

THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE

FEBRUARY 1995

\$3.00

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DATING

Possibly the two most difficult situations facing transsexuals is how their family accepts them upon learning of their transsexualism and dating.

I've included a questionnaire on the next page covering some of the areas of concern a transsexual might have. I hope you will participate in this questionnaire whether you are a transsexual or just interested.

I don't mind telling you that my most anxious moments have concerned dating; for example - what would my date do if he found out I was once a male. We all know that the results could be disastrous.

Should you tell him/her or not tell him/her or just carry on and hope for the best?

Many people believe that if a man chooses to date a transsexual, he has to be gay. I don't see it that way; what do you think?

Would you marry someone and not tell that you are a transsexual? I would not; I would not want to live in dread of the day he found out. Don't tell me that if he loved me, it would not matter. That kind of knowledge could be fatal to some loves.

When I had my surgery in 1969, I was hopeful that someday I would be married; later in the 1970's I was sure I would be. Well, I'm not, but that doesn't mean that I won't. The last relationship I had that was serious ended when I told him about my surgery. He was as serious as I was (before I was). The problem - I didn't stop being serious when he did. I compared others to him and they didn't measure up I thought. Later - I wondered what I saw in him.

What about you, will you share with us; and PLEASE do answer the questionnaire and return it. Thanks.

Phoebe

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DATING TRANSSEXUALS

1. Are you a transsexual _____; Post-Op _____ or Pre-Op _____
2. If you are not a transsexual, how do you classify yourself ?

3. Are you married, divorced or never married _____
4. If you are not a transsexual - would you date a transsexual?

Why or Why Not? _____
5. Would you respond to a personal ad placed by a transsexual;
Would you place an ad seeking a relationship with a TS? -

6. Would you marry a transsexual if you knew prior to the before
the wedding? _____ If you did not know, what would you
do when you found out about it? _____
7. If you are a transsexual would you place a personal ad for
someone to share a relationship with? _____ Would
you respond to a personal ad seeking a transsexual? _____
What would you expect from the relationship? Marriage; or
would you settle for less? Would you become involved in a
lesbian TS relationship? Would you date another TS?
8. What is your opinion of a man who advertises for a Pre-Op TS?

9. Do you think he is gay; or just understanding? _____
10. What do you think would happen to the relationship when the
Pre-OP TS becomes Post-OP TS? _____
11. If you are a transsexual, is marriage your ultimate goal; if
not what is? _____

(Do not sign your name to this questionnaire. Thanks for participating)

Questionnaire on Dating Transsexuals

1. Are you a TS; Post-op or Pre-op.

Yes

Pre-op (three months into initial use of hormones)

2. If you are not a TS, how do you classify yourself?

N/A

3. Are you married, divorced, or never married?

Married (29+ years), but we seem to be heading toward divorce as my spouse is having problems accepting the physical changes I am undergoing.

4. If you are not a TS, would you date a TS? Why or why not?

N/A

5. Would you respond to a personal ad placed by a TS; would you place an ad seeking a relationship with a TS?

N/A (question related to #4)

6. Would you marry a transsexual if you knew prior to the wedding? If you did not know what would you do when you found out about it?

N/A (question related to #4)

7. If you are a transsexual, would you place a personal advertisement for someone to share a relationship with? Would you respond to a personal ad seeking a TS? What would you expect from the relationship? Marriage; or would you settle for less? Would you become involved in a lesbian TS relationship? Would you date another TS?

Yes

Yes

Prefer marriage, but its far too soon to really answer about settling for only having sex as a woman without the emotional commitments.

No (I'm definitely not a lesbian. I find I am not interested in women, even though I've never had any relationship -- emotional or physical -- with a man.)

Yes, if the other TS were Female to Male

8. What is your opinion of a man (or woman) who advertises for a Pre-op TS?

I'd have to meet the man first before giving a judgement. I cannot really answer this question without knowing something about his personality and why he advertised for a pre-op TS. I don't care for generalized evaluations of people, as groups.

9. Do you think this person is gay or just "understanding"?

See my answer to question #8

10. What do you think would happen to the relationship that resulted from an ad described in #8 when the Pre-op TS became Post-op TS?

What would happen depends entirely upon the two people involved and what they each wanted from the relationship. I'm unable to generalize a very complex situation into a single answer.

11. If you are a TS, is marriage your ultimate goal; if not what is?

I believe that marriage (a combined emotional and physical relationship between myself and a man) is my ultimate goal. However, reaching that goal depends upon what becomes of my current marriage (the responsibilities) and how my thinking changes during the transition process as I move into RLT and ultimately SRS.

