

TWENTY MINUTES

FEBRUARY 1991 THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

RICH AND FAMOUS

SPECIAL ISSUE

Love Lives
of the Rich
& Famous
Revealed

Get A
weekend
with the Stars

SPECIAL ISSUE:

We Visit Romantic Paris!

COUPLE OF THE YEAR

Rich and Famous is a trademark of Star Line Photo Services Inc.

Secret
Lives of
Famous Couple

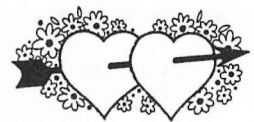
a walk on the wide side

TORONTO (TS PRESS) On September 17, 1990 an American M-to-F transsexual was wed to a Canadian woman. The wedding took place at approximately 8:45 PM at the MCC Church of Toronto and was performed by a hetero minister who is a supporter of MCC.

The wedding went off without a hitch and as far as anyone knows, this was the very first wedding of it's kind in the world. The minister had to "tailor" and "improvise" the text of the wedding vows.

The wedding dinner was held at a local French restaurant. The wedding cake was chocolate.

As far as the emotional end of all this, the happy couple feel a lot closer as if a weight has been lifted from them. "It's going to be an interesting few years ahead of us."



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The Beginning

by Michelle Hunt RN

Lockdown:

The Incarcerated Transsexual

by Lynn Marie Scribner

Transsexual Support

TWENTY MINUTES

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THE STAFF

Editor: Becky Ann
Assistant Editor: Sonia
Cartoonists: Angel
Robin R.
Contributors: Veronica Brown
Michelle Hunt RN
Fanny [REDACTED]
Lynn Marie Scribner
Lila
Advisor: Rev. Clinton Jones

Macho men ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER and SYLVESTER STALLONE have enrolled in charm school to prepare for their upcoming movie roles as drag queens! They'll play a pair of undie-cover cops who enforce the law in lingerie in the flick *Operation Pipeline*.

(Snoop's Scoops - National Examiner)

All the news that's print to fit.

This newsletter is funded entirely through subscriptions and the sales of educational materials. All written contributions welcome. A backlog of material may prevent the immediate publishing of submitted articles. The XX Club, or its members are not responsible for the opinions expressed or accuracy of information provided by the writers of unsolicited or solicited materials. Parts of this newsletter may be reproduced provided source credit is given. *Twenty Minutes* was founded by Veronica Jean Brown.

CLUB CALENDAR

MEETINGS

Saturday, Feb. 9

Saturday, Feb. 23

Saturday, Mar. 9

Saturday, Mar. 23

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.) If you believe you are gender dysphoric, you are welcome to visit and find out more about our group and talk about yourself and your feelings. The XX Club is a transsexual support group, not a dating service. There is NO SMOKING allowed during the meetings, though we do allow smoking during breaks and after the meetings. We attempt 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.

YOU'VE READ THE NEWSLETTER

NOW BUY:



TWENTY MINUTES (The Video)

(As seen at the Christmas Party)

A forty minute collection of hilarious scenes of gender (TS/TV) related footage that is as educational as it is entertaining. Use it to break the ice with family or friends.

Just \$20 covers cost and postage.

Make check or money order (in US Funds) payable to:

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

TREASURER'S \$

REPORT



Balance - from December \$1819.99

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	.00
Newsletter subscriptions	60.50
Brochures & Reprints	14.00
GF sales	.00
Video sales	20.00
Printing fees	.50
Donations	.00
Savings interest	9.18
Total Income	\$104.18

EXPENSES:

Refreshments	9.58
Newsletter & brochures	74.26
Postage	53.42
Supplies	14.72
Video Production	10.00
Bank Fee	85
Total Expenses	\$162.83

Net Loss for January \$-58.65

Balance - end of January \$1761.34

When Making a Decision

I am filled with the power of perfect judgement. I am wise and true. I do not let another sway me or dictate to me what to do - even though I may be personally impressed with good judgement.

I must seek the right answer for myself. Though solutions may often be similar for those with similar 'problems' - just as every fingerprint differs, so do our needs. Therefore, I realize the importance of going within and finding my own special answer. It is there - for God, the answer to all, is there!

I give thanks for the right answer - the decision that will bring forth good in my life. And I give thanks for the courage to carry out the necessary steps leading to success, once my decision is reached.

(Reprinted from *Very Practical Meditation* by Serene West, The Donning Company/Publishers, 1981)

NOTICE...The Boston SRS Support Group will no longer be meeting at its old site and time, new site/time TBA!

An Open Letter to Veronica Jean Brown

Dear Ms. Brown:

I have read *Twenty Minutes* for a little over two years now, and have always found it to be an educational and entertaining publication. I have from time to time taken offense at some of your more vicious editorials, but I have kept my feelings to my self. I am writing today for several reasons.

First, I have noted that in the recent months, you have become increasingly bitter. You seem more interested in personal attacks on individuals then putting forth a responsible viewpoint. Your grammatical quality has also been on the steady decline. When one writes an editorial, one is expressing a personal opinion, but that is no excuse for sloppy writing. Many times, you begin in a conversational dialect, (bad form for any journalist no matter what the subject matter) and by the end you have digressed so far from the original point that reading all the way through becomes at best a trying task. It is a dangerous sign when one writes so much without actually saying anything.

Poking fun at one's self and others is an acceptable form of humor, but I believe that your I.F.G.E. book list crossed over into abuse. Humor at the expense of others is the lowest form of humor, and worse still, the things you wrote were not even funny.

You seem to have a special anger and hatred towards transvestites. While I do believe that many (TV's) are living in a fantasy world of their own creation, the fact remains that they are entitled to live and think in any way they wish. It should be obvious by now that you are not going to change any of their minds with anything you can do or say. What you are accomplishing is single-handedly alienating the entire transvestite community, both from yourself and *Twenty Minutes*. You are also helping to drive a wedge between the Transsexual and Transvestite communities on the whole.

You have expressed anger toward Sister Mary Elizabeth because she was considering taking I.F.G.E. up on a job offer. You said that she was a traitor and that she was trying to take the rings of leadership of the transsexual community for her own aggrandizement. The fact is that we do need some form of national or at least regional coordination and leadership, and there is no way of funding this through the TS community. I.F.G.E. was not trying to 'attach to transsexuals in order to gain some form of legitimacy', they were honestly trying to help. Is it possible that you are merely jealous? You certainly act like it. If you had not spent so much time waging your own personal war on the TV community, maybe you would have had the job for yourself.

Now I'll get to the real heart of my gripe: You had yourself legally declared a male by the Canadian government in order to marry a Canadian female. We transsexuals have fought many long and difficult court battles for what little rights we have. I believe that transsexuals should NOT be granted any SPECIAL protection under the law, but should (after surgery) simply be considered complete

females by the law. With legal status as women we would then be entitled to the same legal protection as any other women. In my own state, that is the case. In others, the law is a little less friendly: not changing your original birth records. The fact remains that in all 50 states, for any and all legal purposes, you are considered a female...even for marriage. Tula (Caroline Cossey) won a huge victory for transsexuals in England by successfully suing for the right to marry as a woman. If you had won the right to marry a female AS A FEMALE, you would have advanced the cause of gay couples everywhere without compromising transsexuals' rights. Instead, what you did was to effectively say, "We (transsexuals) are women ONLY in the physical sense. We work, socialize, and live as such, but we should be treated as males with respect to the law." Do you realize that if a transsexual woman in England is attacked and raped, the law considers her a man and will not so much as lift one finger to prosecute the offender? Is this what you want for yourself and all other transsexuals in Canada? Or did you simply not consider the effects of your words and actions yet again?

I did not write this letter with the aim of hurting your feelings, but in the hopes that it would make you and others think. I hope that you continue to write editorials and articles for *Twenty Minutes*. I would just like to see a little more education and support. Leave the controversy to Geraldo and the Enquirer.

Sincerely,
Fanny [redacted]

Hi Ho, Hi Ho, It's Off to War I Go... Transsexuals and the Draft

By Sonia

So, here we are, involved in a war in the Middle East. Surely the possibility of a military draft is on the minds of most males between the ages of 18 and 25, but what about transsexuals. As far as the law is concerned, transsexuals are considered male until surgery. Just ask any incarcerated pre-op. What about the military?

These concerns became so great for myself that I decided to call the military and ask. I called an army recruiting office in Springfield, MA and put the question to them. I said I was calling to find out what the army's policy was, concerning pre-operative transsexuals and the draft. I explained that I had been living full time in the role of a female since September 1990. I went on to say that I was hoping to receive surgery in November 1991, and had at least two years of professionally documented desire to have sex change surgery.

