

# TWENTY MINUTES

AUGUST 1989

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

## Macho Motorcyclist Wore Gal's Undies While Racing

### Now After Sex Change to a Woman, She's Finally Happy

Macho Mike Duff was a top name in international motorcycle racing for years, but he hid a shocking secret: He wore ladies' underwear under his racing leathers and yearned to be a woman.

Now he's had a sex-change operation to become Michelle Duff!

"For the first time in my life I'm at peace with myself," said Duff, 49, who'd been wed twice and fathered three children before the sex-change operation 19 months ago.

"It's cost me a wife, family and friends, but living a lie all those years was an intolerable strain.

"No one on the racing circuit ever had the slightest clue about my secret desire to be a woman.

"I was regarded very much as a man's man. I played around a lot with women in those days.

"The other riders would have died if they'd known I always carried a set of women's clothing with me and wore women's underwear on the bike.

"I used to dress up in my room after a hard race and feel the tension drain out of me as I slipped into something silky and soft.

"The only surprising thing is that I went for so long without being found out."

Duff — who as a star motorcycle racer finished second in the 1965 World Championships — said he'd enjoyed dressing up in women's clothes ever since he was an 8-year-old boy growing up in Canada.

"By age 16 I was a real expert at motorcycle riding, but all the time part of me wanted to be a woman.

"I tried to subdue my yearnings by getting married. We had a couple of lovely children, but we parted after four years.

"I even grew a full beard in an attempt to stress my masculinity and I remarried. But soon after we had a son in 1973 my wife caught me wearing her clothes and freaked out."

Finally Duff — who'd retired from motorcycle racing — decided to become a real woman.

He had treatments to enlarge his breasts, remove facial hair and soften his voice — and in November 1987, he underwent sex-change surgery in Belgium.

"I was deliriously happy. But I've paid a



heavy price for my peace of mind. My wife turned her back on me, and we're now divorced. Virtually all my old friends dropped me.

"But I'm as tough as a woman as I was as a



FROM ALL MAN TO ALL WOMAN: Mike Duff (photos left and top left) was one of the top motorcycle racers in the world in the mid-60s. Today Michelle Duff (above) covers the races as a journalist.

**'I used to dress up in my room after a hard race and feel the tension drain out of me as I slipped into something silky and soft.'**

man — and I've drawn on that strength to survive."

Mike-turned-Michelle now works at a government office in Toronto and also covers motorcycle races as a journalist.

And while attending a recent race in England, she added:

"I've had a lot of fun saying hello to old friends who don't recognize me at first. And their faces are a picture when they finally realize who I am!"

— NOEL BOTHAM



## TWENTY MINUTES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB INC.

THE TRANSSSEXUAL SUPPORT  
GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND  
AND NEW YORK

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

\$20 per year (12 issues)  
\$2 per single copy

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### SEX TIPS

#### DON'T FORGET!

Sex is a really precious form of communication that is magical, and that we don't get in other kinds of connections with people. Perhaps this is why, even in the Age of AIDS, we are driven to communicate sexually. A particular spiritual place in ourselves is touched, a self that we don't wear out on the street, that we don't necessarily talk about, that in fact doesn't have words.

—JoAnn Loulan, author and  
marriage and family counselor

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# calendar

### MEETINGS

Saturday, Aug 12

Saturday, Aug 26

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.

### AUGUST VIDEO

At the meeting of August 12, we will show a video of a Canadian talk show which features Michelle Duff, our cover girl of this issue.

### NANCY



# TREASURER'S \$ REPORT

Balance - from June \$1293.63

#### INCOME:

Collections - meetings	8.00
Newsletter subscriptions	182.00
Brochure sales	18.50
IFGE sales	10.00
CDS sales	10.00
GF sales	.00
J2CP sales	60.00
Donations	58.00
Savings interest	5.59
Total Income	\$352.09

#### EXPENSES:

Refreshments	110.19
C. J. Award	59.85
Newsletter & brochures	125.07
Postage	49.13
Supplies	19.88
Bank Fee	2.55
Total Expenses	\$366.67
Net Loss for July	\$-14.58
Balance - end of July	\$1279.05

### 1988- 1989 INCOME STATEMENT

Balance - from F.Y. 1988 \$ 560.37

#### INCOME:

Collections - meetings	306.16
Newsletter subscriptions	1608.00
Brochure sales	380.75
IFGE sales	549.55
CDS sales	226.50
GF sales	21.00
J2CP sales	130.00
Anniversary dinner	341.00
Donations	661.30
Savings interest	54.46
Total Income	\$4278.72

#### EXPENSES:

PO Box Rental	72.00
Rent	110.00
Refreshments	484.72
Anniversary dinner	164.70
Gifts	472.70
Advertisements	10.00
Newsletter publication	582.73
Brochure printing	19.25
Postage	637.71
Supplies	520.98
IFGE purchase	160.00
CDS purchase	150.00
J2CP purchase	125.00
Bad checks	40.00
Bank Fee	10.25
Total Expenses	\$3560.04

Net Income for year \$718.68

Balance - end of F.Y. 1989 \$1279.05

**Tribute To: PHOEBE SMITH**

by Ruper Raj



PHOEBE SMITH is a household word to countless members of the transgender community - and so is her newsletter, "THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE" - an Oasis of information and peer-support in the arid desert of gender conflict and sex reassignment. Exactly a decade has passed since Phoebe told the world her lifestory (PHOEBE, June 1967), and two (decades) have passed since she became a "new woman". And so, it is timely that we pay tribute - long overdue - to a faithful standby who has been "a beacon of light and a voice in the dark" to so many gender-dysphoric North Americans over the past eight years.

