

TWENTY MINUTES

JULY 1991

\$2.00

After 12 yrs of marriage ...

Wife discovers hubby is a woman

By MARTHA BEASLEY

A MARRIAGE MADE IN HEAVEN came to an end when a shocked wife discovered her husband was actually another woman! Amazingly, it took Ilse Rumsnagel 12 years to learn the truth about her hubby Waldo. Ilse was 18 when she first met Waldo, a handsome 19-year-old carpenter. The pair began dating, fell in love, and married the following year. Ilse recalls being struck by the fact that Waldo had no family or friends, and never spoke about his childhood.

Waldo was so strong and masculine, and yet he had this wonderful sensitive side to him, Ilse always thought he'd make the ideal father. But the couple's repeated attempts to have a baby were unsuccessful. Longing for a child of her own, Ilse visited doctor after doctor, all of whom told her she was healthy and fertile. They said the problem was most likely with her husband. Waldo, however, angrily refused to undergo an examination, claiming he had a terrible fear of doctors.

Then one day Ilse made a bizarre discovery while cleaning the attic of her Salzburg, Austria home. She found an old photo album hidden under some clothes. Inside were pictures of a tom-boyish young girl who bore a striking resemblance to Waldo. A school photo identified her as 'Wanda Rumsnagel.'



• WIFE ILSE couldn't believe how horribly she'd been deceived



• MASCULINE HUBBY Waldo Rumsnagel



• WALDO IS actually Wanda Rumsnagel

Ilse secretly hired a private detective to check out her mysterious husband's past. A week later, the detective reported back to her. Waldo was born a girl, Wanda, who became a prominent leader of a lesbian-rights group. At the age of 24, Wanda legally changed her name to Waldo and disappeared from the political scene. Ilse became hysterical and had to be taken to the hospital in a state of shock.

Ilse couldn't believe how horribly she'd been deceived. She filed for divorce after leaving the hospital. But, grief-stricken, Waldo is praying for a miracle that will reunite the pair.

'I always planned to tell Ilse about my problem,' Waldo says. 'I hope someday she'll understand the hell I'm going through, being a man trapped inside a woman's body.'

(EDITOR'S NOTE...Reprinted from SUN, January 30, 1990 edition.)

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TWENTY MINUTES

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MARK RUSSELL

Political correctness bans "look-ism," referring to anyone as "slender," "handsome," "plump," etc. Therefore, the old song, "Oh, You Beautiful Doll" would become "Oh, You Person of Indeterminate Gender and Appearance."

Sherlock Holmes observed that once you have eliminated the impossible, then whatever remains, however improbable, must be the answer.

All the news that's print to fit.

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XX CLUB CALENDAR

MEETING

Saturday, July 13

PICNIC

Saturday, July 27

MEETINGS

Saturday, Aug. 10

Saturday, Aug. 24

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

Christ Church Cathedral
45 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103

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

From THE ICONOCLAST

by JoAnn Roberts

Renaissance News, April 1991

Woburn, MA - If conceit were consumption, she'd be dead...

I have often remarked about TVs who tout the glories of "exploring" their feminine side while they posture and strut like peacocks.

A case in point, in the January issue of *Rosebuds*, Roberta Dearborn says of that publication, "It's the best in the nation, but 120 organizations are out there looking at the Tiffany Club of New England (TCNE) and the way we do things."

I seriously doubt that anyone would put *Rosebuds* in the same category as *Renaissance News* (so I'm prejudiced), *Twenty Minutes* (The Twenty Club), *ETVC Newsletter*, *Cross Talk*, *The Primrose*, or the *Emerald City Newsletter*, all of which, in my opinion, address the real issues of our community.

TREASURER'S \$

REPORT

Balance - from May \$1616.28

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	.00
Newsletter subscriptions	90.00
Brochures & Reprints	7.00
Donations	5.00
Savings interest	8.44
Total Income	\$ 110.44

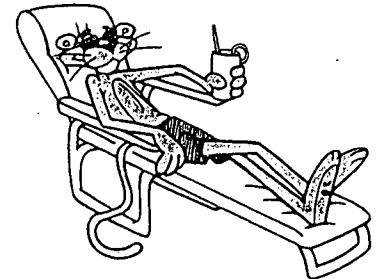
EXPENSES:

Refreshments	.00
Newsletter & brochures	.00
Postage	57.00
Supplies	2.08
Bank Fee	.85
Total Expenses	\$ 59.93

Net income for June \$ 50.51

Balance - end of June \$1666.79

XX CLUB PICNIC



This year's summer picnic will be held on Saturday, July 27 at Straton Brook Park in Simsbury, CT at or near the covered pavilion. All members, families, friends and significant others as well as members of other TS/TV 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. The XX Club will provide the ice and the soft drinks. Bring a hibachi and charcoal to cook hot dogs and hamburgers and such. Bring frisbees or other picnic games. There is a beach and a pond at the park, so bring those bikinis. Mark this date on your calendar and plan to have a good time.

(NOTE...There will be NO meeting at Christ Church the day of the picnic.)

Please see the map to Straton Brook Park elsewhere in this newsletter.

