

TWENTY MINUTES

THE END



OCTOBOO 1991

SPECIAL ISSUE

\$2.00

IRRATIONAL ENQUIRER

The Largest Circulation of Rumors and Unsubstantiated Facts in the World.

VOLUME 84 No. 2

BORN TROUBLEMAKERS CAUSE CHAOS IN SUBURBIA

Scientists claims San Andreas Fault not all it is cracked up to be.

WIVES SAY:
If husbands want breakfast in bed... sleep in kitchen.

STUDY SHOWS:
Without marriage husbands and wives would have to fight with total strangers.

Citizen complains to FBI about threatening letters. Envelope has initials IRS.

NEW DISCOVERY:
Eve 1st woman to say: "I don't have a thing to wear."

Man acting as own Lawyer gets traffic ticket reduced to 2nd degree murder.

New drug causes temporary sex change. Dating now more flexible.



SENSATIONAL STORY BEHIND THIS PICTURE — PAGE 12

Transsexual Support



VERONICA'S TABLOID

OCTOBOO 1991

\$2.00 U.S. (\$2.30 C.D.N.)

THE STAFF

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All the news that's print to fit.

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Twenty Minutes was founded by Veronica Jean Brown.

October 1987...	The beginning
April 1989...	The Tabloid
December 1990...	The Video
April 1991...	The Comic Book
Octoboo 1991...	The end

XX CLUB CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Saturday, Oct. 12
 Saturday, Oct. 26
 Saturday, Nov. 9
 Saturday, Nov. 23

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

Christ Church Cathedral
 45 Church Street
 Hartford, CT 06103

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

This is the fourth Anniversary issue of TWENTY MINUTES and the last issue. Starting next month, subscribers will receive a Twenty Minutes version of the CDC NEWS for the balance of their subscriptions prorated according to the dollar balance as CDC News costs \$5.00 versus \$2.00 each for Twenty Minutes. However, anyone who wishes a refund of their balance must write to the XX Club PO Box and request it no later than 10/31/91. Include a Self-Addressed Stamped Envelope (SASE). Please allow at least two weeks for return.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance - from August \$1650.85

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	.00
Dues	.00
Newsletter subscriptions	.00
Brochures & Reprints	.00
Printing fees	1.00
Savings interest	6.95
Total Income	\$ 7.95

EXPENSES:

Rent-Christ Church	.00
Refreshments	.00
Newsletter & brochures	99.99
Postage	52.00
Supplies	15.92
Bank Fee	.00
Total Expenses	\$ 167.91

Net Loss for September \$-159.96

Balance - end of Sept. \$1490.89

Refund requests should be made to:
 The XX (Twenty) Club
 PO Box 80690
 Forest Park Station
 Springfield, MA 01138

All subscription renewals should be made directly to:

CDC News
 429 C Dundas Street East
 Toronto, Ontario
 Canada M5A-2A9

How many pre-op TSs does it take to change a light bulb? One, she just holds up the bulb and the whole world revolves around her!

HALLOWEEN

by Veronica Jean Brown

The Collins Dictionary of the English language 1979 edition defines Halloween as follows, "The eve of All Saint's Day celebrated on October 31st by masquerading; Allhallows Eve." The following entry for Hallowmas or Hallowmass reads as, "Archaic. The feast celebrating All Saint's Day." From this one would suspect that the holiday has its roots in long ago Christian customs, but this is far from the truth and in fact, the origins of this holiday come from a religion that predates Christianity by several thousand years. The former name of this religion is not known but the modern term for it is "Witchcraft".

Hey, hey, for Halloween!
Then the witches shall be seen,
Some in black, and some in green,
Hey, hey, for Halloween!
Horse and haddock, horse and go,
Horse and pellatis, ho! ho!

These are the words to an old folk-song for the festival of Halloween, the most well known of all of the witches's holidays. Halloween is one of the four great Sabbats. A more correct terminology than Witchcraft is the word Wicca, which comes from "Wicce", an old English word meaning "the craft of the wise."

Halloween is one of the old four great seasonal folk festivals of Wicca which include; Candlemas or Imbolc (the festival of Bridgid, the Goddess of fire and inspiration and in Ireland, the triple Goddess of poetry, smithcraft and healing) on February 2nd; May Eve or Walpurgis Nacht (Germany) also known more commonly as Beltane on April 30th and August Eve or Lammastide which was also known as Lughnassad on August 1st.

Hallowe'en or All Hallow's Eve also known as Samhain or Summer's End (pronounced se'veen, or so'wen). Samhain is another old Gaelic fire festival which has a more eerie connotation than any of the others. It was believed that on this night, the powers of the underworld grew strong and that the wall between this world and the world of the dead grew thin. The gates were thrown open and all the powers of the other place, both the good and the bad were let loose into the world of the living along with various spirits of deceased loved ones, spooks and goblins. Non-witches hid behind locked doors and used hollowed out candle lit pumpkins to frighten the spirits away.

Witches faced the season more actively by addressing the issue at hand by calling on friendly spirits and used the holiday as a "cover" for their religious celebration. They ventured forth into the Hallowe'en night with candle lit pumpkins hung from poles to scare away the evil spirits on their way to their sacred ritual places. The Christians attempted to "Christianize" this Pagan holiday by the creation of All Hallow's Eve or All Saint's Day on November 1st. Attempts to discourage the Pagan celebrations weren't successful so the Church of England banished All Saint's Day and All Hallow's Eve from their calendar. In 1928 however, thinking that all memory of or connection with the Pagan rituals of Halloween had been forgotten, All Hallow's

Eve and All Saint's Day were reinstated, and as we know today, a bit prematurely.

Today's children celebrate Halloween by dressing up in costumes and going forth to "Trick or Treat." If a "treat" was not given out then the person or house in question was subject to a "trick" or two, reminiscent of the spooks and goblins let loose on that night centuries before.

Adults also dress up for Halloween not to collect candy but to attend private house parties or to venture forth to locally sponsored events at hotels, bars or restaurants. Sometimes the costumes are funny, contemporary or even scary. For most of society nowadays, Halloween is devoid of any religious significance and the main idea is to have fun.

There is another side to the seemingly harmless roots and festivities of modern Halloween. It has to do with Witchcraft, homosexuality and transvestism. If you've ever read into the trial of Joan of Arc, you will discover that much emphasis was placed on Joan's crossdressing as a man. Authur Evans writes in Witchcraft and the Gay Counterculture, "...you have a peasant woman who practiced transvestism as a religious duty; who was masculine in appearance and behavior; who admitted to sleeping in the same bed with another woman; who was worshipped in her own time; and who came from an area where Pagan traditions were still strong."

Most straight historians dismiss Joan of Arc's trial as a phony political frame-up. The emphasis on Joan's transvestism is relevant because transvestism played a major part in the Old Religion of pre-Christian Europe. According to the noted historian Pennethorne Hughes, "The wearing of clothes appropriate to the opposite sex was always one of the rites of Witchcraft, as it has been of primitive peoples during their fertility festivals throughout history." The Old Religions of Europe and Great Britain were primarily fertility religions based upon a worship of the Mother Earth as personified by the Great Goddess. Today, Mother Nature is but a remnant of those early Pagan beliefs.

There is a long association between Witchcraft, male and female homosexuality and crossdressing. Down through the centuries, various Christian writers denounced the Pagan practices of cross-dressing and the wearing of animal costumes. Sixth and seventh century synods repeatedly denounced transvestism during the New Year's holiday. Ritual transvestism associated with the old holidays continued in Europe down to modern times. Twentieth century England had the celebrations of the Helston Furry Dance, the Morris Dances and Peace Egg Mumming. Around Christmas time, it was common for a husband and wife of the upper class to attend parties crossdressed.

Today in Europe and North America, many gay people celebrate Halloween as a gay holiday with ritual transvestite celebrations. Among the straight set, Halloween costume parties are very popular as well and the few males who show up in drag either do it very well, or as a parody. Whether you call it transvestism, crossdressing, COing, or even being a Transie, it's all the same. The root origins and present day gay drag and heterosexual

crossdressing may differ, but in the end, they may have their origins in the rites and customs of the old European Religions.

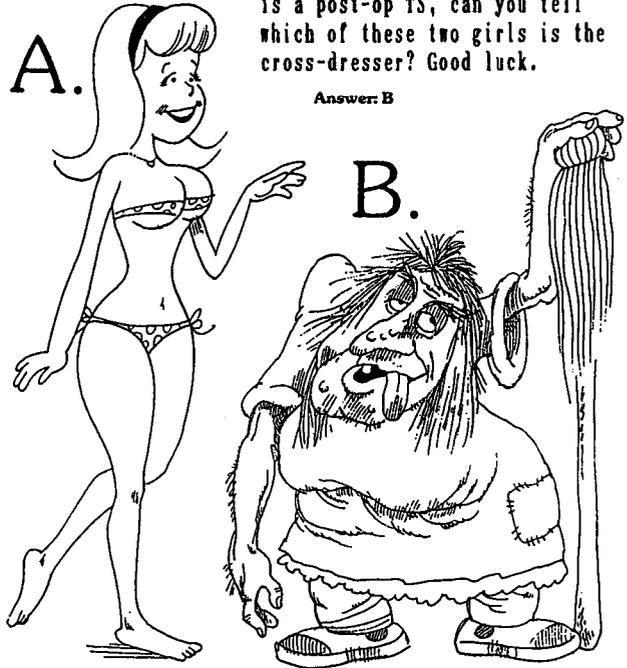
And what of Halloween 1991? A great many crossdressers are of the belief that this is the one night of the year when they can get "dressed up", go out and "get away with it." The safest places to go are to private house parties, to bars that sponsor and promote costumed events or to organized private functions.