The first issue of "THE TS VOICE" appeared on the scene in October 1981, and it has been coming out almost regularly every two months ever since. One of the very few periodicals solely devoted to the transsexual population, its Editor, Phoebe, has miraculously managed to single-handedly publish "THE TS VOICE" despite several recent personal and family misfortunes.

Born on a farm in Irwin County, south Georgia, in October 1939, Phoebe lived through 30 years of painful turmoil as "J.C." - a sad, lonely, alienated boy who finally found freedom in the lifegiving surgery that sculpted her female form. That was in Tijuana, Mexico in February 1969 and April 1970. For the first time since childhood, Phoebe was happy to be alive. Fortunately, her family and relatives, and some of her friends were very supportive of her choice to be who she had to be - a woman.

Phoebe says in her book, that she is secure in her identity but unhappy with society's placement of her, and that she owes it to herself to share her thoughts and her opinions of society's placement of her. She does not present herself as a transsexual role model, she says, however, she does demand her human rights.

And all of us owe her a debt too. As partial payment, Phoebe was awarded a "Certificate of Merit" in 1988 by the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation for her long-standing contributions to the TS community. She is also up for a "Gender Worker Award" (issued from time to time by Ruper Raj for outstanding service or special contributions), and will be the first TS resource worker to receive the new "Christine Jorgensen Award". (This award, with the permission of the Jorgensen family, will be awarded to an individual who has given something a little more than the ordinary to the TS community and the Twenty Club has the current honor of bestowing this award.) Thank you Phoebe, for caring - and for sharing your time and energy with those of your brothers and sisters who also wish for the peace of mind that gender congruity brings.

Rupert Raj has also paid tribute to: Sr. Mary Elizabeth, Dr. John Money, Lou Sullivan, Dr. Roberto Farina, Judy Cousins and Dr. Leo Wollman.



Twenty Club member Paddy Aldridge shows off the first annual Christine Jorgensen Award.

**THE CHRISTINE JORGENSEN AWARD****FOR 1989****presented by the XX Club****PHOEBE SMITH**

**For Love, Compassion and  
Outstanding Service  
in the Gender Community**

**IFGE Convention  
San Francisco, 1989**

A Transsexual Viewpoint  
A Report with Comment, by Micheline Johnson

IFGE's third annual convention, titled "Coming Together", was held in beautiful San Francisco from Mon. 89-04-03 through Sun. 89-04-09 in a big old downtown hotel, the San Franciscan on Market at 9th St. The weather cooperated, it was sunny and warm [90 deg.F] all week. I was there representing Transition Support, Toronto and FACTT, Ottawa.

I arrived Tuesday pm, and found that I had missed some Personal Development sessions [voice, modelling, makeup, wardrobe colour, scarf tying] and some tours [wine country; fashion shops; bars; cable car including Lombard St., Golden Gate Bridge and Park, Japanese Tea Gardens etc.; Chinatown including Coit Tower, Fisherman's Wharf, Nob Hill etc.], however the convention proper was not to start until the next day.

The convention was ably co-sponsored and hosted by ETVC, San Francisco. They should be congratulated for doing a good job. It was a chance to meet and share ideas and information with leaders of the TV/TS Community in a relaxed social atmosphere. Approximately 225 people registered and attended, of which about 10% were TS. Since most of the attendees were TV, as are the IFGE organizers, I was hesitant about the value of making this expensive trip (approx. \$1000).

Because of the relatively large sample of gender dysphoric people collected together in one place, the convention was an opportunity to observe a wide spectrum of different types of gender dysphoric phenomena. The large majority, about 90%, were transvestites (TV's), people who enjoyed being men in business and in bed, but enjoyed the occasional opportunity to live out their fantasies of being women.

The only genetic women there were: one TV; about a dozen "Significant Others" (SO's); Melissa Mathes, a representative of a local feminist organization who asked many pertinent questions, and in the process raised our consciousness on many feminist issues; a professional dominatrix; and helping professionals of various kinds.

Roger Peo and Richard Docter were among the male helping professionals.

Several F-M TS's were expected, but did not show.

Of the genetic/former males, some live full time and work successfully as women, while maintaining their relationships with women. About eight of these declared themselves to have no desire for SRS, and described themselves as Transgenderists (TG's). This used to mean someone who earned their income for a few months in the male role, and then spent a similar period as a woman before repeating the cycle. Apparently today, TG means someone who has a sufficiently tolerant so that the relationship continues while the TG lives and works full time as a woman.

Richard F. Docter, who was present at the convention, defines transgenderism [see his book "Transvestites and Transsexualism", or Rupert Raj's review of his book in the May 1989 issue of Twenty Minutes] as: *full-time living in the cross-gender role in the absence of sexual reassignment surgery, with oscillation, however rare, back and forth from one gender role to the other....which definition in effect includes both the above old and new definitions.*

I met one TG per the old definition at the convention. Recently in Boston, I met another TG per the new definition, who described herself as a TV, presumably because although she works continuously as a woman, wanted to continue having relationships with women as a man.