NOTES FROM THE YELLOW BRICK ROAD

by Barbara Jean Hatcher

Since October 1990 I have been living as a woman. I relocated to a town where a few people had known me in androgynous transition but virtually no one had ever met me in a purely male state. It is continually fascinating how expansive life has become once I gave myself the authority to change. The dimensions of existence are far broader than could be imagined during the years of being too scared of and caring too much about other people's conditional friendship and judgement to dare to really live. A lot of this expansion isn't related just to confronting my gender dysphoria but is probably true for anyone who has stopped allowing control of their lives to be given over to fear of others.

No value can be derived by telling anyone your past, even on the most intimate basis. There is no benefit in sharing facts about a former life-style you don't intend to perpetuate. It is something gone and dead, parts barely remembered. Why would a person want to ever rehash it? It would be very much like constantly opening a healing scab for the pleasure of remembering what it felt like to be injured.

The exact memories of various challenges faced in becoming whole are fading. There were things to do like tell employers and family, appear in front of my children in a dress for the first time, but memory of intense pressure and anxiety is gone. It would make no sense to try to recapture those feelings; it is merely enough they are over and I shall never have to do them again. Now I am forgetting what it was like to do things in a male way. In watching the Gulf War on television, I know intellectually that I was in Vietnam, but could not relate to the men in the Middle East. There was no remembered camaraderie of experience. It felt natural to be patriotic and supportive by wearing a red, white and blue ribbon on my sweater. There were no distant trumpets that call.

My life partner, Sher, and I are lesbians. We were both lesbian before we met, and our lives have joined together in a deep love and joy. Some lesbian friends would be quite surprised if they knew I had lived as a male. Several years ago a well know female musician, very popular with the feminist/lesbian set was outed as a transsexual. She was immediately thrown out of the musical group, and lost all of the "friends" she had made over the years.

The act of outing is a little horrifying. Anecdotal reference, even positive, to anyone who should not share private knowledge can be a damaging thing. Personal prejudices and the political or religious agendas of some people can be vicious. The only defense against them is avoidance.

There is no way, though, to avoid the fact that some people who knew me in transition have a tendency, in innocence, to share gossip with others. I met such a person and in the course of our conversation made it clear that a mutual friend had shared some information about me. In chatting,

my new acquaintance did not relate directly to my former status but close enough that I was sure our mutual friend had told the "rest of the story..." It really didn't make any difference in our meeting but I am certain that the new acquaintance will no doubt relate an anecdote to someone else as well.

The question arises; if people with some knowledge of my past continue to be kind, to give respect, to do business, to treat me as a woman named Barbara - the only way we ever met, then have I not in any event achieved my goal of living my life exactly the way I always wanted?

There actually shouldn't be any difference in the quality of my life, for no one can make me any less a woman or a person than I allow. People in general accept me without question. Most do not know my past and I feel no inclination to inform them. But even if they were told by another source, what else can they do but accept or reject me as the person I am today? I do business with people who know and people who don't. But with either, I am all that I have ever wanted to be...in living my physical life as the woman I have always been in my mind. In the end my acceptance in the world will only be for the value as a person I provide to those who encounter me. If a person rejects me for who I am, not what I can do, then the loss is theirs not mine.

The sum of my experience in part was developed because my former physical presence forced me to learn certain cultural habits and skills most typical of males, positive and negative. While my synthesis was superficial, the learning was sufficient to make me a successful individual in spite of my dysphoria.

My tenacity and courage has allowed me to alter my physical presence enough to finally live life the way I would have chosen to be born, but with cumulative knowledge of both gender life-styles. Fortunately I have been able to translate the male experiences into acceptable female usage, while at the same time being able to acknowledge the roots of their creation and acquisition.

Self permission to exist is the reason for my current acceptance as a whole person; from those who didn't know me before and for whom my developed physical presence gives little clue, and for those who have known me in business or socially for a time. It seems very natural to both groups that I appear in skirts. Anything else would be inconsistent to them and to me.

A person has a choice to participate in open acknowledgement and public education of those not aware of the facts of their experience but no one has a responsibility to do it. Those who don't feel the need to heed a call to possible martyrdom should have no guilt in refusing to publicly acknowledge a limiting former existence. One's only responsibility to themselves is to live in a way that gives the best opportunity to participate in total experience. Anything less, stopped by fear of the conditional approval of others, is crime against self. You have only you to blame if you do not escape it.

