

Correction:

In the February 1992 issue we printed an article "In Search of the Invisible Transsexual". This story was written with permission by Veronica Jean Brown, and reprinted from "The Canadian Cross Dresser", issue 13\page 8. We deeply regret the omission to the source of this article.

NOTICE

Twenty will be publishing a newsletter bi-monthly from this point forward...

Dear Readers,

Since we began publishing Twenty, we have done our very best to bring to you a newsletter with interesting articles and accurate information, without depleting the treasury. We aren't professionals and we don't do this for a living, so this newsletter is done in our "spare time".

From my standpoint...

When I came to the Twenty Club in December of 1990, I had hardly ever seen and have never known another person who was gender dysphoric, I was just starting to go through the clinic, I was scared and had no other support. The Twenty club gave me an incredible amount of information in addition to the wealth of feeling like I wasn't the only one in the whole world transitioning.

I wanted to give something in return, and the when Twenty Minutes folded I volunteered with Anne and Judy. It takes on the average 100-250 combined hours to do a newsletter.

Unfortunately I don't have as much time as I once did. Lets see... I work during the week.... go to electrolysis every other weekend... go to the Twenty Club two Saturdays a month... and worked on the newsletter every other day I could. So for time off, that leaves... NOTHING. The reason I have illustrated this is, because I feel it isn't unique to me.

From TS folklore I have heard that there is a point that you either get completely absorbed in this, burn out, or leave "the community" entirely.

If we are going to be able to continue to help people, it seems a the only alternative is to publish bi-monthly and keep page count and quality up.

We have new people helping out, but we always need articles, information and articles, because the newsletter is only as good as its content.

Brenda P.

The Letter

By Stephanie S.

Coming out is the topic of many articles. There are aspects that are seldom covered with this often difficult experience. In this article I am presenting a "tool" and how it helped me in coming out to family and friends, and how it may help the reader devise a similar tool so their coming out may be less difficult.

Some Background:

In the last year I came to learn I was a transsexual. As I dealt with my transition and changed myself I have been coming out to close friends as it seemed appropriate. Some of my reasons in deciding to come out to a particular person were:

They expressed concern about the changes in my appearance.

They were on the verge of "discovering" what I was doing.

I just wanted them to know!

Whatever the reason coming out was awkward and often problematic with questions that were difficult to answer off the cuff, guessing what they would like to ask because they didn't know what to ask or they were afraid they may embarrass me. Often I would see their eyes "glass over"; It was like they had stopped hearing anything I was saying! This made coming out a frustrating for me.

I spoke with my therapist about this. She suggested a short letter with the points I wanted to get across clearly and simply stated. The reasoning is that after they stopped "hearing" they might be better able to comprehend something written.

Please see LETTER on page 4

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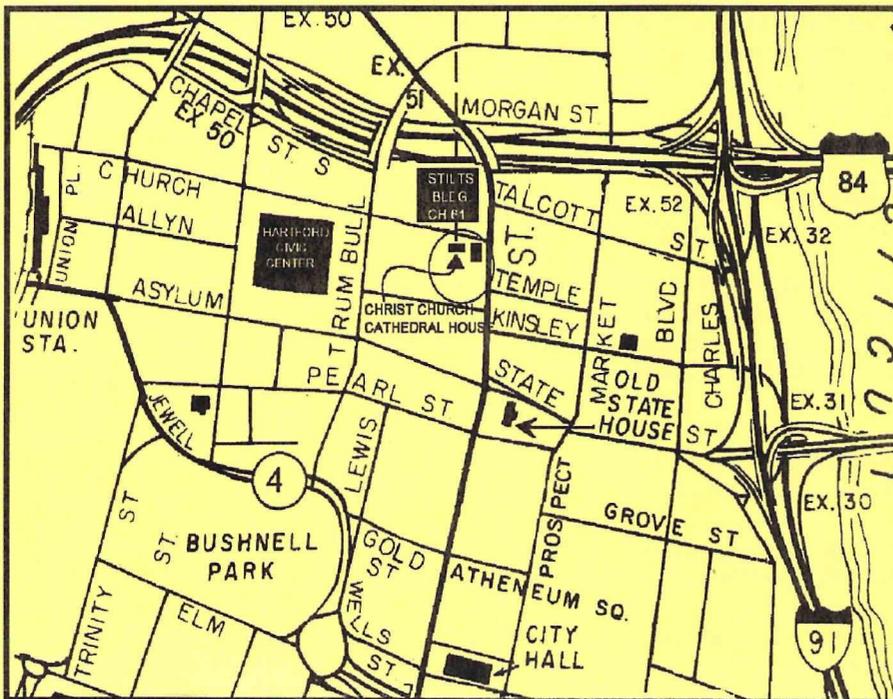
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XX Club Meetings

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

Meeting are held at:

**Christ Church Cathedral (Parish House)
45 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103**



Upcoming XX Club Meetings

Saturday, April 11th - Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Support Group Meeting

Saturday, April 25th - Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Support Group Meeting

Saturday, May 9th - Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Support Group Meeting

Saturday, May 23rd - Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral, Support Group Meeting

The XX Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 387
Hartford, CT 06141-0387

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Anne E. Curr

Vice Presidents
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Standing Committee

Treasurer's Report
Future Treasurers' reports
will be published quarterly.

