

TWENTY MINUTES

MARCH 1990

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS OF MALE VERSUS FEMALE COMMUNICATION BEHAVIOR

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In professional or business roles males and females exhibit similar language styles. In other settings, however there are a number of characteristics which are predominately male or female. Those will be listed below:

Males exhibit lower pitch levels than do females. Lower voices are seen as power voices. Nasality is also characteristic of male teenagers and men trying to appear tough. Male voices for courtship are low and nasal.

Females exhibit higher pitched voices (higher yet to indicate helplessness) than do men and they speak at the upper range of their pitches (excited levels) more frequently than men do the upper levels of their pitch range.

Females use adjectives such as precious, cute, teeny, adorable, cuddly, darling, exquisite, pretty, sweet and things like "How perfectly lovely".

Females use reduplicate forms (ie. Teeny-tiny, itsy-bitsy etc.)

Females use more emphatic forms than do males. "It was horrifying." or "That was fantastic." or "That was startling news."

Women use the modal construction (can, could, would, should, shall, will, may, might etc.) with auxiliary verbs (have and been) more than men. This indicates indefiniteness and uncertainty).

Women avoid imperatives "Get that for me." and use questioning forms instead- ie. "Could you please get that for me?" or "would you mind getting that for me?" Women want to avoid brusqueness and to be polite.

Boys and men say "can", girls and women say "may".

Men dominate conversations and interrupt more frequently especially when speaking with a female.

Women apologize more frequently.

Men explain more frequently. Not to inform but to demonstrate their superiority.

Women use more qualifiers (probably, I think, perhaps, possibly etc.) than men. They also use more tag questions. (ie. "He was on time, wasn't he?")

Women also exhibit intonation patterns denoting uncertainty even when they are not uncertain about the information which they are presenting (high and weak production).

Women use more hyperbole with a strong emphasis intonation pattern, ie. "I'll never get it right" or "It was the most extraordinary city I've ever seen".

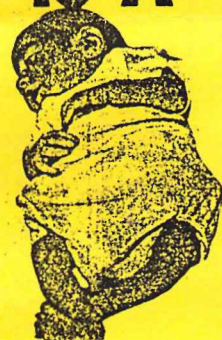
Women use more intensifiers (so, such, quite, vastly etc.) ie. "It was so much fun!"

Women use more expressive intonation patterns in general. They use patterns of surprise, cheerfulness, politeness etc.

Women's speech (articulation or sound production) is more precise.

Women's speech is also more grammatically correct. Women use their superiority in language to make up for the perception of women as second rate in most other areas. Men use poor grammar to establish a sense of solidarity. It has been said that "a red blooded male would rather be caught dead than grammatical." Language appears to be equated with culture which is perceived as effeminate.

NEWBORN BABY IS A GIRL - AND A BOY!



A new mother and father have asked a judge to determine the sex of their baby - which was born with both male and female reproductive organs.

Doctors say they'll have no trouble removing one set of sex organs. But Stella and Peter Gascon are going to let a court choose the sex because he wants a boy and she wants a girl.

The Gascon couple intend to represent themselves in the court case to determine the baby's sex. They say they will abide by the judge's decision. At this point the baby doesn't even have a name.

(Reprinted from the *Weekly World News*, January 16, 1990 issue.)

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TWENTY MINUTES

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THE XX (Twenty) CLUB, INC.
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THE TRANSEXUAL SUPPORT
GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND
AND NEW YORK

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GERALDO RIVERA says he's changing his ways to include more investigative stories on social issues for his television talk-show. "It's not a kinder, gentler Geraldo," he said. "On 'Geraldo,' you're not going to get the freaks. The nuts and sluts will be on other people's programs. It's been published everywhere that my 10-year-old son had a dramatic influence on me, as he did. Last year all his friends were saying that I had guts to stand up to those bad people (the skinheads), and this year they were talking about *transsexual lesbian nuns*," he said. "I don't want people to associate me with the freak show. I want them to associate me with a program that does righteous, populace issues..."

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. The XX Club, or its members are 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 if source credit is given.

CLUB CALENDAR MEETINGS

Saturday, Mar 10

Saturday, Mar 24

Saturday, Apr 14

Saturday, Apr 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

(Located at the corner of Church and Main Streets in the downtown area across from G. Fox.) If you believe you are gender dysphoric, you are welcome to visit and find out more about our group and talk about yourself and your feelings. The XX Club is a transsexual support group, not a dating service. There is **NO SMOKING** allowed during the meetings, though we do allow smoking during breaks and after the meetings. We attempt 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.

We want to thank Linda Howe, M.S., C.C.C. for being a surprise guest speaker at our Feb 10 meeting and telling us about voice therapy vs voice surgery and answering our many questions. See folks, you never know what you might miss if you skip a meeting at the XX Club.