You may not believe that spirits or goblins still lurk in dark corners, but one thing is sure, the celebration of Halloween, the old Gaelic fire festival of Summer's End is still with us. With that celebration comes the knowledge that for the crossdresser, it's is the one night to go out. Pick out the finest pumpkin you can find and carve the scariest face possible. Light a stout candle and venture forth into the night, knowing full well that if you see an evil spirit, you'll be safe.

WHICH GIRL IS THE CROSS-DRESSER??

Here's a challenge to the person with an observant eye. One girl is a post-op TS, can you tell which of these two girls is the cross-dresser? Good luck.

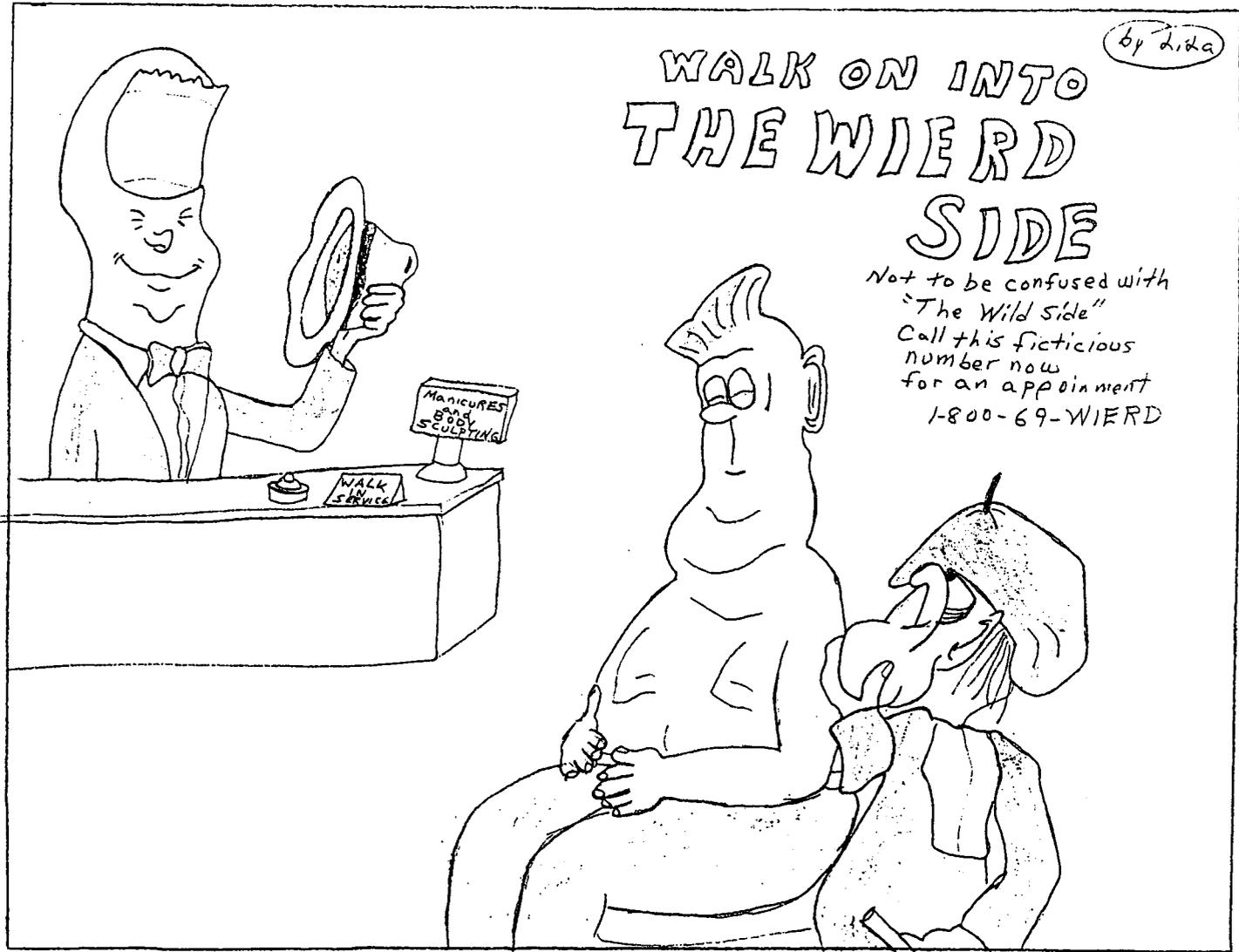
Answer: B



WALK ON INTO THE WIERD SIDE

by Lida

Not to be confused with "The Wild Side"
Call this fictitious number now for an appointment
1-800-69-WIERD



Information on Dr. Yvon Menard

by Sonia

This article does not imply an endorsement of Dr. Yvon Menard, 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 and/or *Twenty Minutes* 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.

To be eligible for sex reassignment surgery, you must have been examined by two psychiatrists who must recommend the operation and send Dr. Menard their evaluation. Also, you must be followed by an endocrinologist in regard to hormone therapy who must send his report. All the reports from these physicians must be at Dr. Menard's office before your visit. Dr. Menard would also like you to send him a recent photograph of yourself, give your date of birth, where you were born and your name at birth. Please do not forget to indicate your phone number at home and at work.

Concerning the operation itself, it is performed in a private hospital. You are hospitalized for five days. You must remain in Montreal for five more days post operatively before returning home. As for the cost of the operation itself, it is \$6000 Canadian which includes hospital care, anesthesia and the surgery. For your first visit at the office in Montreal, the cost of that visit is \$50 Canadian and the amount will have to be paid in cash or Canadian certified check. The \$50 will remain deductible of the total amount.

If you decide to have the surgery, Dr. Menard must meet with you two or three months prior to the operation to discuss the procedure plus the post-operative care. When the date of the operation is decided, you must send immediately a \$500 Canadian deposit. If the deposit is not at his office 10 days later, your surgical date will be cancelled. The final payment must be sent two weeks before the operation. You have to make a certified check for the final payment.

Estrogen therapy must be discontinued one month before the operation. Prior to the surgery, you must have the following tests: C.B.C., B.U.N., Glucose, Urine analysis, Chest X-Ray, E.K.G. (over 40), and H.I.V. test. It is very important that Dr. Menard receive the test results at his office at least four weeks before the operation date.

Please note that during your stay at the clinic, you will not be allowed to smoke.

Pre-operative procedure for a sex change:

- 1 - Shave the pubic area
- 2 - Fleet enema or other during the two days preceding the operation.
- 3 - No aspirin during the three weeks preceding the operation.

- 4 - No alcoholic beverages during the five days preceding the operation.
- 5 - Bring a box of sanitary napkins.

Now that we have the technical information out of the way...The trip from Springfield, MA to Montreal takes about 6 hours plus one more hour to fight through the traffic and find your hotel. (Or the Dr.'s office.) When I went, I took the conservative approach and decided to drive up one day, stay over in a motel, see Dr. Menard the next day, and drive home.

Most people in Montreal CAN speak English quite well, but all street signs, traffic signs, newspapers, books, etc... are in French. (So bring any reading materials with you.) The streets of Montreal are confusing at best, so the money spent on a detailed street map will be very well spent. Also, if it is at all possible, bring a passenger to act as navigator. You will get a better exchange rate for your money just over the Canadian border; ask the officer at the customs booth where to go for currency exchange.

Montreal is a large city, and there are several streets named St. Joseph (The street where Dr. Menard's office is.) Keep in mind that you are looking for St. Joseph Boul. East. An excellent route to take is Interstate 91 North to the Canadian border. At that point, it becomes 55 Nord. (Nord=North, Sud=South, Est=East, Ouest=West) Continue down 55 Nord to 10 Ouest. This takes you right in to the city... it turns into Rue University. (University St.) go up University to Sherbrook. Take a right on to Sherbrook and you will eventually come to St. Dennis on your left. Turn left onto St. Dennis and continue to Boul St. Joseph Est. Take a right on to St. Joseph and after about 1/4 mile, his office will be on the left. There is only a small sign, so use Street numbers; his is 1003.

