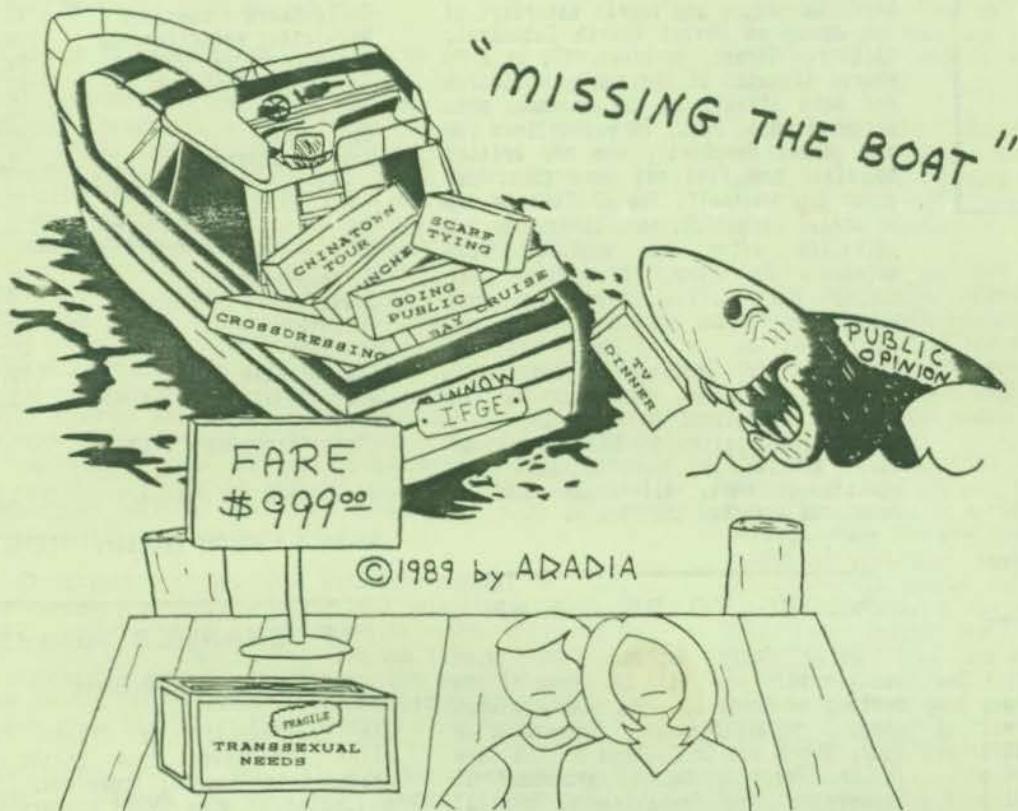




# TWENTY MINUTES

MARCH 1989

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB \$2.00



## LISTING WON BY GAY GROUPS

The New York Times

NEW YORK - Beginning with its 1989-90 editions, the NYNEX Yellow Pages will be reorganized to include a previously unpublished listing: gay and lesbian services.

Arguing that since they are out here, they should be in there, members of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation asked the NYNEX Corp. in 1987 to establish a separate listing in the Yellow Pages for organizations that offer specialized services for gay people.

## NATIONAL GENDER NEWS

Renaissance News Vol. 3, No.1

Emerald City's (Seattle) ladies are smarting from a "stink" over TV/TS use of public women's restrooms. A citizen wrote to the city paper asking if she had to tolerate a TV in the Ladies room. The newspaper sought out counsel who delivered the opinion that the Public Accommodation law did not extend to the "privacy" of the restroom. Looks like the Mayor agrees. (Seattle has a law that prohibits discrimination against TVs and TSs in Public Accommodations). Janice Van Cleve is not one to shirk a good fight and she will pursue the issue with the city council and the Human Rights Commission.

IF YOU'RE  
GOING TO  
SAN FRAN-  
CISCO, BE  
SURE TO  
WEAR SOME  
FLOWERS  
IN YOUR  
HAIR.

(The gentle words of  
Scott McKenzie)

## GRAVITY IS A REAL DRAG

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our readers' reply

Transsexual Support

TWENTY  
MINUTES

PUBLISHED MONTHLY BY  
THE XX (TWENTY) CLUB INC.