I intended to write about my charge of discrimination for this issue, but have decided to wait until the next issue. I think I will have more to tell you. I was advised to send a brief summary of my situation to an attorney, then call him after he had time to read it. I sent the information to two attorneys. Before I had time to call one of them, he wrote stating that he thought I had a meritorious claim but that he could not accept any more discrimination cases at this time. He recommended an attorney who is experienced in these type cases. Ironically, she works in the office of the other attorney I wrote. Today, I received a letter from him stating that "prior Court cases interpreting "Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 suggests that it does not protect persons who have undergone sex change surgery. See *Ulane v. Eastern Airlines*".

I have learned also that there are other things going on such as my job being upgraded. That does not mean it will happen.

I want to have a better idea in which direction I am going before I tell you the complete story. I can tell you one thing for sure - I'm not ready to give up on this.

I welcome any comments you may have on this subject (or any other subject). Obviously, I don't have the answers I need; I don't think anyone does. It seems that society thinks that if these kinds of problems are ignored long enough they will go away (meaning we will give up). WE ARE NOT QUITTERS!!!

Enough of that; what's going on with you? Remember the TSV is intended for sharing and learning from (helping) one another.

Remember - if you questions medically-related, you will not find anyone more qualified than Dr. Leo Wollman and Janice Dorn to answer them.

(You will notice contributions via Prodigy in this issue. I hope to be on Internet soon and hopefully can generate some interest there.)

Take care and stay in touch.

Phoebe

FIVE WEEKS IN THE LIFE OF A PRE-OP TS

By Denise [REDACTED]

The early part of the past five weeks have not been at all good for me. That was when I told my mother-in-law I was TS, leaving two booklets and two video tapes for she and my father-in-law to borrow. I told my father-in-law in October and he had been very supportive during the past months.

The next morning, I stopped by on my way into work to help my father-in-law with his computer. He told me that he had read the booklets I had left and discovered that gender dysphoria was not something that you could turn on or off at will. However, he also said that my mother-in-law thought I was a horrible person. She had talked with my 26-year-old daughter the evening before who had also told her that I was horrible. He then added that since what I was doing was affecting the family that I should stop. Since then, neither my father-in-law or mother-in-law have stopped by (they live a mile away) for their usual Sunday evening visit.

That conversation with my father-in-law so affected me that a few hours later I called a friend from my psych's TS support group that I attend. I was in tears. I took the day off from work and went to her home still in tears. Her spouse greeted me at the door of their house and gave me a big hug. It is a very good thing that my company knows that I am TS and knows about my family situation. At least everyone at work is very supportive.

A few days later, I received a real "hate" letter from that same daughter, telling me how horrible I was.

Topping that, my spouse (Katie, note I did not use the "W" word) informed me two days later that she was taking the kids and moving to her parents home. Our two teenagers promptly informed her that they were not leaving. I believe I came in a long third however, as they didn't want to loose their current home (separate rooms and private phone line), or submit to their grandparents conservative religious viewpoint and restrictions. So, at best, I guess we have an awkward cease-fire. I cannot afford to support two households, what with my father, daughter-in-law, and two grandchildren also living here, so my spouse and I continue to live together. How long this arrangement will last I have no idea. The arrangement is definitely hard on me emotionally.

The best part of the past five weeks was my mini-RLT (four days living only as female) during Presidents Day weekend. As you may have noted from Rebecca's post of about 10 days ago, I visited Katie and Rebecca in Colton, CA. Those four days certainly proved enlightening. My spouse has been

telling me that I was not passing and never could. Instead, I had a door at a gas station held open for me by a gentleman who was entering as I was leaving, and a waitress at a Denny's calling me "hun" and asking "do you ladies need anything more", all in the FIRST day. I was passing as female!

During my second and third days in Colton, I went shopping at a local mall and had my ears pierced. Again, I was passing and not one clerk even knew! When I had my ears pierced, the young, college age clerk didn't even notice where my wig stopped and my long hair started. Maybe he did, but thought I was just a middle aged woman wearing a wig out shopping. His only comment as he positioned the marks on my ears was that I had not had my ears pierced before. Even the clerk in the lady's clothing store didn't seem to know that I was not a genetic female.

Despite my terror during the first trip to the mall, enough to cancel my plans to have my ears pierced on the first day, each outing helped build my confidence. Thanks Katie for dragging me into the collectibles shop where one of the three women clerks asked "if the ladies saw anything they liked". That browse through the plates and figures certainly helped my calm down and regain my composure. Having a friend along to offer support certainly was a help.

However, I did absolutely NOTHING during my four day mini-RLT to help the image of women adding gas to their cars. Every time I stopped for gas, I gave the WRONG pump number when paying or giving the clerk my gas credit card. That meant returning to the clerk and correcting my mistake! The second time it happened, Katie entered the gas station to tell the clerk. He told her that everything was okay that "she is pumping gas now." At least there was no trouble using my gas credit card (there are some advantages to a male name that appears female).