Closet hotel to clinic:

Motel Ideal
10195 rue Lajeunesse
Montreal, Quebec
Tel: (514) 389-8434

Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon:

Yvon Menard, MD, FRCS
1003 Est. Boul. St-Joseph
Montreal, Quebec
Canada H2J 1L2

ESTROGEN CUTS HEART DISEASE

BOSTON (AP) - Taking estrogen pills after menopause halves the risk of serious heart disease, the leading killer of older women, according to the largest study ever conducted on the subject. The latest work supports the belief of many medical experts that the benefits of estrogen after the change of life far outweighs its hazards, which include increased risk of breast cancer. Among the findings: Women who currently took estrogen were half as likely as those who never used the supplements to suffer non-fatal heart attacks or to die from heart disease. The death rate from all causes was 19 percent lower among the estrogen users. The benefits of estrogen wore off quickly when women stopped taking the supplements.

**EVERYTHING YOU ALWAYS
WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT
TRANSEXUALISM
BUT WERE AFRAID TO ASK!**

(AND A FEW THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO KNOW ABOUT)

Copyright (c) 1988
by Veronica Jean Brown
(with a little help from Becky Ann)

The information contained herein is the result of personal and vicarious experience, the exchanging of letters and ideas with hundreds of gender conflicted persons since 1981, talking with helping professionals, enduring countless hours of counseling, reading many books on the subject and attending over a hundred peer support meetings. This is not a scientific study of transsexualism but rather a personal and objective observation of the phenomenon. Transsexual people, like the rest of society, are subject to the rules and as each is an individual, not all the information contained here may apply to their own experiences.

WHAT IS GENDER DYSPHORIA?

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

WHAT DEFINES A TRANSEXUAL?

A transsexual is a person who believes that their gender is completely and irrevocably incompatible to their physical sex. A transsexual is also a post-operative person whose body has been physically altered through hormone therapy and whose genitalia has been changed through sex reassignment surgery (SRS). This term also describes a person already in transition from one gender role to the other, who is working towards the surgery, also know as corrective surgery, through counseling, hormone therapy and full time cross-living.

WHAT IS THE CAUSE OF TRANSEXUALISM?

Many theories have been proposed to explain the cause of this problem. One is that a hormonal imbalance existed in the mother's womb during pregnancy. The hormones needed to establish male or female gender identity are delivered to the brain of the fetus in the final two months of gestation. Both female and male hormones must be provided in the proper proportions in order to insure the correct gender identity. Ill health or emotional stress on the mother during this period may upset the hormonal flow. The Freudian theory is based on the child's emotional and environmental upbringing of the possible relationships with one parent being stronger than the other or of the cross-dressing of the child at a young age either by the child's choice or that of one or both of the parents.

WHEN DOES THE TRANSEXUAL FIRST BECOME AWARE OF HAVING A PROBLEM AND IN BEING DIFFERENT?

Some transsexuals claim they sensed a distinct difference around the age of three or four. Others have said they first became aware of their special problem before or at puberty, many will not do anything about it until they have tried to live in their biologically assigned gender role for a number of years, sometimes becoming married and having children.

The gender afflicted child often times doesn't fit in with his or her peers and may even associate closely with friends of the opposite sex. This may cause early gender confusion and inner turmoil. Guilt may result from teasing by members of the same biological sex. Boys who play with dolls and hang around with girls may be called a sissy. Girls who play rough and tumble games with the boys will be called a tomboy, although in our present culture, the term tomboy has on the surface, less serious connotations than sissy. Often the parents believe that the child will grow out of this stage and often ignore this behavior as they are unable to recognize the seriousness of it. This pattern may continue through adolescence.

HOW DO TRANSEXUALS COME TO TERMS WITH THEIR PROBLEM?

Many transsexuals may reach a point where they cannot live with their existing internal gender conflict without at least attempting to do something about it. In the case of the male-to-female transsexual, cross-dressing, or the wearing of female clothing may provide temporary relief, but this hidden behavior tends to increase the guilt level. Some are doomed to spend the rest of their lives in constant emotional upheaval but others seek out sources of information at public or college libraries, or in magazine or newspaper articles. By comparing their own feelings to the transsexuals in their research, they reinforce or 'discover' their own identities as transsexuals. For the person who is not a true transsexual, this type of education may ultimately be harmful, as the person becomes firmly convinced of their condition. By knowing what to say to the doctors, they can pass through the system sometimes achieving hormone therapy and the sex reassignment surgery. When their mistake is realized, it is too late.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A TRANSEXUAL CAN NO LONGER LIVE WITH THEIR GENDER DYSPHORIA?

Transsexuals are unique in their condition in that they often self-diagnose their illness. When they decide that they would rather live in the role of their 'chosen' gender than continue in what they feel is a charade of living in the role of their assigned gender, they will seek the only apparent solution to their gender problem by getting medical assistance in the form of hormone therapy and in many cases, the sex reassignment surgery.

WHAT CAN HAPPEN WHEN THE TRANSEXUAL TURNS TO PROFESSIONALS FOR HELP?

Should the transsexual seek help from professionals not trained specifically to deal with the problems of gender dysphoria, these unaware but often well meaning people will set up roadblocks against any attempt by the transsexual to obtain hormones or surgery. As some believe that transsexualism is only a problem of the mind, they will attempt to 'cure' the problem through psychotherapy. It has been proven that this type of cure is not effective and in some cases, leaves the patient more bewildered, angry, confused and hurt than before. Often the transsexual will waste years and large sums of money on this fruitless search. Some distraught transsexuals will commit suicide rather than continue to live in the role of their biological sex.

WHICH PROFESSIONALS SHOULD THE TRANSSEXUAL SEEK OUT FOR HELP?

The only qualified professionals are those trained in dealing with gender dysphoric people and some of these are associated with gender clinics and follow the guidelines set set by the Harry Benjamin International Association on Gender Dysphoria. These gender clinics have psychiatrists, psychologists, endocrinologists and sometimes surgeons. Their function is to evaluate and screen the transsexual for possible hormone therapy, psychological counseling and the sex reassignment surgery. Some clinics may have a support group where the transsexual in transition can seek help and support from their peers.

WHAT ARE SOME OF THE GENERAL PROBLEMS FACING THE TRANSSEXUAL?

Once the transsexual begins hormone therapy, there can be many problems. A transsexual may be rejected by family, children, friends and relatives. There may be a problem with controlled substance and alcohol abuse, or with religious beliefs. For the married transsexual, the union must end in divorce and that can take a tremendous emotional toll on the spouse and children. The financial strain for settlements and support payments may be added to the staggering cost of the gender transition.

The transsexual must determine if they will be able to change gender roles on the same job or seek out a new job under the guise of their chosen role. There is also need for the legal change of name and the changing of all pertinent records such as their driver's license, social security, bank accounts, medical insurance, work and educational references.

During the period of cross-living before approval for surgery, they must learn the mannerisms and dressing skills of their chosen gender and be able to pass successfully in public. Only those transsexuals with a strong conviction that they must go through with the change of gender will complete the process. Of a hundred people who think themselves as transsexual, only ten will ever do something about it. Of those ten, perhaps five will get started with hormone therapy and of those five, only one or two will get the sex reassignment surgery. There have been some cases where a male-to-female person was approved for hormones, learned to cross-live full time while presenting a realistic feminine appearance in public, changed over on the job, only to change their minds and revert to their former male selves.

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION FOR THE YOUNGER TRANSSEXUAL?

The younger transsexuals still in their twenties, will usually encounter fewer problems, though some may not have acquired enough emotional maturity to deal with their gender dysphoria. They will have less obstacles to overcome in the transition if they have never been married or have not as yet established a career. The male-to-female with boyish looks (or natural beauty wonder) may pass well as a female and can start cross-living before or soon after beginning hormone therapy. The young female-to-male person may make an instant handsome male with a newly acquired man's short styled haircut.

WHAT ARE SOME SPECIFIC PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN THE TRANSITION FOR THE OLDER TRANSSEXUAL?

The older transsexual, who are in their thirties, forties or older, faces challenges of greater severity. The male-to-female may also have a heavy beard that will require three to five years of painful and expensive electrolysis treatments to remove. He may also have experienced varying degrees of scalp hair loss that can be corrected with hair transplants, wigs or hair pieces. The facial features may be course, angular and 'mannish' and this may require some cosmetic surgery to correct. The male-to-female may be tall (for a woman) and she may need voice training to help feminize a deep male voice.

The female-to-male may be overweight, very short (for a male), and have large hips and breasts which would have to be bound when cross-dressing.

WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF HORMONE THERAPY ON THE MALE-TO-FEMALE?

The process of estrogen hormone therapy is a problem in itself. There is unfortunately no standard treatment as a physician will prescribe female hormones according to the types he or she is most familiar with.

The male-to-female person will be prescribed oral estrogen and progesterone on a daily basis. One standard treatment is estrogen for days one through twenty-one or twenty-five and progesterone for days sixteen through twenty-one or twenty-five. The most popular brand name of estrogen is Premarin, a natural hormone, or Estinyl (a synthetic), as these are two that have been around for a long time and many doctors feel safe in prescribing them to their transsexual patients. This regimen recreates the natural cycle of genetic females and provides the neophyte woman with a taste of the emotional roller-coaster that is to come. Some doctors do not prescribe progesterone at all, or some prescribe it to be taken every day of the month and do not give their patients a rest from the estrogen.