THE TRANSSEXUAL SUPPORT  
GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND

## SUBSCRIPTION RATES:

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

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB, INC.  
P.O. Box 80690  
Forest Park Station  
Springfield, MA 01138

## THE STAFF

Editor	- Veronica Jean Brown
Associate Editor	- Becky
Assistant Editor	- Lynda [REDACTED]
Graphic Artist	- ARADIA
Contributors:	Joan [REDACTED] Michelle Hunt, RN
Advisor	- Rev. Clinton Jones

## NUTRITION INFORMATION

Serving size -----	.9 oz.
Servings per newsletter -----	1
Calories -----	.001
Protein -----	.00001 g
Carbohydrate -----	.0001 g
Fat -----	0 g
Cholesterol (0 mg/100)* -----	0 mg
Sodium -----	.0002 mg
Typos -----	.21
Misspellings -----	.012
Profanity -----	0
Crude Fiber -----	.12
Not-so-crude Fiber -----	.31
Really Crude Fiber -----	.991
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\*Information on cholesterol is provided for individuals, who on the advice of a physician, are modifying their total dietary cholesterol.

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## calendar



## MEETINGS



Saturday, Mar 11

Saturday, Mar 25

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 yourself. The XX Club is not a social organization, though we do 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. We are not a transvestite group. 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.

## VIDEO TO BE SHOWN

A Sally Jessy Raphael Show taped earlier this year will be shown at the meeting on March 11. This show features three female-to-male transsexuals: Nick, Steve and John. Also on the show is Dr. Terrence Malloy, professor of Urology at the Pennsylvania Hospital who describes with visual aids the latest techniques in phalloplasty as performed by the surgeons at that hospital. F-to-M members of the XX Club may not want to miss this video.

We hope to have the technical difficulties with the Geraldo show tape with Sr. Mary Elizabeth on the topic of transsexuals in prison fixed for showing in April.

## CATHY

TREASURER'S  
REPORT

Balance - from January \$1152.74

## INCOME:

Collections - meetings	17.25
Newsletter subscriptions	228.00
Brochure sales	84.50
IFGE sales	75.50
CDS sales	40.00
Donations	35.00
Savings interest	5.22
Total Income	\$485.47

## EXPENSES:

Refreshments	25.92
Newsletter	12.00
Postage	79.55
Supplies	49.12
CDS purchase	50.00
J2CP purchase	125.00
Bank Fee	.50
Total Expenses	\$342.09

Net Income for February \$143.38

Balance - end of February \$1296.12

## TIP CHANGES ADDRESS

by John Prowett

The *Transsexuals in Prison Program (TIP)* has moved from Little Rock, Arkansas to Memphis, Tennessee. TIP has a listing of many TV/TS sisters behind bars who seek friendship and correspondence from TVs and TSs on the outside. Write us for a listing, please include a donation to cover the cost of reproduction and postage, contact:

Mr. John Prowett  
TIP (Transsexuals In Prison)  
Memphis Office  
1973 Sipes  
Memphis, TN 38127

Picture this, Europe, tens of thousands of years ago. Many of the peaceful, agrarian based communities live in peaceful bliss. Their gods are from nature, they also worship the duality of a male/female deity. All is bliss, contentment. The eating of animal flesh is a supplement to a primarily vegetarian diet. Without warning, hoards of war like tribes sweep down from the north; the peaceful people are crushed, enslaved and taught new things, like the worship of male deities.

Let's go back even further, to a time when women were held in high esteem by the men, who weren't even aware that it was their carnal coupling with the women that produced progeny. Women folk are honored by the men. Woman is the giver of life, the bearer of fruit and the cultivator of food plants. Man becomes the hunter, the destroyer, the killer. He argues among his own kind.

Man learns to compete with the women by bringing home more and more game, he fights for territory. *This is what I have done. Look at me. Look at my strength, my cunning, my prowess...* Woman has slipped a few notches in esteem and social level. Men discover it is they who make the women pregnant. Man is the giver of life. Woman becomes a receptacle, second class to the man, she is physically weaker, meant to toil at tasks men consider beneath them. The same thing happened in the Middle East a long time ago.

Enter now, the Judaeo-Christian era. Man is now firmly established as the ruling gender of the planet. He has long ceased competing for resources with the female and deals only with other men. He makes the laws, establishes tradition, amasses money, wealth and power. The concept of an all powerful male gendered god comes natural. Man blames Eve, the original woman as the perpetrator of his downfall in the eyes of God. (But that's another story...) Woman will forever suffer the pain of childbirth and must bow down to her master, man. Why, because God said so, or rather, that's what man said God said.