CATHY:



TREASURER'S \$ REPORT

Balance - from January \$1482.78

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	25.00
Newsletter subscriptions	106.00
Brochure sales	25.50
IFGE sales	35.00
GF sales	6.00
J2CP sales	10.00
Donations	5.00
Savings interest	6.58
Total Income	\$219.08

EXPENSES:

Refreshments	18.12
Newsletter & brochures	124.95
Postage	30.00
Supplies	19.57
Bank Fee	.85
Total Expenses	\$193.49

Net Income for February \$ 25.59

Balance - end of February \$1508.37

GUEST SPEAKER

At the meeting of the June 9, we will have as our speaker - Roger E. Peo, Ph.D. of Androgyny Unlimited. He will speak on the differing needs of transsexuals and cross-dressers focusing on how this has the potential of creating problems that divide the larger transgender community. The title of his talk would be "Transsexuals: Second Class Citizens?" He will follow up by answering your questions. So put this date on your calendar and plan to attend. Remember - all XX Club meetings begin at 2PM sharp!

TWENTY MINUTES
is on the

MOST WANTED LIST

\$2.00

So it's March, but remember the Twenty Club Christmas party? We'd like to thank everybody who contributed food and dessert treats. We'd like to especially thank Vicki, one of our recently elected vice-presidents for providing a most informative and graphic video tape of the the sex-reassignment surgery. It's one thing to read about the surgery, or to listen to a post-op describe his or her experiences, but a video tape is worth a billion words.

And speaking of the Twenty Club, we are indeed a special group in that we are a unique family. We are an open support group that offers friendship and practical information to transsexual people. We welcome anyone who has serious questions about their gender identity. Our attendees range from the seasoned male crossdresser who may be searching for a bit more, or who just wants to see how a real transsexual group operates, to the female who has been exploring a lesbian lifestyle in an effort to understand her own partially hidden masculinity that may lie beneath the surface of her consciousness. In between these two groups are yet many more types of individuals from all walks of life who face similar and different problems. And among us too, are the sharers and the teachers, each with a unique perspective and outlook on how to better understand their uninvited dilemma. Such diversity is the essence, the very life blood of our loving family.

Over the past two years, the Twenty Club has grown in size, attendance, and maturity. Individuals in our core membership travel to Hartford from all over New England and New York state. Others who call themselves Twenty Club members are once in a while attendees, who may or may not have loyalties to other groups. Hierarchy? Not here. There are a few people who hold elected positions of responsibility with the Twenty Club, but everyone can be a leader if they so desire and anyone can be a contributor.

Politics? Not here. There is simply no need. It's a case of sharing experiences. No one is better than anyone else just because they may have had the surgery, or they may be on hormones, or...

NEWSFLASH - This is a Twenty Minutes Special Bulletin! We now go to our correspondent, Pamela Bernett at the second floor IFGE headquarters on 6 Cushing Street in beautiful downtown Waltham, Massachusetts. Pamela, are you there?

Yes, Lynda. I'm here at IFGE headquarters in Waltham, Massachusetts. From a conversation I've just overheard between several people, it has positively been confirmed, the leaders of IFGE are going to present the 1990 Virginia Prince award to Sister Mary Elizabeth.

How do you think this world shaking announcement will affect the transsexual community? And do you think Sister Mary Elizabeth will accept the award? Pamela?

Well Lynda, as you know, some leaders within the crossdressing community, and primarily IFGE, consider the Virginia Prince award in the category of 'Outstanding Contribution', given first to Virginia Prince at IFGE's first convention in Chicago in 1987. You may recall this award was given to honor Virginia Prince back then for being the person who has made the greatest life-time contribution to the community. In this case, "community" means the crossdressing community. Within the transsexual community are some people with strong loyalties to the crossdressing leaders. There is however, a smaller rebel transsexual faction who are opposed to some of the all encompassing ideas and policies put forth by what they consider to be a non-understanding crossdressing majority.

Pamela, would you draw a comparison here between IFGE and this rebel transsexual faction as being similar to that between Darth Vader's Empire and the Rebellion?

Yes Lynda, the Star Wars comparison is considered by some to be quite valid. On the one hand, here in Waltham you have a well intentioned bureaucratic hierarchy run by a small group of former and present Tiffany members speaking out and establishing guidelines, definitions and policies for everyone. And what they can't understand is, there are

people with opposing viewpoints and different feelings. But there is a larger, invisible transsexual group who choose not to get involved with IFGE or even the gender community. As far as Sister Mary Elizabeth accepting the Virginia Prince award, that as yet remains to be seen. If IFGE pays for Sister Mary's plane fare, she may be bound to accept the award. Virginia Prince is a transvestite who founded what is now known as TRI-ESS, a closed group that accepts only heterosexual male crossdressers. So we can clearly see that the very act of giving such an award, named after a world famous transvestite, lecturer, author of non-erotic crossdressing books, and benefactor to the current crossdressing community to a former transsexual, has a double edge. It on the one hand could be seen as a slap across the face, and on the other hand, if accepted, could be construed as a complete endorsement of all of IFGE's policies by a non-crossdressing, former transsexual person.

Speaking of TRI-ESS Pamela, we've heard rumors here at Twenty Minutes that pressure was exerted on Merissa by some of the TRI-ESS members to get JoAnn Roberts of the Renaissance Education Association, off the board of directors because of JoAnn's vigorous stance for open groups as opposed to closed groups such as TRI-ESS. As you know, JoAnn Roberts was vocal in 1989 on the issue of open and closed groups. She has however, denied this allegation.

Yes Lynda, unfortunately that rumor could be pretty close to the truth. One source here at IFGE, who asked that her name not be revealed, did say that Merissa was told by some TRI-ESS members that they would withhold monetary contributions to IFGE unless she "took care of it, or did something." Remember JoAnn's polite resignation notice?