Initially, the hormones will have a calming effect on the emotional state. The female hormones will stimulate breast growth, lighten the regrowth of body hair, soften the facial features and provide in many cases, immense emotional relief. It has no effect on the male beard growth but seems to have an apparent effect on electrolysis treatments as compared to hair removal treatments on the male who is not taking hormones. The hormones will decrease sperm production to nothing and the testicles will atrophy.

The need for masturbation will also decline and the hormones will eventually produce some degree of feminine body contours, though this phenomenon will vary greatly from person to person. Breast growth will vary with individuals and depend on the genetic makeup of their female family members. Muscles will become thinner and the skin softer. The male-to-female transsexual can expect the facial features to change such that she will look more like the other women in her family, though in the older transsexual, increased age will allow fewer dramatic changes. The older male-to-female will become an older woman.

Intramuscular estrogen injections may be prescribed after the first year and these will stimulate quicker development. Oil based estrogens will have a longer lasting effect than water based estrogen.

WHAT IS THE EFFECT OF HORMONE THERAPY ON THE FEMALE-TO-MALE?

The female-to-male man will take testosterone injections on a weekly basis which may eventually be decreased to a monthly basis. Testosterone injections will produce almost immediate and dramatic physical changes. They will deepen the voice, stimulate facial and body hair growth and produce masculine body contours. The hormones will also stop the periods and in many cases, eliminate the female emotional ups and downs. The new man may become more aggressive in his attitude, the clitoris may enlarge to the size of a very small penis and muscles will develop and the skin will become coarser. The hormones could eventually bring about male pattern baldness, if this genetic trait runs in his family. He can expect his facial features to change such that he will look more like the other men in his family.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE CROSS-LIVING EXPERIENCE FOR THE MALE-TO-FEMALE?

She must learn to wear clothing which will accent her sometimes meager feminine body contours, hide the masculine ones and to dress appropriately for the time of day and place. Genetic females who dress flamboyantly do attract attention and the same goes for the neophyte woman. She will have to learn female mannerisms for walking, standing and sitting. She will have to practice to raise her voice and fluctuate the pitch while talking. She should get her hair styled or wear a wig if her hair is too short or too thin or if she has hair loss. She will have to hide facial hair with makeup until electrolysis has removed most of it. During the early stages, she may often be recognized as a man in drag and be subject to verbal and possible physical abuse. Some communities have laws against cross-dressing, so arrest is another possible concern. The key here is to avoid possible situations of trouble such as using the women's rest rooms or clothes changing rooms if the person is not yet passable.

WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE CROSS-LIVING EXPERIENCE FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE?

He will have to learn to walk, sit and act like a man. He may have to talk in lower tones until hormones thicken the vocal chords. He should get a man's hairstyle and should bind the breasts until they are surgically removed. During the early stages, he may be recognized as an effeminate gay male by the public until the beard grows and the voice deepens. The female-to-male usually has an easier time passing than his male-to-female counterpart.

WHAT COSMETIC SURGERIES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE MALE-TO-FEMALE?

Possible considerations to aid in her appearance would be a nose job, breast, cheek or hip implants, a face lift, a tracheal shave of the Adam's apple, or hair transplants if there has been hair loss due to male-pattern baldness. Female hormones will usually stop further hair loss but will not stimulate dormant hair follicles. It is likely that none of these procedures would be covered by medical insurance and they can be very expensive. Injections of liquid silicones are to be avoided at all costs, as this treatment is known to cause serious medical problems in later years.

WHAT COSMETIC SURGERIES ARE AVAILABLE TO THE FEMALE-TO-MALE?

A mastectomy of the breasts is a necessity. Other possible options may be fat suction for the hips and stomach. It is possible that the mastectomy would be covered by insurance, but not the other procedures.

WHAT IS THE GENITAL SEX-REASSIGNMENT SURGERY FOR THE MALE-TO-FEMALE?

The vaginal-plasty used by most surgeons is the standard penile inversion method. Specific surgical techniques may vary from surgeon to surgeon. The surgical procedure is a single stage type and consists of a bilateral castration and subtotal penectomy, with the superficial tissues preserved to line the neo-vagina. The corpus cavernosum is preserved to form a clitoris. The actual clitoris may be hooded, or under the skin above the urethral opening, or may be placed within a physical opening. Scrotal skin is used to form the outer labia. The urinary sphincter muscle is attached to the urethra which is shortened and repositioned to conform to the female phenotype. This procedure has been perfected to be cosmetically pleasing and functional, though some surgeons' work is less than optimum. As the nerve endings are preserved, clitoral orgasm may be achieved once there has been complete healing. This surgery is not usually paid for by medical insurance and most surgeons and hospitals require all expenses be paid before the surgery is performed. The amount of physical pain reported by post-surgical patients varies from a slight discomfort to immense physical pain. As in any surgery, there is some risk involved. The patient may die during the operation or in the recovery room afterwards, depending on the person's general physical health. The patient may have the lining of the neo-vagina come loose, fall out, or she may experience severe infections. Because of the virulent nature of hospital acquired infections, these are often difficult to cure.

No surgeon in the world can produce an exact replica of the female vagina on the first try. The external genitals will resemble the real thing, but if the patient so desires, a second surgery can be done a year later on an out patient basis to enhance the visual appearance.

WHAT IS THE GENITAL SEX-REASSIGNMENT SURGERY FOR THE FEMALE-TO-MALE?

The basic surgeries, which are usually performed in three stages, involve the removal of the internal sexual and reproductive organs, testicular implants and the phalloplasty. The procedures have proven to be cosmetically pleasing but not always completely functional. After all that surgery, the transsexual still could not stand to urinate or have any feeling in the penis and might need a permanent implant to have intercourse. Surgeons continue to develop improved techniques and through micro-surgery, it is possible to obtain a penis that will allow the transsexual to stand to urinate, have improved circulation throughout the penis and in some cases eliminate the need for a prosthesis for intercourse. The cost for the female-to-male surgery is approximately three to four times more expensive than the male-to-female surgery and is not usually covered by medical insurance.

WHAT ABOUT POST-OPERATIVE CARE AFTER THE SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY?

The male-to-female post-op should check with their therapists for referrals to a gynecologist. She may need medical attention to prevent scarring or infection and may need to have her urethra dilated should it constrict during healing making urinating difficult or impossible. She will have to learn how to dilate her new vagina in order to make it wider and deeper and also to douche regularly until the new vagina is completely healed. In some cases, the new vagina may close up completely from excessive scar tissue or from lack of proper and regular vaginal dilation.

The female-to-male post-op should check with their therapists for a referral to a urologist and be on guard for the newly extended urethra springing a leak in the penis.

WHAT IS POST-OPERATIVE DEPRESSION?

Often the transsexual is so consumed with getting the surgery that they make no plans for their future. They believe that life will be so much better after surgery and that all their problems will be gone. While their gender conflict will be eradicated with the SRS, they will still have any existing problems, though not gender related, and may encounter some new ones. There is usually a brief period of euphoria and relief following the SRS, until they realize that the learning process of their chosen gender role continues long after surgery, as does the physical changes. They should expect that it will take one to two years to recover from the post-op blues.

The post-op depression is more apparent in the male-to-female woman as opposed to the female-to-male man, whose surgeries are done in stages over a period of months or years and they have more time to adjust.

WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HAVE IN STORE FOR THE TRANSEXUAL?

Most male-to-female post-ops drop out of the gender community soon after their surgery to blend in with the rest of society. This is an important time in their transition, as they need to be around 'normal' people in order to become 'normal' themselves. Most are happier as they are complete persons whose new 'sex' now matches their gender. Those male-to-females who have a tough time afterwards are generally those who rushed through or bypassed the transition or real life test without giving the hormones or electrolysis enough time to change their physical features. They had trouble passing before the surgery and have trouble as post-ops. They lied to themselves and their doctors by learning all the 'right answers' in order to 'pass the test'. Male-to-female transsexuals often learn everything they need to know about transsexualism, but fail to learn what they need to know about being women. Some post-op females do get married, but they represent a small percentage. As most go through the transition in their late twenties to mid-forties, they face the same problems of getting married at an older age as the rest of women in society. Among some male-to-female transsexuals, it is not uncommon for them to develop lesbian or bisexual relationships either before or after their surgery.

The majority of the female-to-male transsexuals form heterosexual relationships, though some may have been involved with pseudo lesbian relationships before their surgeries and some discover themselves to be gay men. Female-to-male men have reported that the relationship they had before their surgery, usually doesn't survive the transition. Some are also very male oriented and don't even consider themselves to be transsexual at any time during their transition and refuse to take part in peer support groups. For others, their girl friend or wife provide the support they need.