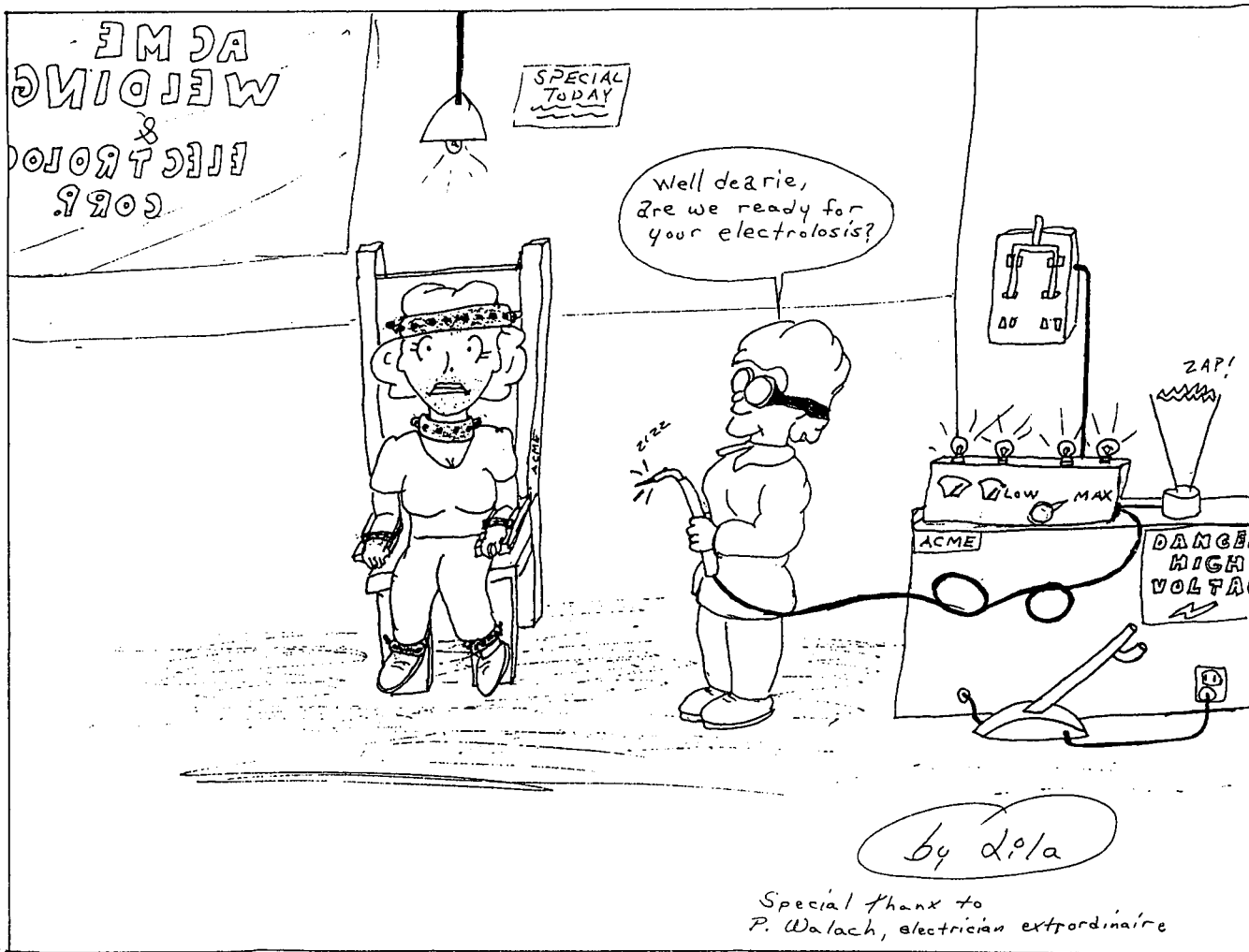
While in high school I had a dream in which I put on a beautiful white dress, went to school, and no one paid the least attention to me. I told a casual male school chum about the dream the next day...probably because it was so real and disturbing. I was amazed when he said to me, "you might as well, no one would care or be surprised anyway". There was no physical delicacy or effeminacy about me to offer visual ground for the comment, so his remark, quickly spoken, shocked me in its offhanded casual agreement. I never discussed the dream again with anyone nor acted upon it for years. And yet that reaction is what I found as I finally "put on that white dress and went to school" twenty-six years after the dream. No one was the least surprised or cared. I should have just done it so many years ago.

Top 10 Reasons Why I Didn't Write an Editorial This Month

by Sonia

- 10- My mom made me mow the lawn.
- 9 - Busy making tea.
- 8 - Out covering some disaster for the 6 o'clock newscast.
- 7 - Spent the entire month tanning.
- 6 - My word processor refuses to type any word that does not begin with the letter 'Q'.
- 5 - Taking lamaze classes...
- 4 - The cat ate it, and then the dog ate the cat, and then the dog ran away and is now working as a female impersonator at the Crown & Anchor in Provincetown under the name 'The Fabulous Mona'.
- 3 - Waiting for the movie to come out.
- 2 - On strike due to contract negotiations (to obtain SRS). Send donations to PO Box 80690, c/o Sonia.
- 1 - I just couldn't do it, OK ??? So SUE me!

Dull people always have clean desks



Cartoon Crossdressing

by Robin Reed

Of course, any cartoon connoisseur who has studied the classic Warner Brothers animated shorts knows about Bugs Bunny. Here's a rabbit who will don female accoutrement at the drop of a hemline. Let me quote from Mel Blanc's autobiography, 'That's Not All Folks': "Strangely, for two so embroiled in perpetual conflict the rabbit and the hunter (Bugs and Elmer Fudd) do an awful lot of smooching. That, and Bugs' proclivity for cross-dressing have raised some concern among viewers. On numerous occasions fans have asked me, Are Bugs and Elmer...well, you know...are they...? No, they're not sweethearts. During a production meeting for Elmer's Pet Rabbit (1941) someone suggested we have Bugs startle his new owner by planting a smacker on Elmer's lips. The gag worked. The gag stayed. That's all there is to it."