After about two minutes on hold, (probably while he laughed it out of his system...) the sergeant returned. He told me that as far as he knew, the army's peace-time policy was that if an individual told him they were homosexual, they were considered ineligible for recruitment. He went on to say that since he was not a draft induction officer, and since he had never had to deal with a draft before, he could not be sure. He did say that he thought that having documented evidence (such as a letter from your therapist) of actively seeking sexual reassignment before the draft, should be enough proof that you were not merely trying to evade your duty. He also said that if he were in my position, he honestly wouldn't worry about it until he had a draft notice in his hands.

So there you have it. If you are a pre-op transsexual between the ages of 18 and 25, do not be concerned just yet. If you do receive a draft notice, you should report to the induction center with proof of previous therapy. Work within the system because it is a felony to duck the draft. You could go to jail for evasion if you don't show, even though you are ineligible for service.

Dear Fanny [REDACTED]

I suggest some Preparation H for your medical condition and stay away from all that heavily spiced food that I know you love so much. But seriously, from the very beginning, the editors of *Twenty Minutes* have aspired to make this little newsletter interesting, informative, thought provoking, and yes, even controversial. As you may have noticed, the editors have always provided space for opposing viewpoints.

As far as the degree of proper or improper grammar usage is concerned, unless you are a high school English teacher, or perhaps even a college professor in Creative Writing 206 at Smith College in Northampton, and while you are entitled to your opinions, I'll continue to write in any style as I see fit. These editorials are not written to be "graded", but for other reasons. Many of my "critics" bring to light apparent mistakes in grammar. One irate letter writer actually ran one of my letters through a computer grammar checking program. So much for using her own shriveled brain. I further suggest that you read some of the other gender world's so-called newsletters and see the level of English writing skills, if any, that exist therein. My writing is superior to much of what I have seen and read since 1981 in the gender press. And yes, there are some examples better than my own. At least, when I write something, I put my legal name (in most cases) on it and don't hide behind a fictitious name as you did when writing your "open letter to me". S'matter, afraid I'll put Krazy Glue in your bra?

What do you mean "my IFGE book list"? My name wasn't on it. Didn't you read the disclaimer on page two? So, you think you got some inside information, eh? I was also accused of doing the "Rosebugs" parody of the Tiffany Club's Rosebuds newsletter. I thought the Rosebugs parody was vicious and totally unfunny. I thought the book list had some funny parts. Micheline Johnson thought it was funny. The editor thought it was funny. Well, some people didn't. I guess we can't please all the people all the time. If you don't like what appears in *Twenty Minutes*, address your comments to the editor, not to me.

The persona that is VJB the editor is vastly different from VJB the person, VJB the Movie and VJB the video Tape. My "editorial posture" is the direct blending of my own personal experiences in the gender community, the hundreds of letters I've received from TS people all over the country (BTM and ATM, Before *Twenty Minutes* and After *Twenty Minutes*), and some of the people of the Twenty Club. The VJB editorial persona is a collective persona, sort of like "Holly" on Red Dwarf, and not a personal one. As to my "hatred" of TVs, you are confusing emotion with politics within the gender community. This is old news for many, but I'll say again for you. I have stated many times that TVs have every right to dress and do what they want to. TSs also have that right. What I won't stand for is a political bunch of narrow minded do-gooders trying to rule the roost for everyone. It don't work (previous sentence grammatically incorrect). TVs have different needs than TSs. There are many understanding TVs out there who treat us with dignity. And there are the others. I wrote once, "I'm not here to pour oil on the waters, I'm here to make some waves!"

Driving a wedge between the TV community and *Twenty Minutes*? This publication has never been a TV newsletter! Of course, dearie, that's the whole idea, to get TSs to stand on their own feet and to not have to rely on the CDers for support! Where have you been these past two years? You will get more attention from those type A personality types (the ones with the lucrative male jobs, the organizers, the ones with all the money, the ongoing family responsibilities...) in power if you poke at them with a sharp stick, or whack 'em along the side of their heads with a two by four, than if you bow your head meekly and mumble. They won't hear you. You have to get their attention first. You have to break through the layers of make-up and yards of synthetic fibre wigs before they'll even notice you standing there.

As far as the Sister Mary Elizabeth and the IFGE thing is concerned, the information I got is different from yours, so that's a moot point. I have not waged war on the entire TV community, merely a small segment of it. Take the Outreach Institute for example, I don't have a beef with them. Remember a while back when IFGE tried to "take over" the operations of the annual Fantasia Fair? Remember the flack that was generated from that? Did you read the December 1990 Renaissance News (page 11, 1st column, halfway down) and see JoAnn Roberts' comments about a CDer's (the person in question was Joni Chrissman of CLCC) off colour comments at the 1990 Fantasia Fair at Provincetown, Cape Cod, concerning Dr. Biber's final step in the sex change surgery of "sewing in the anchovy"? If that isn't a male chauvinist pig's sexist anti-female, anti M-F transsexual remark, then I'm Gumby's half sister by an illegal marriage outside the claymation species.

"How come I don't have a beef with Outreach, or ETVC, or Renaissance? Come on, there is a bigger world out there beyond the walls of 6 Cushing Street. You got a bunch of TV organizations all trying to do the same thing with varying differences in philosophy. I mean, MSL came from the old Boston Cherry Stone Club and formed Tiffany, started Tapestry as a newsletter with the intent of producing a stable income from it as a national magazine someday. MSL's wish came true and MSL is still collecting people and power around "her". Several others from the same club in 1975 got together and created the Fantasia Fair. How come MSL didn't join forces with them? How come MSL had to be top dog in another universe of her creation?

I had a position in Tiffany and with IFGE. I had the keys to the IFGE offices and was to have my own desk, key to the (female) executive washroom and everything, ya-ta, ya-ta, ya-ta. Well, I turned it down (sour grapes?) and gave it all up to reorganize the Twenty Club, start a newsletter and information service for transsexuals and was instrumental in generating vast amounts of income so that as of December 1990, the Twenty Club treasury has \$1895.49. We went from zero dollars in 1986 to nearly \$1900 in five years. But that \$1900 is but a small amount of all the money the Twenty Club took in and spent in those five years just so you would have a real support group to attend or belong to. Do you know of any other transsexual ONLY organization that has been able to rise from the ashes of burned out transsexual leaders of the early 80's, generate so much income and become a leading transsexual information service and support organization?

I felt it was more important and much more effective for me to do something for the transsexual (my own kind) community on my own turf, on my own terms, with my own understanding than to bow and scrape to a different set of all encompassing rules, i.e. IFGE.

Everyone thought *Twenty Minutes* was going to cease to exist when I blew away to the Great White North. Surprise! It didn't. I left behind some good people and leaders to carry on. The club Christmas party was another success and this year, someone else (thanks to new member Patti of Springfield) took the responsibility for getting the food and drink this year. The *Twenty Club* and *Twenty Minutes* is redinitive proof in living colour that transsexuals can do it on their own without the interference and/or involvement of non-TS groups. Count your blessings while ye may. You are lucky to have the *Twenty Club* to go to twice a month. You don't have to pay dues, or even contribute to the refreshment basket. You can show your support by subscribing to this newsletter, or by contributing articles and/or letters. You are among the lucky few in the U.S. and you don't even realize it.

Now to answer the real heart of your gripe. Some people in the U.S. think I've gone back to being a guy. Wrong! You think I had myself legally declared a male by the Canadian government in order to marry a Canadian female. Wrong! And Paddy ain't no female! She's all woman!

And how many court battles have you personally fought? How many local, state and Federal agencies, or judges have you presented yourself before, seeking some change in your personal documentation or status? Is there a difference between special protection and non-special protection under the law? Unfortunately, what you feel about post-surgical people and what the real world says are two different things.

I, like Christine Jorgensen, (don't ya just love it when I drop names and slip into grammatically incorrect vernacular?) had the misfortune to be born in the Borough of Manhattan, the City of New York, in the State of New York. Had I been born in Albany, Rhinebeck, Deerpark, Red Hook, White Plains, Kingston or any where else outside of the city, things would have been different. According to the rules and regulations of the Bureau of Vital Statistics, somewhere on Canal Street in China Town, a completely new birth certificate (long form) will be issued upon written proof by the attending surgeon that gender reassignment surgery has been performed, and they also require a note from a shrink that states you are of sound mind.

