

# TWENTY MINUTES

NOVEMBER 1990 THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

## STALLING OUT

by Ann O. Nymous

A recent episode of "Sally Jessy Raphael" featured three pre-op TS's. All were crossliving full time, two of them for several years.

"Patricia" made the audience cringe when she related the details of how she performed castration on herself. She stated that she couldn't stand the thought of male hormones coursing through her system any longer and took this drastic step to ease her frustration. She did this in 1982 and still has not had reassignment surgery, other than the post-castration repair work done in the emergency room in 1982. She is currently on disability, works part time and wishes she could afford to have reassignment surgery to complete her transition.

"Jeri" at age 49, has been crossliving most of her adult life but has not had surgery. She, too, stated that she wishes she could have afforded to have it performed when she was younger. She indicated, in reference to her somewhat mannish appearance, that "after all these years, you just give up" and that it doesn't really bother her that many people assume that she is a "diesel dyke".

"Catherine" said she had been on hormones for a year or two and has been crossliving during that time. She laments not being able to afford surgery, but that her best friend Sarah Luiz helps her to find the strength to persevere. Ms. Luiz was in the studio audience and, at S.J.R.'s request, stood up to take a bow and batted her eyes.

In 1977, I had my own name and official gender status legally changed after having been on hormones for several months. I pass successfully and have worked very hard at building a new life and career for myself. However, here I am, thirteen years later and still a pre-op.

Some of us seem to glide through transition readily and are on the mend from surgery only a year or two after starting the process. Many of us, however, seem to stall out somewhere along the way and end up (anatomically) in gender limbo for years. Perhaps due to an overwhelming frustration at the neverending challenges to making a successful transition, or possibly out of utter despair at ever coming up with the necessary funds to obtain surgery.

Without a doubt, the staggering cost of surgery appears to be the main reason so many of us either stall out or give up. In the best of all worlds, reassignment surgery would be covered by health insurance for anyone who meets the Standards of Care. However, we all know that is not the case. Nevertheless, too many of us end up feeling victimized by the system and get lost in frustration and despair.

For a variety of reasons, the motivation to get through the process, whatever it takes, is often lost and we end up tilting at windmills (insurance companies, the unsympathetic public, "the system").

Even though I have an entirely different outlook now, I can empathize with the predicament of Patricia, Jeri and Catherine. I understand completely how easy it is to become resentful, bitter and a little bit crazy in the process of transition. Somehow things get twisted and irrational logic makes some of us either do crazy things or nothing at all to make reassignment happen. Be that as it may, unless or until we get well and do what we must to get through it, it just won't happen.

Congratulations to those of you who have their heads (and finances) completely together to begin with and sail through the process of reassignment with relative ease. To those, like myself, who must first heal inner wounds and address emotional/intellectual/social handicaps, take heart! It can (and must) be done!

Being a transsexual isn't always pleasant or easy. In order to make transition work and get through surgery, you have to be in touch with yourself and be prepared to bust your butt to make it work.

Just do it.

## BUILDING A BETTER PENIS

by Jack Mason

Ten years ago women who wanted to make the big transsexual leap into manhood were frequently disappointed. Their new phalluses, reconstructed using muscle tissue, would atrophy due to a lack of nervous stimulation. But recent advancements in reconstructive microsurgical techniques - developed to repair penises damaged by injury, disease, or birth defects - are enabling doctors to fashion a more functional, natural-looking, and neurologically sensitive phallus.

Drs. Lawrence Gottlieb and Laurence Levine from the University of Chicago are pioneers in a technique called radial forearm flap surgery in which skin and tissue from the patient's forearm are removed and grafted to the groin. The key to increased user satisfaction, says Gottlieb, comes from hooking the prudential nerve- the groin nerve that carries erotic and other sensory messages from the genitalia to the brain- into the new transplant. Later a manually operated pump or semirigid silicone rod is inserted to make intercourse possible.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...Reprinted from OMNI.)

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## Transsexual Support

# TWENTY MINUTES

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THE TRANSEXUAL SUPPORT  
 GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND  
 AND NEW YORK

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## CHRISTMAS PARTY DEC 8

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 provided source credit is given. *Twenty Minutes* was founded by Veronica Jean Brown.

## CLUB CALENDAR

### MEETINGS

- Saturday, Nov. 10  
 Saturday, Nov. 24  
 Saturday, Dec. 8  
 Saturday, Dec. 22

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.

STELLA WALSH, WINNER OF A GOLD MEDAL FOR RUNNING IN THE 1932 OLYMPICS, AND THE FIRST WOMAN TO RUN 100 YARDS IN UNDER 11 SECONDS WAS DISCOVERED TO BE A MAN IN 1980.



## TREASURER'S \$ REPORT

Balance - from September \$1721.49

### INCOME:

Collections - meetings	16.58
Newsletter subscriptions	133.00
Brochure sales	29.00
GF sales	18.00
Donations	20.00
Savings interest	7.94
Total Income	\$224.52

### EXPENSES:

Refreshments	6.57
Advertising	21.00
Newsletter & brochures	125.20
Postage	50.00
Supplies	7.09
Bank Fee	2.00
Total Expenses	\$211.86

Net Income for October \$ 12.66

Balance - end of October \$1734.15

## TWENTY MINUTES ARTICLE REPRINTS

Assistant Editor, Sonia, has put together the complete index of all major articles, editorials, reviews, and other useful information that has ever appeared in *Twenty Minutes* since its inception back in October 1987. For \$1.00 to cover copier and mailing charges, you can order the index through the XX Club PO Box. From this list you can order copies of these past articles. The index is arranged by subject to help you find the material of most interest to you. ORDER NOW.

### FOR SALE

PANASONIC KX-P1091i 9-pin dot matrix 4-font NLQ printer for IBM PC or compatibles. \$150 or best offer. Proceeds go to the XX Club treasury. See your treasurer, Becky, at the meeting.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY  
 CANON JONES



## THE LONE TWIT

In 1927, at the age of twenty-five just a couple of years after earning his pilot's license, Charles Lindberg became the hero of a nation by being the first man to fly across the Atlantic non-stop. He did so alone in a specially built single engined aircraft constructed by the Ryan Aircraft Company. Numerous other attempts were made by teams of men and all ended in failure or disaster. But the Lone Eagle was determined to do it alone.