So there you have it, intimations of cross-species homosexuality as well as crossdressing. However, those cartoons were created some time ago, and even though American society was more strict about many things back then, there was less outcry against certain types of humor. In this TV age, when self appointed, self righteous censors sit down and catalog everything in children's programming that they don't like, then write congress about it, you wouldn't expect anything as strange as cross dressing to sneak into cartoons. In fact, many of Bugs' most outrageous episodes of wearing female garb were routinely cut from television broadcasts until recently. Cable networks decided that they would not, er, skirt the issue, and would show the classic cartoons uncut.

I have found a current, made for TV cartoon show (a Disney product at that) that has several times had male characters in drag. "Chip and Dale Rescue Rangers" is based around two cheerful chipmunks, who in the old days were content to steal Donald Duck's apples and otherwise cause minor mischief. Now, on TV, they are supersleuths who can solve any mysterious crime, with the help of several new characters. There is Monterey Jack, a cheese loving rat; (they refer to him as a mouse on the show, but come on, he is twice as big as the other mouse in the cast, and travels around the world in the holds of ships) his pal Zipper, who is a fly; and Gadget, a shapely female mouse who invents devices that help the Rangers in their adventures, but also inspires lust in the hearts of the two title chipmunks.

Chip and Dale have both, in at least two episodes that I know of, been shown dressing as females in order to fool the bad guy. In one, Chip poses as the friend of the bad guy in order to get what he wants and solve the case. None of this is as strange as a single episode that goes beyond cross-dressing, into switching bodies between the sexes.

In that episode Professor Nimnull, a recurring villain, has created a device that he calls the Modemizer, which allows him to transmit himself over phones, giving him easy access to any place he wants to steal something, as long as there is a phone there. Due to various plot complications, Zipper ends up in the device during one of the transmissions, and he and the Professor switch heads. You're right, so far, we have an homage to the original

'The Fly', and the episode contains a number of references to that movie.

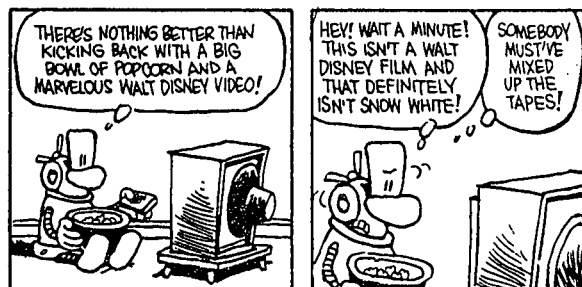
But then it gets stranger. The Rescue Rangers, in trying to rectify the situation, all end being transmitted together, and getting their heads and bodies ambled. Gadget ends up with Dale's body, and Dale with Gadget's. Once they've set up this situation, the Disney writers can't resist some weird bits of behavior by the characters. Gadget severely warns Dale to keep his, er, her, um, the hands that he is using off of the body that he is wearing. Then Gadget, who usually wears a mechanic's style coverall, expresses discomfort with Dale's style of dress. Dale always wears a short, open shirt and nothing else. No comment is made about this normally, as in the style of many cartoon characters who wear little clothing but whose privates are non-existent or well hidden. However, Gadget is uncomfortable enough that she picks up a small paper cup and converts it into a skirt by punching out the bottom and putting it on upside down.

I'm not sure what viewers, especially young ones who are watching the show in the after school time slot are supposed to make of this. If these characters have anything that should be covered up for the sake of modesty, how come the males can go around mostly naked but the one female has to cover up? Especially when what she is covering up is a male body that she is temporarily attached to?

This same episode, besides its references to The Fly and strange mixing up of genders, contains a scene where a boy named Franz is told by his teacher that his story about a man who turns into an insect is no good and will get a bad grade. Then she spots the Zipper/Professor Nimnull combination peering in the window and decides to reward Franz with an A for his story. Who says cartoons are just for kids?

That is the end of this report, but having spotted these examples of cartoon cross-dressing, I will remain ever vigilant and report any future examples of drag 'toons that I come across while wending my way through the thickets of American pulp culture.

ROBOTMAN



Transition

Interview with Jeanie Davidson

Jeanie is a twenty-two year old preoperative transsexual person. She lived back and forth between gender roles for two years or so until she began living full time as a woman eight months ago. Jeanie has been taking hormones for eighteen months. She plans to undergo sexual corrective surgery by year's end.

Twenty Minutes: What do you believe causes transsexualism?

Jeanie: In some ways, that's a deceptively complicated question. First of all, most birth males who consider sexual reassignment surgery are probably better off with other solutions, and I would hesitate to call them transsexual. In most cases of true transsexualism I think there is a combination of physiological and psychological factors.

TM: How did you decide that you were transsexual?

J: I knew who I was ever since I can remember. The word transsexual I only heard later.

TM: What did your transition consist of?

J: I was deeply shocked and horrified by my parents' assertion that I was a man. I came to believe that they wanted me to be a boy, and would be angry with me if they discovered that I was really a girl. I remember that I hid my feelings from everyone, carefully doing 'boy things' to avoid detection. Puberty was a major shock to me. I tried to turn into a boy to suit my parents. I had romantic and sexual relations with women, in an attempt to 'cure' myself. At age 19 I realized that there was no behavioral 'cure' for being a woman who appears to be a man. I took a leave of absence from college and moved to the 'big city' to find out how to remedy the situation. I wasted two or three years scavenging for information before I finally enrolled in a gender clinic.

