

TWENTY MINUTES

JULY 1989

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

Sex change didn't work, so...

PREGNANT MAN SUES DOCS



• PETER MICHEUL

by Fred Sleeves

READY TO get all decked out in his macho clothes and enter into a new life as a man, a sex-change patient was in for quite a rude awakening when it was discovered he was pregnant.

Furious Peter Micheul is suing the doctors who were supposed to have eliminated such child bearing worries. For 26 years, Peter (nee Dorena) was a woman, but there was a man inside aching to get out. So after years of contemplation and psychiatric counseling, she finally made the decision to undergo surgery and become a real man.

Apparently, the operation didn't take. Peter is now having a baby and a fit. "I'm a man. I live and work as a man, and now they are telling me I am really a woman," fumes the former shipyard worker, who has since been fired from his job. "I bought new clothes, a new car and had a girlfriend. Now everyone has left me. My friends and coworkers knew nothing of my past. Now they look at me as a freak. I have become the laughing stock - a pregnant man!"

Peter learned of his condition after suffering stomach problems and visiting his doctor near Goteborg, Sweden. The physician, who was aware of the sex change, had to deliver the bad news. "When I told him he was having a baby, I thought he was going to have it right there," recalls Dr. Ethan Burgeon.

As his condition became more obvious, Peter was fired from the shipping firm, which doesn't allow pregnant workers in the yard. Doctors initially entertained the thought Peter had made himself pregnant through some bizarre set of circumstances, but the surgeons he's suing say Peter must have become pregnant before having the surgery.

Family physician Dr. Burgeon believes that's the case. "They obviously made a mistake when operating on her reproductive organs. And the pregnancy should have been discovered during the sex-change surgery. The birth could take place with a caesarian section, if Peter should decide to have the child.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article reprinted from SUN, vol. 6 - no. 23)

XX CLUB PICNIC - JULY 22

Transsexual Support

IN MEMORY OF CHRISTINE JORGENSEN

1926 - 1989

Christine Jorgensen, after a lengthy battle with cancer, passed away on May 3rd, at San Clemente General Hospital. She created world headlines in 1952, when she became the first American to undergo sex reassignment surgery.

Ralph Waldo Emerson once wrote, "To laugh often and much; to win respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded."

Christine laughed often and much over the years. She won the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children. She earned the appreciation of honest critics and endured the betrayal of false friends. She appreciated beauty, and always sought the best in others. She left the world a much better place for each of us.

Yes, Christine, you succeeded in more ways than most of us shall ever be able to count or appreciate.

Your warm smile and friendship shall be missed by many. You were for many a heroic role model, for others a treasured advisor, but most of all, you were a cherished friend.

God's speed Christine, from all of us!

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This tribute was written by Sr. Mary Elizabeth and has also appeared in the June 1989 issue of THE TRANSEXUAL VOICE.)

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by Micheline Johnson



TWENTY MINUTES

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ZIP IT UP

The February issue of "Cosmopolitan" magazine, on "How To Make an Impact on a Man":

"Catch a man's eye and then very deliberately look down at his crotch. This should be done with a playful look or smile, not as though you're about to put him through a meat grinder. He should feel deliciously flattered."

This newsletter is funded entirely through subscriptions and the sales of educational materials.

We welcome all contributions. The Twenty Club is not responsible for opinions or accuracy of information provided by writers of submitted materials. All such material becomes the property of the Twenty Club. Parts of this newsletter may be reproduced if source credit is given.

calendar

MEETING

Saturday, July 8

PICNIC

Saturday, July 22

Regular meetings of the XX Club are held the second and fourth Saturdays of the month at Christ Church Cathedral, 45 Church Street, Hartford, CT, at 2 PM sharp. (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 or social organization. There is NO SMOKING allowed during the meetings, though we do allow smoking when we socialize after the meetings with munchies. We attempt to provide peer support and practical information about making the gender transition, as well as information for the Gender Identity Clinic of New England. There is no fee (not yet) to attend our meetings, but a yearly subscription to this newsletter will assist in our outreach and educational work. All other monetary donations accepted cheerfully.

F-M SUPPORT GROUP

Meetings are scheduled for the first and third Saturdays at Steve's house. For more information, please call Steve at (413) [REDACTED]

DRABBLE



TREASURER'S REPORT



Balance - from May \$1164.54

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	21.00
Newsletter subscriptions	83.00
Brochure sales	25.00
IFGE sales	45.80
CDS sales	20.00
GF sales	6.00
J2CP sales	30.00
Donations	5.00
Savings interest	5.64
Total Income	\$241.44

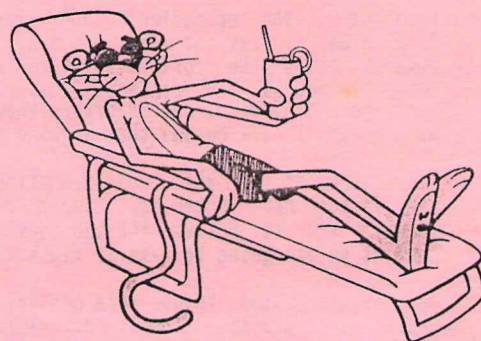
EXPENSES:

PO Box Rental	36.00
Refreshments	23.65
Donation to ETVC	5.00
Newsletter & brochures	.00
Postage	45.00
Supplies	1.00
Bank Fee	1.70
Total Expenses	\$112.35

Net Income for June \$129.09

Balance - end of June \$1293.63

XX CLUB PICNIC



This year's summer picnic will be held on Saturday, July 22 at Straton Brook Park in Simsbury, CT at or near the covered pavilion. All members, families and friends as well as members of other clubs are invited to attend. Plan to arrive anytime after 11 a.m. and stay till dark. For the picnic, bring your own food, and if possible, bring a little extra to share with others. As in the past, the club will provide the ice and the soft drinks. For directions to the park, see the map on page 9 of this issue. See you there!