The Christians borrowed this evil Eve concept for their creation story in Genesis, which is a patriarchal revision of the earlier Middle Eastern creation myths. According to Hebrew tradition, Adam's first wife was Lilith, who refused to subordinate herself to Adam or the male God. She was later turned into a demon to scare children at bedtime. In earlier days, Lilith was the primordial earth mother.

Let's return to 1989 and I'll drop the other sneaker. A number of leaders in the TV/TS community were really, really upset with the *Toilet Training* editorial rebuttal and the cartoon that ridiculed the physical appearance of TVs (January *Twenty Minutes*). I heard rumors that some believed I was not in favor of a law being passed protecting TS people in public restrooms. So let's put the rumors aside and I'll set the record straight.

My opinion: Transvestites should have no legal right to use women's public restrooms. And...crossdressed pre-op M-F transsexuals and non-crossdressed post-ops have no need for protection under the law in public toilets. If one looks, acts and talks like a woman from the waist up, there is no need for legal protection. Degree of physical beauty or ugliness is not a factor. Transsexuals should be protected against discrimination in such serious areas as employment, housing, education and etc. This toilet issue among the TVs is frivolous, a part of their ever increasing fem fantasy trip and little more than a ruse to gain further recognition and status in their hobby-quest of expressing their "femininity". But now it's been dragged into public view. Transsexuals do not seek to be visible. Visibility destroys anonymity. Loss of anonymity can be very upsetting in anyone's life. Ask a TV if he's afraid of being found out. This is not a game as it is with the TVs. This is life and the pursuit of happiness and Mom's apple pie without gender dysphoria.

Transvestites claim varying degrees of gender dysphoria, gender dysfunction, conflict, euphoria or whatever. They're still guys dressing up in mommy's clothes. They're

still guys who can go home after a CD function or party and return to their lucrative male jobs with all the associated trappings and social status that go with having male genitalia.

At a recent Twenty Club meeting, the subjects of toilets and IFGE were discussed. Here are some excerpts from that meeting: "TVs shouldn't have legal access to women's toilets", "Many laws are ineffective", "There is no need for a law permitting TSs legal access to public toilets", "TVs and TSs are different...", "People [women] want privacy [from men]...", "TVs are attracted to the feminine dimension of their personalities and this leads to an unrealistic and glorified display of femininity", "The main difference between TVs and TSs is that unlike transvestism, transsexualism is not a continuum". In regards to IFGE, the comments were: "You will never win everyone over 100%", "Conventions...they won't change the world in a hundred years", "Those with a mission tend to live in a dream world".

Canon Jones said, "The transvestite is gender conflicted while the transsexual is gender dysphoric." Someone else added that most TVs make no effort to 'fem' up their acts. All their masculinity shows through the glamorized glitz of their makeup and wigs.

It was pointed out that while IFGE is a much needed and worthwhile organization, the persons in charge are predominantly male crossdressers with a few TGs or wanna-be TSs thrown in. They harbor male attitudes and prejudices. It is a man's world, even among the hundreds of TV/CD/TS groups scattered around the country. Some TVs treat TSs the same way they treat women, like second class chattel.

The IFGE convention is not cheap. Most TS people can't afford the high prices, but the guys can, just like they can afford crates of makeup, hundreds of dresses and dozens of wigs. Many TSs are effectively barred from attending by virtue of economics. Most of the programs offered at the convention are geared and tastefully packaged to cater to the transvestite. A few smart women like J. L. White of NYC, have seized the opportunity to exploit the TV community with such fare as scarf tying 101 and a 50 minute Aloe Vera facial and reflexology session. At a dollar a minute, that's a good profit margin. All this is carefully planned to appeal to "the woman within" the man. Good for you Jolynne. Get them in their pocketbooks.

IFGE was quick to honor Charles (Virginia) Prince by the coveted Virginia Prince award. Coveted by whom? Certainly not the TSs. Hey IFGE, how come there's no Christine Jorgensen award for the most outstanding and/or hardworking transsexual in a pseudo documentary with a Moog synthesized music soundtrack?

IFGE was a dream. It is now reality. It is designed to serve a wide range of people through education and outreach. There are many hardworking people at IFGE headquarters and in various towns and cities across the nation. These are some of the leaders.