TM: Why was finding information so difficult?

J: First, it is very scarce. Second, most of it is incorrect. Third, most people are exceedingly bigoted against transsexual persons. Transsexuals are discriminated against by the government, doctors, psychiatrists, lawyers, straights, gays, transvestites, and other transsexuals.

TM: How did you eventually find the information you needed?

J: Gay helplines led me to crossdresser support groups, who in turn put me in touch with a few transsexual persons. Finally I found a transsexual support group, which I attended religiously for several months.

TM: You no longer attend support group meetings?

J: No, I do not attend ANY gender conflicted functions anymore. Initially, I found it very valuable to meet people who felt as I felt, and to discuss information on hormones and doctors. Eventually, though, I believe the true transsexual moves on to womanhood or manhood. To remain in the gender community is to remain a transsexual. I am a transsexual by accident, not inclination.

TM: When you attended support groups, you dressed as a man.

J: I dressed the way I dressed naturally at the time. For me, being perceived as a man dressed as a woman would be horrible. The people at the support group knew my history, as did the people at the clinic. I get no thrill from wearing women's clothes. Until I 'passed' completely, I did not go anywhere dressed in women's clothes.

TM: How difficult was it to learn to 'pass' for you?

J: The first time I put on a wig and makeup, I looked like an attractive woman, which probably helped me in my resolve to pursue gender congruity. If I looked like a man in a wig, I might still be living in denial today. I was exceedingly lucky. I came to terms with my gender dysphoria at young age, and my physique was sufficiently androgynous to facilitate my transition. My hands, feet, adam's apple, and general build are all within female ranges. I only needed thirty hours of electrolysis. I have modeled as a woman.

TM: Why did you live back and forth for so long before living full time as a woman?

J: I learned from the example of others. Time and again I saw people who looked like men wearing lipstick throw out all their boy clothes and pursue work as women. I resolved not to make the jump until my electrolysis was finished, I passed 100% without a second thought, my voice was sufficiently feminine to talk to strangers on the phone, and I had a network of friends who knew me as a woman and were unaware of my 'medical history'. The most important piece of advice I could give anyone transitioning is to take one step at a time. Living full time perceived as a man wearing a dress is not the same thing as living full time as a woman.

TM: What other advice would you share with persons transitioning from the male to the female gender?

J: Every problem dealt with by transsexuals is also dealt with by a percentage of genetic women, and has a solution. Arm and hand hair can be bleached (rather than shaved), an hourglass figure can be suggested with clothing (rather than padding), large, square features may be softened with the proper haircut. False breasts will not make a person look more feminine. Genetic women are better information sources than other people who are in transition.

TM: How did you learn to walk, move, and speak as a woman?

J: Caring for my nails caused me to subconsciously adopt gestures associated with women. Tender breasts taught me to use my arms protectively, and wearing a skirt and pumps caused me to walk as a woman walks. As for speaking, a small tape recorder is very useful. In element of presentation, understatement is paramount. A contrived soprano voice sounds terrible, but a warm contralto seems natural. Living full time taught me appropriate behaviors very quickly.

TM: How will reassignment surgery change your life?

J: I will be able to have normal sexual relations with men. For now, I don't even kiss anyone. I tell interested parties that I have a boyfriend. After surgery, I will be able to wear a bathing suit and go the beach with my girlfriends. There is a certain amount of discomfort with having an incongruous body.

TM: Do you plan to have any other surgeries?

J: Yes, I'd like to have breast implants. My breasts are too small to suit my large frame. I'm also looking into voice surgery. I seem to 'pass' on the phone without any trouble, but it's something I need to concentrate on. I feel that speaking should come as naturally for me as everything else does. My inflection and pitch do seem to be changing of their own accord, however. Perhaps I am premature in seeking a surgical solution.

TM: Would you like to have children?

J: Of course. I think the hormones have reduced my sex drive only to increase my 'baby drive'. More than anything, I'd love to carry and breast feed a child. Realistically, adoption is possible. Also, I froze my sperm before going on hormones, which cost almost \$1,000, plus another \$100 or so per year, but may someday give me a child of my own. I cannot overstress the importance of freezing sperm, especially for persons who want to have children and have romantic relations with genetic women.

TM: Your legal name is Jean Davidson. How did you decide on the name?

J: My birth name was David, so Davidson was a natural choice as a last name. I would have much preferred to keep my family name, but as an occasional model the chances of someone who knew me as David recognizing me are too great. Two years ago, while still living as a male, I changed my name legally to Gene. This gave my friends and family ample time to become accustomed to addressing me correctly. Also, my parents are much more comfortable calling me an androgynous name than something exceedingly feminine. The transition from Gene to Jeanie was very smooth.

TM: How do your parents deal with your gender dysphoria?

J: Both of them accept that this is something that must be resolved, but they have expressed to me in no uncertain terms that they wish that the situation was otherwise. They fluctuate between blaming themselves, blaming the medical industry, and blaming God. There was a long

period of mourning during which they felt as though they had lost 'David'. Still, they are exceedingly supportive. My parents have stood by me and helped me every step of the way.