In the early fifties, the late Christine Jorgensen made front page headlines around the world for being the first public transsexual through no fault of her own. A family member squealed on Christine and got two hundred bucks for the story. Christine lectured and became an entertainer of sorts for a while and then the IRS nailed her to the wall for back taxes they claimed she owed. She vowed never again to make that much money. Her book (Bantam Books) appeared in 1967 and a film was made of her life. But Jorgensen was not a hero, she became instead a public oddity, like the famous Tom Thumb exhibited by P.T. Barnum in the 1860's.

Canary Conn's autobiography (Bantam Books) was released in 1974 and I saw her appearance on the Donahue show in 1977. Thanks to a chance New England blizzard that closed the hardware store where I worked at as a clerk and the owner sent us all home. Canary was beautiful, talented and her story heartwarming. Rumor has it that in spite of her publicity, she went on to do some modeling.

Jan (James Humphrey) Morris's excellent book *Conundrum* (Harcourt, Brace and Jovanovich) appeared in 1974 also. But that book was written up by Anatole Broyard in the New York Times on April 9, 1974. Morris was already an established award winning British writer of some reknown and had 47 years of noteworthy experience under his belt.

Tula's (Caroline Cossey) book (Sphere Books LTD) appeared in 1982 and she had talent, a Kuwaiti benefactor (B.I. - before Iraq) and a gorgeous face. In the end, it was exposure to the media that stunted her career.

Renee Richard's book (Stein and Day) was published in 1983 and we all know what happened with that one. Richards had been a success as a man having come from an upper class family, having had a military career and finally becoming a doctor and off again on again tennis coach to Martina N.

What the above five famous transsexuals share in common is that they achieved their goal through dogged determination and perseverance and/or already had made noteworthy accomplishments in their former male roles to later go on as useful, contributing citizens.

And now we cut to the chase. The name Sarah Luiz was known to most of us at first as the brave little girl from up North (actually down South from where I'm sitting) fighting valiantly against Blue Cross's monolithic indifference. But as the scene unfolded, a great many transsexual people began to view her actions in the media with distaste. Twenty Minutes seems to be the only publication that has dared to speak out against Sarah's apparent juvenile methods of getting media attention and associated benefits. Most of the other publications have either voiced some degree of admiration or positive feelings towards her or merely reported the news of her glitzy triumphs without editorial comment.

Indeed I was covered by BC/BS master medical and according to the policy, hormone prescriptions were not paid for but my psychological evaluation with Dr. Higgins at the New England Gender Identity Clinic was covered, yet when I made the claim, it was refused three times. I wrote numerous letters and made several long distance phone calls to Boston, only to be put on hold for fifteen minutes after being called "sir" repeatedly over the phone. Even though the claim clearly stated "psychological evaluation", they claimed it was a "psychiatric evaluation" which in the policy was not covered. I had a job, car payments to make and didn't have time to continue quibbling over the \$250 bill which had already been paid.

Probably the most disturbing statement made by Sarah was, "I'll kill myself if I don't get the surgery..." Many of us saw this as a bad reflection on transsexuals everywhere. Perhaps some transsexuals may harbor thoughts of suicide when things look bleak, but you don't just make that sort of statement public unless you're seeking media attention and sympathy. Sarah's about as popular as that other New Hampshire TS twit (so what is it, something in the New Hampshire water, or what?) who lost her job after not being honest with her employer, who promptly got fired after her surgery and later instigated a Jane Doe lawsuit claiming a mental handicap because of her gender dysphoria. Another tabloid quote was, "these hormones are killing me", referring to the "massive" doses of estrogens being administered, "and I can't have the surgery because BC/BS changed their mind..." I've never known any doctor who had to force feed hormones to a transsexual.

So at the tender age of 23, the same age when Lindberg got his pilot's license, Sarah Luiz has rocked the media, the insurance industry and the gender community as a momentary flaring nova, a bursting boil on the backside of the gender community. Yes friends, she got the goose that lays the golden eggs and she's slowly strangling it for the rest of us. Insurance is big business and sex reassignment surgery doesn't qualify as a legitimate life saving operation.

Dateline: August/September 1989 issue *Gender Expressions*, page 4, the article (Stand Up And Fight) editor's comments states, "After reading such stories about Sarah...I am very impressed with her. She is articulate and intelligent, and I am proud to know her." Hmm.

Dateline: August 1990 issue *The Transsexual Voice*, page 9, a one column article by Catherine A. Brown (I disclaim any possible relation to her!) is titled, "Sarah's Long Journey Is Almost Over". What do you mean, almost over? Wanna bet? Sarah is scheduled to have Dr. Ivan Menyard (Hey Catherine, the surgeon's name is Yvon Menard - I got his business card, you got it wrong in at least two places, unless of course there really is another Montreal surgeon by that name that no one else has heard about and then I do most humbly apologize for any inconvenience!) of Montreal do the slicing and dicing. So don't be surprised if in a couple of years when things don't work out for poor Sarah, that we again see her name in the tabloids, "Sarah Luiz Admits Mistake! Former New Hampshire Man Turned Woman Rejected By Top New York Modeling Agency! Luiz Sues Dr. Menyard (Menard?) of Montreal! Former Transsexual Alleged Crybaby Says "I Want To Go Back!" Then there'll be all these photos of the former Sarah hanging from a boat mast modeling B.V.D. jockey shorts, Texas Red Chaw'in Terbacky, bottles of Tequila with the worm at the bottom, Tiparillo Cigars, Old Spice aftershave and Jimmy FWD trucks.

Dateline: October 1990 and the latest issue of *En Femme Magazine* (a CDS publication) issue #20, page 16, yet another article by Sarah's close friend, Catherine A. Brown (and again I completely disclaim any knowledge of or relation to this person!) personal photographer, apparent public relations manager and soon to be agent for the budding screen play author, model, actress, apparent perennial crybaby and professional whiner.