There are no leaders in the transsexual community because of the nature of the beast. It isn't a continuum, remember? We come and go, discover and vanish, conquer and fade away. We have no substance, no clout, no political pull, at least, not as transsexuals. As a people, we eagerly embrace mainstream society. The transsexual has too long been carried on the coattails of the CD community. Lip service? Perhaps. I really don't know what to call it. I do know one thing, I think it's high time some of us in the transsexual community made our feelings and voices heard in the CD community.

We're just a tiny group of people facing a common problem of whatever intensity Nature happens to lay on us. We're not special, we don't want fancy labels or fame, we don't want pity either. All we want is compassion, understanding and a chance to be what we are without others telling us how to live our lives.

THE XX CLUB  
REPLY TO WBZ

Dear Mr. Bergeron,

On May 25th, 1988, the guests on your television program were Sister Mary Elizabeth from California, Mr. David Maxwell from Chicago, and the Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones from Hartford, CT., director of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England. The subject for discussion was transsexualism. A number of Twenty Club members were in your studio audience, and a video tape was made of the program to be shown a couple of weeks later at our club meeting.

Everyone who viewed your program thought it was well done and presented the problems of gender dysphoria and transsexualism in an honest, sincere and straight forward manner. All of us at the Twenty Club sincerely lauded your efforts.

On Wednesday, January 4th, 1989, you did a program on gender confusion. Your guests were a New York City malpractice lawyer, a former Male-to-Female transsexual, a post-operative Female-to-Male transsexual, and a representative of the Outreach Institute of Boston. This program was taped and shown at our January 14th meeting.

Though you were open minded and displayed an honest attempt for truth, two of the guests were inappropriate and did more to misinform and hurt the true plight of gender dysphoric persons than to educate the general public.

Brian, the former M-F transsexual, was not representative of the hundreds of true transsexuals who seek release from their pain through counseling, hormone therapy and surgery. Brian was indeed, someone who nearly did the wrong thing for all the wrong reasons. He made it clear that he did not feel like a woman trapped in a man's body, but attempted to escape from his homosexuality by living out a fantasy in an imagined lifestyle that would grant him attention and greater acceptance. This was not gender confusion at all.

More disturbing were the words of Dr. Wachsmann, quite an unfortunate choice for a medical professional, who in his volcanic manner, made it quite clear he was against all of this transsexual business. He stated that no insurance company will pay for the sex-reassignment surgery and that it is an illegal procedure in many states. He was wrong on both counts.

While the sex-reassignment surgery is not performed in all states, there are a number of reasons for this, such as lack of qualified surgeons, questions (by some) over the validity over such surgery, the concern of public reaction and pressures from various groups. Transsexuals are not psychotic persons who have their bodies mutilated. In this case, Dr. Wachsmann mis-uses the term mutilation since he was obviously emotionally distraught. The aesthetic appearance and physical functioning of most transsexuals' reconstructed genitals are more than well received to say the least. Having their anatomical sex match their internal gender identity is a much sought after goal that usually bring tremendous emotional relief.

There is quite an arduous path to be followed by the genuinely afflicted transsexual person. While some individuals may fool some of the doctors some of the time, they usually end up by fooling themselves as well and live to regret it later. A more knowledgeable medical professional would have better educated the viewing audience than the likes of Dr. Wachsmann.

The Twenty Club lauds your attempts to bring educational programming to the Boston area, and we do realize however, it may be difficult at times to present all sides in an equal and fair light.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...We thank the members of the Twenty Club who submitted letters for our reply to Tom Bergeron. A copy of this newsletter will be sent to Mr. Bergeron at Television station WBZ in Boston.)

BRUSSELS UPDATE

Februari 6, 1989

Dear Miss Rebecca O. and Veronica Brown,

Thank you so much for your greetings. I am really too late to wish you a Merry Christmas but I guess it is still time to wish you both a happy, healthy and active year 89.

I am pleased to be informed about your activities with the XX Club. The pictures (you sent of yourselves) are quite well and impressive.

Everything in Brussels is fine except that I work a little too much!! I still work with Dr. Mrs. Lambert - she helps me a great deal.

Saint-Joseph is still working but there will be some changes. We merged with a larger hospital, close to Saint-Joseph and we will move there in a few months or years... in a wing still to be built! Saint-Joseph will be later devoted to the care of elderly people.

In September, I plan to go to the States in order to attend the meeting of the Harry Benjamin Association but this time I do not plan to stop in the east coast.

Thank you again for your news and sincerely yours.