TM: Were your friends as accepting?

J: I lost a few friends. One thinks of me as a 'weirdo'. The others simply do not relate to me anymore. Of the people I spend time with now, half are old friends and half are ignorant of my past.

TM: Do you plan to tell anyone about your medical history?

J: No.

TEST YOUR KNOWLEDGE

By Lila

DIRECTIONS:

Study each question carefully, then choose the answer ("True" or "False") and mark an 'X' in the appropriate space at the right.

	<u>True</u>	<u>False</u>
A clitoris is a type of flower.	___	___
Pubic hair is a wild rabbit.	___	___
"Spread Eagle" is an extinct bird.	___	___
Vagina is a medical term used to describe heart trouble.	___	___
A menstrual cycle has three (3) wheels.	___	___
A G-string is a part of a violin.	___	___
Semen is another word for "sailors".	___	___
Anus is a Latin word for "yearly".	___	___
Testicles are found on an octopus.	___	___
Asphalt describes rectal troubles.	___	___
Masturbate is used to catch large fish.	___	___
KOTEX is a radio station in Bryan, Texas.	___	___
Fetus is a character on "Gunsmoke".	___	___
An umbilical cord is part of a parachute.	___	___
A condom is and apartment complex.	___	___
An orgasm is the person who accompanies the choir in a church.	___	___
A diaphragm is a drawing in geometry.	___	___
A dildo is a variety of sweet pickle.	___	___
An erection is when the Japanese vote for their government officials.	___	___
Sodomy is the Italian word for "twelve".	___	___
An enema is someone who is not your friend.	___	___
Ovaries are a French egg dish made with cheese.	___	___
Scrotum is a small planet near Uranus.	___	___

Correct answers in next months issue.

I have just worked out a completely new strategy—it's called running away!

VERONICA'S DRAG

by Veronica Jean Brown

And so you may ask, "Who was the first person to appear in a film in drag?" We can't be certain, but one of the first to do so was Gilbert Sarony, who made a drag appearance in a 1900 short silent film. The first well known actor who played drag in early films was Harry Benham. He appeared in *Dotty The Dancer* (1912), *Eye Of Krishna* (1913), and quickly became known as "The Eltinge of the Films." But, don't try to find any of these films at your local video store.

Other lesser known actors played female roles as in the 1910 production of *He Joined The Frat*, in which the hero/heroine dons drag as part of a college frat house initiation. Now where have we heard that before?

In the 1911 Essanay short film, *Girls Will Be Boys*, and for some arcane reason we'll never know, a mother brings up her two daughters as boys. Shouldn't that have been, "Boys Will be Girls?"

1947's *Road To Rio*, and *Casanova's Big Night* in 1948, featured Bob Hope in drag, as did also The Lemon Drop Kid made in 1951. If you like Bob Hope films of this era, see them, if not, then don't.

Perhaps the best boom year for drag performances in the cinema was 1982. Roberta Muldoon, a former Philadelphia Eagle tight end, was the female character aptly played by John Lithgow in *The World according to Garp*.

Robert Preston made a hilarious addition to the final funny moments of *Victor/Victoria*, proving once again that male drag is a lot more fun than female drag.

James Cagney's mother was portrayed by Steve Martin in the immensely funny *Dead Men Don't wear Plaid*.

Richard Pryor managed to find an excuse to get into female finery in the not so hot, *The Toy*.

And for 1982, we certainly can't forget the memorable performances given to us by Dustin Hoffman in *Tootsie*. Every crossdresser should have this one in their collection. Michael Dorsey plays an unemployed actor who just can't get a job. Either he's too short, too tall, too old, too young, or he argues with the director. To life springs the feisty Dorothy Michaels, who applies for, and gets a female role on a day time soap. As long as the camera doesn't get too close to Dorothy's face, the director, played by Dabney Coleman, is happy.

Regarded as a feminist film, *Tootsie* allows Michael Dorsey to find out what it's really like to be a woman, and to add new facets to his own male persona. *Tootsie* is not your average drag film, and while written and projected as a comedy, Hoffman gives the film a one hundred and ten percent seriousness.

In the "I'm not sure I really want it this way department," we have the dark 1976 film by Roman Polanski, who directed and plays the title role in *The Tenant* (1976).

Polanski's character is a shy young man (of course, what else?) who moves into an apartment formerly occupied by a young woman, who left one night rather abruptly through a window. The young man is somehow convinced that her former neighbors wish the woman would come back from the dead, so he eventually assumes her identity, and as fate would have it, follows her out the window. Now that's carrying a female impersonation theme a little too far.

Turning now to the films of Laurel and Hardy, the nominee and winner for the greatest proliferation of drag performances in a film career must go to the thin one of the ditsy duo, Stan Laurel.

Stan appeared in drag in *Duck Soup* (1926), *Why Girls Love Sailors* (1927) *Sugar Daddies* (1927), *That's My Wife* (1929), *Another Fine Mess* (1930), *Babes In Toyland* (1934), *Chumps At Oxford* (1940), *Jitterbugs* (1943), and *Dancing Master* in 1943.

