THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE

OCTOBER 1993 $3.00

ANOTHER PROMISE I DIDN'T KEEP

A few issues back I asked for names and addresses of professionals for the state of Ohio; I even sent an individual note to the subscribers from Ohio asking for this information. I received very little response so I decided to try something else. I wrote to the physicians whose names were on my list for the state of Ohio. I explained what I was doing and asked if I could include their names on a list for Ohio. I have received only two responses which was NO.

SO, rather than print a list for Ohio in the newsletter I'll just hold it until I receive a request for an individual copy.

I DID TRY! Before I select the next state, I will check my material for a state that will provide more information for publication.

There are some pretty good letters in this issue of the TSV. I hope they will generate some response.

Sometimes, its difficult for me to realize the problems transsexuals still have finding help. After all, Christine Jorgensen had her surgery forty years ago. I think we made some good progress in the seventies; it seems we are advancing at a slower pace today. I think this may be because it became too easy and some individuals regretted their choices. (This is my opinion only.) If you know of someone who does have regrets, see if they will share with us.

I've threatened you with this before, if you don't start sharing more - I'm going to start telling you more about me. I try not to do that because - you know how we can be! For example: Did anyone (other than the three people who wrote) see the recent magazine that contained several color photos of me?

Take care and just once tell us about you, include a photo if you like.

Phoebe

An Open Letter to Janice Bebe Dorn, M.D., Ph.D.
Subject; "Gender Unique by Donna Hudson"

Dear Dr. Dorn,

In the June, 1993, issue of **The Transsexual Voice**, an article called **"Gender Unique by Donna Hudson"** was published.

In the August, 1993, issue of **The Transsexual Voice,** you, Dr Dorn, wrote a response to the above mentioned article.

I was sincerely impressed, and grateful, that you took the time, and the effort, from your busy day, to write such an informative response.

Dr. Dorn, in your response to my article **"Gender Unique by Donna Hudson"**, you wrote, "I am deeply moved by your letter, the sense of frustration you feel about not being understood by the medical profession and your intense suffering".

Dr. Dorn, the words that you wrote in the first paragraph of your response were the words that I have just quoted. Just by the words in that first paragraph, I felt some hope that perhaps there was someone in the medical profession who really could feel the suffering that I have lived with for so many years. I went on to read the rest of your 3 1./2 page response, and with each line, I felt that you were a professional who sincerely took an interest in what I had written.

The last paragraph that you wrote also had a very impressive statement in it. It was a statement that gave me hope. You wrote: "This is a fascinating letter and a fascinating concept which certainly would benefit from study and research. Of course the problem is, as Phoebe said, that most certainly society doesn't want to know about it. They may not--but we do."

Dr. Dorn, the words that your wrote "certainly would benefit from study and research", and "they may not--but we do", to me meant that you took an interest in this subject matter, and that you showed an interest in knowing more about it, and perhaps doing research on this subject, or at the very least, recommending a colleague who might be interested in doing research on this subject.

Dr Dorn, after reading your response to my article **"Gender unique by Donna Hudson"**, I was up-lifted in my feelings, that perhaps I had found someone who did care, but how was I to know how wrong my thinking could be.

I decided to write you more on the subject in much greater detail. I wrote you a letter of some 20 pages and in two parts. Part One was mostly about how Donna came into existence, and what "she" is all about. Part Two, was about others who are involved in this subject matter of "crippled by choice". I also sent you a video about 1 hour 30 minutes. The video had three parts. Part One, was of Harry/Helen, the transvestite who is an amputee by choice. Part Two showed a genetic woman in her early 40's who is an amputee wannabe, with her leg tied up and on crutches, and Part Three showed a person who can fold his leg and put on an artificial leg and walk, like he needs the prosthesis to walk, and it also showed the same person as a crossdresser as a double amputee, and also as a crossdresser in leg braces.

Dr. Dorn, I felt by writing the letter, and sending you the video, and also the photos that I enclosed with explanation, would give you far more information on the subject then just the article **"Gender Unique by Donna Hudson".** In my letter to you I gave you every way possible to contact me. I gave you my phone number, my fax number, my America Online screen name, my Prodigy ID#, and my Internet address. In the last part of my letter I asked that you please let me know by any of the above means, when you received my mail.