Yes folks, Sarah Luiz has a big life ahead of her. She's working with writers on a movie deal, a book and has plans to make it big time in the world of modeling and acting. Maybe the world has changed since the 60's, 70's and 80's, but if I may quote from the last page in Tula's book, "...How it will affect my career I don't know...Whatever this book does to me, I'll struggle on."

To quote from Canary Conn's book, the back two pages, "...Today I am content doing the things I do, because I never gave in to unending discouragements..." A pastor of a church she once attended said, "In your case suicide would have been justified, and I'm sure it would make things easier for all those concerned." And finally, "I don't care what you say, you'll always be a male to me...No recording company would ever dare sign you. Why, you're a transsexual!" We don't know what Canary is doing today but the endpiece of her book said she had become a successful singer, writer and radio personality, but she was already doing some of those things before the big change.

First it was BC/BS won't pay and "I'll die if I don't get the surgery, then it was a refusal of the BC/BS settlement and now she's changed her mind or something like that. I guess the next question on everyone's mind is, now that Sarah Luiz supposedly has the go ahead with Docteur Menyard (Menard?), will she actually go through with it? Sarah's publicist, photographer and close friend says, "She (Sarah) hopes the controversy and publicity that surrounded her transition will not hinder her modeling and acting career, but instead enhance it by showing the world that this is a woman who has gone against all odds to be herself." Oh yeah, right.

But wait just a minute, you say. Aren't I just an over the hill, plain looking, fat, post-op person with lots of grey hair who is jealous of Sarah Luiz's beauty? Am I P.O.'d because I didn't have the balls to take BC/BS to court to force them to pay for my \$250 psychological testing fee? Am I just another over the hill post-op who wishes she had done something about all of this when I was younger and hadn't wasted half a life time trying to deny it? Nah.

I tell you what. Why don't we just sit back, wait and see. Let's wait and see if Sarah does indeed go through with getting her crotch cut. Let's wait with bated breath for the Hollywood premier of *Ten Minutes Over New Hampshire, The Sarah Luiz Story*, because that's about all it will take to cover the life story of this 23 year old transsexual. And then with the proper public relations, the Sarah Luiz story can be transitioned (there's that 'T' word again) to the television sitcom screen for algae, lichens and humans of lesser intelligence. They can call it, *I Love Sarah, Sarah Knows Best, Luiz's Island, Sarah Luiz - the Next Generation* and in syndicated reruns, it'll be *The Best Of Sarah*. Then will come the 'B' movies, like *Sarah Meets Godzilla, The Perils Of Sarah, Frankenstein Loves Sarah, Sarah Loves The Wolfman, Sarah Explores The Bermuda Triangle* and maybe *Chesty Morgan* will agree to...

# The Scarlet 'T'

by Sonia

Many years ago, Nathaniel Hawthorne wrote a novel telling the tale of a fictitious puritan woman named Hester Prynne. Hester was accused of committing adultery and as punishment for her 'crime' she was bound for life to wear a large scarlet 'A' on her person. This identified her to all as a sinner. Even if she were to remove the letter, everyone within her community would certainly still associate her with the letter, unable to separate the person from the stigma.

Now, as of this date, there is no law on the books that forces transsexuals to wear a scarlet letter 'T' designating our status. When we first make the transition, there will be some people in our lives that will inevitably find out. For instance, our co-workers & neighbors... not necessarily because we wish to tell them, but because it is certain that this drastic change will not go unnoticed. One of the requirements of living full time in your chosen roll is to function as a normal member of society; so you are missing the whole point if you keep yourself hidden away from the world... avoiding contact with the rest of humanity.

While it is true that you should not quarantine yourself, you may find that simply moving to somewhere that you are not known is sufficient. If Hester Prynne had removed the letter from her person and moved to another community, she most likely would have been accepted at face value, and her past remain unknown to her new friends and neighbors. Obviously, the farther away you move, the less likely you are of bumping into someone who knew your alter-ego. Please keep in mind however, This 'geographical cure' is not going to solve all of your problems.

The reason for living full time for a year before attaining surgery is to have practice being a woman / man. When you first go full time, it is very likely that even if you have your appearance perfected, you will still have a fair way to go on your voice, mannerisms, walk, etc... these things are almost as strong a symbol as the 'scarlet T'. Before you move to the other side of the country, make sure that you are comfortable with your entire presentation. The time of transition is a time to learn about being the woman / man that you believe you are, and it is natural that you will make many mistakes along the way.

The 'scarlet T' is something that you will forever wear, (you will never be able to deny your past life into nonexistence- at least not to yourself) but the only people who will be able to see it are those who knew you as you were before the change. If you have a friend from before your transition, no matter how long you have been in your new gender roll, no matter how open minded they are, they will always have, somewhere in their mind, a picture of you as you were when they first got to know you. There are very few individuals who will lose that image of your former self, and replace it with the new and improved version. Conversely, if a person were to get to know you as a woman, and then someone 'in the know' told them of your past, they may not understand (if they even believe it), but they would still always associate you with the gender you were when they first got to know you. Prejudice can not happen if someone has gotten to know you as a person first.

## IS THE TS LIFESTYLE A DECEPTION?

by Micheline Johnson

Some of my work colleagues dislike me for what I am and what I do. One of the reasons for this dislike is that they consider my dating men a deception. Is it?

One controversial question in the TS community is when you meet a nice guy with potential for a good relationship, when should you tell him about your sexual history? Should you tell him right away before your sexual chemistry starts cooking, or should you give the relationship a chance to start developing and you both start getting fond of each other, before you fill him in on the details?

Another is should you present yourself to the world as a woman, or should you be completely open and honest and present yourself as a TS but nonetheless an equally valid real person, though not like the rest.

It is true that physically we are not real women. Even a perfect looking, perfectly formed post-op is only a simulation of a genetic woman, though perhaps adequate for most men. Internally the neo-vagina is nothing like the real thing - ovaries, fallopian tubes etc. We do not menstruate. We cannot bear children in the natural way. We do not generate our own estrogen. Chromosomally we are still XY. Perhaps most important of all, we have not had the experience of being brought up from birth as a female, being treated by the world as one, and we do not have the feelings that accumulate from these experiences.