Docteur Michel Seghers  
Bruxelles

(Our best wishes to Dr. Seghers and the staff at Saint-Joseph Hospital. Veronica and I celebrated our third re-birthday in December.)

BRUSSELS UPDATE 2...

In the summer of 1985, a pre-op transsexual who was working as a nurse in a hospital, called a hospital in Philadelphia to inquire about the cost of the sex-reassignment surgery. She was told the cost was \$6000 for the surgery and \$6000 for a week in the hospital. When she asked why such a high cost for seven days hospital care, she was told, "If you don't like it, go somewhere else!" Well, she went to Brussels and spent \$1800.

Last month, one of our club members related a story about calling a clinic in Virginia about the reassignment surgery. She was told the price was \$6000 for the surgery and \$1500 a day for a month's stay in the hospital.

The lowest cost American surgery is presently around \$9200 and the prices go upwards from there. We have recently learned of four other surgeons in Belgium who perform the SRS, plus a doctor in Sweden and one in Switzerland.

Information received from a social worker at the Belgische Genderstichting has praised one of the surgeons. We expect to receive additional information about the other three.

If you wish the names and addresses of these surgeons, send us a self addressed stamped business size envelope.

If you are ready, or soon will be, for sex reassignment surgery, use this information for your benefit. If you are not ready at this time, do not impose your curiosity upon our staff as all inquiries take time and money to answer.

Sincerely,  
Members of the Twenty Club

## LET'S TALK

by Joan [REDACTED]

Lately there's been a lot of discussion about TV's versus TS's, and the defunctions thereof. So, in an honest effort to clear up all this misunderstanding once and for all, I offer up to you the following.

## (1) The Console TV

This is the basic model. This one always stays in the home. As it is so unwieldy, it is assured of good reception only in this stable environment.

## (2) The Portable TV

This is, by far, the most numerous model today, or so it seems. This one loves to travel anywhere - to the shore, to the mountains, absolutely anywhere! And, although this model is easy to take along, its reception is not always that good, except amongst close friends who accept its shortcomings.

## (3) The Black &amp; White TV

This model is most common nowadays as a portable. Although very willing to travel most anywhere, it suffers severely from being so "black and white about everything".

## (4) The Color TV

This model by far, is the most popular of all. Whether in a console model for at home use only, or in a convenient portable, the color TV is by far the best and the brightest. Its vibrant colors and versatility are only surpassed by its big sister, the Cable-Ready TV. Often, they are mistaken for one another as they appear to be so much alike, at first glance. Its only after looking at their inner workings that the subtle differences become obvious.

## (5) The Cable-Ready TV

This is the one whose reception is usually the best, because everything has been done to guarantee it. This fine reception is due to definition and clarity as well as superior color control. Volume and tonal quality is virtually undetectable from the real thing by laymen. If all phases are in adjustment, the Cable-Ready TV (also known as a TS) is as close to reality as is possible given the "state-of-the-art".

So! There you have it! Everything you've ever really wanted to know about TV's and TS's, but had been truly hesitant to ask of anyone, even... Geraldo Rivera... or Sally Jessy Raphael... or Oprah Winfrey... or Phil Donahue!

P.S. By the way Phil honey, the outfit a few weeks ago was just darling, but you really must do something with your hair and your makeup! And those shoes!!! Well, honestly!!!

Maybe, Mario will help you dear! Show her a few of your old "TV" shows, then who knows...

Maybe next year we'll be watching "The Phyllis Donahue Show"! Hey hon, we all had to start somewhere!

## NOTICE

The severe lack of  
planning on your part  
does not constitute  
an emergency on my part



by Michelle Hunt, R.N.

Dear Michelle: I live in a small town filled with rednecks who don't understand transsexualism. My neighbors are making my life miserable. Do you know of any place in the world that I can move to where I will be accepted? V.S.

Dear V.S.: You wouldn't believe how many requests such as yours end up in my mailbox every month. Unfortunately, I don't know of ANY place that you can move to where people will accept you as a female unless you actually look and act the part. Believe me, it is much more important to look like a female from the waist up than from the waist down. Whatever you do, don't make the mistake of having SRS before, rather than after, you have the rest of your ACT together.

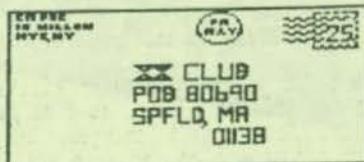
(Reprinted with permission of the author from the February 1988 issue of the TRANSSEXUAL VOICE.)