I recently moved from the home of a friend, where I'd lived for the past four years into the airy condominium of a new friend, a couple of blocks away from beautiful downtown Springfield. Across the street is a lovely triangular shaped park, bordered by streets on both sides. On one side is Shannon's, an Irish "straight" bar. Every night, disco music from Shannon's reverberates in the street five floors below. At closing time, small groups of drunken "straight" men pour onto the sidewalk, swaggering, squeezing the arm or tit of the women with them and sometimes yelling "faggot" or "homo" to the establishment across the street.

There is plenty of action at the Frontier, though passersby never hear a sound from the street. The Frontier has two discos, a bar, a fine restaurant and a large bar in the back with tables, chairs and a stage for live shows. The Village People appeared there some weeks ago, and I saw Jimmy James do his Marilyn Monroe show there last year.

Last Wednesday, the 28th of June, was the 20th anniversary of the famous Stonewall rebellion, on Christopher Street in New York City. Why a rebellion? Twenty years ago, there were no gay bars. It was illegal. (Remember when colored had to sit in the back of the bus, or use separate washrooms?) There were straight places with a back room or two where same sex couples could drink and dance. When the white light flashed, the guys would grab the nearest fag hag, hoping to pass as a hetero when the cops burst in.

A series of "incidents" by the police against the local gay population resulted in the start of gay liberation at the Stonewall bar. History was made and today, there are gay bars and establishments all over the country.

In Hampton, New Hampshire, is a place called KATS. It appears as a deserted house during the week, but on weekends comes alive as women from all over the area gather to see old friends and make some new ones, to listen to music and to dance. No, KATS is not for heterosexuals. Its purpose is to provide a safe place for women, in a New England state known for a repressive attitude towards gays.

The Episcopal Diocese of Newark, New Jersey has established an innovative new ministry called "Oasis", designed to make lesbians and gay men feel more welcome in the church, according to a press release recently received. "Just about every Episcopal church in the country has a sign out front that says, 'The Episcopal Church Welcomes You'," points out the Rev. Robert Williams, director of the Oasis, "but in many places it would be more honest if they'd add a disclaimer: 'lesbians and gays need not apply'".

The Rt. Rev. John S. Spong, bishop of the diocese, and author of the book, *Living in Sin: a Bishop Rethinks Human Sexuality* commented, "I think this diocese as an 'oasis' in many ways. We are committed to inclusiveness as a mark of Christianity. We stand for theological openness and justice, not only for the lesbian and gay community, but for racial, ethnic minorities, women and the economically oppressed. We take seriously the baptism vow of our church 'to respect the dignity of every human being'."

And what of the so-called gender community? We haven't had our stonewall yet, and I hope someday we do. Maybe then, we'll be united as a dynamic and caring group. Look at the "gender" community. There's an alphabet soup of IFGE, ETVC, EON, TRI-ESS, CGS, NGDO, GIC, TGIC, and a hundred more. The majority of all these groups, organizations, social groups, are run by male crossdressers.

Some are closed groups, some are open, and some don't even answer their mail. Some of these open groups attempt to serve all aspects of the gender community. Apart from the colorful articles extolling the clickety-click of high heels on Commercial Street in Provincetown, or being 'treated as a lady' while dressed to the nines at a posh restaurant in Cleveland, what is there offered to the transsexual? Well, there have been a few CD individuals who have attempted to at least understand the needs of the TS.

It's the nature of the beast that discourages many TSs from socializing with each other in public. They don't want anyone else who doesn't pass to drag them down. Members of the Twenty Club used to gather at a public place after meetings years ago. Why don't we do that now, people? And then, you can't really trust some transsexuals, or at least some pre-ops. In the eyes of some, they're ugly, unstable, flaky, have other deep rooted problems besides their gender dysphoria. About half of those who go through the clinic never attend a Twenty Club meeting. How do we reach them?

I asked myself after hearing Christine Jorgensen speak in Chicago in '88, "What was CJ doing at a convention of crossdressers?" What does TS-ism have to do with CD-ism?

A number of people in the past called upon IFGE to honor Christine Jorgensen with an award given to an outstanding person in the TS community, as they did with the Virginia Prince Award for CD-ers. Well, the folks at IFGE presented CJ with a silver bowl in Chicago. And now they've instituted a worthy memorial fund to further facilitate IFGE outreach and education in the area of transsexualism. A recent phone call from an IFGE staff person explained in great detail the operation of the CJ fund. And yes, I do wholeheartedly support it and urge you to contribute. But the CJ Memorial Fund is not in the hands of transsexual people. It is not ours to administer. Once again we take a back seat to those in power.