The TG's observed at the convention, although all very feminine in appearance, did all seem to retain that masculine characteristic of being organizers and taking charge. One (Jenny Burleton) even retained some masculine physical characteristics which produced an attractive androgynous quality.

Others living full time as women are asexual and see no need for surgery. Some, describing themselves as TS, are looking both for surgery and to maintain their current relationships with their lovers. While this may be ideal, in practice, most TS's have to settle for a breakup, if only to satisfy the requirements of the surgeon.

In spite of the TV majority and the TV bias in the programming, the trip was worth while because of the special All Day Program for Transsexuals on Thursday 89-04-06. A number of advertised panel members (Veronica Brown, Lou Sullivan, David Maxwell) did not show. There were usually at least two programs going on in parallel. On one occasion, I was in the wrong room, and because of this missed the beginning of Dr Smilo's presentation.

The TS day started with a presentation by a local endocrinologist, Dr Ranata Smilo. There were 28 persons present, presumably TS or nearly so. She came across as very sympathetic to TS's and very knowledgeable, not only in endocrinology but in specifics as it applied to TS's. Her "cocktail", as she calls it, which she prescribes to TS's is, 2.5mg Premarin (3 estrogens), 10mg Provera, and 50ug Estinyl.

She regards 2.5mg (daily) of Premarin as a high dose, c.f. 0.625mg which is prescribed to post-menopausal women. She does not recommend Spironolactone because of the dangerous side-effects on the blood. She quoted typical hormone blood levels in men and women as:

	<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>
Testosterone	6-700ug*	100ug
Estrogen	200ng	2.5mg

(\* reducing to 20ng after estrogen therapy). The most noticeable immediate effect of estrogen therapy is a calming effect. Progesterone should be used with care, and be carefully monitored, because in some it has caused suicidal depressions.

A film maker from LA, Claudia Hoover, showed a documentary movie she is making about a TS in the process of transition, Gary/Gabriella. The film is presently being used by Dr Jane Thomas of LA as part of her lectures. One idea in the film that caught my attention was a classical dance class being run specifically for TS's, to develop graceful movements.

Incidentally, a Canadian film maker, Midi Onodera, of Toronto, was present at the convention, collecting research material for a future film.

There followed presentations from: Jennifer [redacted] a local full-time pre-op TS, and Joan [redacted] who had her surgery (stage 1) with Dr Biber in CO two years ago. She had stages 2 and 3 in San Francisco. She has worked 32 years in the broadcasting field. So far she has spent about \$250,000 on her change, mostly on facial surgery. In the process she has lost 4" in height, which is unusual.

In the afternoon, the starting session was on sources of information. Those mentioned included: Stanford Medical Library (one of the best), J2CP, "In a Different Light", on Castro St., San Francisco, and BBS's such as Jersey Shore. Rebecca Austin later privately told me that two other BBS's recommended for "Gender" information, both in California are: The Hobby Board, and Feminet.

Next were presentations by: Sister Mary Elizabeth in Q&A form on US legal matters, and Autumn, a 37 year old TS (SRS in mid 85) who has been married three years, and has children from her partner's previous marriage. She described her new life.

The day finished up with an open forum/rap session conducted by psychiatrist Dr Mildred Brown, 700 W. Par, suite S, Los Gatos, CA, 95124, (408) 249-2205. All the TS's in the Bay area love Mildred. She comes across as a very concerned understanding person. She has met Dr Menard, the SRS surgeon in Montreal, with a view to sending some of her patients to him. Two are going in June this year. We learned more about Menard from Mildred than from local TS's in Montreal, since she spoke to him at a professional level.

We learned that Menard does use skin grafts if necessary, but if so, he uses surplus skin from the scrotum, so that there will be no scars left on the behind or legs as with Granata for instance. Menard uses the urethra to form a clitoris. The overall result is highly sensitive, and orgasmic in 1-2 months. Menard says intercourse is possible 6 weeks post surgery, but the stent (dilator) must be used afterwards. Mildred has been promised slides of the technique. She offered information on the results of her two clients if we contact her in July. Menard has done 300 SRS's, and presently charges about \$4,600 Can.

There are apparently four surgeons in Brussels who do SRS, the best known being Dr Seghers, who charges \$3,800 US. London will also accept US (and presumably Canadian) clients. In Christine Tayleur's opinion, it is better to follow Biber's dilation method than Dr Seghers'.

On the opening day, Wed. 89-04-05, after the welcoming statements, the first real session was a discussion with Mariette Pathy Allen of our reactions to some of her recent photographs (presented as slides). Mariette's new book is due out in Nov. 1989. She has been photographing the "gender community" for many years.

A panel of TG's: Renée Chinquapin, Renée Chevalier, Yvonne Cook, and Jenny Burleton; discussed "Going Full Time". Chinquapin spoke of the isolation, but of having a good relationship. Cook asked "Why SRS?, just be a woman."

In the afternoon, in a panel described as "Clearing the Air", we were introduced to a cross-section of the spectrum: Randi, a pre-op TS; Renée, a TG; Tina, a drag queen; Suzanne, a shoe fetishist; Evelyn, a she-male; and Donna, a TV. Evelyn, who is on hormones, works as Eric. Suzanne has 4000 pairs of shoes, and claims to know where every pair is. She is 6'3" tall without shoes, and 6'8" tall in her 5" heels! Tina was by far the most entertaining of the bunch. She is a female impersonator, doing shows for a living. Someone asked whether she wears male or female undies under her dress. She lifted her dress to show us (male).

