a woman as ANY of my friends."

What a treat for them: especially your male friends.

DON'T #5 "I would NEVER have guessed you were a transsexual."

This phrase is usually accompanied by a look of the utmost incredulity, followed closely by a searching, penetrating, and largely sotto voce reappraisal of all the things you thought you knew about me (or perhaps only all the times we slept together). Unfortunately, this utterance assumes that your credulity, no doubt a topic of endless fascination to you, is of equal interest to me. Since there are tens of thousands of us (perhaps in your building alone!), the fact that some of us can "pass" (a nasty concept if ever there was one) as non-transsexuals only prophesies that, wedded to the entirely fragile notion that you should be capable of identifying all of us on sight, you are destined for a life of more or less unending private humiliations.

DON'T #6 "When did you decide to become a woman?"

Well, when did you decide to become a woman? Oh... I see; with you it is normal. Um - HMMMM.

DON'T #7 "Can you have an orgasm?"

Yes, but only when I'm asked this question.

DON'T #8 "Can you have an orgasm?"

DON'T #9 "Can you have an orgasm?"

DON'T #10 "Can you have an orgasm?"

DON'T #11 "You must have a lot of courage to face surgery."

To have the actual surgery, I just had to be able to breathe deeply, count at least partway backwards from 100, and fall asleep with some semblance of dignity. In all of these tasks I was reliably aided by enough I.V. anesthetic to subdue a small water buffalo. It would also have helped, had I \$10-20,000 in spare change (See #1 above) about my person. Unfortunately, while I was thus drifting majestically off to sleep, I found I also had to be able to watch my friends, most of my lovers, all of my family, and any Lesbian who used the term "politically correct" in any context other than a Lily Tomlin joke, fade out of my existence forever. Also, I found that I woke up to endless refrains of DON'Ts #1-7, above. That is the hard part; the surgery I could probably do again before breakfast.

DON'T #12 "I don't think it's anyone's concern what's between your legs, unless they're sleeping with you."

Well, yes. But you, like me, might be surprised at the profound lack of fastidiousness some people display to even this tender area, as my weekly trips to the accoutrement racks at The Pleasure Chest and Eve's Garden confirm.

In any case, I'm quite certain that whatever is between your legs, even during those hot, sticky, yucky days of summer, is totally above reproach and perfectly charming, while what's between mine, even on the very best of days, is, well, let's just not talk about it.

DON'T #13 "No one needs to know..."

Of course they don't. We all have our little secrets, the small indiscretions we would prefer no one know. The thirty-five or so years of my life just happen to be mine.

DON'T #14 "This is a womyn-only space."

This is usually said to me by a rather red-faced Lesbian, who probably believes she is confronting the LIVE PENIS-MONSTER (moi!) as it approaches her VERY DOORSTEP. But then, these things are so difficult today: perhaps she is a really a lonely straight woman complaining bitterly about a lack of men. The only correct response is I can ever think of is, "Well I certainly feel better knowing THAT".

DON'T #15 "How did you know you're a woman?"

Well, how did you know you were a woman? Ah - humm: breasts and vagina. Well, I can introduce you to some very handsome, bearded, muscular young men of my acquaintance who began life with the very same equipment, so that's not particularly compelling evidence, is it? ... I see, inside YOU just know... Call me sometime, we'll have lunch.

DON'T #16 "When you were a man..."

Unless it refers to a prior life of mine (something I have yet to explore), it's always a toughie, because it assumes itself; i.e., that I ever was a man. I think this sentence is supposed to begin with, "When you lived socially as a man..." or "When people thought you were a man..."; small, but nonetheless, like lapsels or pleats, highly significant differences.

DON'T #17 "I think transsexuals are just men in drag."

Of course you do, and you're entitled, even justifiably proud, to think so. Do not, however, voice this sentiment while surrounded by a full room of men who really are in drag, (for instance, the next Night of a Thousand Gowns). Also, be certain to note the exception to this rule, which is, of course, female-to-male transsexuals, who are really, well, just women in drag. We all know how naturally distasteful it is when men wear dresses or women wear pants. Do not, however, voice this sentiment while surrounded by a room of S/M dykes in full leather and studs.