However, my biggest boost was during the trip home. While driving down the freeway, still an hour from home, a trucker pulled along side my car, honked, and someone waved from the passenger side of the cab as the semi-truck pulled past me! I don't know if the car's Mississippi plates (I was driving my Dad's car) attracted his attention or if it was my long, light brown hair. I like to think it was ME he was honking at. Now THAT is passing!

The best to all of you.

Denise

The long haired, brunette grandmother who truckers honk at!

MY UNPLEASANT SHOPPING EXPERIENCE

By Rebecca [REDACTED]

I'd like to share with you an incident and it's "resolution" that occurred to me on the night of February 24th. I went to a computer store with a group of very close friends with the intention of purchasing a mouse. The people accompanying me were Katie Harms, Katie's boyfriend Tom and Denise Fritch.

Everything went fine while we were in the store but upon exiting, a security guard read me. He also had to check my receipt before I could leave the store. He said to me, "Let me see your receipt partner". I was flabbergasted, but showed him the receipt and we all left the store. As I was walking to the care, I told Tom that I should go back inside and get that guard's name. Tom said, no problem and that they would wait for me. Upon reentering the store I went up to the man in question and asked for his name... he told me and ended the conversation by calling me "Sir"! He had me "fuming" by this time, but I turned and left. In retrospect I should have called for the store manager when the incident occurred, but I had other things on my mind, like installing my mouse and numerous programs that were available to me last night and last night only, plus it was closing time for the store. Through the evening, this incident lead me into a very deep depression and I couldn't sleep.

After I awoke the next morning, I called the store in question and asked the operator to put me in touch with the manager. She asked what this was regarding and I told her. She immediately transferred me to the "retail" manager. I explained everything to him. He was very apologetic and asked what he could do to rectify this situation. I told him that at the least, I wanted a call from the "store" manager and also a call from the security guard's supervisor. I accepted his apology and we terminated our conversation. It wasn't five minutes later that the store manager called me. I told him the whole store and he expressed how sorry he was for this incident and that he would get in touch with the guard's supervisor and have him return my call. I told this man that what I really wanted was a written apology from the security company involved and a "memo to file" for this guard's personnel file. He said that he would see what he could do. he invited me back to the store and advised me that if I EVER encounter a situation like this in his store again to immediately call for the manager! He said that we are all human beings and should be treated with respect.

As a result of this incident, I AM stronger. I thank God for my sisters, especially Katie and Denise for being there for me that night...and Tom, well what can I say about him?

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Yes, I want to see:

Victoria _____
Lake Crescent _____
Hurricane Ridge _____

He is so kind and understanding and a wonderful, special friend. I hope that someday I will be able to find a man with the qualities he has.

So, if any of you are ever in a similar situation, don't be afraid to call the manager. They are there for you. If it were not for people like us, their customers, they would not have a job. So, don't hesitate to take the proper action.

As for me, I'm OK now. Into each life "a little rain must fall", I guess!

Rebecca

PERSONALS

HI, I'M JOYCE. I'M INTERESTED IN BEING MARRIED AND SETTLING DOWN FOR FAMILY LIFE. I'M 5'10" WITH BROWN EYES, LONG BROWN HAIR, AGE 30; VERY ATTRACTIVE AND I HAVE A PRETTY FIGURE. MY PROFESSION IS ACCOUNTING. I LIKE NATURE, MOUNTAINS, FLOWERS, MOVIES, ARTS, QUIET TIMES, TRAVEL AND OTHER THINGS. I'M INTERESTED IN A SINCERE GENTLEMAN. MY SURGICAL PROCEDURES ARE AL COMPLETE. IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE THE ONE, PLEASE WRITE ME AND INCLUDE PHONE NUMBER IF YOU WISH. ALL SINCERE REPLIES ANSWERED. I'M FOR REAL. JOYCE K. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED], WEST TOWNSEND, MA. 01474



WHITE MALE, AGE 32,6'0", BLONDE HAIR, BLUE EYES SEEKS CONTACT WITH TRANSSEXUALS. ROBERT [REDACTED] 69 W. 38 ST., #406, NEW YORK, N.Y. 10018

PERSONAL LISTINGS PLACED BY TRANSSEXUALS OR SOMEONE SEEKING A RELATIONSHIP WITH A TRANSSEXUAL ARE FREE. PLEASE USE CAUTION WHEN RESPONDING TO ANY PERSONAL AD. THE EDITOR/PUBLISHER OF THE TSV ASSUMES NO RESPONSIBILITY FOR ANY ACTS OR OCCURRENCES THAT RESULT FROM ANY AD THAT APPEARS IN THE TSV VOICE. YOU ARE TRAVELING AT YOUR OWN RISK!