The next day, Thursday, the All Day Program for TS's, the sessions I attended are described above. I missed parallel sessions such as: Going Public as an Individual, coming out to family, friends and job; Going Public as a Movement; Public Speaking Workshop, for those who will be appearing on television, radio, speaking to reporters, teaching classes, lectures etc.; Counselling Techniques, presented by Roger Peo and Neila Miller; Developing the Woman Within, an Experimental Workshop presented by Neila Miller, to examine what every woman knows, but persons not raised as women may not know; Cross-dressing Sells Movies, presented by Ralph Judd; An Evening with Richard F. Docter [which I missed because I was asked to attend the Caucus of Reps., called to form the new Congress of Reps., see below]; The Healing Circle, (\$15 extra), presented by Jolynne White, creating a balance with the male and female within, learn to love and accept yourself exactly as you are.

On Friday morning, I attended (probably illegally) a Professional Panel including Roger Peo, Mildred Brown, Lin Fraser, and Kenneth Pool, intended to explore theoretical models, give general information about therapy in transgender situations, and to interact with the audience. This lasted till midday. I missed the parallel sessions: Introduction to the Gender Community, a slide show and discussion with Mariette Pathy Allen and Neila Miller; and more

Scarf Tying (\$10 extra) with Jolynne White.

All Friday afternoon was taken up with a beautiful boat cruise of San Francisco Bay. I got to meet Lin Fraser again on the boat.

On Saturday morning, I attended an interesting panel of SO's, "expressing some of their constellation of feelings, fears, needs and problems..." On the panel were Marilyn, Karen Chevalier, wife of Renée, Julie, wife of the secretary of ETVC, Louana [REDACTED] family counsellor and wife of a TV, and Judy [REDACTED], wife of a "non-op" TS who is on hormones and lives full time as a woman.

Marilyn and Karen referred to their spouses as "she". Julie and Louana used "he". Karen talked of jealousy, Julie of resentment, and Louana of fear.

Jamie McClusky with Roger Peo put on a very learned session on Women's/Men's Liberation, exploring our role in these movements. Jamie quoted from: Dorothy Dinnerstein, "Mermaid and the Minotaur", Harper, 1977, F. Baumli, "Men freeing men", New Atlantic Press, NJ, 1985, Germaine Greer, "Female Eunuch", McGraw Hill, 1971, Eric Skjei and Richard Rabkin, "Male 'Ordeal", Putman's, 1981, and "Kiss of the Spiderwoman".

Melissa Mathes, the "genetic feminist" said that to women, clothes represent oppression, whereas men think of clothes as symbols of freedom. As to whether we are welcome or unwelcome by the women's and feminist community, she asked that the gender community be part of and supportive of it.

Following along these lines, the next session was on Cross-dressing as a Feminist Issue, presented by Jenny Burleton, a non-operative TS, lesbian feminist. Most of the talk was about bars such as the Black Rose, in San Francisco, the old London Tavern in Toronto, and Cleopatra's in Montreal. The Black Rose is a local TS hooker bar, very competitive. What is the motivation of guys who frequent these bars? Neila thought they were mostly latent cross-dressers who physically cannot dress.

On Saturday afternoon, there was a TS Panel consisting of Kim Hellman, on the ETVC executive, Jennifer [REDACTED] of Marin County, Suzie Keels, of San Jose, and Christine Tayleur, of San Francisco. Kim described himself (he came across as a "him") as a Caring Prior TS (CPT). Jennifer is a pre-op TS. In February this year, she changed to a fulltime role as a female in the same job, a senior position (software) at a bank employing 3500 people. She took a systems approach to the change. Suzie has been post-op for 4.5 years. She was 48 years old at the time of her surgery. She was managed by Lin Fraser and Mildred Brown etc.

Christine was born in France, was educated in Britain, and emigrated to the USA - which has produced a marvellous mixture of accents. She had treatment for gender dysphoria from the age of nine. As a young man, she joined a monastery and was ordained, but left the ministry after four years. She had SRS with Seghers in Brussels. She describes herself now as a born again pagan. She has studied languages, electronics and psychology. She is a great believer in the "12 Step" type programs. She currently works for organizations helping the homeless, the drug addicted, and for the gender dysphoric. One morning she brought me a yellow rose, which immediately endeared herself to me.

Later that afternoon, Tara [redacted] presented a panel on Dominance and Submission (D&S), an examination of dominance and submission role playing in relationships and fetishistic cross-dressing. On the panel was a well known local professional dominatrix, Lana White. Lana has retired now, but was into D&S for 20 years. A couple, Sibyl and Bill, joined the panel and gave some demonstrations of the negotiation stage. D&S is a recent term which includes the old terms of B&D, S&M etc. Local groups include the Eulen Spiegel Society, and the Society of Janus. D&S has strong connections with the cross-dressing community, bearing in mind that Cherrystone in Boston (the fore-runner of the Tiffany Club, the fore-runner of IFGE) became the Mayflower Society, one of the Boston D&S groups.