Dr. Dorn, in very simple terms, I did not hear from you in any form. As your phone number was also published in your response in **The Transsexual Voice**, I did call and leave a message with your answering service. I did not get a response. I called a back in a day or two, and spoke to a female person who answered the phone. This person told me that you did get my message from your service, again no response from you. I called a third time, and left a message on your machine, and again no response from you. After writing you a very long letter, and three (3) times trying to contact you by phone, with no response, I again wrote you a letter, this time a short letter, and again no response.

Dr. Dorn, I took your response to my article **"Gender Unique by Donna"**, seriously. I did not take your response as a joke. I spent the time, and took the effort, to write to you, and put together a video, that at the very lest would be informative. I assumed your response to my article was an indication of interest in this subject matter. **Was I wrong for such an assumption on my part?**

Dr. Dorn, I am sincerely interested in any comments that you have on the letter that I wrote you, and the video that I sent you. **What will it take to get a response from you?**

Dr. Dorn, your titles and degrees are very impressive, to say the least, but they are worthless to me, if after the many attempts that I have made to communicate with you, I fail to get a response of any kind.

In your response to my article, **"Gender Unique by Donna Hudson"** ,you wrote: "I would be very interested in the comments by Dr. Wollman and other readers". I did talk to Dr. Wollman over the phone for about an hour. I have sent Dr. Wollman mail via fax, but unlike you Dr. Dorn, Dr. Wollman has responded to me.

Dr. Dorn, I am still interested in hearing any comments that you would like to make on the letter that I wrote you, and also on the video that I sent you. I am also still very interested in research on this subject matter.

Dr. Dorn. If you do not have any intention of responding to my letter and video, please be kind enough to contact me, and tell me so. If you are not interested in this subject matter please tell me so. I feel that some kind of response, from you, to my efforts to communicate with you, would be nothing less then a common courtesy.

Dr. Dorn. I can send a full page letter across this country in about 52 seconds. How long will it take you to send me a response via fax, even if your answer is that you are simply not interested in any form of communication?

I hope to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Donna Hudson

"Donna Hudson"

P.S. for those interested my America Online screen name is DonnaH TV1
Prodigy ID# NXDD92D
Internet address: donnah tv1@aol.com

Dear Phoebe;

I liked the August 1993 issue of TSV. I was ready to go to Belguim under the supervision of Michelle Hunt, R.N. in 1984.

Since I did not have two psychiatric examinations (only one) and since I was already older and in my late 50's I could not receive the complete sex-reassignment surgery, only a cosmetic one for older transsexuals - so I did not go.

I often wondered what happened to Michelle because I found her to be very helpful and courteous to all my letters and questions and needs. I think she provided an excellent service to all her patients.

After reading her letter, I can see why she gave it up. It's a shame that some of the people she helped took advantage of her when they should have been grateful.

Alicia.

Dear Phoebe;

I enjoy the TSV very much. I am not a member of a support group because I do not know of any in my area. I have not been to a doctor because there are so many questions I need to ask before I decide which doctor to go to.

I see more and more each day I need help as to what to do. I couldn't possibly write down the pain, loneliness, depression I am feeling, suicide seems the only way out at times, but I hang on to that little be of hope that I can find the right answers from someone. I have wrote several places, but still I find no straight answers to my questions. I was writing to a man through a personal that was telling me he could pay for my sex change operation. He stopped writing when he learned how serious I was. No one close to me will even talk about me wanting to become a man. I ordered a book from I.F.G.E. and was sent some horrible pictures of what I would call a deformed penis. Maybe you didn't expect such a letter, but if you can refer me to anyone I would deeply appreciate it. Lisa.

(Lisa, see the back cover for the name and address of a Female-to-Male newsletter. If you want to have SRS bad enough, you will find a way. I hope you can make some positive contacts by taking advantage of sending any questions you have to Dr. Wollman or Dr. Dorn to be answered via TSV. I would suggest writing an open letter to Female-to-Male transsexuals to be printed in TSV. I'm sure you would get some response. Good Luck. Phoebe)

Dear Phoebe;

I cannot let the letter from Sandra F. in the August , 1993, newsletter go without comment. She made the following statement: . . . "A year of cross dress may be desirable for a young person who has not established a career, but it is impossible for those who are already in a profession." . . .