Yes I do Pamela. It looks as though some of the people in the gender community, itself a misunderstood minority, are using weapons of coercion not uncommon in the greater world. But what about Veronica Brown? She has been a rabble rouser in the past year? She's on the IFGE board of directors.

Brown resigned in January from the board of directors of IFGE succumbing to pressure from Merissa Lynn but this was done through a second party. So nefarious was this tactic that the second party now feels alienated from IFGE, and Brown will not attend the convention in Boston this month as invited by Christina Young, the coordinator of the TS events, to speak at the TS seminars. According to Merissa Lynn, "...members of the board set policy and give direction to the gender community as a whole and without bias." Merissa considers Veronica a biased militant and her public attitude is at odds with the neutrality of the board. IFGE people stress coming together, unity, and strength, but what they really mean is conformity. Lynda?

Well, that is certainly a mouthful. Do you think that IFGE will continue this policy of weeding out undesirable people who don't think along their lines and who are brave enough to voice an opposition?

That is a good assumption Lynda. As you know, any group founded for a specific cause has to set up rules for operation and unity. There will always be splinter groups around to raise dissent. You know, there is another comparison here too. Christianity has tried from the very beginning, to suppress the sexual nature of men and women. Virginia Prince and her TRI-ESS groups present a pretty picture of support and unity while suppressing the sexual side of crossdressing. Yet there is considerable evidence both from within and without the crossdressing community that wearing women's clothes is a very erotic...

Pamela? Pamela? What's going on there? We heard a commotion in the background. Pamela? We've lost our video. Pamela? Are you there? Now we've lost the downlink feed. Pamela? Well, ladies and gentlemen, that's all we have at this time. We seem to have lost our special reporter. We now return you to our regularly scheduled editorial.

...and so we look forward to another good year of providing transsexual support, information, friendship and love.

STRUGGLE CONTINUES FOR FORMER NAVY INSTRUCTOR TURNED NUN

Reprinted from the Transsexual Voice

On January 6, 1988, in an event widely reported by the press, Joanna Clark took the name Mary Elizabeth during a candlelight service at St. Clements By-the-Sea Episcopal Church in San Clemente. The service, a novitiate induction into the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, continues to send shock waves through the Episcopalian community nationwide.

Clark, born Michael Forbes Clark, is a veteran of 17 years active and reserve service in the United States Navy. As a Chief Petty Officer, he taught advanced electronics, trained and evaluated aircrews in the use of acoustic and non-acoustic electronic systems found onboard the Lockheed P3 Orion ASW (Anti-Submarine Warfare) patrol aircraft, flew Operation Market Time patrols as a Radar operator during the Vietnam conflict, and qualified as a Navy diver, before his honorable discharge from active duty in 1969, and the Naval Reserve in 1974.

Following his release from active duty in 1969, Clark was hired as an electronics technician and support "saturation" diver at Makai Undersea Test Range in Hawaii. Two years later he joined Kentron Hawaii, Ltd. and was assigned to the Kwajalein Missile Range, Marshall Islands, as a project coordinator with the "Safe-guard" ABM (Anti-Ballistic Missile) development project (The predecessor to the current "Star Wars" Strategic Defense Initiative.).

Clark had suffered from gender dysphoria all his life. In 1973, while attempting to come to grips with his conflict, he sought professional help. Exhaustive medical and psychological evaluations were performed at Stanford University and again here in Orange County during 1974-75. He was then referred to the Baptist Medical Center in Oklahoma City, where he underwent sex reassignment surgery, becoming at long last Joanna Clark.

Her pain gone, she began rebuilding her life. Army recruiters approached and offered her a position in the Army Reserve, which, with less than three years to go for retirement, she gladly accepted. After passing the required medical examinations--with full disclosure of her sex reassignment--she was enlisted as a Sergeant First Class.

Clark, well liked and respected by her co-workers, was often cited for outstanding performance, both in the Navy and Army, and rapidly promoted to positions of increasing responsibility. Major Michael Aquino, in recommending her for promotion to Warrant Officer, told the promotion board, "Essential characteristics for a Warrant Officer are professionalism, military bearing, administrative expertise, initiative, and a highly developed sense of responsibility. Sergeant Joanna Clark rates superlatively in all of these areas."

Washington learned of her presence in the Spring of 1977. Complete medical, as well as psychological, evaluations were ordered, which found her medically and mentally qualified to "perform the duties of her rank and position," and she was "recommended for retention." The Army, however, ordered her enlistment voided, claiming she was "not psychologically or sociologically suited for military service."

According to Sergeant Piche, however, Clark was an outstanding soldier. Piche, interviewed on the Larry King Live Show, told King, "She was sharp, she was good, she was great. When any one needed help, all they had to do was go to Joanna. She was one of the NCO's in the unit, and she was great. I do not believe anybody in the unit had any disrespect or bad feelings towards Joanna. What happened came from outside the unit."

A lengthy law suit followed in which she says, "I won the battle, but lost the war." In 1982, she was awarded an honorable discharge, credit for time served as a female in the Army Reserve, and a \$25,000 settlement, thus becoming the first person in history to serve in the United States military as both a male and a female. She was 10-1/2 months short of retirement.