The only problem with this is that they use a special form. It is complete in every way except for one little detail. No where on the paper is a space for the sex code. That's right! I don't have a sex code on my birth certificate! Don't you think that would raise some eyebrows at the local bureau of marriage office if I were apply for a licence? Don't you think they might investigate into my sordid past? Had I been born outside of the city, "they" would have issued me a birth certificate with a female sex code. Well, they played a joke on me and I'm using their own laws

against them! If $A = B$ then $B = A$. It's a simple mathematical law and BASIC computer instruction.

Ever try crossing the Canadian border and getting back in the U.S. and using one of those incomplete birth certificates? The eyebrows go up, you get looked at real close, and the U.S. Emigrations officer says, "Got any other I.D., Ma'am?" So then of course, I hand over my U.S. passport that says FEMALE in fluorescent pink letters and he punches my number into the computer, turns, smiles sweetly and waves me on though.

Christine Jorgensen told the assembled masses at the '88 IFGE convention that she was twice engaged but never married. I don't know the reason but perhaps it was because of her birth certificate. I dunno. Why don't you ask Sister Mary E. They were neighbors and close friends for years.

Now pay attention, Ms. Burns. I did not, I repeat, did not get myself legally declared a male by the Canadian government, in order to marry a Canadian female. What I did was to use an existing Canadian law that says "A equals B" and turn it around to say that "B equals A". The law reads as follows, "Sex is determined at birth and therefore a sex change does not alter one's sex. Marriage is a union of heterosexual monogamy and a sex change does not make what is considered a homosexual union into a heterosexual one..." or something like that.

Who in their right mind would attempt something like this? Well, I did, mainly because of my love for Paddy. Same sex marriages are currently legal in Denmark and I believe soon in Holland. They ain't legal anywhere's else. Not only are they not legal, but the overwhelming public consensus is totally against them.

It took Queen's Park (the Provincial Government's City Hall) three months to research this matter before they said yes, and this was after a lengthy legal search and opinion by a Toronto lawyer to see if we could even do it! As of this writing (Christmas Eve), the matter has now been in the hands of the Canadian Federal Government (Ministry of Immigrations...the FEDS) for two months. Do you think I'm concerned about the "rights of transsexuals" at this point. No, I think I'm a bit more concerned about my own skin and my future as a person. Besides, it's always fun being the first at anything.

Do you think Tula was concerned about the rights of English transsexuals when she got married to a guy? I don't think so, do you? Didn't work out, did it?

Since Canadian law is based upon English law, I'm sure you can now see why if an English post-op TS woman is raped, the courts see it the way they do. Do you now see how many other TS/GG lesbian couples could legally get married because of the risk Paddy and I took up here? No, I'm not talking same sex unions in the real sense, I'm talking a union on two different levels; the first is a heterosexual marriage in the eyes of the law with all the benefits that go with it, and the second is a "legal" same sex marriage between two women in the eyes, minds and bodies of those two women.

TRANSEXUAL LESBIANS, AGAIN

By Veronica Jean Brown

A recent Phil Donahue show had several gay couples on who were currently trying to become legally married. Most people in the audience were receptive to these gay guys trying to become legally married. The times are a'changing and the way I see it, you and a hundred others like you are afraid my actions will endanger your own status in the eyes of the law. You want to sit back and go with the flow and hide. Well, I'm not hiding and I know what I want and I'm not afraid to go after it.

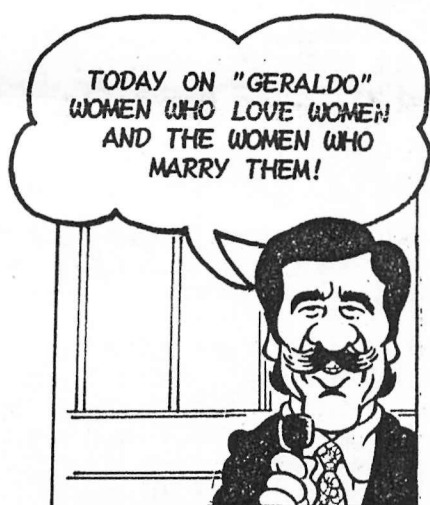
One thing that really stuck in my craw a few years back was a letter from a TS out West who wrote a "complaining" letter to her TV dominated newsletter editor. She wrote a second letter and because of the one-sidedness of the TV editor, the letters never got printed. Here at *Twenty Minutes*, we cater to the transsexual, and as many TV/TS groups can't give equal time to the TSs, *Twenty Minutes* can't give as much time to the F-M person. They have a different row to hoe.

Twenty Minutes exists as an educational/informational publication. It's also a place where we, as transsexual people, can air our opinions and differences among our own kind, about our own kind, about those not of our own kind, without fear of censorship.

I am not so foolish as to think I could further the cause of gay couples everywhere by attempting to get married as a female, and as far as compromising the rights the transsexuals, in my opinion, that hasn't happened. As far as *Twenty Minutes* keeping away from controversies in the future, why don't you speak to the editor about that?

I don't write editorials to hurt people's feelings, I write the words to educate them, make them think, to entertain, and to have fun. Sometimes I use a word processor, and sometimes I use a two by four.

Veronica



**ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE
IF SOMEBODY ELSE
HAS TO DO IT**

After Reading Sandra Mesics's article on *Transsexual Lesbians - The Ultimate Minority*, (in the February 1982 issue of the TS VOICE, reprinted in the May 1989 issue of *Twenty Minutes*) some half-formed thoughts and emotions that had been stirring in my mind, came to the surface.

While I cannot offer a trained psychological answer to the feelings that I have experienced, I can relate them here in reference to Sandra's interesting article.

As a M-to-F transsexual, I experienced the usual libido shift. But, while I began to look at guys, a strange thing happened. I continued to look at other females, though with a changed viewpoint. Mentally, I was observing them and judging their physical characteristics with a "Gee, I wish I could look like her," or, "she sure has a fresh look about her," or, "I like her perfume, I wonder what it is?"

I was lucky to be living with a young woman who stood by me from before the start of my transformation. We were very close but neither of us were sure what would happen to our relationship, once this thing was done. She admitted to me a fear of having some latent lesbian feelings. There had been several females in her past, that she was strongly attracted to, though nothing happened.

She was intrigued by the feminization of my body and said numerous times, that she wished I were a complete female. I was desirous of a lesbian relationship with her, but she wasn't sure about that. She thought we should be friends but not lovers.

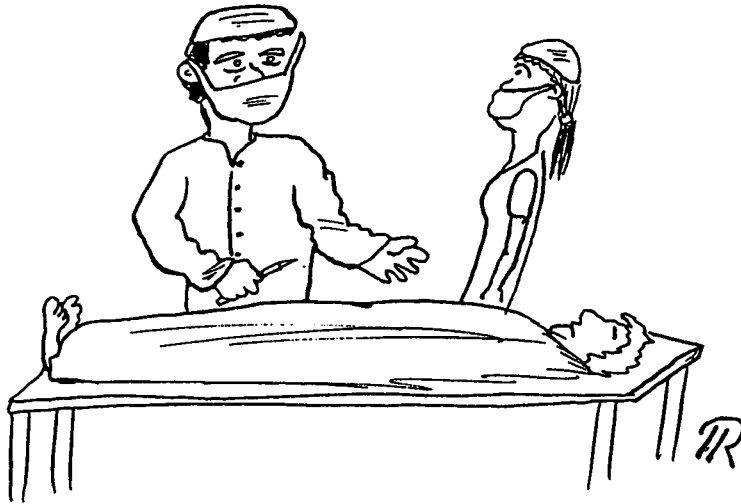
I have always had an excellent rapport with females. In grade school, I liked all the teachers and was known as a teacher's pet. During high school, I worked at the town library and got along quite well with all the female staff, including the head librarian, whom no one liked.

My attitude towards men has changed. At first I was attracted to them in a juvenile way, but now, I find most to be repulsive, self centered, uncaring individuals. I never had any interest in their expressions of male sexual prowess, nor understood the humor in their dumb female jokes. But then, I am still on the outside looking in.

Is my present attitude toward men a reflection of my total rejection of manhood, with all its meaningless, masculine attributes and, could my affinity for female companionship be as Sandra Mesics wrote of Janice Raymond's comment, that "it is because transsexuals (transsexual/lesbians) want to capture female energy and possess women in the deepest possible way?"