DON'T #18 "Well, I want you to know I respect your choices."

And I yours, particularly in transcendental matters, such as whether to register your pattern at Bloomingdale's or Saks, or whether a bright, robust yet tart, Almanden can properly accompany sushi. However, in more pedestrian spheres, such as gender identity, it profits us immensely to recall that none of us exercises much choice.

DON'T #19 "Isn't it AMAZING you're the ONLY transsexual I know."

Yes, and isn't it amazing, when you came out to your mother, you were the only homosexual she knew. Ho-hum. The fact that I am the only transsexual you know only emphasizes that:

- a) you probably know a few hundred of us, but you don't know you know us, and we won't tell you that you do;
- b) there are tens of thousands of us, and more all the time;
- c) we are secretly plotting to take over the planet earth, and infiltrating your prevailing non-transsexual culture is just our first step¹
- d) while we are waiting to take over your planet, we are amusing ourselves at your expense by seeing just how much we can [mess] with your head.

DON'T #20 "This may be a really dumb question, but..."

No question is dumb, especially yours, and particularly those you feel must be ushered in with a disclaimer. It is wonderful when someone cares enough to ask questions, and to add to their information. However, I do confess to problems with certain kinds of inquiries which (for reasons which continue to elude me completely) I still cannot seem to answer properly. These include questions such as, "Have you stopped beating your lover yet?", and, "Have you always looked this bad in sunlight?"

GENDER DEFINITIONS

By Veronica Jean Brown

SEX and GENDER:

Sex is a biological term. Gender is a psychological and sociological term.

Sex is sex; a biological fact, or a physical act. There is no such thing as sex role, only sexual function (gestation, lactation, menstruation, impregnation, XX versus XY, whether we stand or sit to urinate, etc.)

Gender is much more complicated. Gender is a mode of being; how we express ourselves as people, how we act, how we feel, how we think, etc. There is no such thing as gender function, only gender role. (Who gets the blue blanket and the football, who gets the pink blanket and the doll, act like a man, feel like a woman, etc.)

Most people don't recognize the difference between sex and gender. Sex and gender may compliment each other, but it is important that people realize they are not the same thing.

Gender Dysphoria and Sexual Dysphoria:

A dysphoria is a fancy term for feeling 'unhappy' about something. However, when the term 'unhappy' is applied to gender, the word does not even come close in reflecting the true emotional condition of the afflicted person.

Gender dysphoria is being unhappy with one's socially and culturally assigned gender role. Sexual dysphoria is being unhappy with one's biological make-up, or sex.

Male and Female:

These are biological terms, and are identified by biological criteria such as sexual function, XX or XY chromosomes, etc. Male and female are not defined by psychological or sociological criteria.

Masculine or Feminine:

These are gender terms. In nature, there is no such thing as masculinity or femininity. These terms are value judgements, or words used to identify and qualify qualities of nature. In other words, what is masculine or feminine is strictly a matter of prevailing opinion, subject to change, and not a matter of biological fact.

Many people cannot accept the fact that it is natural for males to have feminine qualities, and for females to have masculine qualities.

Man and Woman:

Man and woman are defined in both biological and in psychological and sociological terms. Man is an adult male. Woman is an adult female.

The psychological and sociological definitions are not as simple. These definitions determine a person's identity - whether or not they perceive themselves to be a man or a

woman. They also define the criteria for what constitutes a man or a woman, the dress code, the gender role, the code of conduct, what a man is supposed to think, and how they are supposed to feel.

Transvestite (also know as TV):

The word trans-vest, means nothing more than cross-dress. A transvestite is a person who wears clothing considered appropriate for the opposite sex. It is not a disease or a perversion. It is a means of expressing the feelings of the opposite gender inherent within that person. Transvestite implies a psychological condition or compulsion. A transvestite is usually male, 75-80% are hetero-sexual, and can be doctors, lawyers, construction workers, bank presidents, and even politicians.

Cross-dresser (also know as CD):

Cross-dresser carries the same meaning as transvestite except that this term implies a voluntary action, and reflects a less clinical meaning than transvestite.