Clark spent the four years immediately following her dismissal from the Army mostly unemployed. Few employers were willing to risk hiring her because of the existing controversy surrounding her (The Army had falsely accused her of fraudulent enlistment, drug addiction, immoral sexual activities, theft of classified documents and subversive activities.), and her having become a subject of continuing interest to the media. As a result, she returned to college on the GI bill, worked at odd jobs when they could be found, and finally, with the help of her parents, began her own business in 1981.

She first heard the call to religious life and service in 1947. In 1978, while majoring in human services at Saddleback College, she calling resurfaced. It was a calling, which, according to Saddleback psychology instructor Teddi Lorch, "She was not able to turn away from."

In the months that followed, she began writing letters to religious communities around the country, but her notoriety and history of having undergone a sex-change always seemed to get in the way. She also became actively involved in helping others.

Rupert Raj, who has followed her career from a Canadian perspective, has likened her to St. Francis and Helen Keller and dubbed her the "indisputable champion in the fight for the rights of the gender-conflicted." Her helpfulness to others has not been limited to the gender-conflicted however.

Patricia Lopez, a mother of four and resident of Capistrano Beach, talked about Sr. Mary's ministry a few days ago. "Sr. Mary's been helpful in a number of ways to members of our community. She often provides transportation and looks after our children when emergencies arise, and she has turned one young boy's dream of attending Space Academy into reality. She is someone who takes the time to listen and offers more than kind words and encouragement when needed."

Her calling to religious life was validated in 1986, after several visits with a Northern California religious community. She was directed towards the formation of a new Order, rather than joining an existing one, however. It was then that a number of Episcopal priests, including her spiritual director, Sisters, and laity, joined in assisting her in the writing of the new community's articles of incorporation, spiritual rule, and constitution.

In the weeks and months that followed, telephone calls were made, letters exchanged, and meetings held, as the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary took form on paper. The spiritual rule and constitution were adopted for trial use on October 10, 1987, and a commitment service held before parish family and friends on Sunday, November 15th.

The State of California approved the Order on November 17th. The formation groups endeavor was completed, and on Epiphany, January 6, 1988, Clark was given the name Mary Elizabeth, made her religious vows of chastity, poverty, and obedience, and was clothed as Sr. Mary Elizabeth, by the Rev. Robert M. Boyer, Rector of St.

Clements By-the-Sea Episcopal Church, before about fifty members of the parish. Said, Father Boyer, during the service--

"Tonight . . . Joanna takes on her new name Sister Mary Elizabeth, in sort of a medieval kind of service. It seems to me kind of strange. But I know when St. Francis and St. Benedict presented their orders and their vision of their communities, they were rejected and told to go back. And yet they persevered. They were doubted, laughed at, told it was a waste of time. But some believed.

"No one has a clear plan or vision or has been given a clear understanding of how renewal comes to us. Tonight, we are part of the mystery of God. We have gathered together to begin someone into that reunification. This is a mysterious act of the Holy Spirit in our midst.

"It is with a deep sense of joy, hope and faith -- and a large measure of trust -- that we gather here tonight."

Unlike St. Francis and St. Benedict, however, the news of Sr. Mary's vows and vision, of a Christian community in the Anglican and Franciscan tradition, spread rapidly due to the miracle of satellite communications and a worldwide news network. Rejection came just as quickly, when the Los Angeles Times misconstrued Bishop Oliver Garver's, Suffragan Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Los Angeles, comment with the headline, "Vows Repudiated: Bishop Blocks Transsexual's Nun's Order." A few days later the new Bishop-elect, Frederick H. Borsch, told reporters that Mary Elizabeth had not been disqualified. The interview, titled "Bishop Says Transsexual Has Not Been Disqualified," was lost deep within the pages of the Times, however.

During the next few weeks, the world press, anxious to print a story, any story, went wild. In story after story, Sr. Mary was variously depicted as a Navy pilot, bombardier flying bombing missions over Vietnam, or Navy SEAL, turned Episcopal Nun; all of which she was not. Even the respectable Episcopal NEWS became caught up in the mania.

Sr. Mary, in a recent interview, pointed out that "From the beginning there was no intent to form an Episcopal Order. Our goal is to build a Christian community in the Anglican and Franciscan tradition. Canon law requires that the community must have six life-professed Sisters before it can make formal application for recognition. The community was initiated as a nonprofit 501(c)(3) religious corporation, which required three people. In other words, I was not alone, it was a group endeavor. My making of vows was just the first step in a very long process. The vows were made to God, under the conditions laid down in the founding documents of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary, and to whose guardianship and maintenance I committed myself. Unfortunately, the Los Angeles Times and world press became involved, creating considerable confusion and some king-sized obstacles."

Today, nearly two years since making her vows, Sr. Mary carries on, helping those in need. She continues to be buoyed up by her faith in God, and the prayers of friends who meet nightly with her for Evening Prayer. Her days are filled with many challenges--answering the letters she receives from gender dysphorics, lecturing on the subject of gender dysphoria to university and college classes, providing assistance to older or handicapped citizens and the homeless, and helping to turn dreams of Space Camp into reality for aspiring young astronauts.