The Gender Identity Clinic of NewEngland, Inc. (203) 646-8651

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XX (Twenty)

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Newsletter articles referring to specific programs, services and/or products do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the XX Club, Inc., or the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc. Articles involving medical aspects of gender dysphoria are not intended to be medical advice and readers are cautioned not to make any changes in treatment based upon such information without consulting a physician.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Newsletter submissions may either be mailed to the XX Club at our address above or submitted at a XX Club meeting. While not necessary, it would be helpful to the editors if your contribution was submitted on an MS DOS computer disk (5-1/4" or 3-1/2") (any word processing format or ASCII). This newsletter represents the XX Club, Inc., and the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. For that reason, a submission will not be printed if it does not center on an issue of importance to the transsexual community, or if it in any way slanders any individual or group of individuals. Due to space and time constraints, your submission may not be printed immediately. Unfortunately, we cannot be held responsible for the return of any materials submitted. Please state clearly what name, if any, or any other personal information you want, or don't want included in publication of your submission. Personal information about contributors will not be disclosed. Please give due credit to your sources. All submitted material will be considered, and VERY much appreciated. Material submitted serves as a defacto release to publish. Any photographs submitted must have a signed release from all individuals in the photograph.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send new address and old address, including zip codes, to "XX" at the above address.

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Veronica Jean Brown and Becky Ann for their many years of dedicated service through publication of the newsletter, Twenty Minutes, which has ceased publication..

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XX (Twenty) Club Information

The XX (Twenty) Club, Inc.
The Transsexual Peer Support Group, of the:
Gender Identity Clinic Of New England, Inc.

P. O. Box 387
Hartford, CT 06141-0387
Tel: (203) 646-8651

Nature: The XX (Twenty) Club is the peer support group of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. Our purpose is to provide knowledgeable information and ongoing peer support to transsexual persons throughout the many stages of their transition, as well as information about the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. Friends and relatives are encouraged to attend in the hope of gaining greater understanding and acceptance of their loved one's transsexuality. We are open to both male-to-female, and female-to-male transsexual persons. The XX Club, Inc. is non-profit and non-sexual. While our meetings are held at a church, we are not a religious organization and have no official affiliation with any religious denomination. We hold no prejudice against any other group of people. We are a peer support group, we are not a dating service, or an instant source of new best friends.

Services: The XX Club, Inc. officially publishes a new monthly newsletter (XX), serving the transsexual community. We meet twice a month (2nd & 4th Saturdays, 2-5PM), at the Christ Church Cathedral; 45 Church Street; Hartford, CT. Meetings are structured to provide support, information, and open accepting understanding. On occasion (no more than one meeting per month), we have professional speakers on educational and medical subjects of interest to transsexual persons. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, outreach to New England and New York gender organizations, and a speakers bureau. There is No Smoking allowed during our meetings. Smoking is permitted during our refreshment break, and after the meeting in designated areas only. In the course of our meeting we have a half-hour refreshment break. People are encouraged to get to know another during the break and help themselves to food and beverages. Please feel free to bring food to share with the group.

Security: We hold no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. Persons interested in attending a meeting are welcome to come as long as they have a personal interest in transsexuality, understand the supportive nature of our group, and are willing to respect the anonymity of all persons attending. At no time may another persons name, address, telephone number, or any other personal information be given to another person without full permission. Cameras and recording devices are not allowed at our meetings.

Membership & Meeting Fees: Annual membership dues for the XX Club, Inc., are \$20.00 per year. Dues include a one year subscription to our newsletter, XX. Members and visitors are encouraged to contribute a minimum of \$1.00 per person at each meeting to help defray our expenses. Membership dues and meeting fees are used to contribute to Christ Church Cathedral for the use of their facilities and personnel, defray the cost of newsletter production and distribution, and provide refreshments for our meetings. While these contributions allows us to remain self sustaining, no one will be turned away because of lack of ability to contribute.

Our Sincere Thanks To All

LETTER from page 1

As an aid in creating this she gave me a letter written by another, anonymous, patient for the same purpose. I was on my way!

How I made changes to the letter:

When I got home I typed the example letter into my handy word processor. I can edit almost anything into a useful form! The format of the original was a brief explanation followed by a list of what the reader would and would not as the transsexual changed. The letter ended with a closing paragraph. This seemed very useful and straightforward, but I wanted to tailor it to the people I knew and my own personality. The resulting format was an introduction, description of what a transsexual is, followed by a list of "things" to set expectations and answer common questions, and finally a closing paragraph.

In writing my version of the letter I stole liberally from the original; some of their wording expressed exactly what I wanted to say. Other parts were dramatically changed or created from scratch. Deciding what to write was not easy. To help I jotted down a few goals:

Keep it simple and easy to comprehend - be careful about using technical terms and jargon; not everyone understands them and many people will be hesitant to ask their meaning.