Well anyhow, a bunch of TS leaders got together some weeks ago and discussed many things, among them, the establishment of a Christine Jorgensen Award, with the permission of the Jorgensen family, to be awarded to an individual, who has given something a little more than the ordinary in our community, the TS community. Christine never liked the word transsexual, so it doesn't appear anywhere on the award.

The CJ award is administered by and belongs to the transsexual community. The Twenty Club has the current honor of carrying this banner, including the cost (Hint, hint). It's yours, it's mine, and it's ours. It's our way of saying thanks to a lovely human being. We could no longer wait for someone else to do something for us.

At that same meeting of the afore-not-mentioned TS leaders, was discussed the following: Is there a need for an international organization to deal solely with lobbying for TS issues? Read the previous line again. We are not talking crossdressing seminars, evening galas in crinolines, yearly conventions that cost a grand, or any other kind of social window dressing. We're talking about some serious, grass roots outreach, education and perhaps a little bit of clout with our legislators.

To the best of my knowledge, there is not one bit of legislation on any lawbook anywhere, that specifically provides protection for transsexual or gender dysphoric persons under the law. Prove me wrong, I dare you.

Think about it. Drop a line to *Twenty Minutes*. Want to support it? There are several TS leaders who are willing to formulate, design, and implement such an endeavor. It'll cost us and it will cost you. Say yes, and maybe we'll all win a little, or at least make it easier for the next generation. Say no, and we can fold our tents and go home, and let the CD organizations and the dwindling number of gender clinics handle the outreach and education for us.

My friend and I recently saw the film *Beaches* at a second run theater. We cried. You would too, I know you would. Bette Midler, who shared the title role performs the song that says, "...you are the wind beneath my wings. Fly away, fly away."

Christine Jorgensen was the wind under our wings, and now she has flown away from us. Who will be the wind under the wings of the next generation of gender conflicted people? The gay community rebelled twenty years ago. We're still riding in the back of the bus. Do you like the view?

BODYSHOCK: THE TRUTH ABOUT CHANGING SEX

Liz Hodgkinson, Columbus Books, 1987 (184 pps.)

Reviewed by Rupert Raj

A tall order to fill, within the pages of such an introductory-though compact - little book, the author does succeed, to a limited extent, to live up to the subtitle of her report on people who have "changed sex". A British freelance journalist by profession, Liz Hodgkinson tells the everyday man and woman about some of the "real" reasons why certain individuals have crossed the gender line (or are contemplating doing so). In spite of several inaccuracies and a couple of blatant omissions, the general facts, as they relate to transsexualism and gender reassignment, are presented to the reader in a clear, straightforward manner by means of an easygoing storytelling style. In fact, Hodgkinson weaves a good tale, catching the reader's attention - and hopefully empathy - with her lively narration of some of the more colorful examples of "sex-switched" celebrities in Britain and the United States.

She recounts a number of case histories gleaned from the Self Help Association for Transsexuals (SHAFT) in England, letting these members, for the most part, speak for themselves. (As a point of interest, the author dedicated her book to the Founder of SHAFT, Judy Cousins - a "new woman" who used to be a male officer in the Indian Army and who is now, in her 70s, a grandmother and talented sculptor)

To her credit, Hodgkinson includes accounts of no less than seven English female-to-male transsexuals two of whom have since passed away Radclyffe Hall - a well-to-do novelist who was tried by the Crown for her 1928 semi-autobiography of a female sexual "invert" - in this case, a masculine woman who felt more like a man - the book being banned in England shortly after its release, with Hall dying 15 years later from cancer, despite the dedicated nursing of her long-time lover, Lady Troubridge, and, Dr. Laurence Michael Dillon - a "blue-blooded" ship doctor who was the first female known to have had a penis surgically created in 1948 and who later went on to become a Buddhist monk, and eventually died of malnutrition in a Tibetan monastery in 1962. (Hodgkinson has penned a biography of Dillon entitled *Michael, nee Laura*, also published by Columbus Books, in April 1989). Probably the most interesting modern-day F-M TS the writer tells us

about is Mark Rees - a middle-aged university graduate who sued the U.K. government (and lost) in a widely-publicized, human rights case in 1986, on the grounds that the British Crown was denying his rights to privacy and equality by not legally changing his sex designation on his birth records.

And, of course, there are accounts of eight modern-day male-to-female transsexuals living in Britain who have had the surgery, including a Canadian named Dora - a computer consultant who considers herself a feminist. Two of the English "new ladies" are Rachael Webb - a radical feminist community worker and left-wing Labour Councillor who was chastized by the press for getting her operation "on the rates", and who now works with lesbian and gay groups and campaigns for transsexual rights, and, Stephanie Anne Lloyd - a former successful businessman who recently founded a private gender clinic, an inn several clothing shops and a line of magazines and other products - all for the transvestite and transsexual.

The book also includes sections dealing with the etiology, psychology, medical management (hormones and surgery) and legal aspects of transsexualism, as well as how the condition differs from both homosexuality and transvestism, and also, how it affects others.

The reader can almost put up with the fact that this is not a well-researched report (which is patently obvious by glancing at the sparse bibliography at the back of the book or by noting the existence of a minimum of statistical data) when its other merits are weighed in the balance. These include such considerations as sexual equality, social gender roles, androgyny, and relations between women and men in society.