MAGGIE'S DRAG

(C) 1989 by Maggie [REDACTED]

Commodus (was his first name John?), Nero and Julius Caesar were just some of the Roman Emperors who put on makeup, perfume, exquisite jewelry and fine fashions to dress as women. These civic leaders sometimes impersonated the female sex as heroines in mythology for public performances. Sometimes they even continued their masquerade of femininity into their private lives. Our lovable emperor is dead. Long live the old queen.

Christopher Morely has a good time with his role of a wild young blond in the 1974 production of *Freebie and the Bean*. Morely's role is very convincing even down to the bloody scene in the women's rest room, when he is confronted by a cop played by James Caan. Bang, bang. You're dead.

Diana Rigg and Vincent Price play a daughter and father team in 1974's *Theatre of Blood*. Together they seek revenge on a number of thespian critics who gave Daddy Vincent bad reviews in his Shakespearean performances. See the former Emma Peel, as she wears a number of male disguises to help dear old Dad.

Another excellent film well worth renting from your local video store (try one of the smaller artsy type video places) is Federico Fellini's 1970 film *Satyricon*. Fellini's surrealistic epic is chock full of impressive visual images concerning the life of Petronium Arbiter, circa Rome 50-66 A.D. Not for the devout, as the film contains graphic scenes of male homosexuality and drag.

The late 60's and early 70's saw a number of gender confused films. Among them was *Myra Breckenridge* produced in 1970 and based on the 1968 novel by Gore Vidal. In a book I read recently about John Muston, *Myra Breckenridge* wasn't even listed among his works even though he shared top billing with Mae West and Raquel Welch. The film introduces Rex Reed as the young Myron, who later went on to be a successful film critic on television, and co-starred Farrah Fawcett, Roger Merren, Calvin Lockhart and the venerable character actor, John Caradine. One movie critic panned the film as tasteless trash. Another critic described director Michael Sarne's effort as outrageous as the book. Rex Reed, as a young naval officer becomes the title character of *Myra*, played aptly by Raquel Welch. If you don't like good old fashioned suggestive sex scenes, a little flagellation, some baring of private anatomy, don't see this film. It has been released on video tape, but lots of luck in finding it. If you'd like to find out what really happened to *Myra Breckenridge*, read Gore Vidal's sequel, *Myron*.

Now for some downright devout direct drag. In 1968, the documentary, *The Queen* was released, starring Jack Doroshov. Jack gives an excellent performance as Flawless Sabrina, one of the film's leading characters. *The Queen* deeply delves into a behind the scenes look at an aspect of America's gay sub-culture, the Miss All-America Camp Beauty Pageant held in New York City in 1967, where transvestites and female impersonators from all over the country competed. It is a phenomenon that many gay men have unusual natural beauty characteristics not usually found among heterosexual males. Possessing such natural beauty goes hand in hand with exhibiting feainine characteristics in the art of drag, or female impersonation. But as in other aspects of life, it is a dog eat dog world in the atmosphere of the gay beauty pageant. Look for this one in your local XXX book and video store in the gay section.

Remember the Nancy Drew books? Nancy Drew and the Secret in the Old Clock? Nancy Drew and the Secret of the Old Mill? In the 1939 film version of Nancy Drew and the Hidden Staircase, teenage actor Frankie Thomas, who plays the companion to Bonita Granville, the girl detective, masquerades quite unconvincingly, as a woman to aid old ladies who are being victimized. Read the book instead.

LIFE IS UNCERTAIN~
EAT DESSERT FIRST

F-M SURGEON FOR MASTECTOMY

by W. H.

Perhaps the most vital information a transsexual needs, once on the road to reassignment is who to go to for surgery. As a F-M TS, the search for a good surgeon is slightly more difficult than my M-F counterparts, who are more organized and active in the transsexual community. Due to the efforts of the active members of the XX Club, M-F TSs can obtain publications about two experienced surgeons: Dr. Biber in Colorado and Dr. Seghers in Brussels, for a nominal fee. Although Dr. Biber is most well known for his contribution to the M-F community, he also does F-M surgeries. (One of his F-M patients is showcased nude in the Feb. 1990 issue of Hustler, with his newly done phalloplasty.)

For those of us who are not planning to go to them, there are several indications of a surgeon's qualifications and abilities. First and foremost, good plastic surgeons are usually board-certified, and they are listed in The Directory of Medical Specialists available at hospital reference libraries or maybe a local library. (Surgeons not listed in this directory are not board certified). Two more clues, although not entirely necessary, are a surgeon's affiliation with an accredited hospital and membership in the American College of Surgeons.

For F-M TSs ready to undergo the first phase of converting breasts from female to male, an excellent, board-certified surgeon to consider would be Dr. Foerster. My experience with him has been positive, not only with the surgery, but with the extremely reasonable fees he charges. Dr. Foerster not only removes breast tissue, but reduces the size of the nipple, and if necessary repositions it, as well. His sutures are very fine and incisions are kept to a minimum. It is likely that no visible scars will result, if your breasts are small, like mine were. If the breasts are large, there will be some scarring. Although a new "drawstring" method is being developed by a few innovative doctors around the country, like Dr. Gilbert in Virginia, that supposedly eliminates a major amount of scarring.