There are exceptions to the above. There are women with hysterectomies, who are post-menopausal, who are infertile, who have hormonal imbalances that have to be treated. There are both women and men who have chromosomal abnormalities, there are hermaphrodites. Some of these later are inappropriately reared, are gender confused, and are treated as TS's.

When we meet a guy socially what are we offering? What are his reasonable expectations? Should he only expect to have someone nice to talk to, someone who looks and acts on the street somewhat like your average woman? Or does he have the right to expect XX chromosomes, fallopian tubes, babies and a complete female history?

There is no doubt that psychologically we are women. We have the emotional need for a man who is good to us, someone to share life with, to get fond of and support. We can provide the love and affection that most other women provide.

By socializing or dating him, are we by implication offering the complete package, or only what he sees and feels at the initial meeting? If the implication of a complete package is a reasonable expectation, then perhaps we are deceiving him. But perhaps it is for him to find out during the development of the relationship just what we are, how well we can satisfy each other intellectually, emotionally and sexually, and how complete the package is.

At a singles bar or function, many men are just looking for a one night stand, many women are just looking for a fun evening of dancing or the possibility of a relationship. When they first meet, what men expect usually differs from what most women are offering. In men's eyes, perhaps our presentation to them is a deception. In women's eyes it is not.

We should be able to give the guy a chance to see if he likes us, before we give him information which for most men is difficult to deal with. If we feed him the information up front, or wear a button saying "I am a TS", he may never find out how good the relationship might have been.

In a social setting, none of us tell the full story about ourselves right away. We want to show the more attractive sides of ourselves first. Each of us lies a little. The guy does not tell you about his alcohol, tobacco or drug problems. He does not tell you why his wife left him. We are both carefully selective in what we tell each other, until we feel the other can be forgiving of our faults and limitations.

If the whole world were completely open and honest right away, then no-one would date anyone, and we would all be lonely.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article reprinted from *TRANS NEWS*, June 1990, the newsletter of Transition Support, c/o 519 Church Street, Toronto, Ontario, Canada M4Y 2C9.)



## Transformation In Colorado

GENERAL INFORMATION ON:  
DR. STANLEY BIBER  
AND THE SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY  
AVAILABLE IN TRINIDAD

Copyright (C) 1988  
by Veronica Jean Brown

This article does not imply an endorsement of Dr. Stanley Biber, or any other surgeon by the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, the XX Club, or its individual members. This information is common knowledge within some areas of the gender community. The XX Club, or its individual members cannot be held responsible for the eventual outcome, whether positive or negative of an individual sex reassignment surgery. Every pre-op transsexual is ultimately responsible for the decision of having sex reassignment surgery and in choosing a surgeon.

Be discrete in sharing this information. If you are a M-F pre-op transsexual, who is ready (or soon will be) for the surgery, then use this information for your benefit. If you have not started hormone therapy and full time crossliving, or if you could not at this time, be approved for surgery at any gender identity clinic, do not impose your curiosity upon Doctor Biber.

The requirements for surgery with Dr. Biber include a social history of yourself. Have you made the gender transition and have you been living and working completely in the gender role of your choice for at least one year? How long have you been on hormones? How complete is your electrolysis? What about cosmetic surgery to enhance your feminine features? Dr. Biber requires two psychiatric evaluations. One should be done by a psychiatrist and the other by a second psychiatrist, psychologist, or licensed worker from the gender or sex field. Dr. Biber's staff will do the final surgical evaluation. A recent photograph of yourself is also needed.

Once the surgical date is set, a deposit, made by money order, or certified bank check, is required to hold the date. This deposit must be received one week prior to the surgical date and is not refundable should you change your mind.

After completing a bilateral castration, Dr. Biber performs the well perfected single-stage, penile inversion surgery, as formerly used at the John Hopkins Hospital in Baltimore. An actual physically structured working clitoris is formed and positioned above the urethral opening.

Dr. Biber can perform additional surgeries for you during your stay in the hospital. These include breast implants, nose surgery or a tracheal shave. Any additional service will be billed extra. The hospital must receive cash at the time the surgery is done. Some insurance companies will pay part of this bill. Dr. Biber's staff will fill out your insurance forms for you and you may collect directly from the insurance company or be reimbursed for the insurance money sent to Dr. Biber.

To get to Trinidad, you should fly to Denver and take either the bus or the train from Denver to Trinidad. Take a taxi to Dr. Biber's office for your examination which will be in the morning. After you leave Dr. Biber's office, you may have lunch in town before you are admitted to Mt. San Rafael Hospital. You will be placed on a floor with other transsexuals patients. You will have a chance to meet and talk with them your first night in the hospital. Dr. Biber has a video tape of the surgery which you may watch. You will be operated on the next day and spend about ten days in the hospital if you have the SRS only. After you leave the hospital, you may stay in a local hotel until you feel strong enough to travel home. You can eat in the local cafe, buy clothes in the local store, and get your hormone prescriptions filled at the local pharmacy.

Dr. Biber is a native of Iowa and was a HASH surgeon during the Korean War. He settled in Trinidad, Colorado in 1955, which now boasts a population of around 10,000, to provide medical service for the residents and the United Mine Workers. He is the only surgeon at the 75-bed Mt. San Raphael Hospital.

In 1969 a female social worker came into his office and asked if he could do her surgery. Dr. Biber replied, "Of course I can do your surgery. What is it?" It was then that the woman seated in his office said that she was a transsexual. Dr. Biber said, "What's that?" He then consulted with the doctors who had studied the patient's psychological make-up and prescribed her female hormones before consenting to do the operation. He wrote to Baltimore's John Hopkins University, then a major center for sex-change operations, for a set of how-to drawings. His first sex reassignment surgery was a success. Since that time, he has performed over a thousand sex reassignment surgeries with only 50-60 being done as the female-to-male operation. Even though other surgeons, medical schools and even John Hopkins University have given up this type of surgery, Dr. Biber's dedicated and skillful work has given Trinidad, Colorado the reputation of being the sex change capital of the world.