In her chapter, "Transsexualism and the Battle of the Sexes", the author discusses the controversial issues and concerns surrounding Janice Raymond's forceful argument that transsexuals are "constructed" males and females who "contribute to the continuing gap between the sexes by reinforcing sex stereotypes in the gender-identity clinics and then living them out after they have changed over." (p. 170). Raymond, a feminist anthropologist who wrote *The Transsexual Empire*, (1979) goes on to say the transsexual experience makes us aware how

far apart the sexes are, how much we judge people on their physical appearance, and that we judge people as men or women first, and as human beings second. It is clear that Raymond is not sympathetic to the transsexual condition. She hopes that "soon transsexuals may be able to accept themselves in their original bodyshape and consciously learn to become whole people while remaining in their original biological gender." (p.181).

Hodgkinson, in spite of her partial support of Raymond's thesis, concedes that the whole subject is very complicated. She disagrees with Raymond that all transsexuals are stereotypical, saying she has "never met one who...conforms to the 'standard' picture of a man or a woman...", and that "once transsexuals become postoperative, they always have to redefine and modify their relationships with others." (p.176). Yet, she does concur with Raymond that it would be good if maleness and femaleness could meet in the same person without that person being "gay or butch, transvestite or dykey". Rachael Webb's influence is also apparent as the author's summary statement shows:

"Transsexuals can teach us much about the way in which men and women regard each other - the true, innate differences between the sexes, and to what degree biology and hormones play a part - but only by being prepared to come out and state that they are transsexuals...[They] are the only people who are in a position to promote harmony between the sexes, from their direct experience. They don't particularly have to make any political statements, just set an example of how it is possible to live successfully as both a man and a woman in the same basic body...[T]hey can demonstrate that what sex you are doesn't matter all that much - it is the person inside the body that really counts" (pps 182-3)

This reviewer feels that *BODYSHOCK* deserves a well-earned place on the bookshelf, along side such other non-medical works as Feinbloom's, Stuart's, Bolin's *Devor's* (in progress), and yes, even Raymond's - all feminist researchers who presented their findings from a social science perspective, with a special focus on the definitions of gender roles within our society

The Pain of Inappropriate Physique. Some Hard Decisions.

by Micheline Johnson

Not all TS's are the "Barbie Doll" type, ideal cases to be transformed into beautiful women [we are talking about m-f TS's here]. Most of us are physically imperfect candidates for cross-living and sex reassignment surgery [SRS], some more so than others. Living as a woman and having surgery are not always the best solutions to the unhappiness of gender dysphoria. Though we want very much to be women, if we are realistic about our prospects for happiness in the female role, some of us may agonize for years about its practicability.

Nearly all TS's suffer, to varying degrees and for varying periods of time, with the pain of inappropriate physique. Some of these problems can be fixed. Some we have to live with and adjust to for the rest of our lives.

Many, if not all, TS's focus on the need for sex reassignment (genital) surgery. Many of us have many other physical characteristics outside the normally accepted range for genetic females, which cause us to feel extreme discomfort because they remind us of the masculinizing effect of the androgens in our body early in life, and because they draw attention to others that we may not have been women from birth.

SRS is very important to TS's, but not for the reasons being discussed here. SRS affects how we feel about ourselves, not how others see us, though it can affect how others think about us. SRS removes one of the most severely inappropriate features of our physique and source of discomfort. It gives us a feeling of completeness, of comfort and security. In certain critical situations, no-one can accuse us of not being female. It enables us to have normal and complete relationships with men, without fear of breakup or violence as during the period of transition.

Perhaps equally or more important, is cosmetic surgery, where this is possible, that affects our outward appearance as seen by others on a day to day basis. But most of our inappropriate physical features cannot be altered by surgery. We have to live with them whether we like it or not. We may not look that great, but what is important is how other people react to us, whether other people are bothered by these imperfections and reminders of our origin, and whether they are making us aware that they are. If we are not aware of this non-acceptance, then we can put these things in the background, forget about them, and feel comfortable.

How well we adjust to our unalterable inappropriate external physique and the reaction of others, socially and in the workplace, will determine our future happiness. For many, if not most, the route we take will be a compromise.

For the lucky few who have small slender figures, pretty young faces, and who have suppressed their testosterone at a young age, having recognised their condition and the possibilities early, there are few problems. They can go ahead and resolve their gender dysphoria.

For the unlucky few who are at the opposite end of the spectrum, perhaps with extremely masculine build, excessively tall or heavy, perhaps with very masculine faces or features, no hair on their heads but plenty on their faces, arms, legs and body, perhaps with very deep masculine voices, etc, it is questionable whether a change in gender role will resolve their own gender dysphoria and sense of self gender identity, let alone convince the rest of the world of their femininity.

If these people were to pursue their goal of living as women, they risk having to live a life of isolation from society or ridicule from it. It is not so much a choice of which option will bring the most happiness, but which role will bring the least unhappiness and pain. For those able to make decisions based on logic rather than emotion, their choice should be clear (but it isn't). What is the point of having vaginoplasty if the rest of your naked body looks like that of a man? What is the point of being a woman underneath if the rest of the world sees you as a male? You become a secret woman or a freak. Perhaps being a woman to yourself is of over-riding importance, but it can in these circumstances be a very lonely and painful existence. In some ways, their decision is relatively easy.