Transsexual people of both gender orientations are representative of mainstream society, and for some is the matter of who they want to go to bed as and who they want to go to bed with. They are heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual or even asexual before, during or after their transitions. Some will encounter problems when they refuse to accept their being gay or bisexual. They can be religious fanatics, atheists, or have normal religious beliefs. Some may have religious revelations after their surgeries and to save face, will become martyrs for the 'cause' and will actively campaign against the gender system. Some transsexuals will commit suicide before or during their transitions, or even years afterwards.

Getting the surgery will not guarantee anything. The surgeon's scalpel will not make a person into a man or woman. These qualities have to be in place long before the ultimate event. There is life after surgery and the individual must learn to grow and adapt.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article was originally one of the many brochures that have been sold through the XX Club and was known as the TRANSEXUAL GENERAL INFORMATION brochure.)

THE "P-TOWN" EXPERIENCE

By Lila

Provincetown is a picturesque village situated at the northern tip of Cape Cod Massachusetts. This past spring, I had an opportunity to visit this popular vacation spot. It has pristine white beaches, crisp refreshing ocean breezes and the townspeople always greet you with a smile.

There are many shops lining the streets selling trinkets of every kind: jewelry, souvenirs, bathing suits, t-shirts and some of the latest fashions. Everything to suit your heart's desire. The restaurants serve every imaginable type of cuisine. One of the many highlights is to climb to the top of Pilgrim Monument (only 600 feet straight up). Once you've made it to the top, the views of the bay and the cape are very impressive. Yes, Provincetown is quite a place to see.

I spent the weekend with two of my friends at the Boatslip Inn. It's very cozy, spacious and well maintained. Unknown to me, a transvestite convention was being held at the same inn, taking up more than half of the building. I was both surprised and amused. This was my first exposure to so many TVs and I was intrigued by how closely they resembled my "Anatomy of a Crossdresser" cartoon from the April Fool issue of *Twenty Minutes*. Yes, they were quite a sight to see! They were walking stereotypes, the cream of the crop! Be warned, this article is my true impression of what I saw. If you find it offensive - tough noogies. If you find it amusing - more power to you!

One afternoon found my companion and I sunning ourselves along side several lesbian couples. Across the deck, my eyes beheld many TVs sitting pool-side all dressed in their Sunday best. None of the women I was with were dressed in such a ridiculous manner. One cross-dresser, built like a football player, dared to wear a bikini with a 'D' cup! I found it incredible that breasts of such mammoth proportion had NO cleavage. Oh yeah, "Bruno" forgot to shave too. Over

on a nearby balcony, I observed yet another cross-dresser prancing around in his frilly slip with shaving cream smeared all over his face. Many others ventured out onto the balconies, using their deep male voices to call out to their friends on the deck.

These guys (dare I say gals) could be seen all around town. As I visited gift shops, I could see them stumbling along in their 4 to 6 inch spiked heels. As usual, they were all dolled up in formal dresses for the sight-seeing crowd to behold. Some wore false eyelashes that appeared to be a foot long. Give me a break, guys! All the genetic females in town were dressed for the occasion. Meaning they wore casual clothes, t-shirts, tank tops, shorts, jeans, etc. What really got to me was seeing one TV scratch himself in a most manly way!

The first night, I saw an F.I. (female impersonator) show at the Crown and Anchor. It was a very good show at that. I noticed how the waiters arranged the seating within the hall. Lesbians were placed on the right side, a couple of straights were placed in the middle and the gays were placed on the left in the back. The TVs were singled out and placed directly in front of the stage, making them prime targets for the F.I.'s jokes. One TV had a pretty, low cut blouse which served to show off his abundant chest hair.

During a walk on Commercial Street I heard one TV exclaim to another in a deep male voice, "I pass 100 percent". I also went dancing with my friend at the Pied Piper the second night, Amazing how we could pick out the TVs in the crowd. They all congregated around the pool table. None came over to dance with the rest of the women. After witnessing these events, I can no longer take any transvestite seriously. I was laughing hysterically throughout the entire weekend. It certainly was a weekend to remember! Perhaps I will return someday, but not on a TV convention week.

Where genital remains go, (after surgery)

By Lila



VERONICA'S DRAG

by Veronica Jean Brown

Documentary films can sometimes be a pleasant diversion from the steady stream of commercial films that bombard the screens every Summer. One such gem is the currently playing, Paris Is Burning, directed by Jennie Livingston.

As one character aptly put it, "The worst thing you can be is both black and gay..."

Many of the scenes depicted in Paris Is Burning were shot live from 1986 to 1989 at various locations in Harlem, New York City. Paris Is Burning is a succinct panoramic slice of life record of Harlem's drag ball subculture.

Paris Is Burning matter of factly records live interviews with various black, veteran drag queens, and the audience is treated to a mixed bittersweet bag of memories and the acceptance to the way things have changed.

Not so bittersweet, but always quite hopeful are the interviews with the young up and coming drag ball participants. There are even interviews with a few street transsexuals, whose primary purpose in life is either to have lots of money to live the life of extreme comfort, or to someday get enough money saved up to have sex reassignment surgery.

Interspersed between the poignant interviews are cuts from various Harlem drag balls. But wait, not all of the categories call for men to dress as women. There are actually categories for stereotypically gay men to appear as and act like straight men, for lower class blue collar workers to dress as successful, Madison Avenue Types, executive secretaries and so on.

What is the meaning behind these many masquerades of clothing by both men and women? It is simply to be something they are not. They will never win an Academy

Award, or an Oscar. They will never be recognized by the mainstream of our culture. In lieu of that, they simply organize, perform, judge and participate in their own stylized versions of what they aspire to, but will never attain. They are forever blocked from their goals in the real world by the real world.

All of the human qualities including love, jealousy, hope, aspirations, and yes, even death are here. As in most slice of life films, you will want to laugh, cry and be moved.

Want to find out the origins of a "dance" called the Vogue? Rush right out to a theatre near you and see Paris Is Burning. You won't be disappointed.

Another film currently playing that has a bit of drag in it, is Perfectly Normal. Directed by Yves Simoneau (a first English Language film for this director), it too shows a slice of life of a very mundane blue collar worker. Michael Riley plays a brewery worker and his life in Perfectly Normal is as boring as the film becomes.

The high point of the film comes when we are treated to scenes of downtown Toronto, and members of the audience gasp, "Hey, that's the corner of Adelaide!"

There is a drag scene, but it comes at the very end of the film in a ridiculous plot in which a near-do-well ex-restaurateur on the lam from Florida, convinces the brewery worker, who also moonlights as a taxi driver, to invest his recently deceased Aunt's life savings in a new Toronto eatery. The unique feature about this restaurant is the pseudo 18th century decor and that all the waitresses are dressed in period ball gowns.

Also rather far fetched is the notion that both main characters can sing opera. And of course, the brewery worker can sing opera as a woman. Give me a break.

Perfectly Normal really tries to be a good little film, it really does, but it just doesn't make it.

Amazing sex-change frogs — The gals can turn into guys!

When a colony of African reed frogs faces a "manpower shortage" they solve it in an astonishing way — the female frogs simply turn themselves into males!

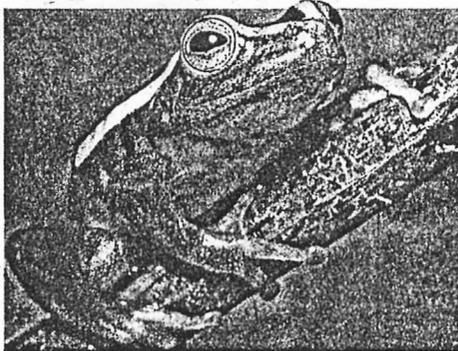
Incredibly, the tiny creatures can become both mother and father in the same lifetime.

"The frogs change sex only when there are too many females," said Dr. Eduard Linsenmair. "It only happens when females outnumber males three to one."

The sex switch begins with the females developing louder, stronger voices. Then they begin to crowd in with males, pushing and shoving to try to secure the highest spot in the colony.

"The male reed frog attracts a female by calling from the highest place available," explained Dr. Linsenmair, professor of zoology at the University of Wurzburg in Germany.

At this stage the transsexual frogs have already begun to develop male sex organs. Dr. Linsenmair says he's seen about 15 female frogs in his laboratory turn into males.



AFRICAN REED FROGS baffle scientists.

In just a few months the sex change is complete and the new males engage in typical mating behavior with female frogs, even fertilizing the female's eggs. They never switch back to female.

Incredible world of animals

The reed frog — only one-third as big as a man's finger — gets its name from its habit of clinging to a blade of tall grass. It is found in Africa, south of the Sahara desert.

The hardy little creature can withstand daily temperatures of 100 degrees for up to 100 days without ever taking in moisture or food. Scientists are baffled by the frog's ability to sit under the blazing African sun so long without getting sunburned.

Researchers are now trying to uncover the secret of the reed frog's immunity to the hottest rays of the sun, in hopes of developing a new sunscreen for humans.

Added Dr. Linsenmair: "This frog is truly one of the most amazing and fascinating species of animals known to science."