Doctor Biber describes himself as a country doctor who has no interest in getting rich at the expense of the transsexual person. He has a good reputation for producing a quality product and his fees are much less than those who charge twice as much and who do a lousy job. The 63 year old general surgeon has much of the local townspeople behind him and while only 20 percent of his surgeries are for sex reassignment, much of the profits from these go towards subsidizing some of the free medical services he provides.

The address to write to Doctor Biber is:

Stanley H. Biber, M.D., P.C.  
406 First National Bank Bldg.  
Trinidad, CO 81082  
Office phone: (303) 846-3301

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article was originally one of the many brochures that have been sold by the XX Club.)

## Sometimes Truth Hurts

by Laura

I wonder how many times I talked to people with trust in my heart. I'm sharing my secrets and dreams, looking for some form of acceptance. When I was looking for an electrologist, obviously one of the major considerations was finding someone who did not have a problem with my being a transsexual. I was very happy to discover someone fairly near my place of work.

I made a mistake: I took this person at face value, never bothering to ask for referrals from past clients. I was trusting her with my face on the sole rationale that she said that she was not bothered by my Transsexualism.

Since I was already living full time, and was in a rush to get my face cleared, I allowed myself to be put under the needle for four hours a week. Even my dear mom questioned my faith in someone who was turning my face into a war zone. Never having gotten my peers' advice on this subject, I assumed that this marking was a normal effect of electrolysis, and that it would go away on its own. After much prompting from my friends and mother, I cut the treatment down to three hours a week. My face still clearly wasn't healing between the treatments, but never once did my electrologist mention it, or refuse treatment.

Meanwhile, my relationship with my electrologist was getting very unprofessional. We would go out together, and there were many personal questions concerning the stability of my job. For some reason, she knew what it would take to lead me on and secure my confidence. When I finally came around and stopped treatment, I looked like a victim of scarlet fever.

My heart fills with sadness when I think of how naive I was. I spent nearly \$8100 before I learned that I wasn't cleaning up, and I then had so many marks on my face that I couldn't even shave. How can a person be so cold hearted? When I thought of all the effort, pain, trust and money put into this, I broke down and cried. I feel as if I did or said something wrong; how could I have allowed myself to be hurt so bad?

So now I put this hurt behind me and hope someone can benefit from it. I am now going to a new electrologist in hopes of getting cleared up enough to qualify for surgery with Dr. Menard. I trust the person who is working on me now, for I have seen the results of her work on others, and she has a lot of experience with M-F Transsexuals. After a few hours with her, I am almost able to shave my face again.

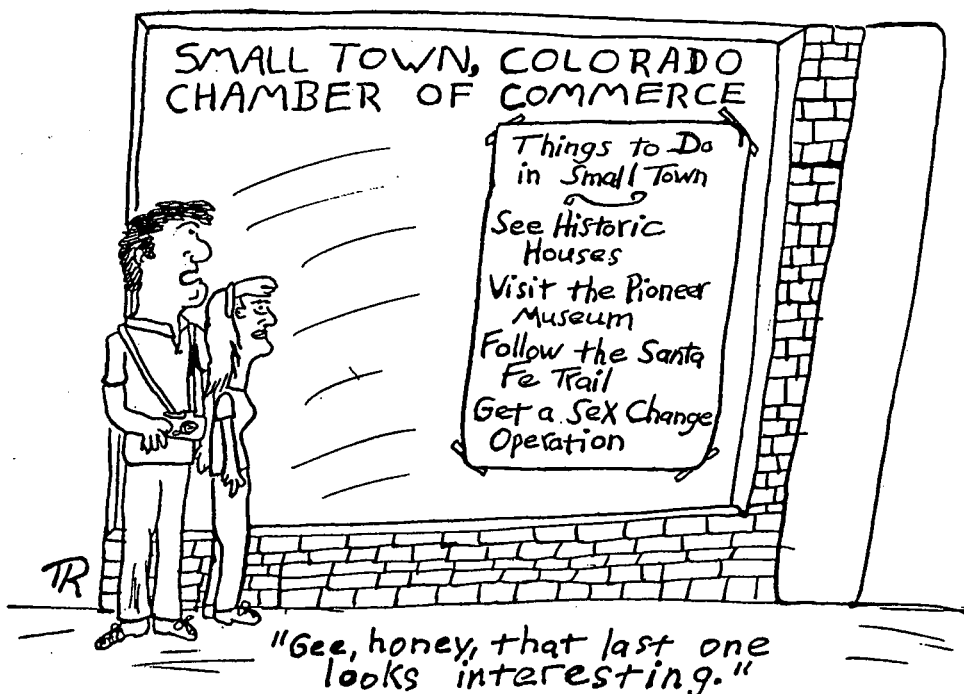
Now, all that is left is to deal with the realization that I could have paid for the surgery twice over, and the knowledge that I will have to save up that much money again. I think a proper prescription for this is some time to be alone with my thoughts. With my new electrologist, and a good helping of faith in God, I am ready to dry my tears and try again.

I MAY BE GETTING OLDER, BUT I REFUSE TO GROW UP!

## Top 10 Idle Conversations... to have with your electrologist

by Sonia

- 10- The Simpsons
- 9- Her love life
- 8- The weather
- 7- Pain killers
- 6- How annoying the music in her office is
- 5- Hormones
- 4- Passing
- 3- How many tiles there are in her ceiling (My electrologist has 537)
- 2- All of her other patients' personal lives and idiosyncrasies
- 1- How much this hurts!



## GENDER ADVENTURE 2.3

Copyright 1990 by Lynda Breckenridge

C&gt; GENDRVEN

WELCOME TO GENDER ADVENTURE 2.3. THE OBJECT OF THIS TEXT ADVENTURE GAME IS TO ASSUME THE ROLE OF A GENDER DYSPHORIC MALE, I.E., A MALE TO FEMALE TRANSEXUAL. YOU HAVE \$25,000 TO START THE GAME WITH. YOU MUST FIND YOUR WAY THROUGH THE MAZE OF THE ALL INCLUSIVE GENDER COMPLEX BUILDING TO REACH YOUR GOAL OF SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY. BUT WATCH OUT! THERE ARE MANY OBSTACLES IN YOUR WAY. ALL OF THE STANDARD ADVENTURE RULES ARE IN EFFECT. WATCH OUT AND GOOD LUCK!