The hardest decisions should be for the majority of us who are somewhere in between these extremes. I suspect many of us go ahead asking for SRS without looking seriously at these questions. We have good features and bad. We are lucky in some ways, unlucky in others. Which ever route we take, we will be making a series of compromises.

Life as a male is a compromise. We may be able to pass as a male, we would have all the advantages of a male in a male world, we have a history and a job as a male, but we would have this deep discomfort in that role. Relationships would present difficulties. Whether we related to gay men or to women,

either in an intimate setting would focus on those masculine aspects of your personality or body that cause the most discomfort. Straight men would not be interested in us, and probably neither would lesbians.

Life as a female also has its aspects of compromise. On the one hand, we feel comfortable in the gender role we have adopted, in the way we feel, in the way we look, and the way we are treated by others; but if we have bodies or faces that do not look like they could belong to a genetic woman, then on the other hand we will be continually reminded of our former masculinity by others and by self observation. If we want to be accepted as women and not as TS's, then we have to be thought of as women by others. It is hard for others to think of us as women if there are clues which hint at or remind them of our genetic origin.

It is one thing to pass on the street, or while being introduced at a party etc., but in real life one has to associate friends or work with colleagues, where one has to be accepted whilst being observed over an extended time period. With any given group of people you may be with, you may be accepted by 95% of them, but often there is one amongst them who is more observant, has the experienced eye of an artist perhaps, or who has been exposed to the crossgender world and is more adept at spotting us; and soon the whole group gets to hear about it.

Then there are those who knew us before, those at work, old friends, people in social groups we may have belonged to from way back. It is hard for any of these to accept you fully in your new role.

As you catch sight of yourself as you are about to step into the shower, you wonder -- "What future lover is going to accept that body as being that of a woman?" At one point, I had so little confidence in myself reference my inappropriate physique that I was prepared to live the life of a woman without love. Many older women have to accept that situation. However confidence increased when I started dating and going to singles dances. I discovered that some of the men of my age (greater than fifty), and even some younger, were attracted to me in spite of my obvious physical limitations, perhaps to some non-physical aspect of my womanhood, and often we did both finish up wanting to become physically affectionate towards one another. [Then came the emotional let down and depression.]

If all you are hoping for is life as a woman without anyone else in your life, without lovers, without relationships, is SRS necessary? At one time I thought not. But the more you leave malehood behind, the more

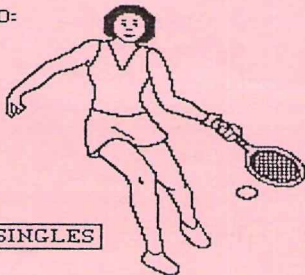
you long for completeness, for ridding yourself (where possible) of all reminders of your former masculinity, and for the security and confidence that comes with being a "complete woman".

No woman is a "perfect" specimen of the "ideal" woman. We all have to act and dress to emphasize our better features and de-emphasize those less so. These are not the problems under discussion here. We can live with and adjust to being a less than perfect woman, provided we come across as a woman. But can we adjust to the pain of being taken for or known as a TS for the rest of our lives?

Being thought of as a TS, whether pre-op or post-op, causes a number of problems. Apart from the personal pain of others not thinking of you as a complete woman, many women treat you with reserve, and most men feel downright uptight about you. It is amazing how men change their attitude and the way they treat you if and when they discover that their peers know you to be TS. Under these conditions, it can be a very lonely existence. Does the compromise of this situation make for greater overall happiness than before the change?

But what if we have been living as a woman for an extended period of time, and all your friends and associates have become accustomed to knowing you in this role, even if they think of you as a former male - this adds an extra complication to the "which compromise" decision making process. The feeling of loss of face amongst friends and acquaintances makes it extremely hard to revert to the male role, even if logic suggests that it is desirable to do so. Even so, this transitional experimental test period is very necessary, in order to answer the many questions such as can we succeed in life as a female, how serious are these problems outlined above? Are we able to put the fact and pain of a degree of inappropriate physique permanently in the background in all situations?

WHEN TWO TSs PLAY TENNIS IT'S CALLED:



MIXED SINGLES

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Cops make groom prove he's a guy

by Dick Donovan

A West German groom had to prove more than his love before he could marry the girl of his dreams - he had to prove he was a man!

Maybe it was just his heavy makeup, but officials in Aabenraa, Denmark, thought he looked more than just a tad feminine. A cop led the poor guy into a private room and put him to the proof-of-the-pudding test.

"He was a man and we married the couple," city spokesman Ehlert Neisen said. "He took it quite well. Considering. We just had to make sure."

Strip-search surprise: Con man is a woman

A fraud suspect described by police as "a real gentleman" turned out to be a woman impersonating a man when the bare facts were revealed during a strip search.

The suspect, accused of bilking three West Hartford, CT banks of more than \$80,000 in loans and skipping town, was known to business associates and law enforcement officials as Richard Wong.

The suspect was arrested in Coral Springs, FL where she was operating a wholesale jewelry business with another woman identified as Wong's wife.