Although this may be Sandra's personal experience, research tells another story. The vast majority of transsexuals who have achieved success in professional fields are able to fulfill the year of cross living and remain in those fields. Those who have been successful, but decide to follow other career paths after their transitions, tend to continue to be successful in other careers after cross living for at least year. Certainly some transsexuals have difficulty with employers during a cross living period. That can be one of the unfortunate aspects of the dilemma. It is certainly less costly, however, to sacrifice a particular job than one's genitals if the test of cross living has not been met.

Sandra seems to raise objections concerning providers to transsexuals who lace medical training and are members of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

I think it is worth pointing out that the person who was probably most responsible for the establishment of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association and the first draft of the Standards of Care was the late Paul Walker, Ph.D..

Sandra F.'s, statement, . . . "It would seem that today there are more medicos helping patients with their transitions than are those knowledgeable about the 'Standards of Care'," . . . carries with it the implication that only physicians are capable of helping transsexuals with transitions while all others are not. I suggest that Sandra F. would be hard pressed to produce any evidence that even one hour of training of any sort is provided by reputable medical schools in this country concerning the physical or emotional treatment of transsexuality.

Sandra F. also seems to object to someone with a degree of Doctor of Education providing professional care and guidance to transsexuals. Frankly, I wish there were more people who had gained experience and knowledge of gender dysphoria who were interested in education. Not only can they help transsexuals to understand their dilemmas, but they are in unique positions to help others in society to understand the phenomenon and defuse some

of the stigma that is attached to the condition--a stigma which causes so much emotional pain for transsexuals and their loved ones. Certainly the stigma causes the kinds of problems Sandra raises with respect to cross living. We need more trained educators interested in the subject, not less.

Transsexuality is, after all, a condition of the mind with respect to assigned gender roles based upon the appearance of reproductive capability. One might choose a surgeon to alter the biology, but surgeons are not trained to deal with psychological anomalies that seem to reside in the mind. One of the benefits of the Harry Benjamin Association is that providers from various disciplines can come together and learn from one another in order to provide help for a very complex set of problems.

While the Standards of Care may provide some profesional protection to providers who follow them, they are designed to shield people who find themselves in very vulnerable situations.

Kim Elizabeth Stuart

Dear Sir/Madam;

It is ironic that I chose to start this letter with the greeting that I did since it exemplifies my need to contact your organization. Just as I am not sure whether you, the reader, is male or female, I have doubts as to which gender I truly belong to.

Whereas the obvious lack of contact explains my doubt about you, the same can't be said for knowing about myself. Although born and raised quite normally as a male, I see at least a good part of myself much more as female. As a starting point I am hoping your organization can offer advice, support and information about my feelings.

My background is as follows: White "male", average height/build, 30 years old, middle class family with no dark secrets, parents divorced when I as seven (continued living in family home with mother?, one older brother. I began to be interested in women's clothes around puberty. Sneaking into my mother's underwear drawer eventually led to trying on her clothes. By last high school, etc. and began maintaining a limited wardrobe of female clothes. The sexual turn-on was enough at first but through the

years I've developed the desire to stop pretending I'm a woman and really be one.

Many of my natural attitudes point me in this direction. I have a lot of feminine traits such as being soft-spoken/passive, desiring lacy/frilly and delicate clothes, and in general having a demeanor that seems to alienate me from male friends and allows women to treat me as a friend they feel safe with (i.e. No masculine sexual threat, more like having a big sister around).

That's it. Can you offer any advice or contacts that could help clarify my situation. With all I've heard of it, transsexualism has gotten my attention and the more I see what it can do the more interested I become. I guess I need others' opinions. Anything you can offer will be appreciated.

Thanks for listening. J.D.

Dear J.D.;

Some of the other letters that appear in this issue of TSV may show you how much you have in common with other transsexuals.

Finding the professional to see is I think the most important first step. Sometimes its not easy finding the right professional to start with; check around, see what is available in your area.

You may want to write an open letter to other transsexuals in Wisconsin and learn how they are handling their situation. Perhaps they can point you to someone who is already involved with transsexuals. Perhaps someone will see this letter and offer information for you.