Drag, Drag Queen, Street Queen, Female Impersonator / Impressionist:

The term 'drag' was possibly coined by William Shakespeare, in whose day, the roles of females on the stage were portrayed by men. Drag became an acronym meaning dressed as a woman. The term was predominantly theatrical then, as it is now, and implies a theatrical, showy, camp, exotic, or high glamor image. Being in 'drag' is like being in costume. It implies nothing about a person's sexual preference or inclination to cross-dressing.

Drag - cross-dressed, usually in glamorous, campy or exotic attire.

Drag Queen - A cross-dresser who prefers the drag image, as defined above. Drag Queen is usually identified with the Gay community.

Street Queen - This is usually a drag queen who also hustles, a prostitute. A street queen is usually a male.

Female Impersonator/Impressionist - A professional entertainer who performs in drag. This type of activity has nothing to do with the person's sexual preference or inclination to cross-dressing, though most female impersonators are gay males.

Transgenderist (also know as TG):

Not to be confused with the transvestite (TV) or transsexual (TS). This person prefers to live entirely in the role of the opposite gender, also described as cross-living.

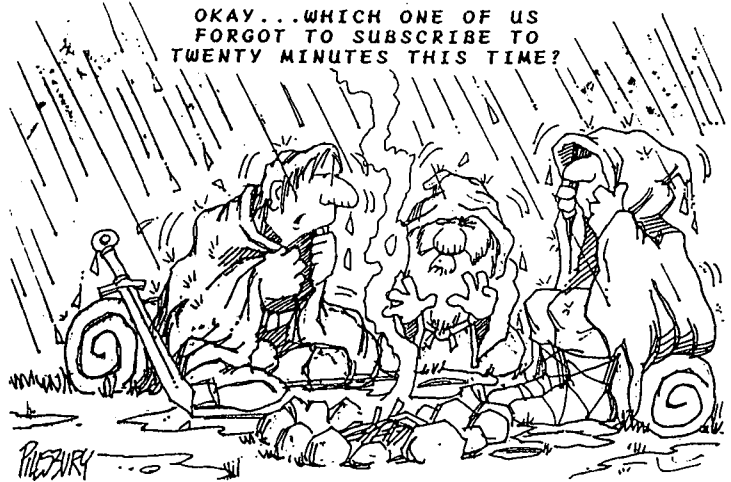
Transsexual (also know as TS):

This term usually describes a person already in transition from one gender role to the other, working towards the sexual-reassignment surgery (SRS), also known as corrective surgery, through extensive counseling, hormone therapy and full time cross-living.

The most practical definition of a transsexual is to describe a person whose gender identity is completely and irrevocably incompatible with respect to their biological sex, regardless of whether or not they have taken any steps towards hormone therapy or corrective surgery.

The basic difference between a transvestite (TV) and a transsexual (TS), is that the TV is primarily interested in gender expression, while the TS is concerned with the gender identity, or the matching of their external sexual characteristics with their inner feelings. Many professionals have over the years, tried at great lengths and without any success, to match the person's gender feelings with their biological sex. The only know cure for gender dysphoria in the transsexual is hormone therapy and corrective surgery.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...The Donahue people were in Toronto recently and taped Paddy performing a make-over at *Take a Walk on the Wildside*. Look for this show to appear on the tube in either July or August.)



Time flies when you don't know what you're doing



SPEAK SOFTLY...

SHE WHO HESITATES WINS WITH MEN

By Scott Winokur
Hearst News Service

SAN FRANCISCO - Laboratory data now confirm what many have long suspected, but dared not say out loud: Women who speak tentatively - thereby subtly assuring listeners they're willing to accept second-class social status - exert greater influence over men than women who speak assertively. But those same women exert less influence over other women.

Both sexes perceive tentative speech as being less confident and reflecting less knowledge. With a female audience, this reduces a woman's influence, which is entirely reasonable. But in a male audience it increases influence and that's the anomaly: Men have more resistance to women who are assertive, direct and confident than to women who appear to be lacking in confidence and knowledge but who are at least not 'pushy'.

The reason: Assertive women violate male standards for female behavior and challenge men's social status, according to Linda Carli of the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, MA. Carli, a social psychologist, studies links between gender and social status.

Low-status persons must first demonstrate that they have no desire to compete for status before their ideas will be considered by higher-status individuals. Tentative language may serve the function of communicating that the speaker has no desire to enhance her own status.