PRESS ANY KEY TO CONTINUE...

YOU ARE STANDING BEFORE A MASSIVE STONE EDIFICE. A SIGN ON THE DOOR SAYS, "ACME GENDER CLINIC". BEHIND YOU IS THE STREET. THE SIDEWALK GOES NORTH AND SOUTH TO YOUR LEFT AND RIGHT. A LARGE GROUP OF TEENAGE BOYS CAN BE SEEN COMING AROUND THE CORNER TO THE SOUTH. THEY SEE YOU AND START YELLING... "HEY LOOK AT THE FAGGOT. WHAT ARE YOU, A PANSIE OR WHAT?"

>INVENTORY  
YOU ARE CARRYING:

A WALLET WITH \$25,000 IN CASH  
YOUR DIVORCE PAPERS  
CRACKED PHOTO OF YOUR INFANT SON  
A TIMEX WATCH THAT STOPPED TICKING  
A HALF EATEN ROLL OF LIFESAVERS  
A SATURDAY NIGHT SPECIAL

THE BOYS ARE COMING NEARER. SEVERAL OF THEM HAVE PICKED UP STREET DEBRIS, BUT YOU CAN'T SEE FOR SURE WHAT. A STONE WHIZZES BY YOUR HEAD...

>GO WEST  
THE NOON DAY TRAFFIC IS TOO HEAVY FOR YOU TO CROSS. YOU ARE NEARLY HIT BY A LARGE BLUE TRUCK AND YOU BARELY MAKE IT BACK TO THE SIDEWALK.

>GO NORTH  
JUST AS YOU TURN TO WALK NORTH, A SECOND GROUP OF BOYS CAN BE SEEN RUNNING AROUND THE CORNER. THEY MUST BE A RIVAL GANG AND THEY KNOW ALL ABOUT YOU. A SECOND STONE WHIZZES BY YOUR HEAD AND BREAKS A WINDOW ON THE BUILDING.

>GO EAST  
THE DOOR IS CLOSED.

>OPEN DOOR  
THE DOOR IS LOCKED FROM THE INSIDE.  
A STONE HITS THE BACK OF YOUR NECK. YOU WINCE IN PAIN.

>LOOK AT DOOR  
BEFORE YOU IS A MASSIVE, GREEN PAINTED WOODEN DOOR ALL COVERED WITH HEAVY NICKS AND GOUGES. THERE IS A HEAVY BRASS DOOR KNOCKER AND A BELL BUTTON WITH A SMALL NOTE ON IT.

>RUSH BUTTON

NOTHING HAPPENS. A SECOND STONE HITS YOUR LEG. YOU CAN FEEL A WARM TRICKLE OF BLOOD RUNNING DOWN YOUR THIGH.

>READ NOTE  
THE NOTE SAYS "DOOR BELL OUT OF ORDER. USE DOOR KNOCKER.

>GET KNOCKER  
YOU CAN'T DO THAT.  
BOTH GROUPS OF BOYS ARE GETTING DANGEROUSLY CLOSER.

>USE KNOCKER  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

>LIFT AND DROP KNOCKER  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.  
TWO STONES HIT YOUR BACK. YOU FALL TO YOUR KNEES.

>KICK DOOR  
IN SPITE OF YOUR TREMENDOUS PAIN, YOU MANAGE TO DRAG YOUR BLEEDING BODY TO THE MASSIVE GREEN DOOR AND KICK AT IT WITH YOUR FEET. THERE IS THE SOUND OF FOOTSTEPS AND THE DOOR SUDDENLY SWINGS OPEN. STRONG ARMS PULL YOU INSIDE. YOU FEEL FAINT AND PASS OUT.

YOU OPEN YOUR EYES AND FIND YOURSELF IN AN UNCOMFORTABLE BED IN A TYPICAL WARD STYLE HOSPITAL ROOM. THE WALLS ARE PAINTED A SICKLY GREEN. YOU HEAR MOANS COMING FROM THE OTHER BEDS BUT YOU CAN'T SEE ANYONE. YOU FEEL LIKE THROWING UP. THERE ARE BANDAGES ON YOUR HEAD AND BACK. THE DOOR OPENS AND A DOCTOR COMES IN. HE SAYS "YOU'RE GOING TO BE ALL RIGHT. OUR RECORDS SHOW YOU DON'T HAVE MEDICAL INSURANCE, SO YOU'LL HAVE TO PAY CASH." HE REACHES INTO YOUR PANTS POCKET AND REMOVES \$1000 FROM YOUR WALLET. "YOU CAN LEAVE ANYTIME YOU WISH. GOODBYE," HE SAYS AND DEPARTS.

A BIG BLONDE FEMALE NURSE COMES IN AND TELLS YOU TO LEAVE. THEY NEED THE BED FOR ANOTHER PATIENT.

THE NURSE WAITS BY THE BED, TAPPING HER FOOT IMPATIENTLY.

>GET UP FROM BED  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.

>LEAVE BED  
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN.  
THE NURSE IS TAPPING HER FOOT MUCH LOUDER NOW.

>EXIT BED  
OK.

>LOOK  
YOU ARE STANDING AT THE FOOT OF A SMALL HOSPITAL BED. A NURSE MAKES UP THE BED AND GLARES AT YOU AS SHE LEAVES. THERE IS AN OPEN DOOR TO THE EAST.

>GO EAST  
OK.  
CTRL BREAK  
SAVE GAME? >YES  
FILE NAME? >GEND 1  
>C



**FROM FEMALE TO MALE:  
The Life of Jack Bee Garland**

Louis Sullivan  
Alyson Publications, Boston, 1990

Reviewed by Rupert Raj-Gauthier

Louis Sullivan has done it again! Previously, in his first book, Information For The Female-to-Male Crossdresser And Transsexual (third edition soon-to-be-released), he opened our eyes to an obscure slice of history by presenting an overview of 18th, 19th, and early 20th century women who dressed, lived, worked and married as men - and now, in his bio of Jack Bee Garland, he has brought to life a colourful character from the past who might otherwise have pined away in musty newspaper morgues and dusty library archives.