Good luck. Phoebe

(If you have any information you feel that would be helpful to J.D., whether you live in WI. or not, please respond.)

Dear Phoebe;

I would like to see some articles on work and how to cope with work place harassment.

Thanks. Kim

(Kim, if no one else responds, I'll describe my 23 years with the state of Georgia in the next issue. During my fourth year of employment my "secret" was discovered. Phoebe)

Dear Phoebe, I am a 22 year old female and a recent college graduate. Having a sex change operation has been on my mind for as long as I can remember; as I am quite sure you heard before, I have trouble and confusion in my every day life. I feel like I am one person until I am slapped by reality when I look in the mirror. I date women, but I don't feel like I am a homosexual. I dress, talk, think and act like a man, but physically I am a female. This causes tremendous complications. No longer do I want to live this way. I can't picture myself getting old as a female.

One problem I am having is finding answers to my dozens of questions, I do not know where to begin my search. Please, is there any way could help? K. J.

Dear K. J.

Send any questions you would like to have answered, either by other female-to-male transsexuals or others and I will print them along with the response you receive.

If you want answers to medical questions send them separate in an envelope address to either Dr. Janice Dorn or Dr. Leo Wollman. Your question along with the answer will be printed in the following issue of TSV.

Good luck; Phoebe.

Dear Phoebe;

What every happened to Renee Richards? Is she still playing tennis or did she get married; I seem to remember that she was engaged.

Tina.

Dear Tina;

I don't know; the last I heard she was practicing medicine in New York. Phoebe.

PERSONALS

NEW TO CAPE COD AREA. ONLY MINUTES AWAY FROM HYANNIS. THIS MWM IS 43 YEARS YOUNG; IS CLEAN, VERSATILE, GOOD LOOKING AND VERY DISCREET. I'M SEEKING TRANSSEXUALS ANY AGE OR RACE FOR FRIENDSHIP AND OCCASIONAL ENCOUNTERS. I WOULD LIKE TO MEET THAT SPECIAL "GAL". SEND DESCRIPTIVE LETTER IN A SASE. P/P HELPFUL. TRAVELERS WELCOME. WRITE TO :J.H. P. O. BOX 80 FORESTDALE, MA. 02644.

I WOULD LIKE TO MEET A FEMALE-TO-MALE TRANSSEXUAL FOR THE PURPOSE OF DEVELOPING A RELATIONSHIP; PLATONIC AT FIRST BECAUSE I AM PRE-OP. I CAN RELOCATE IF NEEDED. I AM A SINGLE WHITE MALE-TO-FEMALE, AGE 43 WITHOUT ANYONE I CAN BE WITH AND EXPERIENCE LIFE AS A WOMAN. KIM; P. O. BOX 564, LAKE CITY, S.C. 29560

SINGLE WHITE TRANSVESTITE, LOVES MUSIC AND MANY OTHER THINGS, SEEKS VERY ROMANTIC AND UNDERSTANDING MALE WITH A PASSIONATE HEART AND OPEN MIND. MY INTERESTS INCLUDE - WRITING LETTERS, POETRY, ART AND THEATER, CROSSDRESSING AND SEARCHING FOR LOVE. PLEASE BE SINCERE. WRITE TO: S.C. 2626 WEST PARRISH AVENUE, #182, OWENSBORO, KY. 42301

D/W//M, 46, 5'10", WAS MARRIED TO POST-OP, DESIRES HONEST LASTING RELATIONSHIP WITH TRANSSEXUAL; TO VANISH IN TO MIDDLE AMERICA. I AM HONEST, AND SO NOT PLAY GAMES. SEND PHOTO AND PHONE NUMBER TO ROY B. HARMON, 12814 NOEL, #1018, DALLAS, TEXAS 75230.

SINGLE WHITE MALE - 40 YEARS OLD, GOOD LOOKING, STRAIGHT - WANT TO MEET A TRANSSEXUAL AROUND OHIO OR SURROUNDING STATES. CAN TRAVEL. YOU WON'T BE SORRY. I'LL TREAT YOU LIKE A LADY. WRITE OCCUPANT, BOX 24741, COLUMBUS, OHIO 43224.