In the presentation, we were introduced to some of the features, misconceptions and terminology of D&S. The "top" is the dominant one. Both Tara and Lana are tops. The "bottom" is the submissive one. The "safe word" is the let out safety indicator that the bottom cannot or does not want to take anymore and that the play action should stop. The action part is known as play or the scene. But before that can occur, there is always the negotiation stage during which the permissible limits of the action are defined, and the consent of both parties obtained. The key features of D&S are that the action should be consensual, safe and sane. It may be sexual or non-sexual. It may involve masochism (but not necessarily pain), fetishism, and usually submission. The action should lead to a goal of surrender, but not necessarily of sexual release.

The lesbian community tend to oppose D&S because women cannot give real consent.

On Saturday evening, following the Awards Banquet, there was excellent entertainment put on by two of the attendees, both professional musicians, Wendy Parker and Jenny Burleton. Not only did they sing and play (keyboards and guitar respectively) professionally, but they proved their worth as very funny stand-up comics. The topical material was specially written for the convention about what had happened during the convention. Everybody loved it, and parts of it brought tears to many eyes.

Most people were leaving on Sunday. There was an Interdenominational Religious Service and a poorly attended open forum on what had worked and what had not during the convention, with outlines of changes for the next convention slated for Boston in March 1990.

There was a wind-down brunch when everyone made their personal goodbyes to all the nice people they had met, took photos of each other, and then we were off to catch our respective planes home. I pinned my yellow rose to the seat in front of me. It survived almost to Toronto where we landed in a snow storm. What a contrast to the 90 degree weather we had enjoyed in San Francisco.

There were many activities organized for the SO's about which I won't go into in detail here. There were dinners or tours every evening for everyone. Most of the luncheons had professional keynote speakers: Isadora Alman on Wednesday. Isadora is a local Bay Area sexologist, a noted writer, and host of a weekly listener call-in radio talk show. She has appeared as a sex therapist on local TV shows.

Stan Dale, on Thursday. Stan is a director of the Human Awareness Institute. He is a distinguished lecturer in the field of Contemporary Sexual Culture at the Institute for the Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. His Human Sexuality Workshops have been attended by 22,000 people world-wide.

There was a move afoot during the convention, starting at the caucus on Thursday evening, based on a suggestion of Alison Laing and Joann Roberts of Renaissance at the '88 convention, to set up more layers of organization, specifically between the national IFGE and the local support groups, to be known as the Congress of Reps (representatives from the local organizations). I and one

other objected to this development on the grounds that it would divert the time and energy of those involved from where they were most urgently needed at the local level.

Ostensibly, the purpose of this Congress of Reps was to be an intermediary for both ways communication between IFGE and the local group reps. Why not communicate directly? There was some talk of future activities and responsibilities of this congress, such as giving directions and instructions to IFGE. Approval of the new organization was overwhelming.

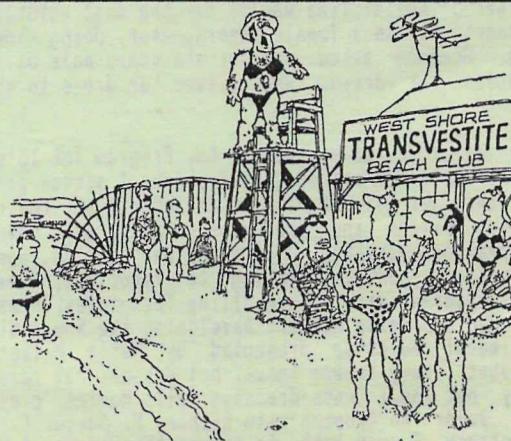
How is this new organization going to be funded? There has been a longstanding problem of how to support national organizations both in the USA (IFGE) and Canada (FACT\*). Local support organizations, barely able to support themselves, are unable to contribute to the support of the national organizations because their membership see nothing in it for themselves. National organizations like the local organizations, have to be self supporting. To date, the most practical way seems to be for the national organization to support itself, through the sale of some product, such as publications. IFGE are employing two or three people full time out of the income from the sale of their magazine "Tapestry". The XX (Twenty) Club run their group solely from the income from the subscriptions to their newsletter Twenty Minutes.

Representatives of the various local organizations are being asked to communicate any useful information to IFGE through the new Congress of Reps., and IFGE have been asked to spread this information

Positive aspects of the convention: There was plenty going on. It was very well organized (other than that described below). The location was beautiful and interesting, but expensive to travel to for those of us from the east. Communication was good, a newsletter was published each evening providing up-to-date information on the events of the next day.

Negative aspects: There were too many sessions going on at the same time, of interest to the same sorts of people. None of the information was recorded on tape for posterity, according to Merissa. If you did not make your own notes, all the useful information at the convention was lost. Nothing of what went on at parallel sessions was or will be available.

\* Note: FACT, now virtually defunct, was a national umbrella organization in Canada. It should not be confused with FACT/OTTAWA, an active local organization having no affiliation with FACT.



"HEY, YOU! THIS AINT NO TOPLESS BEACH! YOU PUT YOUR TOP ON, MISTER!"

(EDITOR'S NOTE... 'As appeared in National Lampoon magazine.' To reprint this cartoon with the permission of National Lampoon will cost the XX Club \$100. Donations cheerfully accepted.)

## THE SEXUAL SUBVERSIVE AND THE CULTURE OF SHAME

by Sarah

Like many other post-operative people I experienced an intense desire to return to a 'normal' life after several years of being out of the closet. It was an economic necessity as well as an emotional one. And for the most part the return was successful. But there are residuals.