— CHARLES DOWNEY

BENJAMIN STANDARDS REVISITED

by Jennifer Wells

Not too long ago *Twenty Minutes* ran two articles which articulated numerous issues of well taken and opposing viewpoints on the 'Surgery on Demand' question. In view of this ongoing debate about the sanctity of ones right to do with their body as they please, and as a possible influence for the new information expected soon to be available in the DSM-4; we decided to review the relevance on the existing standards of care for so called self-diagnosed transsexual persons (THE BENJAMIN STANDARDS) and found them sadly lacking in meeting the needs of the persons they seek to serve. In view of this revelation, we offer the following revisions to the existing standards of care.

1. In view of recent research, it has been decided that male vs female nature is fluid in every person and that all persons are in fact and should be declared transsexual, and the sex determinant on vital records should be eliminated.

2. That to be eligible for surgery, a person must:

A. Live exclusively in the role perceived as that of the opposite sex for a period not less than two hours once every month...about the length of the standard support group meeting.

B. Expose their body to massive doses of hormones normally reserved for those in the opposite sex role - at least once.

C. Have tried at least three methods of facial hair removal and two different techniques of breast simulation if MTF, or if FTM, hair can be no longer than 3 inches, and have tried at least two methods of simulating a beard. The wearing of a business suit although optional can be substituted for one effort at simulating a beard.

D. Must have the signed affidavits of at least THREE people who actually saw the person present themselves in the role of the sex other than that assigned at birth. Although optional, it is recommended that at least one person be someone who went to bed with the reassignment candidate and will attest that they performed admirably.

3. Surgical obligations:

A. Surgeons will not charge overly much more than the market will bear.

B. Surgeons can experiment freely as this is still experimental surgery.

C. Surgeons will charge only a little over what the market will bear.

D. Surgeons can change the rules to suit their needs.

E. Surgeons will charge slightly more than the market will bear.

F. Surgeons are under no obligation to divulge anything about their techniques, prices, location or track record.

G. Surgeons will charge more than the market will bear.

H. Although optional, surgeons may at their discretion occasionally: sterilize surgical utensils, change bed linen, or provide peri-care.

4. Persons falling in the following categories WILL NOT be allowed surgery until they get their act together:

A. If MTF:

1. Anyone wearing a bad wig...or any wigs for that matter.
2. Anyone wearing blue eyeshadow.
3. Anyone wearing gold or silver sequined, or beaded garments in broad daylight.
4. Anyone wearing heels over 3 inches high.
5. Anyone who appears to have more than 44D breasts.
6. Anyone who attends a support group in a leather mini skirt.
7. Anyone wearing more than three types of makeup foundation.
8. Anyone who's hand is permanently attached to their penis (hands never fully recover following surgery, and sometimes fingers require skin grafts (weeeeplasty) for extra length to remain functional.
9. Anyone seen picking women up in a gay bar.
10. Anyone who likes dancing AC/DC or Poison.
11. Anyone who thinks Wayne Newton has a brother named FIG, or a sister named JUICE...or thinks, for that matter that Wayne is a flashy dresser.

B. If FTM:

1. Anyone wearing any sort of hat.
2. Anyone with more than two socks stuffed in their crotch.
3. Anyone with hair more than 3 inches long.
4. Anyone with breasts larger than 44D (its a shame to waist good material - (so shoot me, I'm sexist)).
5. Anyone with a fake mustache which won't stay put.
6. Anyone wearing blue eyeshadow.
7. Anyone with a Sinead O'Connor or Mr. T haircut...for that matter, anyone who has shaved their head.
8. See number 8 under "A" above.
9. Anyone seen picking men up in a gay bar.
10. Anyone who likes dancing to PASTY KLINE records.
11. Anyone who thinks David Bowie or Boy George is a groovy role model.

Well, I could go on, but then these modified standards would get needlessly out of hand and restrictive and we all know where that can lead... On second thought, maybe we should just leave the existing standards, they are relatively well thought out, and do show reasonable concern for our well being, while providing an opportunity for us to experience for ourselves just how much of our passion is reality and how much is fantasy.

COVER STORY - BORN TROUBLEMAKERS CAUSE CHAOS IN SUBURBIA

Suburbia, FL (TSAP) - Two of the newest residents of this sleepy bedroom community have recently caused quite a stir when it was learned they worked as playmate bunnies in nearby Daytona Beach. The real chaos started when the news was revealed via tabloid headlines that the pair were also male-to-female transsexuals, the first known transsexuals to ever work as bunnies. The pair have been identified as Lila, former budding cartoonist, and Becky Ann, former editor of a little known transsexual newsletter - *Twenty Minutes*. The pair could not be reached for further comment as their answering machine stated, "We're not home right now, we've gone to the beach".

**The Eleventh Hour
Interview With
Veronica Jean Brown**

TM: So, what do you have to say for yourself?

VJB: Uh, I'd like to thank my Mother, my Dad, my sixth grade teacher, Mrs. Coffey, and...

TM: Wait a minute. Let's get specific here. What do you say for yourself after having "gone through the system"?

VJB: Knowing what I know now, and if I had it to do all over again, I would have never gotten involved with the gender community. I wouldn't have waited until 1977 to start hormones. I would have started back in 1965 when I was 20 years old, and I would have never gotten married. And...

TM: Okay, okay, we get the picture. Why not marriage?

VJB: A lot of us think if we get married, that will solve the problem, only it doesn't. It gets buried for a few years and you wake up one morning wondering how you got into the life you have.

TM: But you've done so much for the gender community, why do you feel the way you do?

VJB: Okay. I found an experienced endocrinologist and a shrink/counselor all on my own and had already made my so called real life "transition" before I ever even saw another TV or TS.

TM: So you did it your way?

VJB: That's right. At the time I got involved in the Twenty Club in 1985, I was lonely for the company of others like myself. I'd been partying with a bunch of TVs and while they were okay people, they weren't transsexual. You know, birds of a feather...

TM: Didn't you gain any satisfaction from your "work" in the Twenty Club?

VJB: Of course I did. Back in 1985, the club was primarily run by Canon Jones, so in 1987, A few of us decided to find a way to put some money in an otherwise nonexistent treasury. We elected officers, collected money at several meetings, and I started Twenty Minutes. Becky and I wrote a few brochures based on our experiences, and those of others, and the money started to trickle in. Look at the 1990-1991 financial report. The Twenty Club spent over \$2500 during the year. When I was in charge of things, I answered an awful lot of mail from TS people reaching out for help. I always had this desire to be somebody important in a social situation, such as a club, so I guess I was a reborn "natural" for running the Twenty Club meetings.

TM: What was your secret for running a Twenty Club meeting?

VJB: First of all, I don't believe in a ridged structure system. I tried a few times to open the meetings with a specific topic or agenda in mind, but I quickly found out that if the majority of the people in attendance weren't interested, I couldn't get anywhere. Very quickly I found out to let the meeting develop and take its own course, and I was just there to guide things a long. Sort of speak softly, but with a firm hand.

TM: So what was the most difficult thing to do at a meeting?

VJB: Are you kidding? Trying to get other people to talk about themselves. I'd seen people come to meetings with tremendous pain in their eyes, and I knew that they had a lot of troubles to unload, but the trick was to get them to open up. Even though many of the stories were similar, every Twenty Club person was very important. This whole transsexual thing is a process of changes, not only in physical appearance, but in the way you think about things in general and in the way you see yourself.

TM: Do you have any complaints about Twenty Club meetings?

VJB: It seems that if a post-op is successful and projects a positive image and happens to be the support group moderator, when it comes break time, I could never get any refreshments. People were always coming up to me and either asking questions or telling me stuff. I couldn't get enough of a break to toss down a couple of cokes. A lot of people need role models to look up to, and transsexuals are no different.

TM: What was the worst meeting you attended?

VJB: I guess it was the one where we actually had four or five F-M people at the meeting and the topic being discussed was electrolysis. I mean, give me a break.

TM: So why didn't you change the topic to something else?

VJB: Are you kidding? The meeting was a positive one, and while I was happy to see so many F-M people there, I didn't dare change the course of the meeting. The only time I'd step in was when some know it all jerk was being a pain in the you know what and I clearly saw that the rest of the people had heard enough. Sometimes we'd get some very opinionated people, and though they were way off the right track, they deserved to be heard.

TM: How noble of you.

VJB: No, not noble. There's a right way to run a meeting and a wrong way. You have to stay objective at all times and treat people with respect.

TM: Can a non-transsexual, and by that I mean a TV or TG, run a TS support group meeting?

VJB: No. They may have all the right moves, but they ain't got no credibility.

TM: Some other special interest groups have called the Twenty Club a "closed group", and that it's not for transvestites. What do you say?

VJB: The Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones had a profound effect on me. I don't know how in the world he has managed to keep it all together for all these years. I recall one time when he said to the group, that the Twenty Club was not a place for transvestites to come and dress up. It was a place for all gender confused people to come and learn, share and so forth. I noticed over the years that every once in a while we'd get a few "TVs", and they were welcomed, but as soon as they discovered what the Twenty Club was really about, we usually never saw them again. So, in that respect, the Twenty Club has been "open" to all.