It took a long time for me to realize, and then to admit to myself that I was a transsexual and begin doing something about it. To add the label of Lesbian to myself would not upset me in the least. While it is easy for one to talk in generalities, with the way I feel right now, I'd sooner have a caring, understanding lesbian for a friend, companion, and lover, than to go on a moonlight flight with Superman.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...this article reprinted from the TS VOICE.)



"Uh, I forget. Which way were we going on this **one**?"

Top 10 Reasons.... Crossdressers Get 'Read'

By Lila & Sonia

- 10- Jiggling pocket change
- 9- Wearing a dress or skirt in Provincetown
- 8- Scratching self
- 7- Cracking knuckles
- 6- Challenging everyone to arm wrestle
- 5- Wearing high heels to bowling alley
- 4- Forgetting to shave
- 3- Smoking cigars
- 2- Sitting like a baseball catcher
- 1- Admit having ANY competence in computers, sports or cars

Toni

- THE LOGO FEATURES THE FEMALE SYMBOL IN THE MALE POSITION; A SADLY ART SYMBOL
- ABOUT 1/2 THE EVENTS IN THESE CARTOONS ARE AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL, IT IS SADLY TRUE.
- PLAGERISM RULES

"LET'S EXPLAIN THINGS"

- HOW MUCH DOES TONI LOOK LIKE ANGEL? THERE ARE ACTUALLY SEVERAL ANSWERS TO THAT QUESTION...



1. AS CLOSE AS I CAN GET IT
2. ANGEL HAS A MOUTH, WHILE TONI, APPARENTLY DOES NOT
3. YEAH, RIGHT... I DON'T LOOK 1/2 THAT GOOD!

- WHAT DO THOSE DARN SYMBOLS MEAN?
- THE 'BLEAH' PIN REPRESENTS ANGEL'S MOOD WHILE SHE LIVED AS A BOY.



- THE NEW EVE LOGO, A WHITE BUTTERFLY ON A PINK BACKGROUND, IS THE M2FTS'S EQUIVALENT OF THE GAY COMMUNITY'S PINK TRIANGLE. -AT LEAST, THAT'S MY PLAN

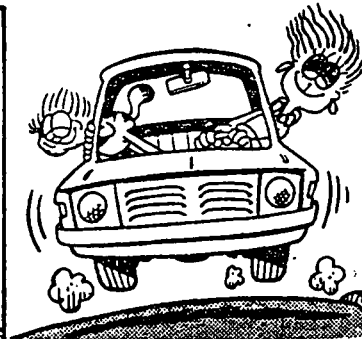
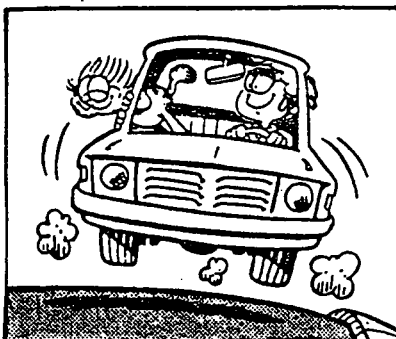
ANGEL

- THE AUTHORETTE IS A RECENTLY 22-YR-OLD MALE-TO-FEMALE TRANSEXUAL FROM RHODE ISLAND
- 'ANGEL' IS ONLY A NICKNAME BECAUSE, IN HER FORMER BOY LIFE, SHE DIDN'T TRY TO SLEEP WITH GIRLS 'LIKE AN' ANGEL'
- STOLEN FROM BLOOM COUNTY

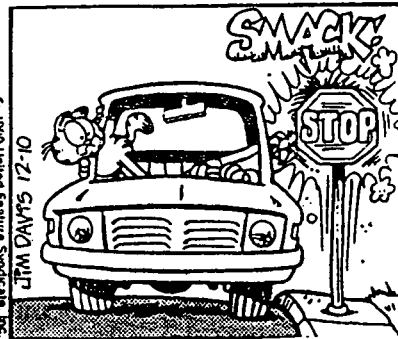
WHEE!

THE RESULTS OF TOO MUCH STRAW SURGERY

GARFIELD



© 1990 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.



(Straw Surgery is designed to make ones I.Q. near or equal to that of a genetic female.)

ROOM WITH A VIEW...

THE BEGINNING

By Michelle Hunt RN

It seemed so strange to re-read, in the December 1990 issue of *Twenty Minutes*, an article I had written some six years ago for the Phoenix Monthly International, and which I had forgotten about for whatever reason. The first thing that I noticed was the lack of typographical errors, the sort of 'Trademark' of the Phoenix that all of us who wrote for that journal found somewhat irritating. My second observation has to do with the content of the original article. Although the content is factual, I realize now that readers may find some of the specifics misleading...this was not my intent, it is just that six years has given me the oversight, foresight and (especially) the hindsight to see things a bit more clearly. Finally, the editors promise inside the front cover that *Twenty Minutes* would be running a "series of articles which were instrumental in making (the Belgium Connection) possible". It just seems to me that if the story is to be told, then it should be the entire story...from the beginning.

Perhaps the first place to start, since it is central to the story, is to tell you a little about me. Depending on how long you have been a part of the 'I-Whatever' community you may have either never heard of me, or be quite familiar with some of the nearly 40 articles, short stories etc. I have written for the numerous Trans-Whatever magazines over the years and which still seem to crop up occasionally. We all have our own way to work 'through' stressful periods in our lives, and writing thousands of words on a subject (transsexualism) that I was immersed up to my pierced earlobes in, was my own personal catharsis. Judging from mail that I received, and the amazing life that some of my old articles still have, it would seem that the material was relevant and timely then, and much of it is today. When you realize that this is my first new article in over four years, perhaps you will appreciate what I am saying. Most of you however, will know me as the person who persuaded Dr. Seghers to accept patients from the USA and who started the Bruxelles Gender Congruity Center.

During the late '70s and early '80s, I was a sort of 'Nomad', one of the socially acceptable homeless known as Medical Missionaries. Wintertime in the Northern Hemisphere would find me healing and comforting the poor and suffering somewhere near the Equator, and summers would force me to accept the offer of some friend to run around Europe as a buyer for their company and a user of their expense account. The problem with this type of life-style is the pay is terrible, and you can't save enough to even think about having SRS. By mid 1983 I was becoming desperate enough to consider performing my own surgery with a couple of bricks, figuring that it wouldn't hurt too much if I kept my thumbs out of the way. Although I had managed to save some money, it was not enough to cover the cost for the only surgeon I knew of, Dr. Biber in Colorado. Not only was I desperate and poor, I was desperately poor...a bad situation.

Summer of 1983 found me, as usual, back in Europe. I was so aware that I wanted and needed the surgery that I thought of little else. One night, I decided to start visiting the major cathedral in every city I stayed in, and to light a candle and say prayers (Catholics call this a Novena) that I would be helped to find a surgeon who I could afford. In return I promised to help others obtain their surgery.

In the fall I was back in Rome. I had been there previously, but only for a day or two, and this time I would be there almost a week. It was during this visit that I finally got to St. Peter's Cathedral.

Although I could not light a candle...there are no candles...I knelt in prayer at the main altar, and it was there at the tomb of St. Peter that I once again asked for help, and once again promised to help others. After a few minutes I felt a presence besides me, and I 'heard' a voice say "You will be helped, now go in peace". To this day, I can still hear the sound of that voice, and I still feel all of the emotions, including that feeling of a total inner peace that I have never known either before or since then.

About two weeks later I was back in Paris. As I was writing an article for ILIA, I stopped by the Centre du Christ Libérateur which is the religious ministry of Rev. J. Douce and the headquarters of Trans CCL, which is the largest organization dedicated totally to the sufferings of the sexual minorities in the world. It was Pasteur Douce who I mentioned in the Room with a View article, who called Dr. Seghers to make the fateful appointment that led to my being the first of some 400 Americans to have SRS in Brussels, and it is Pasteur Douce that so many of us owe so much too. While I am on the subject of CCL, I would like to point out that they, as with any ministry, is constantly in need of funds. Please believe me, their needs are great, they help a lot of people and they are highly respected.