Dr. Foerster does surgeries in his office suite, on an outpatient basis, which included in the approximately \$3000 he charges (about half the amount asked for elsewhere). Since the surgery is not done in a hospital, you would need to recuperate in a nearby hotel with a relative or friend. Or else, a woman who cares for some of his patients in her home for about \$100 a day (meals and transportation included) is an alternative.

Dr. Foerster also does phalloplasties for about \$7000. Please be sincere if you decide to write or call for information, inquire only if you are ready. Good Luck!

Dr. David W. Foerster
3131 N. W. Expressway
Oklahoma City, OK 73112
(405) 848-3459

LAURA'S CORNER

To the Ex
who got a 9 year itch.

For what I don't know
she was a witch.

So now I don't need
due to a switch.

'Cause now I have
my very own itch.

ONLY THOSE WHO ATTEMPT THE ABSURD ACHIEVE THE IMPOSSIBLE



Angel • P.O. BOX 302 • PEACE DALE, RI 02883

THE AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT OF 1989 ON BEING EXCLUDED FROM ITS PROTECTION: SOME UNANSWERED QUESTIONS

By Louise L. Raeder

In the January 1990 issue of TWENTY MINUTES, a reply to my letter concerning the exclusion of transsexuals (along with the rest of the "gender" community) by the U.S. Senate version (S.933) of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989 and the apparent approval of such action by a consensus at a recent Twenty Club meeting was cause for much alarm, at least here in Chicago. It also seems that some gay organizations here feel the same way about the exclusion of homosexuals from the legal protection of the bill. Some of the bottom line questions we all should be asking are, "IF WE ARE EXCLUDED FROM THE PROTECTION OF THIS BILL, CAN WE BE DISCRIMINATED AGAINST AS MEMBERS OF THOSE GROUPS THAT HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED LEGALLY?" and IF the answer is "NO", then "WHAT LEGISLATION INSURES OUR PROTECTION AGAINST SUCH DISCRIMINATION?" and remember, we're talking about the Federal level here, the level to which all appeals could ultimately be brought regardless of local human rights ordinances... the Supreme Court.

In view of the extremely poor "track record" that we have had over the years in our struggle for our rights through the legal system in matters of discrimination, can we really afford to be excluded from ANY legislation that would give us at least a fighting chance? Some of the Congressional Record accounts of the intent of S.933 are as follows: "Individuals with disabilities are a discrete and insular minority who have been faced with restrictions and limitations, subjected to a history of purposeful unequal treatment, and relegated to a position of political powerlessness in our society, based on characteristics that are beyond the control of such individuals and resulting from stereotyped assumptions not truly indicative of the individual ability of such individuals to participate in, and contribute to, society." (page S 10702, September 7, 1989) "There is a wellspring of fears and unfounded prejudices about people with disabilities, unfounded fears, whether people have mental disorders, whether they are manic depressives or schizophrenia or paranoia, or unfounded fears and prejudices based upon physical disabilities. The point of the bill is to start breaking down those barriers of fear and prejudice and unfounded fears, to get past that point so that people begin to look at people based on their abilities, not first looking at their disability." (page S 10768, September 7, 1989) "The Senator from Colorado (Mr. Armstrong) for himself and Mr. Hatch, proposes an amendment numbered 722. Under this act the term 'disability' does not include 'homosexuality', 'bisexuality', 'transvestism', 'pedophilia', 'transsexualism', 'exhibitionism', 'voyeurism', 'compulsive gambling', 'kleptomania', or 'pyromania', 'gender identity disorders', current 'psychoactive substance use disorders', current 'psychoactive substance-induced organic mental disorders', as defined by DSM-III-R which are not the result of medical treatment, or 'other sexual behavior disorders'. (page S 10785, September 7, 1989) One of the statements made by Senator Armstrong was a response to the suggestion that there were still "loopholes" in the bill even with his amendment No. 722 attached and other groups not excluded could still seek protection under the bill to which he replied: "What we do know is that this specific list of categorical exceptions do not form the basis for a discrimination claim under this bill. In all other respects, we are silent. In other words, there is no presumption that something is in or out as a result of this amendment except for those things which are mentioned." (page S 10786, September 7, 1989)

I'm sure that most of us don't think of ourselves as handicapped or disabled in the intrinsic sense but since handicaps and disabilities are relative to one's ability to accomplish life's activities successfully and that's what this bill is intended to enhance by among other things, preventing discrimination, the possibility of our qualifications for its protection should be reconsidered. There is

no mention of any disability being permanent or incurable in either the Congressional Record or in the bill itself but in fact there is mention in the Record of the possibility of an individual overcoming his or her disability, something we all need to achieve if we are to be complete and happy! One would not ordinarily think that being a member of a particular ethnic group or race constituted a disability but that's exactly the way it was for Jews living in Germany and Poland in the 1930s and the way it still is for blacks in South Africa, and let's not forget what blacks and American Indians had to endure here in this so-called free country of ours.. the land of "Liberty and Justice for ALL".