"He was always dressed in a suit, wore glasses, was polite, a real gentleman," says West Hartford police Lt. Anthony Duffy, who prepared Wong's arrest-warrant affidavit.

But Coral Springs police Detective Robert Vernon told Duffy: "The person you know as Richard Wong...is a woman playing a man."

Authorities say there is no doubt the person now lodged in a Florida jail is the same individual wanted in Connecticut on 14 counts of second-degree forgery, one count of first-degree larceny and one count of failure to appear in court.

Of course I talk
to myself! Who
else can I trust?

KAREN ULANE

1941 - 1989



Karen Ulane, who won and then lost a landmark decision after being fired from her job as a pilot for Eastern Airlines, was killed along with two other passengers in the crash of a vintage DC-3 while on a check-out flight near the Aurora Municipal Airport. The cause of the crash was unknown.

Miss Ulane, then Kenneth, was a decorated military pilot who flew 25 missions in Vietnam. She flew for Eastern for twelve years before being fired in 1979 for "safety reasons". In 1981 she made headlines when she sued for sex-discrimination and won reinstatement. Eastern then won an appeal based on civil-rights laws, which was subsequently upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court.

Since being dumped by Eastern, she had operated several businesses, and was currently working as a charter pilot.

SEX TIPS

PICK & PLAY!

1. Safe: Buy sex toys.
Invite your lover.
Use them together.
Talk about the experience.
2. Safer: Buy sex toys.
Invite your lover.
Use them individually.
Talk about the experience.
3. Safest: Buy sex toys.
Don't invite your lover.
Use them on yourself.
Talk about it on the phone to your therapist.
—Comedian Janice Perry,
a.k.a. Gal

LETTERS

TO THE EDITOR



*** PRESS RELEASE ***

Wayland, MA: The International Foundation for Gender Education announces the establishment of the Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund. This fund has been established with the consent of Christine Jorgensen's family and the IFGE Board of Directors.

The purpose of this fund is to create a method by which individuals may provide (through financial contributions to IFGE) a living memorial which will contribute to the ongoing objectives of outreach, education, community identity, and services of the Foundation.

It is the wishes of Christine Jorgensen's family that this fund assist in the implementation of transsexual education and address other transsexual issues.

Contributions to the Christine Jorgensen Memorial Fund may be sent to:

c/o IFGE
P.O. Box 367
Wayland, MA 01778

Recognition of contributions will be made to the Christine Jorgensen family, and, unless otherwise specified, published in the TV-TS Tapestry Journal.

Ref. Merrissa Sherrill Lynn, Exec. Dir. IFGE

Dear Veronica,

I was curious that you endorsed the Transsexual Issues portion of the Be All program to be held in Chicago so strongly in *Twenty Minutes* as indicated by the headline, "What's wrong with this picture?".

Well, there is nothing wrong with the picture (as shown), but there sure are a lot of things wrong inside the pamphlet. I'm referring to all those insane expenses just to attend a TV oriented event that is simply too cost-prohibitive for most TSs.

None the less, we (myself and Shelia) plan on going if we can know in advance if there will be any officers of other TS organizations present. It would be sufficient if even a small group would be present as our community is resting on the shoulders of a dedicated few, a condition that would be nice to change in the future.

We are also trying to get a computer network of TS organizations "off the ground" and we would be very interested to discuss it with our sisters in person for a change. It would also be very interesting to meet the "movers and shakers" of our community face to face, that alone, would make it all worth it.

Sincerely yours,
Louise L. Raeder
The Sunday Society

Dear Louise,

Well, to begin with, Sr. Mary Elizabeth attended last year's BE ALL and spoke highly of her experience. I was impressed by the format of the TS brochure, and that it was separate from the TV brochure. All of the topics listed inside represent important issues to the pre-op person. This was not the case with the TS panels at the '88 IFGE. There is even a price break for the TSs. All in all, the TS program seemed better organized than this year's IFGE thing. I hope IFGE will sit up and take notice. Also, the five groups running the BE ALL seem to reflect a different attitude than some of the folks at IFGE. I won't be attending the BE ALL. Money, or rather, lack of it, dearie.

Your computer network idea for TS organizations has great merit. The times I've been on the Jersey Shore System gender forum subsection, I've raised a few hackles by my pro-TS attitudes. You wouldn't believe the topics discussed there by the TVs. It's reflective of the attitudes and interests of the TVs in most TV or TV/TS groups. They run the show and the TSs remain on the sidelines.

Ciao for now...Veronica

A new way to unify our community

Imagine being able to communicate with other TS organizations across the country in a way never possible before! Think of the limitless possibilities of enhancing your newsletters and other publications by tapping a vast nation wide resource of knowledge from our community! Realize the potential for reporting up to the minute news, articles, or anything of interest to our community! But most of all, enjoy the benefit of the strength that comes from uniting ourselves in one of the most important causes in our lives!

The United Sisterhood of Transsexual Outreach Organizations (US TOO) is a project being introduced by THE SUNDAY SOCIETY in an effort to end the communication gap in our community once and for all. It will be a network using personal computers linked by modems to transmit and receive data anywhere telephone service is available.