ASK NOT WHAT  
THE TWENTY CLUB  
CAN DO FOR YOU...  
ASK WHAT YOU  
CAN DO FOR THE  
THE TWENTY CLUB.



SUBSCRIBE NOW  
TO TWENTY MINUTES

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Veronica,

In your reply to Janice Van Cleve's Letter to the Editor (January '89 Twenty Minutes) you made some statements concerning the nature of transvestism that I would like to address.

#1) "Medical literature defines transvestism as a sexual deviation." What literature and when was it published? The current Diagnostic and Statistical Manual, Third Edition-Revised, (DSM-III-R) has replaced "transvestism" as a psychological diagnosis with "transvestic fetishism", which is an entirely different problem. Transvestism, *per se*, is not a sexual deviation, which is not the same as saying it is not sexual or erotic or pleasurable.

#2) "Do TVs have sex with each other?" I am certain that some TVs do have sex with other TVs, so what? Sexual preference and transvestism are not directly linked just as sexual preference and transsexualism are not directly linked.

#3) "Virginia Prince has spent a lifetime trying to de-sex and de-eroticize transvestism..." Yes, and there is still a Flat Earth Society as well, but neither of them holds a defensible position in light of all the data and information currently available. To be sure, there is asexual crossdressing, but, simply stated, transvestites crossdress for pleasure, erotic and/or psychological, and that is a documented fact. In fact, according to Dr. Richard Docter in his current book *Transvestites and Transsexuals*, the sexual pleasure of crossdressing is a necessary "ingredient" in the development of transvestism. Those of us who can think for ourselves and have read the literature are not buying what Virginia has been selling. I know what I feel and what I do, when crossdressed, and choose not to make apologies for myself. What is important to know is that not every episode of my crossdressing is erotic. I choose when I do it for fun and when I do it for pleasure. When I'm out in the public eye, it's not for erotic pleasure.

#4) "What's it going to be... 'Sexual Minority' or 'Asexual Crossdressing'." Sexual minority status is not the sole purview of lesbians and gays. There are many different kinds of sexual minorities, but some are more visible than others. Most "deviations" are now termed paraphilic and involve either unconsenting participation (e.g. frottage, flashing, etc.) or self-inflicted harm (e.g. auto-ashyrophilia). I have some very dear and close female friends who are into serious S&M and who would also take great offense at being called deviates. I do not fully understand how they derive pleasure from their practice, just as they do not fully understand how I derive mine from crossdressing, but we all understand that our differences make us minorities on that Great Bell Curve of Life. At the risk of being trite, let me say you're mixing apples and oranges.

I suspect that when it comes to the subject of Transsexualism, you are very well read and very knowledgeable, and I also suspect (you allude to it on the front page of the issue) that you are not well versed when it comes to Transvestism. In the future, please do not "Tar & Feather" transvestites using popular literature and demagogues as your reference sources; it doesn't help your otherwise valid criticisms.

Sincerely yours,  
JoAnn Roberts  
The Renaissance Education Association, PA

Dear JoAnn,

#1) "Most writers on the subject refer to transvestism as a sexual deviation..." from *The Transsexual Phenomenon*, by Dr. Harry Benjamin, chapter 2, page 24, second paragraph. I must confess to being a bit devious, just a coy ploy, Dr. Benjamin continues, "...sometimes a perversion. It is not necessarily either one." See how easy it is for anyone to quote out of context and find passages written by our chosen gurus to back up our own opinions or feelings?

#2) To claim status as a sexual minority means having sex with other members of your minority. Yet, the public image most often stressed on television shows is that most crossdressers are heterosexual, happily married males. It seems that the members of this group don't want the taint of homosexuality. Aha, but I suspect this group must be Virginia Prince's TRI-ESS people. Yes, good old TRI-ESS, an exclusive men's club for heteros only, and all others keep out thank you very much. And what's wrong with that? They have the right to set up rules to benefit their members, just as the Twenty Club cannot serve TVs.

#3) How does one differentiate between a TV who is crossdressed for erotic kicks and one who is enjoying psychological pleasure? Do we give each one about to enter the women's room a short arm inspection and measure the amount of blood gorged erectile tissue with a set of vernier calipers? We now have all the more reason to keep crossdressed males out of the women's room. An erotically stimulated TV has no business in a tiny, cramped room where members of the opposite sex are dropping their panties or adjusting their bra straps in front of the mirror.