TM: You mentioned earlier that you wished you had never gotten involved with the gender community. Why is that?

VJB: I think I would have still gotten involved with the Twenty Club, but as for the rest of it, Tiffany, IFGE, and so forth, it was a learning experience, but not my cup of tea. I see this vast gender network as primarily a social, information sharing/gathering thing. It's not my cup of tea. I'm a loner.

TM: Can you elaborate?

VJB: I've always loved model airplanes. Back in the 50's and 60's, I avidly read all the magazines and I always wanted to get into radio control aircraft. One day in 1968, I was at the Longmeadow town dump and saw a radio controlled model airplane flying over head. I drove over to where a bunch of guys were standing. They were members of the Valley Thunderbirds Model Airplane Club. I joined the club primarily to get how to information, hands on experience and to use the club's flying field. I was actually taught how to fly a plane by a sixteen year old high school boy. Soon I took over publishing the club newsletter and turned it into a small newspaper called Contrails. The gender community is structured the same way. A TV has a need to dress in women's clothes to express some aspect of himself and he seeks out those in a structured environment who are already involved in a higher degree. He looks, learns and emulates those around him, and they all pat him on the back. Some transsexuals seeks out other transsexuals to get information on hormones, tips on passing, and where to get the surgery, and some pat them on the back. The gender community is a microcosm of life in general.

TM: What was your intent in publishing Twenty Minutes?

VJB: Initially, I wanted to set up a line of communication for all the club members. Then it was to share information, entertain, have a little fun and finally, it was to have a voice to speak out against those who were trying to stifle and transgress against the true transsexuals.

TM: Where did you find all the talent to produce Twenty Minutes?

VJB: I was fully prepared to do all the work and write all the articles myself. And yes, I am also Lydia Brandenburg, ARADIA, and I also was Erwin Levitt, who wrote the piece about cross gendered behavior being an alternate life-style. It's even on some of the BBSs. I saw this horrendous anti gay article in a Fundamentalist religion book and

rewrote it with a gender flavor. A lot of people took it seriously, as they should have. We are fortunate that those who would transgress against us, as they have against the lesbians and gays, haven't done so. The gender community has gone through a teeny, tiny fraction of the heartache and pain that the lesbians and gays have. And of course, the transsexuals, if they are found out, get a lot of prejudice heaped against them as well. I think it's a far better for each individual transsexual to get through it all on their own with help from lobbyist groups, government agencies, and all encompassing legislation, which, even if they were passed, would be impossible to enforce anyhow, just as the blacks still suffer in the states. People took that article seriously and I'm glad. It's good to make people think. I created interest where there was apathy. And I instigated controversy just to offer an opposing viewpoint, a viable viewpoint representing the transsexual people. I wrote letters to the editor attacking myself, because no one had the interest to speak out. In other words, I got the ball rolling and got a few transsexuals thinking, writing and speaking out.

TM: How do you feel about the demise of Twenty Minutes?

VJB: Well, if it does end in October, it ran four years. I didn't think it would last long after I went North to Canada, but I was pleasantly surprised with the creative leadership that developed. I'm sorry to see it go, and no, this time, I have no great kiss off speech to give to all those who have dared to transgress against me.

TM: What new projects are you involved in?

VJB: My spouse Paddy and I run a TV business here in Toronto. We have a retail store, a bed and breakfast and a transformation service. And we also operate the Toronto CrossDressers Club. It's run like a private country club and there are no officers and no politics. People pay a small yearly fee and they get the Toronto CDC News, a 20 page monthly magazine which Paddy and I publish, a discount in the store and the privilege of using the club facilities. Everything we do is geared for the benefit of the members. In short, the TCDC is run exactly like the Valley Thunderbirds MAC, except that there are no elected club officers, but instead two "paid" club managers, Paddy and myself, who see to it that everything gets done.

TM: Do you have any transsexuals in the club?

VJB: Yes, we do. We have several people who have been on hormones for a couple of years. Nobody, and I repeat, nobody says anything derogatory about the way other people dress. If they want to wear jeans and a T shirt, that's their business. If they want to wear PVC, that's their business. Every one is equal under the sun and the moon. Club members can get information from how to put on false eyelashes, to what are the long term effects of estrogen. It's all here and as of August 3rd, we have 91 members and that's been since the club had its first party on December 1990.

TM: What do you do for fun?

VJB: Paddy and I spend most of our time working. I do a monthly column for the Toronto Transie Times, and I'll be doing a regular column for JoAnn Roberts' new bi-monthly International Transcript magazine that's due out in October. My autobiography is almost finished, and I've got this really neat World War 1 computer flight simulation called Red Baron. It has VGA graphics and is the best flight simulator I've ever seen. My favorite aircraft is the Fokker D-7, though the Pfalz D-3 isn't a bad little plane, and the famous Fokker DR-1 Triplane is very maneuverable, but it's not very fast. Having once held a pilot's licence, I was familiar with flying and I can do any stunt in the D-7, including shooting down British bombers and scout planes. You know, beware of the Hun in the sun. That by the way, was the logo for my model airplane newspaper, Contrails. I hired a graphic artist to depict a scene of a lone British observation plane with two German scouts about to dive down on the unsuspecting Engländer. The name Contrails was carved out of fleecy clouds. It was great.

TM: That model airplane graphic sounds a little like the way you've lived your life.

VJB: Yes, I guess it is. I've always worked hard, both to earn a living and for what I believed in. If people stepped on my toes once or twice, I'd ignore them, but woe be they who continue to give me a hard time. No more Mr. Nice Guy!

TM: Do you have any last words for our readers?

VJB: If you are a transsexual, you had better be sure, because no one is going to tell you that you are. If a person has a pain in their chest, they go to a doctor and he or she runs tests to determine what is wrong. Then the doctor decides upon a course of treatment. For the transsexual, things are completely different. The pain is there but the transsexual has to tell the doctor what is wrong and ask for a specific type of treatment. If you have a sex change for the wrong reason, you're screwed.

TM: How do you feel about the non-op transsexual and the transgenderist?

VJB: The non-op transsexual is one of the categories observed and studied by Dr. Harry Benjamin. It is of course, a legitimate transsexual type with its own special set of problems. The transgenderist is another legitimate type. In themselves, there is nothing "wrong" with either category, but it's what these types do in the social setting of the gender community that really piss me off. Some people are always trying to legitimize their "level", jockey for positions of power, and assign a value to their status. It's like, a TV on hormones is more valid than one who is not. A post-op TS is looked upon almost as a sacred cow by the pre-ops, and so on. It's all social, and has no real bearing for criteria in scientific and medical studies. I used to cringe, and still do, whenever someone says to me that they are just exploring. You don't just go off and explore yourself by taking hormones. What do you mean, "explore"? Either you are, or you aren't. This is not a game, but I guess, for some it is just that. For me, I always knew from the start what I wanted. Back in the 70's, my big problem was not that I wasn't sure, but how to go about getting what I wanted.

TM: Name the people who have meant the most to you since you got involved in the gender community in 1984.

VJB: I've met a lot of people, but only a few have had a positive and meaningful impact on me. They are, in chronological order, Harriet Lane, Priscilla G., Diane W., Reverend Clinton R. Jones, Becky O., Michelle Hunt, Dr. Michel Seghers, Bill D. my former fiancée, my electrologist Patricia, and lastly, my lover, friend, business partner and legal spouse, Patricia A. Aldridge.

TM: Are you involved in the TS community in Toronto?

VJB: The local organized TS support group, and I use the term very loosely, is Transition Support. The meet on the second Friday of every month at the Five Nineteen, a gay community centre at 519 Church Street. The group suffers from lack of leadership, poor leadership and no leadership, in any order. The first meeting I attended was in December 1990, and after the club president spent twenty minutes of the meeting reading a letter she wrote to the editor of the club newsletter, which had been printed in the newsletter, complaining about some questionable advertising. The remaining forty minutes was spent with people talking amongst themselves while the president mumbled to those who listened to her. There was one particular alleged post-op who told the others, "Well, I got my surgery, and I don't care if any of you ever do..." I took over the meeting for the second hour and within two minutes, got everyone to smile at and hug their neighbor. Well, things have gone down hill since then and I didn't have the stamina, or the interest to get involved. I don't have time for this stuff any more. I've done my duty running a support group.

TM: So, are you happy? Are you really happy?

VJB: I'm as happy as a clam at low tide in Provincetown Harbor.

TM: Well! You've been on the Donahue show a couple of times, and we noticed that you've become quite, well, er ah, to put it bluntly, fat. What do you have to say about that?

VJB: Yes, it's true. My weight has ballooned up a bit after the surgery.

TM: And in fact, you looked terrible on television. How come?

VJB: I suffer from the Dwight D. Eisenhower syndrome. Ike was the first American president to use television for campaigns and stuff. At first, he didn't allow any makeup, and yes, he looked terrible. My goal was to be able to pass without makeup, and I believe I achieved that goal. Unfortunately, going without makeup is a no-no on television.