As far as getting insurance companies to pay for SRS if we are considered as having a disability goes, we are already classified as having a mental illness. It's listed in DSM-III and like it or not, until we do something to change some definitions, we'll have it hanging over our heads and the insurance companies know it... that's why Sarah Luiz has been appealing for help in her struggle with Blue Cross and Blue Shield to get them to pay for her SRS. Without legislation to protect us in matters of discrimination, Congress would be giving anyone who wanted to, the "green light" to go ahead and attack us and there's certainly many who are just waiting for their chance! Can we really afford to risk it? Insurance coverage for SRS could very well become totally irrelevant if Federal funding is cut off to any medical facility where SRS is performed and without our rights as transsexuals, there would be no way to stop it, but there's no need to quit there. Those in Congress such as William Armstrong and his supporters (there are at least 3 others mentioned in the Congressional Record: Hatch, Harkin and Helms with Senator Hatch being listed as principal cosponsor of Amendment No. 722) could always sponsor legislation to outlaw SRS in this country altogether, something that certain "fundamentalists" religious groups have been pushing for a long time! Should we give them that strangle hold? And what about going out of the country to get our SRS? The State Department denied passports to TSs in the 1960s. What's to prevent them from doing that again? If we are excluded from protection for our condition by Federal law... the answer is "NOTHING!" We were NEVER SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED in the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989 but if the bill passes in the House as Senator Armstrong would have it and is signed into law by President Bush, we will be SPECIFICALLY EXCLUDED, a very dangerous precedent that could only lead to more exclusions, denials, and even atrocities, just ask any Holocaust survivor! Does history have to repeat itself? Is that what YOU want? Many groups (I counted no less than 166 of them) were listed in the Congressional Record for their support of legislation which they sought to have added to the bill, specifically to INCLUDE those suffering from AIDS. They had obviously been concerned enough to get involved because they understood the importance of being included but how many "gender" community-oriented organizations were involved in reforming the bill and getting those with gender conditions included? You guessed it, zip, zilch, zero,...NOTHING, NOT A SINGLE DAMN ONE! That kind of lack of involvement combined with some kind of apparent complex about not wanting to be considered as disabled, perhaps because we don't like the idea of being considered weak, could ultimately prove to be a fatal mistake! Especially with the above example and the history of our community, do you think we're really that strong? Not only are we just about the politically weakest of the minorities, we will also remain that way if we pursue our present course and fail to unite in those important issues and projects that will make us strong. It's imperative that from now on, we make ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN to determine that an ACCEPTABLE ALTERNATIVE exists BEFORE we decide to refuse ANY form of assistance from ANYONE on behalf of our community and our cause. It's going to require work being legislative "watchdogs", such as looking up Congressional

Records and doing research on what we find but with over 80,000 trans-sexuals alone plus various groups such as the I.F.G.E. Congress of Representatives and of course, US TOO, we can shift the odds in our favor because in fact, WE MUST IF WE ARE TO SURVIVE! If we fail to do our part as an organized community with EVERYONE GETTING INVOLVED we will be forever haunted by the stigma of our life-style as perceived by others where ever we go and subjected to the bigotry, prejudice, and even violence of anyone who feels like doing some "fag bashing" in one form or another with all the blessings of Congress to justify it no less. The status of "non-human", of "untouchable" in American Society, and the indelible message "do whatever you want to these inferior life forms, they don't have any rights there's nothing they can do about it, the government said so!" will be emblazoned across us and our community like a scarlet letter... OR A PINK TRIANGLE!

LET'S KEEP A LITTLE OPTIM- ISM HERE!

Attn: Twenty (XX) Club

Four persons have requested that \$10.00 of their TV/TS Tapestry Journal subscription be rebated to The Twenty Club. In accordance to your wishes the rebates are being treated as a contribution to the Christine Jorgensen Fund, and acknowledgment of the Twenty Club will be made. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Yvonne Cook,
IFGE Director of Operations

Dear Veronica,

I would like to thank you for your help and time spent as a spokesperson for the Gender Community. I was sorry to hear that you have elected to step down from your position as a board member of the I.F.G.E. As you know, this community needs to be heard if we are to make any of the gains you have so well talked of in recent years, and your voice will be missed.

I would like to add that I have had great respect and admiration for you and the courage that you have shown to stand up and be heard through your editorship of the XX (Twenty) Club newsletter. I know that you will be missed in that capacity as well as being a board member of IFGE and spokesperson for the TS community in general.

I personally would like to wish you the best of good fortune in your future endeavors, and I hope that some day our paths will cross again. Thank you again for your efforts. If I, or IFGE can be of any assistance in the future, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,
Wendi Pierce
Chairperson of the Board IFGE



THE SARAH LUIZ FUNDRAISER

Sarah Luiz has gained international attention with her lawsuit against Blue Cross and Blue Shield. In February of 1988 Sarah was ready for the sex change surgery that would complete her transformation from birth male to female. The insurance company has refused to fund the surgery and informed Ms Luiz that her paid for pre-op treatments were "a paperwork error".

Now, two years later, Sarah continues to fight BCBS. On a daily basis she generates interest in her story by contacting the news media, radio and television networks. Legally, she is representing herself until she can obtain a lawyer. The expense of pursuing this matter has caused Sarah to lose her home, sell her belongings, give up her privacy and become a public "target" to the ignorant and dangerous elements of society.

Three weeks ago "Current Affair" aired an update on the "Luiz Story". The story stated that because of medical complications from the prolonged use of large doses of estrogen Sarah must revert back to a male state. She has lowered the dosage of estrogen and it is beginning to change her physical appearance. This update was viewed by a surgeon who specializes in sex-change surgery. Although he wishes to remain anonymous, he has offered to do the surgery free of charge. Sarah must now raise \$9000.00 in hospital costs.