#4) Funny thing how you and Janice Van Cleve both took issue against me and the Tapestry Journal. Yet neither of you spoke out against my references to Dr. Benjamin's work. I get the impression that you want me to only quote from writings that concur with your personal beliefs and value systems. So, let me quote directly from the *Transsexual Phenomenon*, chapter 2, last page. "The transvestite has a social problem. The transsexual has a gender problem. The homosexual has a sexual problem." I see nothing in reference to transvestites having problems with gender or sex. But ah yes, nothing is black and white.

What began as a strong posture against giving men legal access to the women's room has degenerated into a philosophy struggle for domination and increased male power among the various factions in the TV/CD community. Everyone with imagined self-importance wants a bigger piece of the pie, wants their local or regional group to be top dog, and to be recognized as the undisputed leader in gender circles. Look at me! Look at how wise and strong I am. Look at how much our group has grown! Look at how important we are! My daddy can whip your daddy. My group is better than your group! Ya-tata-tata-tata-tata...

Golly gee, do you people need IFGE more than ever now. I can imagine how the sparks are gonna fly in San Francisco in April, what with all the diverse philosophies present, cans of worms and boxes of dynamite lying around. And with all that's been written about toilets, Tapestry and Virginia Prince, geesh, I shudder to think... And some TV groups claim to indulge in their hobby with good taste and dignity? Isn't that a contradiction in terms? Too bad I won't be there. But I'm just a poor working (TV) girl. In fact, if it hadn't been for a friend (TV) to subsidize two thirds of my trip last year, I wouldn't have made it to Chicago. I ain't got a thousand bucks to spare. A grand, that's a little more than ten percent of my yearly net.

It doesn't matter who is more or less versed in what field of knowledge. That isn't the issue here. What is at issue, is that it's a man's world, even among the transvestites.

Editor

Dear Editor,

On the front page of the January issue of *Twenty Minutes* you asked for some gripes TSs have about TVs. I won't have many as long as I don't go to a TV/TS group meeting. It is just some stupid little digs. I used the club dressing room once and that was the second time I visited. For the next two years, I dressed at home. After my surgery I was informed I could no longer use this male retreat! It was almost a remark that said "you are a woman now" and the person (TV) looked down on me. (DOUBLE STANDARD).

Another time a TS and I were discussing her work, a TV came over to sit at our table and in a positive way said, "I am sitting here now, and I don't want to hear you talk about hormones, surgery or real breasts!" I brought out a photo album once and a remark was made "I don't want to see pictures of your surgery". The album contained scenic photos of places in Belgium.

When one TV remarked that they did not believe I dressed 100% of the time, another TV piped up and supported my words. "Oh yes, I've seen Abby in broad daylight walking along Main Street in a New Hampshire town" They are believers now. A TV wants understanding and acceptance from the public. But they do not try to understand a TS. When I announced I had my doctor, plane ticket, passport and funds for my surgery, I had four or five TVs try to talk me out of it. To them I was a TV. They didn't believe me until I showed them letters of approval from three psychologists. They never noticed the TS in me. My spouse was told by a TV's wife to have me get a man's short hair cut! Of course the ear piercing had remarks! You know the ones. "You have to wear studs for six weeks. Someone will see them. Now my husband will want to pierce his ears." Of course other remarks as "Why electrolysis, a close shave will do." In two years they never noticed!

After surgery, one TV propositioned my spouse with "Go out with me, she can't do you any good now!"

I've never remarked how some TVs get a little far fetched at times. Their tight leather pants show the male organs pushed out in front, the low cut blouse showing a hairy muscular chest. If they can't shave their legs or arms because of their jobs, at least they could wear a long sleeved blouse and pretty slacks. To wear 3 inch heals with hairy toes and then walk like a farmer in a plowed field is kind of humorous. But when one dressed tastefully, with a good feminine effect, and then dug into her handbag to bring out a King Edward and lit up, even I had to laugh.

My point is that for over two years I gave the members of the group, both TVs and TSs, the understanding, friendship and support and treated both equally well. But after my S.R.S. I had a distinct feeling that I was not as good as I was before and looked down on.

One last comment, I have met a lot of sweet, kind and friendly TVs also. And the nice ones outnumber the others.

Love,  
Abby Marie, NH

Dear Veronica,

Your observation that there are problems of misunderstanding between TSs and TVs is undoubtedly true, but I'm not sure that airing a list of "gripes" will do much to solve the problem. It seems to me that any assessment we make of TVs will miss the mark, and vice versa, unless we understand that their thing and our thing are entirely different and we should not try judge one by the standards of the other.