If you are interesting in personal ads or dating, you will most likely be interested in the questionnaire on page two. I hope you will participate. The results will appear in a issue of TSV in the near future. Some of the responses (such as the one on page three of this issue) will be printed. I placed the Questionnaire on PRODIGY BB, the response on page three is a result.

I look forward to receiving your response.

Phoebe



SAVE THE DATE

FRIDAY, APRIL 21st and SATURDAY, APRIL 22nd, 1995
8:30 am - 5 pm

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For brochures and for more information, contact the Gender Identity Project, Mental Health and Social Services Office, Lesbian and Gay Community Services Center, at (212) 620-7310.

Dear Dr. Wollman:

My name is Sean and I have been a crossdresser since the age of 9. All these years I have been in fear of facing my woman side - Shawna; but now I have accepted her as myself and am ready to become her fulltime. My problem is that I do not have a clue as to what to do or who to go to, to become the true woman I am inside.

Could you give me some steps to take and if possible recommend anyone I could seek help from in the Norfolk, VA. area. I would be happy for any advice.

Sean.

Dear Shawna;

Because you are sure you want to be Shawna and not Sean, your first step is to consult a psychiatrist who is knowledgeable about transsexuals and transvestites. It is imperative that experience with gender confused (dysphoric) individuals be part of the psychiatrist's background.

I recommend Charles Horton, M.D., 300 Hague Medical Center, 400 W. Brambleton Avenue, Norfolk, VA. 23510

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS YOU WOULD LIKE ANSWERED BY DR. LEO WOLLMAN OR DR. JANICE DORN, PLEASE ADDRESS YOUR LETTER TO THEM & TSV AND I WILL FORWARD YOUR LETTER TO THEM. THEIR REPLY WILL APPEAR IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF TSV.

Fantasia Fair '95

Sponsored by the Outreach Institute of Gender Studies

For Immediate Release

Fantasia Fair Announces 1995 Schedule

The Outreach Institute of Gender Studies announces that the 21st Annual Fantasia Fair will be held in Provincetown, Massachusetts, Sunday, October 15 to Sunday, October 22, 1995.

For more information about the Fair, or to register, write to
Fantasia Fair Registrar, P.O. Box 941, Southeastern, PA 19399-0941

*** Please include this information in your calendar of events ***

CONNECTIONS

THE CONNECTION SECTION WILL BE USED TO LOCATE PEOPLE (OTHER THAN FOR PERSONAL RELATIONSHIPS) SUCH AS ROOMMATES, BIG SISTER/BIG BROTHER, JOBS WANTED; ETC. ALSO, IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO BE A BIG SISTER OR BROTHER(I'M GOING TO FIND A BETTER WORD FOR THIS ONE), THIS IS THE PLACE TO OFFER YOUR FRIENDSHIP. IF YOU ARE IN A POSITION TO HIRE A TRANSSEXUAL POST-OP OR PRE-OP, PLEASE, PLEASE LET IT BE KNOWN.

THERE IS NO CHARGE FOR THIS COMMUNICATION, BUT PLEASE DO INCLUDE S.A.S.E. FOR MAIL THAT IS TO BE FORWARDED.

PRE-OP TRANSSEXUAL DESIRES FULL-TIME EMPLOYMENT AS COMPANION OR HOUSEKEEPER OR ??? CAN RELOCATE. FREE TO TRAVEL. NEED FINANCIAL HELP FOR BREAST IMPLANTS AND COSMETIC SURGERY. WILL WORK OFF DEBT. WRITE ROBIN L. [REDACTED] P. O. BOX 2072, SOUTHEASTERN, PA. 19399

I WOULD LIKE TO CORRESPOND WITH SPOUSES OF TRANSSEXUALS, PRESENT OR FORMER, ESPECIALLY THOSE WHO HAVE OR HAVE HAD POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS. ALSO, I WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM TRANSSEXUALS THEMSELVES, WHO HAVE POSITIVE RELATIONSHIPS WITH THEIR SPOUSES OR FORMER SPOUSES. I WOULD LIKE TO SHARE EXPERIENCES AND RELATE COMMON 'MILESTONES'. I AM VERY INTERESTED IN KNOWING IF THERE ARE ANY OTHER TRANSSEXUALS OUT THERE WHO ARE TRYING TO LIVE IN THEIR BIOLOGICAL ROLES HAVING MADE, FOR WHATEVER REASON (TOO EXPENSIVE, FEAR THE RADICAL SURGERY, ETC.), A DECISION NOT TO PURSUE THE ACCEPTED TREATMENT OF HORMONE THERAPY AND SURGERY. REPLY TO M.E. % TSV.

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