WOMEN REALLY ARE SMARTER THAN MEN!

by Beatrice Dexter
Weekly World News

Conclusive new studies confirm what gals have long suspected: Women really are smarter than men! According to a top psychologist, the latest research shows:

- Women process information more rapidly and accurately than men.
- Women are less likely to make errors in difficult mental calculations.
- Women analyze problems more rationally than men do.
- Women are more creative and imaginative than men.

The research reveals that males are plodders who tend to get the calculations done, but not with the same insight or speed that women do. Both sexes are intelligent, but overall women are much more intelligent than men. These latest tests are the first designed with a new non-sexist measuring capability. Overall, women scored an average of 14 percent higher on tasks related to arithmetic and spatial relationships and 18 percent higher on tests involving verbal skills and reasoning. Since women are smaller and more vulnerable, they need an advantage - and that appears to be brain-power.

WOMEN TO MEN: SHAPE UP

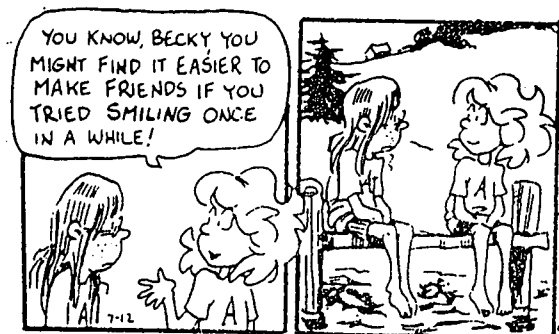
NEW YORK (AP) - American women increasingly believe most men are mean, manipulative, oversexed, self-centered and lazy, according to a survey and women are getting annoyed. The Roper Organization poll found growing numbers of women expressing sensitivity to sexism and unhappiness with men on many issues.

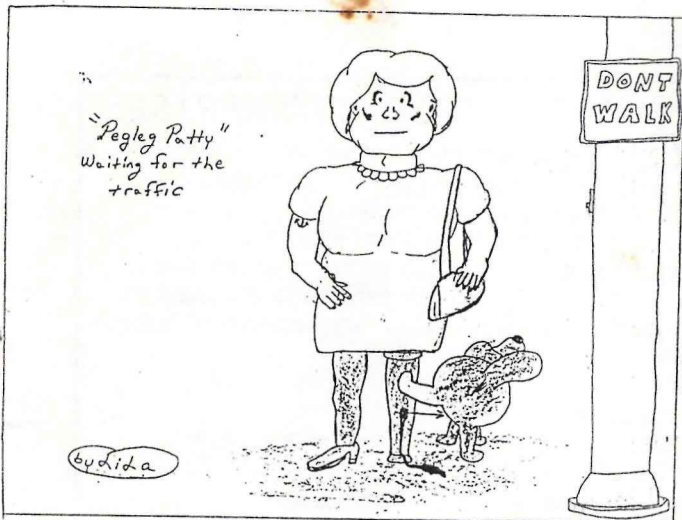
The reason? Women's growing dissatisfaction with men is undoubtedly derived from their own rising expectations. The more independent women of today expect more from men. Those expectations apparently are going unfulfilled. Most women rated men negatively on their egos, libidos and domesticity.

Forty-two % called men "basically selfish and self-centered". Fifty-four % of the women agreed that "most men look at a woman and immediately think how it would be to go to bed with her". Respondents overwhelmingly said women have made progress in obtaining job opportunities, equitable salaries and acceptance as political leaders. But they also expressed greater awareness of continuing discrimination.

The second-greatest cause of resentment in survey respondents' lives was their mates' failure to help with household chores. Only money was a greater cause of woe. As women contribute more to family income, they expect a more equitable division of the household responsibilities in return. Women indicate that men are failing to live up to this ideal, and their failure is a major source of irritation. Many women in the survey expressed negative views of men's attitudes as well as their behavior. Fifty-eight % of the women agreed that "most men think only their own opinions about the world are important".

LILA AND BECKY ANN





(EDITOR'S NOTE...Refer to THE ICONOCLAST on page 2.)