When I began to come to grips with my own terrifying discovery that I was not like other "men" and came stumbling out of my closet, I fell into the arms of a sensitive, caring and supportive group of TVs because they happened to be there. I still remember the night I arrived at their place.

My feelings were akin to those of any other outsider coming into this scene for the first time. It was at once both fascinating and frightening and my first instinct was to turn and run. But I stayed because of my own overriding need to encounter other "males" who were able to present themselves as "females" without fear or shame or apology, which coincided with my own fundamental need at the time.

During the next few years my regular visits with this group began to have two effects. First, as time passed, they seemed less outlandish. They hadn't changed, but I began to see beyond the odd assortment of costumes and found real people, good people, and all too often, sad and hurting people, who were often just as perplexed about their situation as the rest of us.

The second thing that happened was that I learned that I was not a TV. Crossdressing was not something I did because of a compulsion, or the need to calm the jitters of my "male" bones, or because it was a fun fantasy. Crossdressing was something I did because I was born a male-child and so I dressed in male clothes because it was expected of me. But I am very fond of many TVs. I have no quarrel with them. They do what they do because they have no choice.

There are two very visible differences between TSs and TVs: Wardrobe and passing. Neither of these is the most important difference by any means. All too often TSs tend to dismiss these differences with glib statements that their wardrobes are absurd and they can't pass, while our wardrobes are sensible and we can pass.

We have to stop thinking of TVs as absurd TSs. They are transvestites and very feminine clothes is what it is all about for them. Unlike us, they do not wear clothes because they have to wear something as they go about the daily activities of their lives. Function, comfort and good taste are not their concerns. They have a mysterious compulsion to experience a feminine fantasy. The occasions that TVs have to dress are usually limited, so that when they do, they tend to pull out all the stops and go for it.

When a TV talks about "passing" they mean something very different from what we mean. We not only have to "pass", we have to become involved in long term and close relationships with everyday people who perceive and relate to us as women. It seems clear that the majority of TVs could not sustain involvements as women in society, but the fact is that they do not need or want to.

"Passing" for TVs generally means that they have gone to a restaurant or a store, were perhaps spoken to briefly as "Miss" or "Maam", and were not openly read. But don't put it down, this is a very great satisfaction to them and helps fulfill the need that they have.

I suppose I shall always be perplexed, as most of us are, by their strange eccentricities. But I am pleased to know that in the TV community there are many really nice folks, and that among them I have many dear friends.

Paula Louise Riordan, MA

Dear XX Club,

For your 'can of worms', when TVs and TSs get together it is because they share crossdressing. When they bring up their different motivations, it ruins their common ground.

When you go with a TV to a restaurant and they ask you to order for them, they know that their voice is masculine. That's fine. But sometimes they forget and start talking (you can hear them across the street), everyone's attention is drawn to us and the TV insists they passed afterward and everyone was looking because of their beauty. Come on!

Helen F, NY

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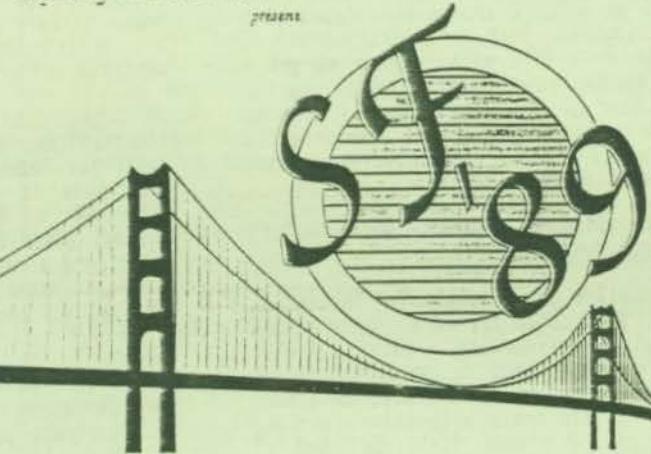
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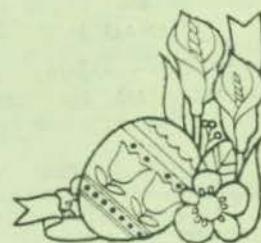
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DAY

Religion controls us with the fear that we are evil.

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Is it any wonder that so many people are nervous wrecks?