The requirements for participation in this project are:

1. any personal computer
 2. a modem with a rate of 300, 1200, or 2400 baud (with the appropriate communication software)
 3. a single telephone line (not a party line)
 4. a serious desire to help our community
- That's all there is to it, about as easy as calling someone on the phone except that now, the possibilities for growth of our community will become virtually unlimited.

We would like to see as many groups participating in this project as possible.

For further information, call or write:

THE SUNDAY SOCIETY

Chicago, IL 60647
(312) [REDACTED]



To the Editor:

Two things are self-evident: 1) cross-gendered/attired people have the right to relieve themselves in the appropriate rest room, and 2) women have the right to relieve themselves without being discomforted by the presence of disturbing beings. Each choice is an individual choice. Each of us decides whether to make it likely that we will have to go. Each of us decides where and when to go. No law can dictate our obligation to make these choices with tact and grace.

Yours truly, Vivian -- MA

Dear Lynda:

Re: Twenty Minutes

It was a pleasure reading the April issue of *Twenty Minutes*.

We tend to forget, as recent issues of *Twenty Minutes* have shown, that the key to community, whether it be the cross-dresser, gender-conflicted, church or world community, is the acceptance--in fact, the celebration--of our individual and cultural differences. We may not like people because of their flaws, their immaturities, or their differences, but the more we ourselves grow, the more we become able to accept--to love--them, perceived flaws and all. Our Lord's commandment was not to *like* one another; it was, and continues to be, to *love* one another. Consequently, I was pleased to see the crossdresser/women's restroom issue put to rest.

In regards to the editorial about TV/TS appearances on TV talk shows. Eleven years ago I found myself in the uncomfortable position of having to defend myself in court against the U.S. Army and the Department of Defense. The story--the first person in history to serve as both a male and female in the military--was one of those *gee whiz* stories which propelled me into the limelight. Likewise, it was one of those stories which the press doesn't easily forget; consequently, I have had to adjust to the press keeping tabs on my activities.

I could have disappeared, but it would not have been easy. My face was too well known by the time a settlement was reached, and "*friends*" have compromised me on more than one occasion. Such was the case with my making vows, when a *friend* told the press what I was about to do. And, so, the press had yet another *gee whiz* story. The media, however, is seldom interested in the facts, only in creating them. If I refused to grant an interview, the press quickly creates its own. Consequently, I decided to try and make the best of an uncomfortable and undesired situation.

During the past 11 years I have appeared on over 100 TV talk shows. It is a game! They try to exploit me, and I try to exploit them in return! Like any game, you win a few, and you lose a few!

Were the shows worth the risk? I am reminded of the words of Ralph Waldo Emerson when I attempt to answer that question. "*To laugh often and much; to win the respect of intelligent people and the affection of children; to earn the appreciation of honest critics and endure the betrayal of false friends; to appreciate beauty, to find the best in others; to leave the world a bit better, whether by a healthy child, a garden patch or a redeemed social condition; to know even one life has breathed easier because you lived. This is to have succeeded.*"

There are shows I, of course, wish I had never appeared on; Geraldo is one example. But, from the mail I have received from both *non-gender* conflicted, as well as gender conflicted, people, growth occurs, even with shows like Geraldo, and peoples lives are positively changed. So, yes, it has been worth the risk.

Ignorance has always, even as it did in earlier centuries, held back truth and understanding. Sadly, the natural by-product of ignorance is prejudice, and the only antidote for the disease of prejudice is knowledge.

I cannot help but wonder what our world would be like if it weren't for people like Kepler, Copernicus, Galileo, Christine Jorgensen, Rupert Raj, Jude Patton, Marsha Botzer, Virginia Prince, Merissa Lynn, Janice Van Cleve, Gandhi and Martin Luther King. People who were willing to risk and, in so doing, changed the course of social history and, in the end, made it easier for all of us.

May God blessed victory be yours and may you see with the eyes of His love and truth, for He is our strength and shield.

In His lovingkindness,

Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE
Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE

Dear XX (Twenty) Club:

I saw your organization advertised in a recent newsletter for female to male transsexuals. Presently I am putting together a Products & Resource Guide for female to males, and I feel that your organization would be a valuable asset to the list.

My booklet is free of charge to individuals who write to me and request a copy. It lists products of interest to the female to male, such as breast binders and smaller sized men's clothing, as well as newsletters, peer groups, and helping organizations. The booklet is approximately 13 pages at present, and is updated every 3 to 4 months.

It would my pleasure to include your organization in the resource section of the booklet. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,
Kris R. [REDACTED]
P.O. Box 215354
Sacramento, CA 95821-1354
916/[REDACTED]

Dear Veronica,

I was surprised but pleased to see some of my laudatory comments leading off the May 1989 "Letters to the Editor" in *Twenty Minutes*. I followed your advice and rented the Sulka tape to get a better perspective on the post-operative anatomy. The vulva turned out lovely but her massive breasts (silicone or "silly putty") are grotesque and to me suggest a male fantasy from somebody who exposes themselves at La Leche League meetings. As you may be able to tell, I immensely enjoyed your satire issue and consider a sense of humor vital for survival in a world where tragedy, loss and depression are inevitable. If the transgendered don't have a sense of the irony of human existence and can't giggle at the absurdity now and then, we will become a maudlin and boring species of women.