From Female to Male is an intriguing account of Jack Garland (nee Elvira Virginia Mugarrieta) - a writer, newspaper man, and social worker, born in San Francisco in 1869, the daughter of San Francisco's first Mexican consul and granddaughter to a Louisiana Supreme Court justice. Sullivan chronicles Garland's life from his poverty-stricken youth in San Francisco, his notorious life of scandal in Stockton, California, to his voyages to the Philippines during the Spanish-American War.

This in itself would constitute engrossing reading. The reader, however, is in store for a twist as the author presents Garland (also know as "Baby Bean"), not as a lesbian who crossdressed most of her life as a man, but as a transsexual - who lived at a time when there was no

medical technology to transform her body into a male anatomy. So, Baby Bean had to settle for the next best thing - wearing men's clothing and adopting male mannerisms.

Sullivan spent five years of painstaking research tracing Garland's past and his findings revealed that Jack was distinct from other female-to-male crossdressers. These transvestic women, according to the author, impersonated men so as to bypass heterosexual life and avoid undesired male attention. Jack Garland, however, was unique in that he adopted male disguise so he could relate to men objectively - without women present - and establish honest bonds with them, man to man. And, while crossdressed, he was able to experience many all-male privileges.

The life story of Jack "Baby Bean" Garland will fascinate readers as the pioneering spirit of this early transsexual man - who was both brave and compassionate - lives on, in the pages of Sullivan's book, and in the hearts and minds of men and women.

Louis Graydon Sullivan is a writer and historian, par excellence, and a member of the San Francisco Bay Area Gay and Lesbian Historical Society. His writings have appeared in Metamorphosis and The Advocate. He is a popular speaker on human sexuality at The Institute For The Advanced Study Of Human Sexuality. And recently, Sullivan was presented with a "Gender Worker Award" plaque by this reviewer for his many years of dedication and his outstanding contributions to the female-to-male transsexual community.

FROM FEMALE TO MALE by Louis Graydon Sullivan can be mail ordered for \$10.00 (postpaid) for one copy from:

ALYSON PUBLICATIONS  
40 Plympton Street  
Boston, MA 02118

RENAISSANCE NEWS - We were privy to a screening of a new makeup video from the folks at Take a Walk on the Wildside.

The 90 minute tape follows the transformation of one Jackie Loren, a Toronto female impersonator, from male persona to female. Loren does an excellent job of explaining what he is doing and why. The transformation is stunning. Our critique is the makeup techniques are most suitable for stage or clubbing, not daytime.

The tape is \$59.95 (U.S.) and can be ordered from:

TAKE A WAKE ON THE WILDSIDE  
429C Dundas St. East  
Toronto, Ontario  
CANADA M5A 2A9



## Letters . . . .

Msg. #2403 \*TV/TS FORUM\*

FROM: Mary Elizabeth

TO: All

SUBJ: Americans' With Disabilities Act of 1990/DoD Security Clearance Regulations.

In a recent issue of TWENTY MINUTES, it was stated that Senate amendment 722/House amendment 511 had been deleted from the "American's With Disabilities Act of 1990", Public Law 101-336, 104 Stat. 327, 42 U.S.C. 12101 (101st Congress). Nothing could be further from the truth.

Section 508 of the Act, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12208, reads as follows:

*For the purposes of this Act, the term "disabled" or "disability" shall not apply to an individual solely because that individual is a transvestite.*

It should be further noted that Section 511 of the Act, codified as 42 U.S.C. 12211, reads as follows:

**Sec. 511. DEFINITIONS**

(a) **HOMOSEXUALITY AND BISEXUALITY.**—*For purposes of the definition of "disability" in section 3(2), homosexuality and bisexuality are not impairments and as such are not disabilities under this Act.*

(b) **CERTAIN CONDITIONS.**—*Under this Act, the term "disability" shall not include:*

(1) *transvestism, transsexualism, pedophilia, exhibitionism, voyeurism, gender identity disorders not resulting from physical impairments, or other sexual behavior disorders;*

(2) *compulsive gambling, kleptomania, or pyromania; or*

(3) *psychoactive substance use disorders resulting from current illegal use of drugs.*

It is also worth noting that new criteria has been developed for evaluating applicants for DoD (Department of Defense) security clearance.

**§154.7 Criteria for application of security standards.**

(q) *Acts of sexual misconduct or perversion indicative of moral turpitude, poor judgement, or lack of regard for the laws of society.*

**Sexual Misconduct (See §154.7(q))**

**Disqualifying Factors (behavior falls within one or more of the following categories):**

**1. The conduct involves:**

j. *Deviant or perverted sexual behavior which may indicate a mental or personality disorder (e.g. transsexualism, transvestism, exhibitionism, incest, child molestation, voyeurism, bestiality, or sodomy).*

52(67) Federal Register 11222, 11254.

Needless to say, the impact of the "gender community's" silence reaches far beyond the American's With Disabilities Act of 1990.

Msg. #2407 \*TV/TS FORUM\*

FROM: Gwen Scott

TO: All

SUBJ: Silence

In this case, silence may be golden, but it's a golden gag on our mouths, golden chains on our wrists, and golden bars on our windows. I wrote my letter to Ol' "Broccoli Buns" Bush, but I guess he just ignored it. Maybe he never got it. He probably has a secretary that does nothing but open his mail, scan it for certain buzzwords, and pass the "subversive" ones to the CIA for inclusion in our dossiers.

Am I peeved by these latest additions to the injustices done to us? YOU BETCHER ROSARY I AM!!! But I'm constantly reminded that our community is composed of individuals that are mostly terrified to show themselves in daylight! You'd think we were a crowd of vampires, both from the reaction society has to us AND to our singular inability to face the light of day.