And both members of the Laurel and Hardy team enjoyed the comedic opportunity to appear in drag as their wives in their 1933 film, *Twice Two*.

You can say what you will against the colourization of black and white films if you are so inclined, but you'll be in for a real treat when you see some of the Laurel and Hardy films that have been so colorized.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This article has also appeared in the *Transie Times*.)

SELF-IMPROVEMENT



"What have you got on improving other people?"

**JOHN MONEY,
HERMAPHRODITES,
AND THE EIGHT VARIABLES
OF GENDER**

Gender is not a simple matter, a fact which is apparent from the preceding discussion. Most people, however, assume that it is. That is, people typically assume that if a person is female, she will be feminine; will think of herself as a woman; will be sexually attracted to men; will have a clitoris, vagina, uterus, and ovaries; and will have sex chromosomes XX. The parallel assumption is that all males are masculine; think of themselves as male; are sexually attracted to women; have a penis, testes, and scrotum; and have sex chromosomes XY.

A major research program of the last several decades, conducted at Johns Hopkins University by the psychologist John Money and his colleagues, challenges these assumptions and provides a great deal of information about sexuality and gender and their development (for an excellent summary of this research, see Money and Ehrhardt, 1972). Before the results of this research are discussed, however, some background information is necessary.

First, it is important to understand the distinctions among the eight variables of gender:¹

- 1 *Chromosomal gender* XX in the female; XY in the male
- 2 *Gonadal gender* Ovaries in the female; testes in the male
- 3 *Hormonal gender* Estrogen and progesterone in the female; testosterone in the male
- 4 *Internal accessory organs* Uterus and vagina in the female; prostate and seminal vesicles in the male
- 5 *External genital appearance* Clitoris and vaginal opening in the female; penis and scrotum in the male
- 6 *Assigned gender* The announcement at birth, "It's a girl" or "It's a boy," based on the appearance of the external genitals; the gender the parents and the rest of society believe the child to be; the gender in which the child is reared
- 7 *Gender identity* The person's private, internal sense of maleness or femaleness—which is expressed in personality and behavior—and the integration of this sense with the rest of the personality and with the gender roles prescribed by society
- 8 *Choice of sexual partner* Sexual attraction to members of the same gender, members of the opposite gender, or both

IF you can trust yourself though others doubt you
 And conquer fears that limit what you dare
 So you can freely give to those about you
 The skills and talents that are yours to share;
 If you can live, not for your pleasure only,
 But gladly lend your gentleness and grace
 To warm the hearts of those whose lives are lonely
 And help to make their world a better place;
 If you can balance dreams with practicality
 And deal in facts, but never lose ideals,
 If you can face the harshness of reality
 And find the truths that prejudice conceals;
 If you can be courageous when defeated
 And humble in the face of victory,
 Or give your best until a task's completed,
 However difficult that task may be;
 If you can temper facts with understanding
 And seek to gently guide, not to control,
 And neither be too lax nor too demanding,
 But keep in mind the worth of every soul;
 If you can strive, not caring who gets credit,
 And work at building bridges and not walls,
 Or hearing idle slander, just forget it
 And never fail to help someone who falls;
 If you can give your help without begrudging
 The patience, time and effort you impart,
 Or look at others' weakness without judging
 And see, not with your eyes, but with your heart;
 If you can take resources that surround you
 And use them in the way you feel you should,
 You'll be a woman...and all those around you
 Will be the richer for your womanhood!

BARBARA BURROW

WILLY 'N ETHEL



LETTERS

Dear XX Club Members,

I was very touched by my first experience attending a XX Club meeting on April 27th. I was moved by the depth of pain and fear that some newer members shared and by the support, courage and resilience of more experienced members and by the wonderful humor and the vigor of the group as a whole.

As a sex therapist and sex educator, transsexualism is an area about which I felt I had a fairly good amount of knowledge. Also, I have a friendly relationship with two post-op transsexuals who I admire. However, my attendance at the meeting was actually my first entry into the world of transsexualism, allowing me to meet people at every stage along this tenuous tortuous journey. I was moved by the pain and the strength expressed by the group. I appreciated your acceptance of me as a friendly visitor and am very pleased that I have been invited back to facilitate a "sex talk" session (in the fall).

I feel strongly that sex educators and sex therapists need more exposure and awareness of the gender community, especially the transsexual community. As a member of the board of directors of SIECCONN (Sex Information and Counseling of Conn.) I plan to share with them my experience at the XX Club and to show them the clever and humorous film put together by Sonia and Becky Ann for your Christmas party.

I wish you all a good summer. I wish you all peace.

With warmest wishes,
Louis Spivack, Ph.D.
New Haven, CT

(EDITOR'S NOTE...There is still a limited supply of Twenty Minutes, the Video. So don't delay - order now!)

Dear Friends:

We know time is precious to all of us, but we still hope you can take a moment to send a note of love and appreciation to Dr. Paul Walker for his efforts to assist the gender community in its goals. It has been his lifetime work, as you are probably aware, beginning with his work with Dr. John Money at John Hopkins, continuing through this time when, until his failing health forced him to end his work, he assisted in the Gender Dysphoria Program in Palo Alto.