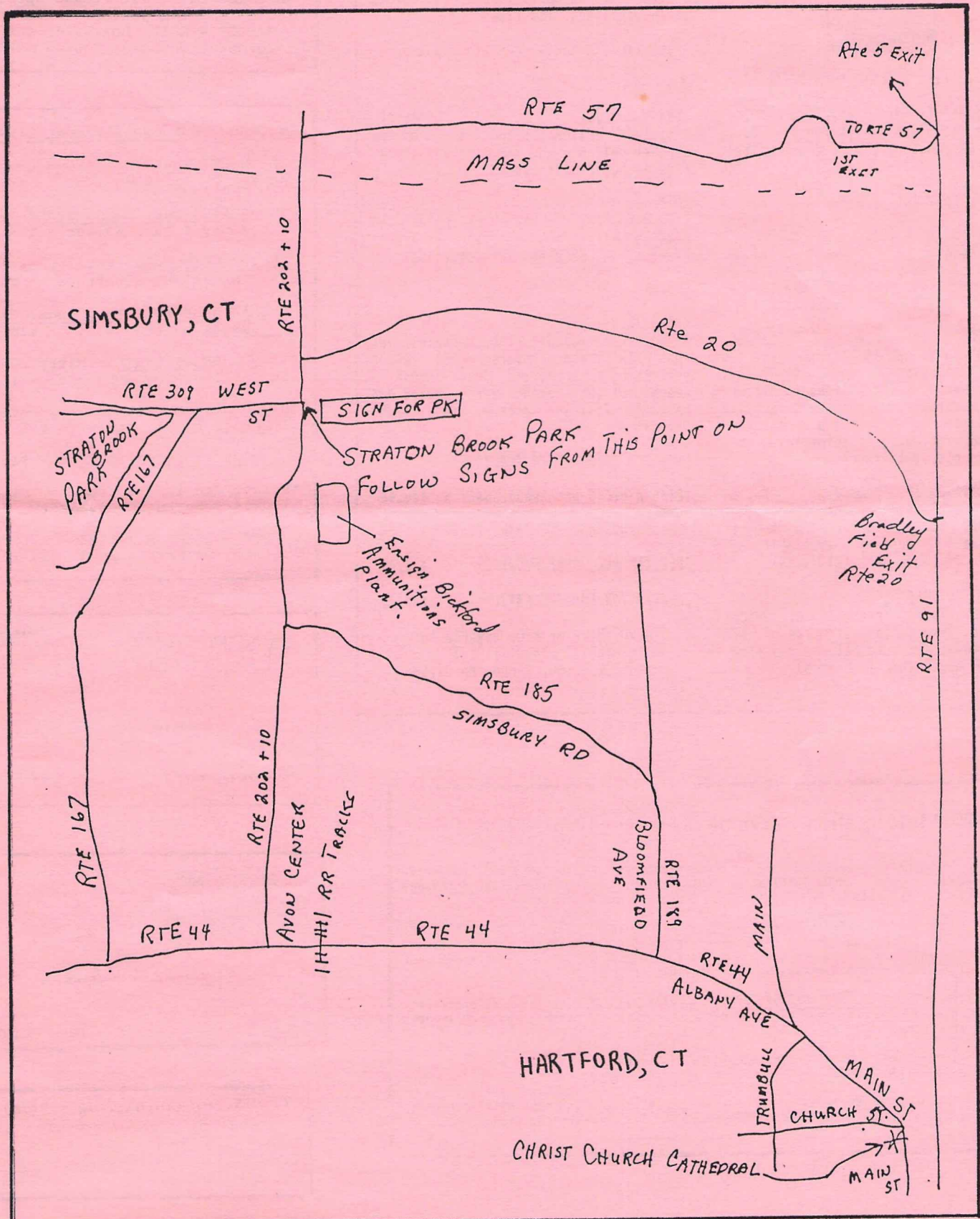
How about a special section or full issue in tribute to Christine Jorgensen with her 30 plus years as a woman as a backdrop for the historical vagaries of transsexualism (ie, the glorious University Medical Center years, the Hopkins fiasco, efforts to obtain protection under the law). Maybe Sr. Mary Elizabeth, somebody from the Benjamin Foundation, Dr. Biber, Dr. Rene Richards and some well known people in the gender community could be asked for a couple of paragraphs placing Christine's magnificent contributions in perspective. I wrote to the dear lady about 12 years ago and she was gracious, supportive and quite humorous in her reply. Thanks again for fighting for us.

Love, Jocelyn -- CA

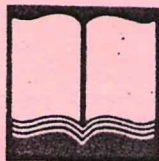


MAP TO STRATON BROOK PARK

Enter Straton Brook and park in the second lot. Walk down the gravel path, cross the wooden footbridge and proceed along the dirt path by the lake to the covered pavilion. See you there !



FOR SALE



XX CLUB BROCHURES

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Brochure contains everything you always wanted to know about transsexualism, but were afraid to ask...and a few things you don't want to know about. (12 pages ppd. 1st class)

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Back issues of Twenty Minutes are available upon request, beginning with October 1987, at \$2.00 each. Special issues such as April 1989 are \$3.00. (8 to 16 pages ppd. 1st class)

Publications below sent 3rd class ppd.

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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.

Certified checks or Money Orders should be made payable to:
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