SOUTHERN WHITE MALE, 27 YEARS OLD, 160 LBS, GOOD LOOKING, DESIRES A RELATIONSHIP/MARRIAGE TO A SINCERE TRANSSEXUAL, IF YOU'RE TIRED OF LONELINESS THEN TAKE A CHANCE AND WRITE, AGE UNIMPORTANT, SERIOUS REPLIES ONLY. PHOTO APPRECIATED. WRITE TO GARY H., C/O TRANSSEXUAL VOICE, P. O. BOX 16314, ATLANTA, GA. 30321.

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THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR PERSONAL LISTINGS. THE EDITOR/PUBLISHER OF THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY CONTENT OF THE LISTINGS ON THIS PAGE NOR THE RESULTS OF ANY LISTING. YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY AD YOU SUBMIT OR ANY AD YOU RESPOND TO IN THIS SECTION - SO BE CAREFUL AND GOOD LUCK.

CONNECTIONS

THE CONNECTION SECTION WILL BE USED TO LOCATE PEOPLE (OTHER THAN FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS) SUCH AS ROOMMATES, BIG SISTER/BIG BROTHER, JOBS WANTED; ETC. ALSO, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BIG SISTER OR BROTHER(I'M GOING TO FIND A BETTER WORD FOR THIS ONE), THIS IS THE PLACE TO OFFER YOUR FRIENDSHIP. IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO HIRE A TRANSSEXUAL POST-OP OR PRE-OP, PLEASE, PLEASE LET IT BE KNOWN.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS COMMUNICATION, BUT PLEASE DO INCLUDE S.A.S.E. FOR MAIL THAT IS TO BE FORWARDED.

ROOMMATE WANTED - ONE BEDROOM APARTMENT, CAN CONVERT LIVING ROOM INTO BEDROOM. WALL-TO-WALL CARPET, AIR CONDITIONED, FULLY EQUIPPED KITCHEN AND POOL. CALL SHELBY (513) 293-7926.

NEED ROOMMATE IN ORDER TO RELOCATE AND GO FULLTIME. CONTACT: KIM, P. O. BOX 564, LAKE CITY, S.C. 29560.

I'M LOOKING FOR A WEALTHY INDIVIDUAL WHO MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN SPONSORING AN OPERATION FOR A BLACK, PRE-OP TRANSSEXUAL IN THE MODELING AND ENTERTAINMENT FIELD. WRITE TO: PRESTON, 7000 RED FOX TR. #101, SHREVEPORT, LA. 71129.

ROOMMATE WANTED - GAY MALE (TRANSSEXUAL INCLINATIONS IN REMISSION) WITH FOUR CATS, HAS EXTRA BEDROOM IN TWO FLOOR APARTMENT IN NEW BRUNSWICK, NEW JERSEY; $350.00/MONTH, PLUS ONE-HALF UTILITIES - NEGOTIABLE IN EXCHANGE FOR LIGHT HOUSEWORK. WILL BE HELPFUL, SUPPORTIVE, AND SENSITIVE TO SPECIAL PROBLEMS AND NEEDS OF TRANSSEXUAL. ANGEL, (908)249-8027.

PRE-OP TRANSSEXUAL DESIRES FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS COMPANION OR HOUSEKEEPER OR ??? CAN RELOCATE. FREE TO TRAVEL. NEED FINANCIAL HELP FOR BREAST IMPLANTS AND COSMETIC SURGERY. WILL WORK OFF DEBT. WRITE ROBIN L. FREY, P. O. BOX 2072, SOUTHEASTERN, PA. 19399

I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH SPOUSES OF TRANSSEXUALS, PRESENT OR FORMER, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS. ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM TRANSSEXUALS THEMSELVES, WHO HAVE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR SPOUSES OR FORMER SPOUSES. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND RELATE COMMON 'MILESTONES'. I AM VERY INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER TRANSSEXUALS OUT THERE WHO ARE TRYING TO LIVE IN THEIR BIOLOGICAL ROLES HAVING MADE, FOR WHATEVER REASON (TOO EXPENSIVE, FEAR THE RADICAL SURGERY, ETC.), A DECISION NOT TO PURSUE THE ACCEPTED TREATMENT OF HORMONE THERAPY AND SURGERY. REPLY TO M.E. % TSV.

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