In Room with a View I told about the surgery and the immediate period following. By mid December I was back in England. Joy had returned to the USA and I was on my own. In January 1985 I moved from the London area to Kenilworth, the location of Kenilworth Castle where Queen Elizabeth the first ruled, and was on my way to getting my life back to more or less normal. Surgery was behind me, and I was well on the way to recovery...or so I thought anyway. In my rush to get on with my life, I did the usual thing that someone does when they pray for a miracle and make rash promises...I promptly forgot everything. Now this usually is safe, afterall welching on a promise to God isn't exactly like owing money to Joe the Bookie, but this time it didn't quite work out that way. In February I developed a serious infection, and try as he might, the Doctor could not get it to heal. It got worse, and by March it was serious. I was laying in bed one night, feeling like I was about to die, and knowing that I would have to feel better to do that, when I once again heard the same voice I had heard in St. Peters a year and a half before. Very clearly I heard "Have you forgotten me?". Both the voice and the message were very clear, and it was then that I once again promised to see that others could get their surgery. A few days later the infection was gone, and I was beginning to make plans for what was to become the Bruxelles Gender

Congruity Center, or what you now know as the Brussels Connection.

The first thing that I had to do was obvious...I had to try to convince Dr. Seghers to consider taking additional TS patients from the USA. This was not that easy to do and, although he decided somewhat reluctantly to give my plan a try, it was with the understanding that several conditions were to be met: 1) I was not allowed to use his name in any article, advertisement or lecture that I planned to give. 2) Any expenses that I incurred while setting up the program were to be born totally by me. 3) I was to handle all screening, calls, letter writing etc. that goes with this type of endeavor. 4) It was my responsibility to present him with a complete dossier on each candidate, plan the trip to Brussels, act as guide and escort and to provide non medical support to the girls while they were in the hospital and follow up nursing care after they left the hospital and before they boarded the plane for home.

The 'painful vacation' was designed to provide a complete package that included all doctor and hospital charges, meals, lodging, services, entertainment, transportation, tips, in fact, just about everything except round trip airfare. As I was trying to help as many TS's get the surgery as I possibly could, I took almost no money for myself...just as well, as I was accused by some TS's of profiting from other peoples misery...and perhaps if I would have charged enough to allow me to live, I would still be providing a much needed service in Brussels. Oh yes, the first two girls that went through the program each paid \$2600 which isn't too bad for a two week vacation in Europe even without the surgery being included. The last I heard, the doctor and hospital charges alone are now about \$3800. You must keep in mind that due to Ronald Reagan and his 'Reagonomics' the dollar is worth less than half as much in Belgian Francs now as it was in 1985. If you adjust the current cost of the doctor and hospital to 1985 prices, you will find that there has been little if any increase in Belgian Francs, the extra cost is solely due to the fact that the dollar isn't worth much in Europe these days.

With assurances from Dr. Seghers in hand, I started writing numerous articles and sending them to all the Trans-Whatever journals, support groups and medical and psychiatric professionals I knew of. The response was amazing, and those groups that could afford it agreed to pay my 'Fee' which amounted to paying my way from the last town where I appeared to speak to their group. Usually one of the local members would provide an empty room, a few meals and local transportation. I have a lot of fond memories of that summer, and meeting people like Veronica and Becky. Looking back at the experience now, it seems as though a sort of 'Magic' was at work, and I saw first hand a cohesiveness and a willingness to help that was totally out of character for the Trans-whatever community. I like to think that I witnessed a phenomena that had never happened before and, unfortunately, will probably never happen again.

As 1990 comes to a close, I feel that I can look back with some degree of satisfaction at the way everything has developed from the forces I set in motion five years ago. The Brussels Connection is alive and well, and high quality SRS is available for a price that almost anyone can manage.

The work that I did of helping and informing the TS community has been taken up by Veronica and Becky. Other help groups are furnishing information on the affordable alternative in Brussels. All in all, I honestly feel that I have kept the promise I made in Rome seven years ago, and after reading this article, I hope you do too.

Love and God Bless...Michelle

REV. DOUCE FOUND DEAD

The naked, decomposed body of French gay pastor and gay activist, the Rev. Joseph Douce, was found in a rural French forest in October. He had been missing since July. While published reports have implicated government agencies in the minister's alleged kidnapping and killing, no proof has been found. Rev. Douce was the founder of Center of Christ the Liberator (CCL), a spiritual and service agency for sexual minorities, including transgendered people. He was last seen leaving his apartment with two men claiming to be plainclothes police officers.

(EDITOR'S NOTE...This information obtained from Paula Jordan Sinclair, the NEWSQUEEN, of Renaissance News.)

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LOCKDOWN: THE INCARCERATED TRANSEXUAL

Lynn Marie Scribner, B.A.

Introduction

I originally wrote this article in August of 1984 and it was first published in Issue No. 45 of the TV/TS Tapestry. In the intervening year I have done further research on the subject of incarcerated preoperative transsexuals. I have augmented my professional research with correspondence with preoperative transsexuals in jails and prisons in California, Florida, Ohio and Indiana. I have also corresponded with preoperative and postoperative transsexuals in the free-world and with psychiatrists, endocrinologists, electrologists and surgeons connected with gender identity clinics in Texas, California, Colorado and Canada. There are two major reasons for my study of transsexualism and the law and in seeing that the results of my studies receive widespread publication among the transsexual community and the so-called straight society.

First, there is my personal interest in the humane and compassionate treatment of the incarcerated preoperative transsexual. I myself am a preoperative transsexual presently serving a 75 year sentence in the Texas Department of Corrections (TDC). I have been raped twice while locked up and have suffered brutality and cruelty that could never be imagined by anyone who has never served time in a "correctional" facility.

Secondly, is my interest in helping to educate my brothers and sisters in the gay and transsexual communities on how to avoid arrest and conviction by prejudiced and bigoted law enforcement officials. If this cannot be avoided then how they might safely survive their time of incarceration with a minimum of physical and mental suffering.

Working as I am with the limited research sources in a prison setting I would appreciate any input from the interested readers of this article. Good use can be made from your letters whether they are of a positive or negative attitude. Any ideas, suggestions, law cases, medical articles, statis-

tics, manuals or books covering any aspect of the subject of transsexualism and the law would be greatly appreciated by the author.

In all of the literature written on the subject of transsexualism one topic which has not been addressed is that of the problems facing the incarcerated preoperative transsexual. Transsexuals, like any other member of society, are not immune to criminal prosecution. Ordinarily, being in jail or prison is a rough experience for anyone, but, for the preoperative transsexual, the experience and the reality of being locked up for long periods of time in an all-male institution can be a traumatic nightmare—possibly a tragic and fatal one.

The majority of preoperative transsexuals, prior to arrest, are usually undergoing some form of gender identity therapy in preparation for an eventual sex corrective operation. This therapy often consists of ongoing psychiatric evaluation, electrolysis, hormone therapy and crossdressing in the apparel of the gender of reassignment. If, unfortunately, the preoperative transsexual runs afoul of the law and is arrested the preparatory therapy is suddenly stopped. This is especially true in the ultra-moralistic and conservative mid-Western and Southern portions of the United States.

Most psychiatrists, psychologists, endocrinologists and other members of the gender identity programs feel that there are too many problems inherent in a preoperative transsexual trying to obtain any gender reassignment therapy while incarcerated. While this may be true for the short period of time that a transsexual will experience in jail it is not true for long periods of incarceration. The preoperative transsexual cannot simply stop being a transsexual because the court has sentenced her to prison. Those same psychosexual urges and drives which compel him or her towards sex reassignment are still within the individual. If such urges and drives could so easily be controlled then either she would be "cured" of her transsexualism or she was not a true transsexual in the first place.

I should note here that though I use the feminine gender when speaking of male-to-female, the female-to-male transsexuals suffer the same dehumanization at the hands of the judicial system.

Arrest

The majority of preoperative transsexuals are usually arrested for violating local cross-dressing ordinances. Though this subject has been fairly well covered in the pamphlet—"Legal Aspects of Transsexualism" by Joanna M. Clark of the ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee, I should like to mention here that where such cross-dressing ordinances do exist they can be challenged as constitutional violations with regards to preoperative transsexuals having to cross-dress as part of the "real-life" test. See *Doe v. McConn.* One other transsexual-related reason for arrest is the preoperative transsexual's violation of state sodomy laws. While many preoperative transsexuals do not consider themselves homosexual while engaged in sex with same-sex partners, state laws indicate otherwise. Therefore, a preoperative transsexual who is otherwise law-abiding could be arrested for any number of sex-related reasons beyond what is considered actual criminal conduct.

As with any other group, most transsexuals do not run afoul of the law. Others, encountering criminal problems unrelated to their condition, find such problems compounded when their sexual status is learned.