Recently my brother shared with me a conversation with my estranged daughter as to why she no longer related to me. In part her reply was that she recognized that a "limited relationship was not possible."

Her answer illuminated once again the real relationship I have with this culture of shame. By limited, my daughter refers, I think, to the fact that she is unwilling to risk an open relationship with me lest it jeopardize her other relationships. While she is not personally upset she fears the reaction of others who might not understand or conversely, might consider her an object of pity.

I have known other transsexual people who have encountered this problem and some who have gone to extraordinary lengths to try to retain relationships while protecting their relatives and friends from exposure to possible shame or ridicule or intrusive curiosity. Some have even tried to maintain their former identity when visiting with these relatives.

Inevitably, it seems we are put in the position of choosing between trying to protect family members and friends and compromising our integrity, the very thing we struggled to save by making the change in the first place.

Some have resolved the problem by making a clean break and/or coming out publicly. Still others, I suppose, have gone to the other extreme of masquerade, although one wonders how successful such an attempt could really be after extensive treatment.

For myself, I find that I am somewhere in the uncomfortable middle. For example, I did not attend my father's funeral since many of the family's friends would obviously be in attendance. They did not know about me, and that certainly was not the time to inform them.

On the other hand, I resist the notion that somehow I protect my family members from any risk of exposure either by masquerade or disappearing when company arrives unannounced or any other kind of concession that would support an attitude of shame. Years ago families hid their mentally retarded children, not because they didn't love them, but because of the social shame involved. I refuse to participate in that kind of stigmatization.

I have no desire to become a public advocate of our cause, although I appreciate the efforts of some who have found themselves with no choice in the matter. I much prefer a private life; however, when "push comes to shove" I too would choose a public affirmation to shameful denials of the truth.

Our friends and family members are drawn into this decision whether they want to or not. Just as we have had to arrive at the place of affirming our sexual identity in the face of ignorance, sexual stereotype and religious bigotry, so in continuing to relate to us the same decision must be replicated. And as we have had to decide what our relationship to the larger society will be, so they too must decide what impact this might have on their social relationships and whether they are prepared to risk the same stigma and gossip.

Just as I did not choose this condition but have had to choose to affirm or deny it, so I did not choose to impose it on my family and friends. That my daughter has chosen to end the relationship rather than accept the risks involved is not a wrong decision. There are other battles to be fought. This one happens to be mine. She must find hers. I am relieved that she has weighed up the consequences and made her own decision. My

hope is that all of my friends and family members have done the same.

Whether we are 'out of the closet' or 'buried in the woodwork' we are nonetheless members of a sexual minority in a society that historically has been fearful of sexuality and repressive of sexual diversity. In this time of transition we are unavoidably sexual subversives living in a culture of shame, and each one of us and our family members must decide how best to reclaim our dignity with a minimum of sacrifice to ourselves and others.

## HER SEX CHANGE OPERATION IN 1952 SHOCKED THE WORLD

by Geoffrey Ooley  
Daily Sun/Post Staff Writer

SAN CLEMENTE - Christine Jorgensen, who spent the last few years of her life living quietly in San Clemente after shocking the world in 1952 by undergoing the first sex change operation, died Wednesday, (May 3, 1989) at San Clemente General Hospital. Jorgensen was 62.

She died shortly before 4 p.m. of cancer, the same disease that killed her mother in 1967. Jorgensen was admitted to the hospital two days earlier. Jorgensen slipped into a coma about an hour before she died according to Chris Costello, a friend, publicist and daughter of the late comedian Lou Costello. "She was quite lucid when she went into the hospital. She went through no pain. There was no lingering. She slipped into the coma and within an hour she was gone."

Jorgensen never married and had lived the last few in San Clemente after moving to Laguna Nigel in the early 1970's. Jorgensen cherished her privacy and spent her final years as a homebody who stayed out of the limelight as much as she could. "I'm not that recognizable anymore. I can actually go into a supermarket and people don't know who I am, which is just wonderful and suits me just fine," she said in 1988.

The ex-G.I. fought a 2 1/2-year battle with cancer, which began in her bladder. Doctors discovered a brain tumor a few weeks ago, Costello said. Jorgensen a heavy smoker, said in an interview last year that when she learned she had cancer she told herself, "'This is cancer.' I wanted to be up front and not try to deny it. It's like anything else. I still joke and carry on. I see some of the patients who just shuffle in and out, and you just know that they aren't going to make it."

Jorgensen voiced no regrets about her sex-change operation and the international publicity that followed. "I am very proud now, looking back," she said. "It was the sexual revolution that was going to start with or without me. We may not have started it, but we gave it a good swift kick in the pants." The operation is more commonplace today. Jorgensen said her operation "...wouldn't get on the 95th page of the newspaper if it happened today. It's not news anymore."

Jorgensen was born George Jorgensen on May 30, 1926, in the Bronx to parents of Danish descent. Jorgensen, who had been a soldier, was 26 when he underwent the sex change operation in Denmark in 1952. News of the operation was leaked by a family friend. The blond woman who left the Copenhagen operating room found her new life made her an instant celebrity. Her fame sent her on the talk show, lecture and nightclub circuit.