THE CARTOONIST STRIKES BACK

Dear JoAnn Roberts,

I am so glad you enjoyed my "Anatomy of a Crossdresser" cartoon. It's nice to see you have a sense of humor. My cartoons will poke fun at anything and everything. It is not intended to be specific. Seeing that you feel offended, you may believe that you fall into my exaggerated rendition. That's your problem. As for me being a transsexual, congratulations, Sherlock! Twenty Minutes is a transsexual newsletter and it's ideas do not reflect the Twenty Club.

Lila

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editors:

I am a free-lance photo-journalist who produces photo essays on varied social issues, industry, environment, health & medicine, crime etc. I had contacted a crossdressers peer support group here in RI and met with an individual who was extremely helpful and participating in my efforts to educate people through proper understanding, remove taboos and prejudices that the persons ill informed create due to differences from the rigid demands of what they call the norm. Only through this educational understanding can we break down walls that are illogical. This will obviously help individuals who have the problem or fears of misunderstanding from friends, relatives, lovers, spouses and just that suspicious individual who is out to exploit on the damage or ridicule of another for stupidity. I have been advised to write to you and see if their would be any assistance that your group would be willing to contribute in helping me produce an honest accurate view of the aspects of the life-style who would be interested in participating in the documentation of this subject matter. I realize that I am asking a great deal and I am certainly aware of the sensitivity necessary. My intentions are completely honorable. Hope to hear from you.

Sincerely,
Jesse Nemerofsky
307 Pocasset Avenue
Providence, RI 02909

Dear Becky:

As you know, since moving to Florida I have been quite busy doing Charter and deliveries of sailboats and power boats. Along this line, I have found that a need exists in the area of sexual minorities who wish to have a meaningful chartering experience free from the worry of being hassled by the 'straight' community.

Judging from the response to different weekend packages which offer the TV or TS the chance to live full time for a few days, I feel that some of the girls who are able to attend the long weekends, would be interested in something a bit more open and daring.

What I have decided to make available to the TS and TV community is a real vacation during which a person can live full time in their chosen role for a 7 day cruise from St. Petersburg to the Dry Tortugas and Key West. In addition to the fun of such a trip, I would also be available for counselling and would be willing, provided I felt that the TS was ready for SRS, provide her, or him as the case may be, with an evaluation and possibly a recommendation for surgery. Also, as a Ship's Captain operating in international waters, I would be willing to perform marriages.

Currently I am in the process of putting a brochure together outlining all of the services that I can provide to those who are interested in chartering with me. If any of the readers of Twenty Minutes are interested in receiving a brochure, being on my mailing list or have any ideas about a fantasy charter of their own, they may contact me by writing to:

Sea Turtle Enterprises
Capt. Michelle Hunt, RN
PO Box 892
St. Petersburg, FL 33701-0892

Please be assured that I will exercise the utmost discretion in responding to any requests. I will not place anyones name on my mailing list unless they request it, nor will I make any names available to any other person. In other words, you may write safely and the strictest confidence will be maintained.

Hope to see you on one of the trips sometime.

Love,
Michelle

Dear Michelle,

Within the next year, Lila, Sonia and I hope to be living in the Sunshine State and would be glad to look you up and go for a cruise. See you then.

Becky Ann

DEVELOPMENT OF AN INFORMATION DATA BASE
ON TRANSSEXUAL SURGERY - FINAL REPORT
In the next issue of Twenty Minutes

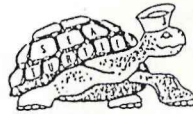
TWENTY MINUTES PUBLICATIONS

TRANSSEXUAL GENERAL INFORMATION \$3.00
 Brochure contains everything you always wanted to know about transsexualism, but were afraid to ask...and a few things you don't want to know about.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND \$1.00
 Brochure contains initial contact and general information about the gender clinic.

Make check or M.O. payable to:

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SEA TURTLE ENTERPRISES

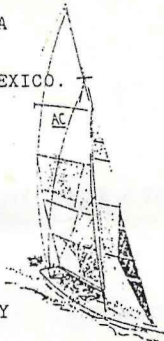
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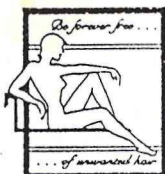
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