The arresting officer, upon learning of the preoperative transsexual's true biological sex may harass her. This harassment may take the form of verbal derogatory abuse or, in some instances, actual physical abuse. This is not to say all law enforcement officers are prone to brutality, only that such instances are common enough to be mentioned. Many times a preoperative transsexual may be stopped and questioned by roving vice officers. In this case arrest may be avoided if the transsexual maintains a polite and respectful attitude and is able to provide a card or letter from his or her psychiatrist explaining that she is a preoperative transsexual undergoing therapy for eventual sex reassignment surgery.

Jail

The next stop in the criminal justice system is incarceration (in either a city or county jail or detention center). If at all

possible, as with anyone else, the preoperative transsexual should try to immediately post bond; otherwise, due to overcrowded court dockets, she may find she will have to remain in jail for several weeks or months prior to the final deposition of her case.

Once in jail, however, there are certain "steps the preoperative transsexual should take to guarantee, as much as possible, her safety. She should contact her attorney, if she has one; any family or friends she may have as well as the profession(s) who are treating her transsexualism. It has been found that the degree of harassment an inmate receives declines in direct proportion to those contacts on the outside who are interested in the inmate's welfare.

The preoperative transsexual's next step is to see that she is properly classified and assigned to protective custody. In many prisons today prisoners live in constant fear of being assaulted, physically or sexually, either by other prisoners or by prison guards. These assaults often occur as a result of prison official's failure to properly classify prisoners.

While all preoperative transsexual's would like to be placed in the same tanks or cellblocks as other inmates of their gender of reassignment it is an unrealistic hope at this time. In actuality, the preoperative transsexual should be placed either in a tank (dormitory) or cellblock with gay inmates. The problem with this, particularly in prison, are the non-gay inmates who tell prison officials that they are gay so they might be placed in protective custody (PC) where they prey off the weaker inmates. In this instance, the preoperative transsexual, who may have some physical feminization from the use of female hormones or surgery, should try for assignment to a one-man cell under what is known as "Administrative Segregation" (Ad-Seg).

Most jails will house you in a single (solitary) cell in the male or female section depending on whether you have any bodily changes from prior hormone therapy or surgery, and how long you have been living in the current gender role. Sometimes, however, they put you wherever they want to and you may be highly vulnerable to gang rape if housed in a male dormitory.

One of the problems the preoperative transsexual will encounter in jail and prison is the inability of the institutional authorities and the general inmate population in differ-

entiating between homosexuality and transsexualism. The transsexual is not a homosexual, as she or he wishes to participate in a sexual relationship with a man or woman as a member of the opposite sex.

Being classified, by institution officials as a homosexual rather than a preoperative transsexual may lead to problems later on should the preoperative transsexual attempt to litigate in court for any transsexual therapy while she or he is incarcerated. The majority of general population inmates, also unable to distinguish between homosexuality and transsexualism, will make sexual advances towards the preoperative transsexual, particularly if she exhibits physical feminization such as feminine hips and/or enlarged breasts. Should the transsexual refuse these sexual advances she could then be subjected to physical abuse such as beatings, rape and even death.

The news media, for instance, has recently carried a number of articles concerning preoperative transsexuals incarcerated at mid-transition. Each of the stories has detailed sexual abuse, beatings by both inmates and prison guards.

The preoperative transsexual, like any other inmate in jail or prison, walks a tight-rope between the administration and the other inmates. She must find a "protector" by paying for protection with either money or sexual favors. If she goes to the prison officials, she runs the risk of being labeled a "snitch." Inmates who are considered snitches usually have a very short life-span.

If the preoperative transsexuals was undergoing psychiatric evaluation or hormonal therapy prior to her arrest there may be some chance that she could continue such treatment while she is locked up. Most prisons and jails, however, will not initiate counseling or hormones if you were not already on them before arriving at the confinement facility. Only a few jails will let you continue hormones if you were already on them, and very few of them will help with any arrangements leading toward surgery.

Most jail physicians will insist the preoperative transsexual be participating in a recognized gender identity program prior to their arrest before even considering placing the preoperative transsexual on hormones. Many preoperative transsexuals unable to afford the costs of an expensive psychological and endocrinological workup will usually try to find a sympathetic doctor who will

prescribe female steroid sex hormones without the required preliminary lab tests or follow-up blood tests. A note of caution should be injected here in that preliminary and follow-up physical and blood tests are a necessity. People with asthma, kidney or liver problems, blood clotting or heart problems should be careful of the unsupervised use of high dosages of estrogenic compounds; either natural or synthetic. This includes the oral ingestion of hormonal creams or birth control pills.

Whatever their prior medical arrangements, the preoperative transsexual should have her physician contact the jail medical staff to see about continuing her hormones while incarcerated. If she succeeds in staying on hormones while in jail this will help later on should she have the misfortune to go on to prison.

If the preoperative transsexual is in jail for only a short period of time, then a temporary cessation of her hormones will not affect her overall schedule for reassignment. If, however, she finds herself in jail over a period of several months—a sad but common occurrence attributed to either an overcrowded court docket or the accused is unable to post bond—then such a long period off of her hormonal therapy will probably necessitate her starting the program over. Lately, the courts are starting to closely scrutinize jail and prison medical programs and treatments. People entering jail, pre-trial detainees, now have Eight and Fourteenth Amendment protection to continue prior medical treatment initiated by an outside physician. As stated in *Goodman v. Wagner*:

"In *Norris v. Frame*, 585 F.2d at 1188-89, the court held that the knowing failure of prison officials to permit pre-trial detainees to continue 'legally and medically accepted' treatment states a claim under 42 U.S.C. §1983. The *Norris* court also assailed prison officials who 'merely substituted (their) own medical judgement for an already prescribed course of treatment.' *Id.* at 1188, n.16.

Court

How the preoperative transsexual dresses and carries herself in court is extremely important. The impression she makes on the judge and jurors will, to some extent, influence the outcome of their final decision.

Though these officers of the court are supposed to base their judgement only on the facts of the case, being human they will also, consciously or unconsciously, judge the defendant on her attitude and appearance and against their own standards.

If the preoperative transsexual is too masculine appearing she should wear either men's clothing or a subdued pant-suit with little or no make up. If, on the other hand, she is extremely feminine looking, with physical feminization from hormones or surgery, then she should dress appropriately. Her attorney should emphasize the fact that the defendant is undergoing transsexual therapy for a sex conversion operation and, as part of her therapy, must dress in the clothing of the gender of reassignment.

There are three verdicts which the court may find against the defendant: acquittal, probation or conviction and imprisonment. We will not concern ourselves with the acquittal since that means the preoperative was found not guilty and will go free.

Probation

The preoperative transsexual can be found guilty but given a probated sentence for any number of reasons too numerous to go into here. This simply means that imprisonment has been deferred unless the defendant should violate any of the rules of probation, in which case the probation would be revoked and the preoperative transsexual would then go to prison. The ACLU handbook—"The Rights of Gay People" speaks of:

"An appellate court in Illinois in 1972 (which) reduced the sentence of a preoperative transsexual to probation because the defendant would have had difficulty adjusting to the masculine environment of prison and incarceration would not have encouraged rehabilitation. (A psychiatrist had testified regarding the harmful consequences of sending the prison to an all-male institution.)"

Conviction

Finally, the preoperative transsexual could be found guilty of her crime and sentenced to a state or federal correctional facility depending on which court she is in. It is at this point that almost all members of gender identity programs feel the preopera-

tive transsexual should forget about receiving any transsexual-related therapy. I disagree with this viewpoint, however.

Imprisonment in an all-male institution is as traumatic a nightmare for the preoperative male-to-female transsexual as is incarceration in an all-female institution for the preoperative female-to-male transsexual. Not only has her transsexual therapy been stopped but all the signs of femininity she has cultivated to bolster her inner self-image have also been taken from her. She is not allowed make-up and her female clothing is taken. Without electrolysis she starts redeveloping facial hair which daily proclaims her masculinity. Her long hair is cut and without the feminizing effects of female hormones, her hips and breasts begin to diminish. This is as traumatic to a transsexual as a mastectomy is to a genetic woman. In many instances her suffering is so intense that suicide and self-mutilation are not uncommon.

Prisons

There are few alternatives for transsexuals who find themselves in prison. The right to treatment in the area of mental health has been given such constitution underpinning that during an involuntary commitment the right requires adequate treatment or release. Thus, the preoperative transsexual who has been receiving medical treatment for her or his transsexualism prior to incarceration may have grounds for continued treatment.

Some prisons, on a sentence of two years or less, will voluntarily allow the preoperative transsexual to continue her hormones at a maintenance dosage level; however, most of the time this will only be done through a court order. On sentences of over two years the preoperative transsexual is usually denied all such treatment.