Jorgensen had been planning to do a sequel to her 1967 book "Christine Jorgensen: A Personal Biography," Costello said. "She was also attempting to have her documentary re-released." The film "What Price Glory," was released in Europe. She was also working on finding a US distributor for a documentary produced in Denmark on transsexuals, lesbians and female impersonators.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...reprinted from the Daily/ Sun Post, South Orange County's Home Daily Newspaper, Thursday, May 4, 1989.)

# LETTERS

## TO THE EDITOR



Hi Paddy and Veronica,

Thanks for your short note; it was nice to hear from you. I love the card. And thanks for the National Enquirer article. It was the same as the issue available here. Actually it was not too bad. It was truthful except the part about wearing women's underwear under my leathers and about dressing after a hard race to relieve the stress "slipping into something silky and soft".

The original interview took place in the Isle of Man. I never suspected for one second that it would ever be sold or picked-up by an American publication. If I had I would certainly not have done the interview, or at least I'd have tied-up second rights so that I would have at least had some remuneration commensurate with the personal unveiling, unzipping of my entire personal life to 100 million people, the article accomplished. I am so pissed off. So far I have received NOTHING. However, I am working on it.

Hope everything is going well with you two.

Love, Michelle Duff  
Toronto, Ontario, Canada

Dear (Fearsome Threesome?),

Greetings from that place you know or need not know. Dr. Seghers now uses a Tuesday/Friday schedule, and as I was Tuesday the 20th, I am now 4 days "post" (it seems longer or shorter). The light of my life is at the end of the tunnel where as I am decatheterized. I will do some more tourism (the Friday person after me and I will take a trip to Brugge and Ghent) but I suspect I will be home sooner rather than later. I hope you all are well.

Love, Wendy  
Belgique

Congratulations Wendy! Best wishes for a safe return flight home.  
Becky, Veronica and Paddy.

Dear Veronica Jean,

Thank you for inviting us to be included on your mailing list. Since the XX Club is one of the few self-sustaining organizations for TS's, I hope to learn a lot from you in the future on how to better serve the transsexual membership.

I feel compelled to let you know that Brenda Atwater, author of the article *Hormones, Surgery, and Substitutes*, is not, as Louise Raeder states, obviously a TV. Brenda is a close friend and transsexual. I assume you have read the whole article, and should the follow-up article on substitutes ever materialize, I will take great pains to have Brenda state that substitutes are the way to go for those who are NOT SEEKING gender reassignment surgery. Although she did admittedly handle the original article in a clumsy manner, her point (which was not apparent) was that those who are not transsexuals need not and should not be fooling around with hormones. Having answered club mail for the past two and a half years, one of my pet peeves is getting letters or calls from people (whom I have never and suspect will never meet) asking to supply information on

where they can get hormones. Most are TV's, but even if they are TS, working outside the system without initial supervision is foolhardy, and in my opinion, in the long run, can only serve to hinder the causes of the transsexual population.

Since the Chicago Gender Society is a socially-oriented support group for both TV and TS, any article suggesting alternatives to hormones and surgery and discouraging both by non-transsexuals is welcome in the *Primrose*. I also published Louise's reply to Brenda's article, although I did find it necessary to edit out some of it which was not integral to her statement.

I have gently pointed out to Louise that most TS's, including herself, have gone through the "Wonder Woman/Clark Kent" existence, and that sadly, some of them will continue to do so for whatever reasons for the rest of their lives. Since I've seen so many TS's over the years who have gotten in touch with their gender orientation in safe social settings, some of them even linking up with us after having been members of Tri-Ess, the fact that an open organization like ours can avail members of such opportunities is a benefit to us all. And I think you will agree that allowing them to explore their feelings and try to work out for themselves where they stand on the gender scale is a much better system than walking the streets or hanging around in pick-up joints.

And I have NEVER heard any member of Chicago Gender Society express the sentiments that Louise would attribute to them, i.e., "after the surgery, what if you want to go back; why not have the best of both worlds; or I'd rather die first."

We have a great and justified reputation for camaraderie and respect for each other here in Chicago, which you may have noticed when you were here with IFGE. Unfortunately, sometimes Louise does not feel a part of this, which is a loss both for her and for us. I have a great deal of respect for her, and I value her opinions. And she is one of the few TS members who has attempted to actually accomplish something for the good of all her sisters and brothers. I consider the failure of the *Sunday Society* to generate interest locally, despite the efforts of Louise, Sheila, David Maxwell, and myself, to be a great tragedy. Perhaps it can be revived at some point, but the only thing that has come out of it so far is reinforcement of the old adage "you can lead a horse to water, but you can't make him drink".

Best Wishes, Karen Ann Baumgardner  
Chicago Gender Society  
PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657

(EDITOR'S NOTE...We would appreciate a full copy of Brenda's article so that we may publish the completion of it in a future issue of *Twenty Minutes*. Thanks.)

Dear Veronica Jean,

Remember me, the ex-tunnel rat from San Antonio? Well anyway, the reason I'm writing to you is because I've recently returned from Europe and I felt that I should write you concerning your organization, The XX Club. While I was in Belgium I ran across a copy of your newsletter containing some information about sex reassignment surgery in Brussels. I found the information most interesting but a bit too late seeing as I was already in the hospital there and had the operation a day or two before another girl from the states arrived and gave me a copy of your publication. Gee, that was a mouth full. I hope that came out alright.