Is it risky? You bet. Is it dangerous? I'd give that a YES. Is it NECESSARY? Only if we want to be free. If we don't do anything about it, it says two things: we're only as strong as the strongest among us, not as strong as the sum of our parts, and that we really DON'T WANT IT BAD ENOUGH!!!

What would have happened in the South, had one little old lady just gone along with the discriminatory rules and sat in the back of the bus? Would Martin Luther King, Jr. have gone racing Southward with a horde of followers bent on securing civil rights for blacks? Probably not. But she took a RISK. She took the risk that, if the whites on that bus had gotten mad enough, she might have been seriously hurt. She faced the jeers, the hazing, the harassment that followed. She marched, and was seen as a "rabblouser" and a "boatrocker" and a "subversive", and was among those that were kicked, beaten, and pelted with dead cats. All she wanted was the same rights that any American citizen is supposed to get, and she didn't want someone telling her that she couldn't have it because she was black.

Now, here we are, faced with the same decision. Do we knuckle under, and go sit in the back of the bus, or do we say NO, and sit up front where we want to sit? Do we unlock the closet doors and face the light of day, or do we skulk around, afraid of what people will say? I got news for you all, bad news. IT AIN'T GONNA CHANGE UNLESS WE CHANGE IT!!! It's gonna stay just as it is, just as discriminatory, just as unfair, just as cruel, and JUST AS DANGEROUS unless we get off our petticoats and DO something! Every time we stay quiet to "protect" ourselves, we lose another foot of ground— and that loss will endanger us FAR MORE in the long run than the risk of expo-

sure NOW. Better to be exposed NOW, when there aren't any laws against us than LATER, when the laws have been written and we can't fight back!

But, unfortunately, even though there are a few people in our society that will stand up and take the heat for the rest, that few aren't going to be enough. I can only risk so much, and Mary Elizabeth can only risk so much, and Lynn can only risk so much . . . then we can't survive. Only by coming together will we be able to beat this thing into submission! We need the community to decide for ITSELF whether it wants to be a community or a market, whether it wants to be served, or exploited . . . whether it wants to be a part of the culture, or part of the culture's leavings. We have a chance. But we've got to take it NOW. — not later.

The late Robert Heinlein once said "There are no such things as 'rights', only 'opportunities'. And opportunity doesn't knock, it just scratches lightly at the door." If we don't take the chance that we might win, we're doomed to lose! Let's hear some more on this, folks! XXXOOO  
Gwen

Dear XX Club,

I'm writing to you in hopes of meeting others who would appreciate talking with one who has had the unfortunate luck to find themselves incarcerated for a crime I've not committed. I am a transsexual from California who hopes that there are individuals in the XX Club that would care to talk with me as a pen pal. We can talk about whatever as I'm well educated and uninhibited. I have found that the worst punishment of an individual is the taking away the emotional and physical love of another who we have contact with. I need a caring individual to talk with in the worst way and hope that you can alleviate this hunger for contact through the XX Club.

Thank you for the time you've spent in reading my plea for friendship.

Love,  
Thomas Lynn Williams  
#107333, Hickory-2  
LA. State Prison  
Angola, LA 70712

Dear Becky and Sonia,

I continue to enjoy reading *Twenty Minutes*. I will be showing the October "Guide to Employers" to my boss in case he has to deal with any further TS's after the two he has had so far. I loved the "IFGE" list of publications at the end of the same issue. It is especially amusing to those who are familiar with the titles and authors to which they refer. I did not at first connect this with that referred to on page 2.

Micheline  
Ottawa, Ontario

Dear Becky:

Each month I read *Twenty Minutes* and put it down with the hope that in the next issue, someone will have read Veronica's lecture about communication and I will be informed and edified instead of having to wade through gutters filled with vituperation and bile. The October issue closed the coffin-lid on my dream. The libelous venting of animosity exceeded any decent boundary of judgement or taste. What was published is simply unacceptable. Your coy disclaimer on page two is equally unacceptable. As editor, you have total and final responsibility for the accuracy and appropriateness of every word in every issue. To pretend otherwise is wrong. The October issue of Twenty Minutes is an insult both to you and to me. I regret that this happened.

Sincerely,  
Vivian  
Woburn, MA

Dear Vivian,

As editor of *Twenty Minutes* I do edit when necessary all submissions to the newsletter. You should see the material that I do not print. However, when I find any submissions to be hilarious - I'm going to print it! In fact, most true transsexuals write to commend us for the cartoons and the humorous articles that we do print. It takes a person with a true sense of where they are to see the humor in our situation. If you take a 'woe is me' attitude about your "problem" then you're doomed to never find happiness. And that's the truth, phltz!

Becky Ann, TME editor

Dear Veronica:

If you have any members of your organization who are true transsexuals and need help with feminization therapy, you can have them call me (only serious people).

Sincerely,  
Dr. Philip Salem

206-623-1549 WRITTEN UP IN  
USA TODAY, SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE,  
ESSENCE, UPI, AP, ENCYCLOPEDIA OF ASSOCIATIONS.

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**M-TO-F POST-OP TS LEGALLY MARRIES CANADIAN WOMAN**  
Read about it in the next issue of *Twenty Minutes*.  
Congratulations to newlyweds - Veronica and Paddy!

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**THE BRUSSELS CONNECTION \$3.00**  
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 SPRINGFIELD, MA 01138

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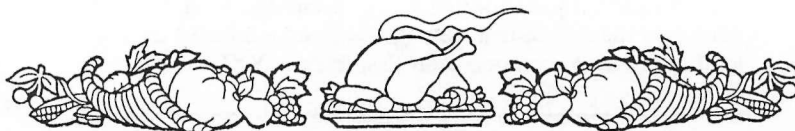
J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES provides information/referral services formerly provided by the JANUS Information Facility and its predecessor, the Erickson Educational Foundation, and Renaissance: Gender Identity Services.

J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES provides an information package consisting of pamphlets concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, in particular transsexualism. This package is available for a donation of \$30.00, to cover research, printing, first class postage, and secretarial services.

Additionally, J2CP INFORMATION SERVICES will attempt to provide referrals to reputable counselors, psychotherapists, or gender programs, and peer groups near your home.

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