Prison officials are charged with the protection and safety of the inmates in their care. They are also charged with seeing to the inmate's physical and mental health.¹⁵ And, though transsexualism is a mental health problem, only now is the constitutionality of a prison's denial of transsexual therapy and sex conversion surgery being challenged in the courts.¹⁶ Unfortunately, prison physicians, under the direction of conservative prison administrators and medical directors, are leery of prescribing female hormones for the incarcerated preoperative

transsexual or for performing any feminizing cosmetic surgery.

Prison psychologists also seem rather reluctant to classify or diagnose an inmate as a preoperative transsexual. They would rather simplify matters by classifying all inmates whom they consider "non-heterosexual" as gay. Their definition of gay seems to include transsexuals, transvestites, bisexuals as well as homosexuals.

These psychologists and psychiatrists persist in trying to treat the depressed preoperative transsexual, if they treat her at all, with psychotropic drugs and psychotherapy. Prison mental health workers simply ignore one of the basic tenants of transsexualism:

Medical science has not found any organic cause or cure (other than sex reassignment surgery and hormone therapy) for transsexualism nor has psychotherapy been successful in altering the transsexual's identification with the other sex or her desire for surgical change. "Numerous attempts at therapy, including intensive psychoanalysis, hypnosis, aversion deconditioning, chemotherapy, and behavior therapy have been generally unsuccessful."

Prison physicians and administrators have put forward various reasons for their denial of transsexual therapy and surgery for the incarcerated preoperative transsexual. Two reasons cited most frequently are security and protection. Prison administrators say that they are unable to properly protect an inmate who has developed the secondary female sex characteristics associated with either hormone therapy or cosmetic surgery. However, this is incorrect in that the majority of detention centers and prisons have at least one section devoted solely to the protection of status inmates; as well as single one-man cells under what is known as "Administrative Segregation." Once the preoperative transsexual has completed her sex conversion surgery she could then be safely transferred to an all-female institution.

Prison physicians often state that the high dosages of estrogen can cause cancer. An endocrinologist with the Texas Institute for Reproductive Medicine and Endocrinology, P.A., is quoted as saying:

"... that among the two to three hundred male-to-female transsexual patients that I have treated over the past 10 years, I have had no patient develop cancer."

Another excuse often used by prison physicians is the length of the transsexual's sentence in relation to the amount of time she would be on female hormones prior to sex conversion surgery.

The majority of institutions which allow the preoperative transsexual to continue her hormone therapy while incarcerated will only do so if her sentence is two years or less. They say this is the maximum time the preoperative transsexual can be on female hormones prior to surgery without suffering any ill side-effects. However, this time limit is a minimum and not a maximum. If one considers the fact that the postoperative transsexual must remain on hormones for the rest of her life after sex conversion surgery, then it seems arbitrary to impose any time limit on the length of time she is on hormones prior to the operation.

The male-to-female transsexual is given estrogen and must remain on this for the rest of her life. The estrogen gradually produces some feminization. The breasts enlarge. The pattern of fat deposits becomes feminine; in particular, the hips become rounded.²⁰

Recently a preoperative transsexual in Colorado challenged the prison system there for denying her female hormones. Shauna Supre became so depressed after having been taken off of her female hormones that she castrated herself. Subsequent psychiatric examination revealed that Ms. Supre was not psychotic but suffered extreme depression reinforced by her defeminization by the prison administration. It is important to note here that the federal judge in this case felt that Ms. Supre's life and sanity were at stake and that the defendant's (the prison administration) denial of Ms. Supre's female hormones amounted to cruel and unusual punishment prohibited under the Eighth Amendment of the United States Constitution. Ms. Supre is now free but an investigative panel was instituted in the Colorado prison system to see that Ms. Supre, and any future preoperative transsexual inmate, received adequate medical and psychiatric treatment, including hormonal therapy. Finally, the most often used excuse is that "experimental" and "cosmetic" sex conversion operations are not a "medical necessity."

A surgical procedure that has been used regularly for almost 65 years can hardly be considered "experimental" any longer! The fact that the operation and treatment of

transsexualism has evolved over the past six decades is not unusual in the field of medicine where science is continually bringing forth new innovations. According to the ACLU handbook--The Rights of Gay People--

"... an appellate court in California recently ordered that state's Department of Health to grant an application for sex reassignment surgery, stating 'It is clearly impossible to conclude that transsexual surgery is cosmetic surgery. And even in New York, one court has recognized that in some instances, there might be a medical necessity for the operation.'"

Since transsexual therapy and surgery are acknowledged as being a rehabilitative process, it is hard to understand how any correctional system can deny any program with a proven success rate at rehabilitating an individual. Dr. John Money, of the Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic, has studied twenty-four cases from his files in an effort to determine objectively the results of the sex conversion surgery in social terms. Dr. Money found it significant that:

"... no patients acquired a police record for the first time following reassignment. The majority... melted into law-abiding obscurity... The cost to society for policing and jailing transsexuals is not increased... it more likely decreased."

The incarcerated preoperative transsexual is living a constant nightmare. Who does she or he reach out to for help? Her brothers and sisters in the Gay Rights movement? It seems the majority of legal aid and gay rights organizations around the country will not only refuse to help the incarcerated preoperative transsexual, but many will oftentimes totally ignore her letters and cries for help. So long as she has no outside assistance, the preoperative transsexual must battle the legal and penal system herself, because no one else will do it for her. Prison administrators must soon realize they are in the 20th century and that they have a moral obligation to treat those under their care so that they may return to society as capable productive human beings. Moreover, the Supreme Court has recognized a constitutionally-derived right to control one's own body. So long as the preoperative transsexual is in prison serving time for her "crimes" against society, then society should

see that she benefits and comes out a better person.

The frightening aspect of the way in which the transsexual has been treated is that the law and society may well react as emotionally and as irrationally to future scientific advances. Problems opened by developing modern biological and psychological knowledge will occur again in other contexts, and as one author put it, "It is for the law to try and catch the ever fleeting shadow of the needs of society, not for society to adapt to the law."

In this context, the law ought to give its support and protection to the transsexual, especially after medicine has helped in the only way that it knows--by giving a sex change operation.

SOURCE: J2CP Information Services

EDITOR'S COMMENT...

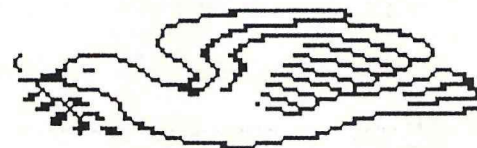
Truer words were never spoken than those sung in the theme song to the old Berratta television show - "Keep Your Eye on the Sparrow":

*Don't do the crime
if you can't do the time.*

*Don't go to bed
with a price on your head.*

Don't cop out on life through theft, crime and prison or related drug and alcohol abuse. Most of all, don't use your gender dysphoria as an excuse to do whatever you want no matter what because you think you're a victim of society as 'you didn't choose to be this way'. Take responsibility for your life and if you want to achieve gender congruity then do it honestly.

GIVE PEACE A CHANCE



MAKE LOVE NOT WAR

Dear Becky,

While I have never written a letter to the editor before, I just could no longer contain my feelings about the article entitled "Surgery on Demand - with No Apologies!" that appeared in the January 1991 issue of Twenty Minutes.

Toni Pavick is so right when she points out that the Real Life Test is unfair. I could feel the anger rise up inside my breast as I read those lines: "A Transsexual has to go through such a runaround and such bullshit to get where he or she has to go", and when I read this article to my wife of 37 years, she became angry too.

Another point that Toni made is that post-op Transsexuals themselves refuse to give out the names of any of the doctors who perform SRS. During the past ten years I have written to any number of well known post-op TS's demanding an instant reply to some very simple questions, i.e. 1) Where can I get hormones? 2) Give me a list of all employers world wide that will hire a pre-op TS and that will have a group medical insurance policy that will pay for the surgery. 3) Give me the names of all women doctors in my area who will prescribe hormones and or perform SRS. Why I even pay the TS I write to a compliment when I ask her to tell me all she knows about the subject of transsexualism and gender dysphoria. What I don't understand is that, like Toni, I never receive a reply even though I say in my letter that I must have the information as soon as possible and preferably by return mail. Actually I did get one letter from a well know TS who suggested that I allow a little more time for an answer and would I please send return postage the next time.