Well back to the laundry, I was wondering if you can tell me if you have a local chapter or a reasonable facsimile. If you could shed some light on this matter, could you maybe write me or send me a smoke signal and let me know?

Bye for now, Trini Marie  
San Antonio, TX

Dear Ex-Tunnel Rat,

Don't worry, the mouthful in the second paragraph came out OK. You mean, people actually bring copies of *Twenty Minutes* with them to Bruxelles? There is at this time, only one Twenty Club.

Sincerely, Veronica

Dear Veronica,

First of all, I'd like to let you know it was an honor and pleasure meeting everyone at the board meeting June 15, and a special thank-you to you, for speaking with me personally. It was a wonderful feeling when the board gave me a "thumbs-up" decision for surgery approval. I am scheduled to have surgery in October, with Dr. Seghers. If you know of anybody else who is going, please have them get in touch with me, if they plan on going in October. Maybe we could keep each other company.

Also, I read in one of the newsletters a suggestion for one of your readers to rent the Sulka tape. Can you let me know how I can rent or purchase it? (My boyfriend would benefit.) Once again, thank-you for everything, I will be in touch to let you know how everything went. You may publish this letter in hopes that I may find somebody to be in Brussels with.

Love, Reyah [REDACTED]  
RR 1 Box 127  
Vermont, VT 05079

Dear Reyah,

Best of luck on your trip to Bruxelles. You can rent or buy the Sulka tape at your favorite adult book store. If they don't have it in stock, I'm sure they can order it. Don't be ashamed to ask. After all, what do you think they're in business for, anyway?

Veronica

## Would-be model dies after breast surgery

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) A would-be model died during breast enlargement surgery of an apparent overdose of anesthetic, the medical examiner says. Angela Umeda, a mother of two, died minutes after she was injected numerous times with the local anesthetic lidocaine June 1, an autopsy report ruled the death accidental.

"No one ever dreamed that this healthy 23-year-old would go in for this seemingly simple procedure and come out dead," said Dewey H. Varner, a lawyer for Umeda's mother. Umeda, a petite size 3 at 105 pounds, wanted to become a model and went to Dr. Carl Fosdick for the \$2,000 operation that he began in his office. "She heard that she could do a little better in the modeling field with larger breasts," Varner said.

Umeda died of lidocaine intoxication, wrote Chief Deputy Medical Examiner Dr. John V. Marraccini. Tests found she had 14.7 milligrams of lidocaine per liter of blood. Marraccini said, "Lidocaine is known to cause reactions at half this level. The levels and circumstances at the scene seem to indicate an excessive quantity of lidocaine was used. Umeda appeared to be healthy before the operation and has successfully undergone anesthesia twice during childbirth."

(EDITOR'S NOTE...Reprinted from the Springfield Union-News, June 13, 1989.)

### TIFFANY CLUB

Wayland, MA

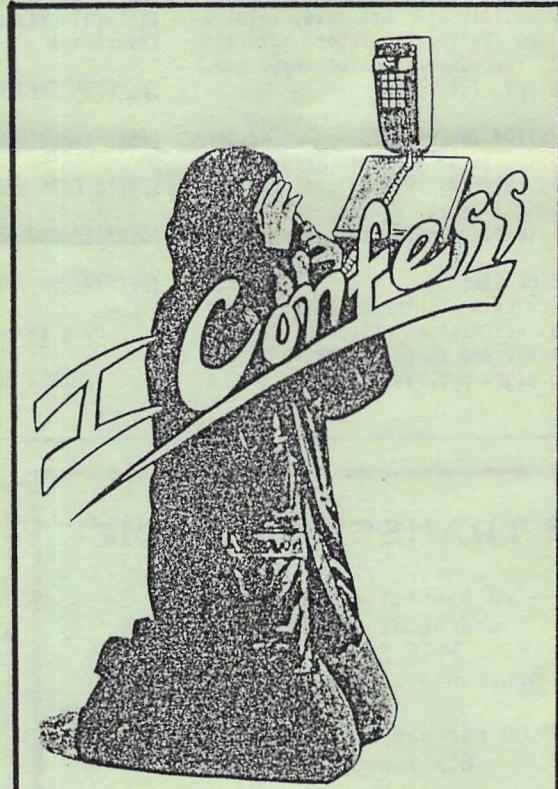
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The Tiffany Club has designed a new program for the "First Nighters". This program is for the newcomers or inexperienced persons who would like some help and support for their first night out on the town. Experienced club members serve as escorts taking the first nighters out for dinner at a safe restaurant or to a familiar lounge.

Attn: Transsexuals, and persons interested in Transsexualism: due to their growing Transsexual program, they are now compiling a separate mailing list of those who would like to be kept informed. If you are interested write them at The Tiffany Club of New England, PO Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483 or call 617-358-5575.

### THANKS ABBY

The staff of *Twenty Minutes* wants to thank Abby Marie for her donation to the XX Club of the honorarium for her interview in *Options* magazine issue #54, "Interview With a Post-Op Transsexual" will appear in a later issue of *Twenty Minutes*.



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AND STILL BE SAVED?  
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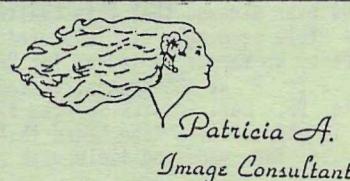
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