If you can we would like to read some of your letters to him at a testimonial luncheon...please be a part of this event and help us honor this giant in the gender community.

Send your love letters to:

LIN FRASER, M.A./MFC
2538 California Street
San Francisco, CA 94115

Thanks from all of us at ETVC.



THIS IS YOUR BRAIN



THIS IS YOUR BRAIN
ON FEMALE HORMONES

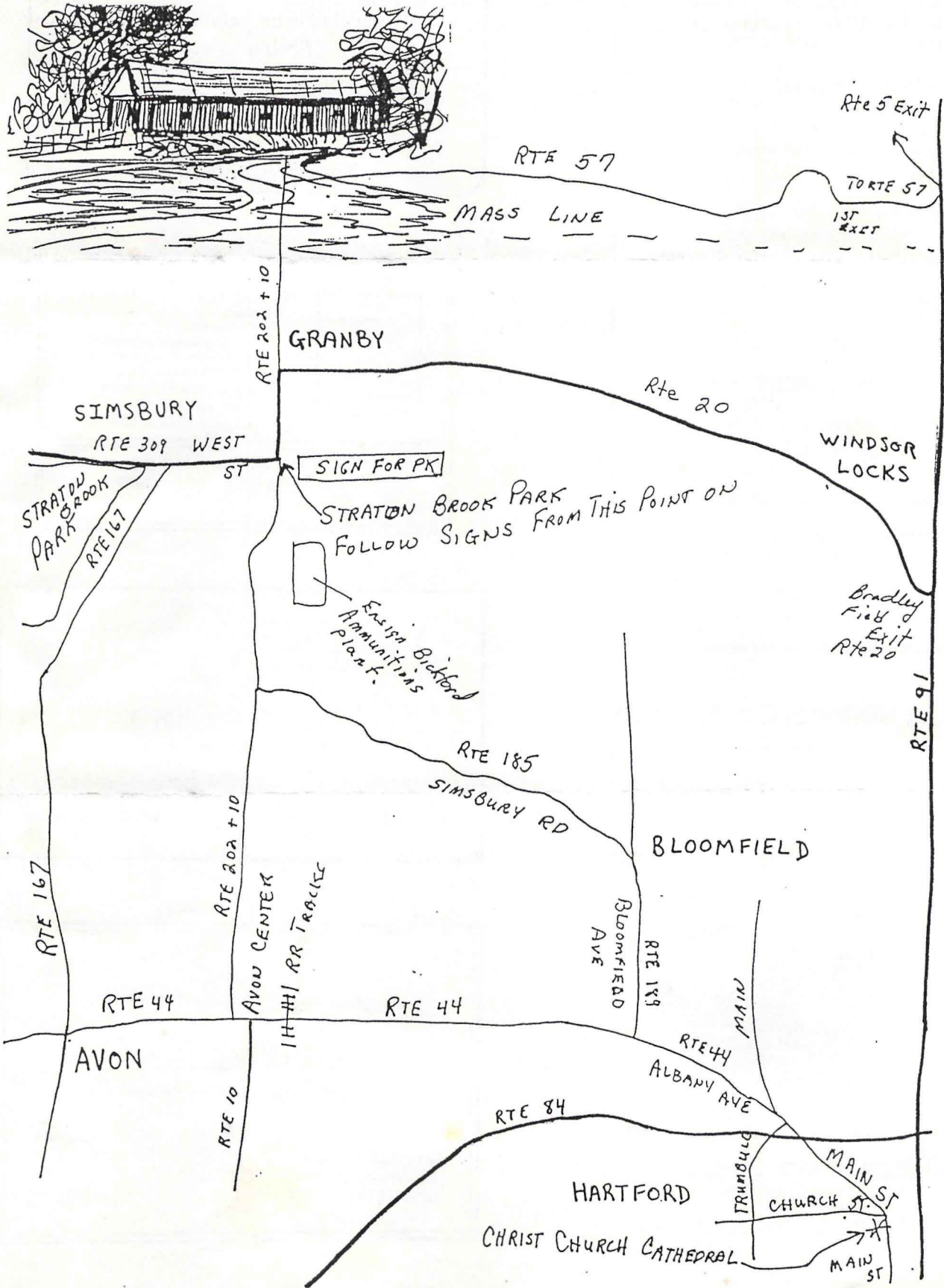
ACTUAL RESULTS MAY VARY.

ANY QUESTIONS ?

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MAP TO STRATON BROOK PARK

Enter Straton Brook Park and park your car 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 where the picnic tables are located. Be there!



TWENTY MINUTES PUBLICATIONS

TRANSSEXUAL GENERAL INFORMATION \$3.00
 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.

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND \$1.00
 Brochure contains initial contact and general information about the gender clinic.

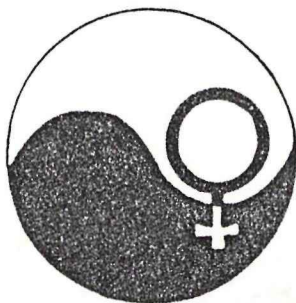
TWENTY MINUTES - THE VIDEO \$20.00
 A forty minute collection of hilarious scenes of gender (TV/TS) related footage that is as educational as it is entertaining.

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