Toni is so right when she points out that you need not spend a lot of money on "shrinks" just to have them tell you what you already know, and that is you are a 'Real' TS. I KNOW that I am a transsexual because I diagnosed myself years ago. I have ALWAYS felt like a female, and have dressed in women's clothes for years every time I get a chance...and as far as sex was concerned, well just forget it as I found that part of being married very distasteful.

About five years ago I could not stand my 'Male Self' any longer and, with my wife's blessings, started cross living. It seemed the ideal time to do this as the last of our six children left home, and it was now just me and Martha again in our mobile home. It was rough at first, the children here in the trailer court would laugh at me and make crude remarks, but eventually that stopped. Fortunately, I was able to retire, so I didn't have to worry about making a living. Martha would go out to the stores shopping, and I could busy myself around the house doing all of the 'femme' things that I had always dreamed of doing; cooking, sewing, washing dishes and writing letters. Hardly a day went by that I did not feel that this life-style was so 'right' and so 'me'. Oh how I wished that I would have been born a female in the first place.

Sometime during my second year of cross living, I finally decided to make an appointment with the recommendation board of the Gender Identity Clinic that I had been going to for about six months. A TV friend had suggested that I start going to their monthly meeting, and all that I can say is that I am so happy that I took his advise.

The meetings were very enjoyable, and we would all sit around in our finest gowns and nicest lingerie while we sipped punch, ate cookies and talked about how some day we would have SRS. I was very impressed with the sincerity of some of the girls who proudly stated that they had been coming to these meetings for the past three to five years and how they would have the surgery just as soon as they saved up the \$25,000 necessary for the operation. My, but they were SO close to realizing their dream, and I still had such a long way to go.

Anyway, as I said, I made an appointment with the recommendation board and was soon informed that they would hear my case. Perhaps now, I thought, I can finally start making plans. I just wish that I could say that all went well, but unfortunately this is the 'real' world, and the meeting was a disaster.

Everything started out smoothly enough, but soon someone pointed out that I desperately needed electrolysis. Even though I explained to them that I was saving money for the surgery and planned to have a lot of electrolysis done after the operation, this just didn't seem to matter to them. Someone else mentioned that my voice was too low and that I should have voice lessons, however they seemed unimpressed that I planned to have voice surgery sometime after I have SRS. Another board member pointed out that being on retirement was not the same as the more normal mandate of earning a living as a woman...why I don't know, after all money is money and just what difference does it make where it comes from. But the question that, I believe, turned the board against me was: "Why are you still married, and do you intend to get a divorce?". I explained that while I was aware that almost every TS who did not divorce their spouse before the surgery did so afterward, I was certain that we were different, and that my wife would stay with me no matter what. Therefore, I did not plan to get a divorce either now or in the future. I just did not want to be responsible for what my wife told me would happen in the event she was to lose me.

Well, as you probably have guessed, I was not given a recommendation by the board, and I still don't know why. Like Toni, "I'm mad as Hell I'm a transsexual" but because some 'shrinks' don't think I am 'Good Enough' to become a woman, the "Peace and Calm" that I hoped to find have been denied me. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Mauvais [REDACTED] FL

Dear Editor,

I'm responding to your editorial "The Lone Twit" and the feature item by Micheline Johnson "Is the TS Lifestyle a Deception".

Ever since I first saw last year an item in one of the US Support magazines which intended to give support and encouragement to TS generally I have been angry inside and near boiling over at times too. I have not since been able to actually locate the offending line.

The well meaning article which angered me so comes within the comment of the Editorial in Twenty Minutes of November 1990, paragraph 7 "what the above five famous transsexuals share in common is that they achieved their goal through dogged determination and perseverance and/or already had made noteworthy accomplishments in their former male roles to later go on as useful, contributing citizens" and in paragraph 5 speaking of Caroline Cossey 'In the end, it was exposure to the media that stunted her career'. (Why has she not sued Murdock for unfair journalistic harm!) - He is after all selfishly rich too, and inconsiderately ruthless and his minions of journalist/reports likewise.

The media exploits of one Sarah Luiz have not as yet reached the International Stardom of the likes of Renee Richards or Christine Jorgensen - at least till now she's unknown where I live on the far southern side of the world. She isn't (yet) one of the rich set well able to afford to pay for, or bribe for, what she wants - which is far from clear - other than what a lot of psychological TS misfits want - STARDOM "Hollywood style" at that by fair means or otherwise, usually the latter. The success of the "TS RICH & FAMOUS" is NOT really encouraging to the rest of us and the kind of media stunts such as pulled by Ms Luiz only serve to drive the majority of society from accepting and supporting us, except she'll likely never see it such is her selfishness - but I did enjoy the editorial review - fact or fiction, only history will tell.

As yet the Gender world hasn't really had a 'Normal TS Biography' which might give real hope and encouragement to others. Too many like I suspect Ms Luiz live in an 'Alice in Wonderland' dream world much of the time and lack the ability to separate fact from fancy and see the non reality which for them is real. There is a metal block to reality of life through many past experiences mostly bad or sour. I could be wrong, this is only my opinion based upon interviewing many TSs. Some simply lack the stamina to try to cope and make a go of it.

Those who do come from the mainstream of life or lower class (other than the rich TS) face a real world where the uphill battle to maintain ground is seemingly unsurmountable. With constant setbacks looming, not knowing when it will ever end, suicide often is considered as a viable option. Lack of help from sympathetic and understanding Health Professionals who are cold feeling and indifferent, lacking true comprehension of the 'syndrome' can be the cause of considerable trauma. Often its like talking to a 'Brick Wall' which is impenetrable, lacks feeling. Often the TS feels 'naked' exploited and a medical guinea pig for cheap experimentation by a health professional who has no knowledge of the TS/TV subject other than that you belong in a padded cell, in a mental hospital for psychiatric patients. This is the sadistically sick notion fostered by a prejudiced American Psychological Association and imposed upon other English speaking nations. Homosexuals successfully changed that professions attitude towards their gender orientation rights and its overdue for a reconsideration of our rights too. But will Gay shrinks fight our rights now that they got theirs - NO! Most, like our own TV/TS are too self centered and selfish. But there is hope, some are exceptions to this rule.

On the otherhand 'The Lone Twit' article covers a different kind of problem and one that all too often brings our kind into public limelight most of us do not seek, and those terrible attention seekers are not in my view most suitable candidates for reassignment yet its that kind often who get what they want before those of us who are hard working and more stable. Conversely the other sort are those as mentioned in the article who already as former males had to a degree 'made it' and as the new female continued on to further success and expanded development utilizing the advantages already gained. This might include a change in occupational direction but often again they were using their higher intellect.

For most of you reading this, its been heavy going, it was not as I set to write, but I must act as a CHANNEL for those who speak through me and my thoughts predominately are thus too dictated from beyond the physical world. My only hope is that through my attempt others in similar situations as I tend to find myself - the common herd of TV/TS - the lower levels of social status and wealth - will gain upliftment and encouragement to continue to strive on further for a better existence. Mine have been hard painful and cruel at times - but through it all I guess I wouldn't want it worse but only look to the future - a brighter happier future - for us all.

Leone Jeanne Neil FRV , Trustee
The Minorities Trust & Transcare
New Zealand

Dear Becky:

Big news... which will no doubt make Veronica very happy. I am leaving the gender community, albeit not completely. TerraNet BBS will continue from its new location, but that will be my only involvement... providing full-text information on legal decision, medical and psychological issues, and referrals.

Current TerraNet hours of operation are Monday through Thursday, 8pm to 8am PST, and weekends - Friday 8pm through Monday 8am PST. Dateline number is (714) 248-0443. Protocols are 2400,8N1; although the board will accept 1200 and 300 baud rates providing appropriate protocols are used. Subboards are AIDSNet, ChurchNet, EnvironmentalNet, GenderNet, LegalNet, PeaceNet, SeniorNet, and StarNet (for Trekkies).

No, as Veronica and Twenty (Exodus 20:16) Minutes reported, I am not joining the staff of IFGE. J2CP will continue at its present location, thanks to a couple of close friends (my parents) willingness to keep it alive, at least through the end of 1991. Inquires WITHOUT a self-addressed stamped envelope enclosed, WILL NOT BE ANSWERED.

And, as they say in television, that's a wrap!

In His lovingkindness,
Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE

SORRY, CHARLIE
In the next issue of Twenty Minutes

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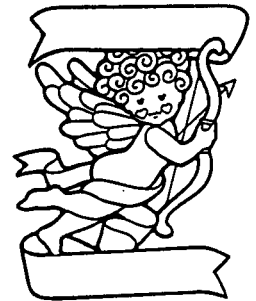
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