When confronted with giving up her dream to become a woman Sarah stated, "I have learned so much over the past two years. I am a really good person and that has nothing to do with gender. I'm a survivor. If I have to live in a male body, I'll survive. The lawsuit isn't about me anymore, it's about human rights and finding justice. I don't want another human being to go through what I've had to endure. As long as I have breath in my body, I will continue to fight."

Checks payable to : SARAH LUIZ FUND
Creative Action Newsletter
[Redacted]
Eliot, Maine 03903

Dear XX Club,

In your November edition you had an article about Dr. Yvon Menard. My sex therapist, Alice Webb of Galveston advised me that he sent two Americans back to the U.S. with complications. Alice works in a gender team with surgeon, Dr. Huang. His charges for the SRS are \$5000 plus \$1500 deposit for the hospital with addition hospital charges applied after the initial deposit. Because Dr. Maung is ultra-conservative (in my opinion) about surgical matters, he does not approve of any kind of surgery what-so-ever before SRS has been approved.

I was on my own when it came to finding someone to do a tracheal shave. Alice Webb would give me no leads what-so-ever. So I combed the Houston telephone directory calling plastic surgeons and finally was referred to Dr. Michael Ellis in New Orleans. He does cheek implants and tracheal shaves. I paid \$1000 for my tracheal shave -plus plane fare and an overnight stay in a hotel. Dr. Ellis is an Associate Professor at Louisiana State University in New Orleans, teaching plastic surgery.

I wrote the XX Club some time back inquiring about vocal surgery and was given two addresses by Veronica Jean Brown - Toronto's Dr. J. Simon McGrail and the Beverly Hills team of Drs. Fleming and Mayer. Only Dr. Mayer performs the voice surgery, not Dr. Fleming. Dr. Ellis suggested I should stay away from such people because, to his knowledge, they could not deliver.

I wrote to both surgeons. Dr. McGrail charges \$3000 + \$500 (Canadian) for his laser voice surgery. But, as is well known, people usually require a second operation using his method. Dr. McGrail explains that a second visit will cost \$1000 + \$500 (Canadian). It seems to me that those who go to Dr. McGrail for voice surgery can anticipate a total cost of \$5000 (Canadian). Assuming the value of the Canadian dollar at about 85 cents, that \$5000 Canadian dollars is the equivalent of \$4250 American.

The price for voice surgery with Dr. Mayer in Beverly Hills has gone up to \$3500. That price is \$750 cheaper and since a second visit is not necessary, that makes the Mayer method less expensive. Dr. McGrail cited a 70% success rate in feminizing the voice, while Dr. Mayer cites a 95% success rate. Again, then, the Beverly Hills surgeon seems to have the advantage. Dr. McGrail uses general anesthesia while Dr. Mayer uses a local anesthetic. I associate general anesthesia with nausea and a feeling of sickness for hours after awakening.

Dr. Ellis says that Drs. Fleming and Mayer are in the mainstream of medical practice and have been responsible for inventing several new techniques. He has studied in their classes and has met them, and will attend a conference at which they will be present. He has also written both about voice surgery. Dr. Ellis is interested in learning the Beverly Hills technique with a view to offering it to his patients - several of whom have asked about it over the years. He is sure that the cost of voice surgery in New Orleans will be much less expensive than in Beverly Hills.

Sincerely,
Catanja
Houston, TX

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

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Michael S. Ellis, M.D., F.A.C.S.
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9661 Lake Forest Blvd.
Suite 210
New Orleans, LA 70127
(504) 241-2444

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1400-1800	Forehead Lift
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2200-2500	Forehead and lower eyelids
600-800	Browlift
1300-1500	Browlift and upper eyelids
1800-2000	Browlift, upper and lower eyelids
1500-1800	Browlift and lower eyelids
800-1000	Upper eyelids
900-1200	Lower eyelids
1500-1800	Upper and lower eyelids
1500-1700	Facelift - modified
1800-2200	Face and neck lift
2100-2400	Facelift & removal of double chin fat
2100-2400	Facelift & cut mid-neck muscles
2000-2500	Rhinoplasty (nose job) (varies with extent of procedure- i.e. tip alone - \$500)
500-750	Mentoplasty (chin augmentation)
750-1000	Malarplasty (enlarge cheekbones)
1000-1500	Dermabrasion (skin sanding) Full face
200-500	Chemical peel partial, eyes, lips
1000-1500	Chemical peel full face
800-1000	Tracheal shave (Adam's apple)
1400-1700	Otoplasty (pin ears back) both ears
1100	Otoplasty one ear
50	Lab tests blood count, bleeding tests
25-40	EKG (done by internist or at hospital)
400	Office operating room (covers medicines, heart monitor, IV, sutures, instruments, nurses, dressings, recovery room, etc.)

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ARE USUALLY
FIFTEEN YEARS
BEHIND THE
TIMES IN THEIR
PURSUIT OF THE
FEMININE IDEAL.

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THE APPEARANCE
OF THE TYPICAL
TV OF THE FUTURE
CAN BE GLEANED
FROM THE ATTIRE
OF THE TYPICAL
GIRL OF
TODAY!

(OR MAYBE NOT!)



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