TM: Are you still taking hormones?

VJB: No, actually, I stopped taking my single daily 2.5 mg Premarin over a year ago.

TM: Why is that? Aren't you afraid you'll turn back into Ronald James Vollmar?

VJB: Of course not. I thought my putting on weight could be curbed by going off the hormones, but stopping them didn't really help. I'll be 46 years old this November and I've started to have physical problems, like swollen, sore knees and aching joints. I'll be seeing a doctor this month. Besides, as far as I'm concerned, my body has been feminized all it's gonna be. So why risk possible health problems by continuing taking estrogens?

TM: Now for the \$64,000 question. How's your sex life?

VJB: Fine.

TM: Okay, let's get down to the big question. How are your orgasms?

VJB: Well, to be honest, my surgery was in 1985, and I quickly learned to masturbate and brought myself to many wonderful female orgasm. However, starting around 1988, I began to lose interest in masturbation, and when I tried it, my orgasms became more difficult to achieve. The last orgasm I had was in the Summer of 1989. The few times I had sex with my partner, I never achieved orgasm. I suspect that was because he was inexperienced. I remember one time almost having an orgasm, but he was done, and that was that.

TM: Ah. Your last statement may have half the pre-ops in a panic. Do you blame Dr. Seghers. Got any ideas about why this happened?

VJB: No, I don't blame Dr. Seghers at all, not one bit. I suspect that as I became fatter, I started to dislike my body. So, my loss of orgasm might be due to low self esteem.

TM: Do you get turned on at all?

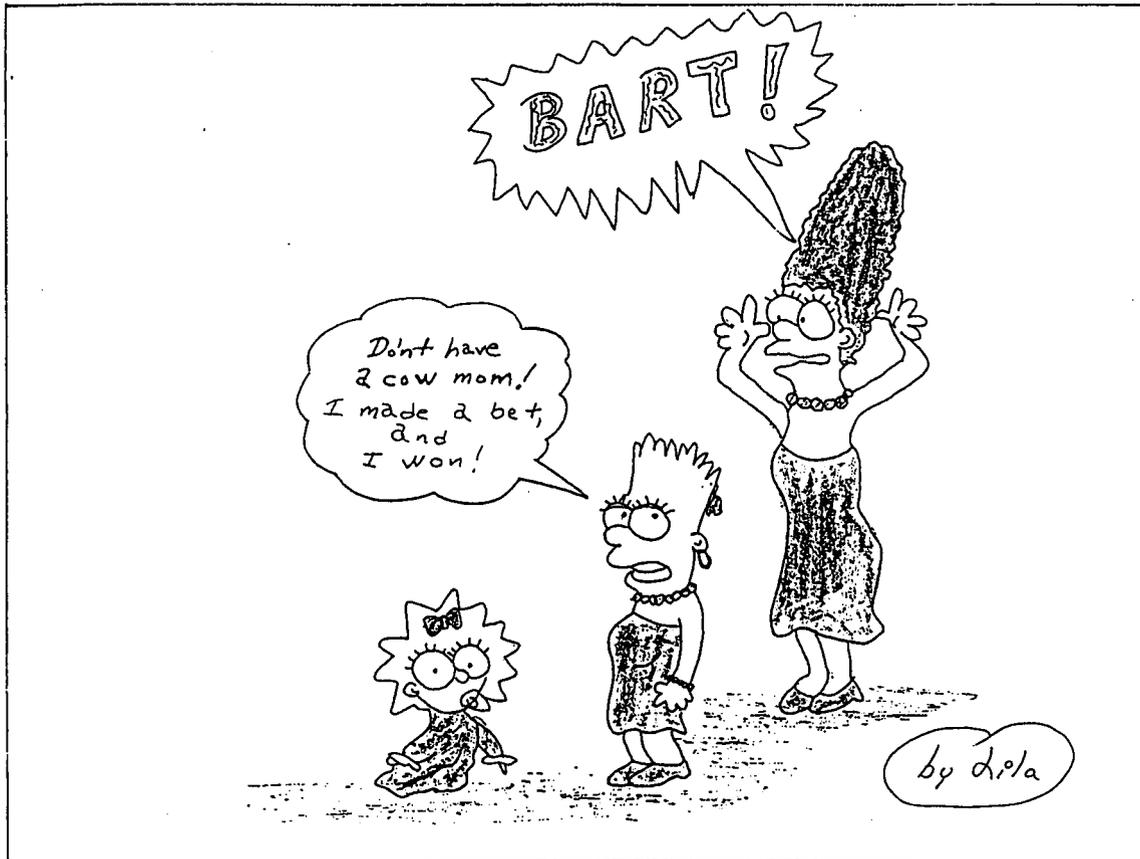
VJB: Oh yes, I still do. Certain types of visual and physical stimuli still make my clitoris hard and erect.

TM: So then, do you have hopes that your orgasms will return?

VJB: Yes I do. All I know is that the plumbing worked before, and I believe that once I get rid of this excess weight, I will be able to achieve orgasms again. I really do.

TM: Well, we are running out of time. So, your not going to try and save this newsletter from extinction, from that final fade out into oblivion?

VJB: Nope. I've done my time, and I have a new life. It's time for someone else to take up the reins. Say good-bye to all this (good-bye all this...). So, just turn out the lights when you leave and lock the door behind you. Good night.



TOP 10 REASONS FOR ENDING TWENTY MINUTES

By Becky Ann & Sonia

- 10 - Veronica doesn't live here anymore.
- 9 - Too many wanabees.
- 8 - Sonia ran out of ideas to write about.
- 7 - Too many wannabees.
- 6 - Lila was cartoon crazy and had to be stopped.
- 5 - There is no reason number 5.
- 4 - Too many wannabees.
- 3 - Four years of newsletters was three too many.
- 2 - Too many wanabees.
- 1 - The entire newsletter staff moved to Florida.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor,

I've heard of a new simplified version of S.R.S. for male-to-female transsexuals. From my understanding it involves making an incision in the back and virtually reaching in and turning the genitals inside out from the inside. Can you tell me more about this revolutionary procedure?

Rhonda
Providence, RI

Dear Rhonda,

To paraphrase the Beach Boys, "You need help".

Becky

VERONICA JEAN BROWN THROWING ROCKS AT CROSS-DRESSERS WHILE WRITING HER SCATHING EDITORIALS.



Hello Becky Ann...

This document was included in a volume of the 2020 Encyclopedia Transsexualia. It was sent back in time by a freak worm-hole in the time-space continuum caused by a secret NASA shuttle mission. We at J2C3PO believe you may be interested in this rather unique opportunity to see into your own futures. (for just \$29.95 plus postage)

TWENTY MINUTES: (transsexual support/TV bashing newsletter published in the latter part of the 20th century.) Becky Ann, co-founder, is somewhere in her sixties and is now nuttier than a fruitcake, living in Florida, and retired with large sums of money from a long and successful entrepreneurial venture: office desktop pillows. An invention which took the business world by storm in the late '90's due to the fact that all offices were completely run by computers and needed only an occasional kick-in-the-parallel processors. Lila has, of course had a long and happy life together with her... After an unsuccessful stint as a collections agent, she took over the Garfield comic strip from Jim Davis in 2003, and became fabulously wealthy in her own right. Sonia, Becky's best friend from years gone by, had been a news photographer back before the holovision was invented. She took over the job of that bleach-blonde bimbo anchor woman and put Springfield holovision on the map... After meeting and marrying David Letterman, she was picked up by the national holovision company network and replaced Phil Donahue after that horrible incident when Twenty Minutes founder V.J. Foyt (alias: Veronica Jean Brown, V, and VJB) struck him down with her '00 Yugo 927 twin turbo just outside his aunt's Toronto apartment while VJ was being chased by an angry mob of crossdressers. (Led by militant TV advocate, and Ms. Brown's former lover, Brenda Lee.) The transvestites, traveling on foot, caught her and bludgeoned her to death with un-accessorized pleather handbags. To this day, Brenda denies any premeditation of this horrible murder, instead claiming, "Me and the girls were just cruising in downtown Toronto, minding our own business and listening to the clickety-click of our high heels as we walked down Dundas St. when this woman started throwing rocks at us and yelling nasty things. I guess we overreacted."

Well, there you have it, we've answered all of your burning questions as to what will happen to the Twenty Minutes staff now that they no longer have their monthly outlet for their stress and paranoia.

Nanoo Nanoo

While we don't all get the opportunity to peer into our futures, we certainly can look back into our past. This concludes four long years of hard work and dedication to making *Twenty Minutes* truly one of the best transsexual oriented newsletters that have ever been published. But like all good things, it must come to an end while we're still on top. So from Veronica Jean Brown, Becky Ann, Sonia and Lila - we bid you good-bye for this is THE END.

Deciding What to do About Your Gender Dysphoria

Some Considerations for Those Who are Thinking About Sex Reassignment

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By Ms. Dallas Denny, M.A.
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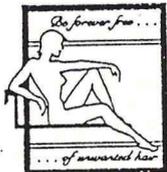
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