Keep it short. I wanted it to be able to be read and understood then and there.

Anticipate common questions and answer them.

Make it relate to me and my life specifically.

Make it sound like me. I have a distinctive style of talking and writing. I wanted to make sure this read like it came from me.

Make sure they know I care about their feelings! I spent my whole life learning to handle this. Imagine the shock this can be to someone who may be taken by surprise.

Give them an idea of how to act. Tell them it is normal and OK to feel confused, surprised, and overwhelmed.

Consider who I am coming out to. Family and friends are different from business relationships and should be presented differently.

Be definite. What I am telling them is not up for negotiation and you are not asking for permission. You are telling them out of consideration for their feelings and sensibilities.

How I used the letter:

My coming out experience using the letter has been one-on-one and in small groups. The way that worked best for me was to say that I was felt I was a candidate for a "sex-change" operation. This avoided the term transsexual which I felt was more likely to be misunderstood. After this I would have them read the letter, explaining that I had thought ahead the prepared this as an aid in explaining what I am doing. Finally I would answer any questions

and assure them I was indeed very serious.

When they were done reading I answered questions and discussed it as long as they wanted. Usually it was not very long.

Since I began using the letter coming out has been much easier for both me and the person I am coming out to! The difference has been dramatic. A written tool like this seems to convey the idea that one has given serious consideration and thought to what they are doing. This, by itself, seems to comfort people. Another side effect of this is the people I am coming out to seem to be more supportive and positive about my change.

The letter: When I came to see how much and how consistently this tool has helped me I wanted to share it. There is just too much trauma associated with being a transsexual, transgendered, or crossdressing individual. It is my hope this letter will be useful as a basis for creating your own to use when you are ready to come out. The text of the letter follows.

Since you are reading this I must presume you know of my decision to live life as a woman. I am sure you are confused. Your thoughts may be scattered. I can understand this; it has taken most of my life to understand and act upon my needs.

To help, I'd like to offer some ideas about what I am doing. I'll talk about what I am, what that will mean, and what it will not.

The term for my feelings is gender dysphoria. It literally means that I am unhappy with my gender and need to change it to be happy with myself. The term for what I am is a transsexual. The term literally means "one in the process of changing their sex."

Most people I know don't distinguish between gender and sex. To understand what I am doing I think it is important to understand the difference. Gender is how we express and perceive our ourselves. Everyone has male and female components that make up their gender. One or the other is normally dominant. Sex is what a doctor checks when a child is born. It is the physical expression of primary sexual characteristics (genitals) and secondary sexual characteristics (breasts, facial hair, etc.). Most of the time the sex characteristics and gender of a person match. Sometimes they don't.

What I am doing is reconciling a lifelong discrepancy between how I see myself and my anatomy. I am reaching peace of mind in a positive, constructive way and becoming a person with whom I can be comfortable.

When someone asked me what I get out of this I knew there was no easy answer; it is not a lot of things that people seem to presume. I have struggled with this idea and putting it into words. The closest seems to be that doing this enables me not to hate what and who I am. I realize this must seem vague and abstract to most people, but it is quite tangible to me.

Much of who I am will not be changing. I have a fine personality, sense of humor, talents and abilities. I value these traits and I am proud of them. These things are much of what people who are close to me like and value as well. I don't plan to discard the parts of who

I am that I like and work for me.

I don't have to be treated differently. I don't suddenly need to go shopping, or live up to some artificial stereotype. I am not Marilyn Monroe, a Barbie Doll, or Rocky Horror. My friends have always told me I am unique: this is still true and mostly in the same ways. I am still the same person in most ways.

This is an evolutionary process which will happen over a period of time; probably several years. During transition, many changes will happen. Some of these are sudden and noticeable, some more subtle. It is not something that is "just done." It is a project with many parts which must work together over time. This isn't easy to do and I don't take it on lightly.

You don't need to be afraid of or feel threatened by me. I am not gay; that would probably be easier to explain. I am not psychotic, or perverted. Those have nothing to do with gender dysphoria. I am not after sex with my friends; male or female. I do not need to be hidden away in an asylum. I am not a degenerate. I want to live my life as comfortably and peacefully as I am able.

As my transition progresses I will start to look and dress like a woman. This is what I want. My sense of style and propriety will remain intact. What I wear may hardly change most of the time. I am still the "blue jeans" kind of person you know. At other times I expect to be dressed appropriately for the occasion. Again, I do not expect to change the things I am comfortable with.

I'm not going to start looking like a cheap hooker. I will not start wearing long gowns or spandex minis and gobs of makeup. That isn't me! I would be embarrassed by this as much as anyone who might be around me. Perhaps more! I am moving to a point where I will tend to fit in rather than stick out.

I care enough about you and our friendship to share this most personal part of my life with you. I want you to understand, so we

can work together to maintain our relationship. I am sure I will lose some friendships due to this. I do not want to lose any needlessly through lack of knowledge or incorrect assumptions. I hope our friendship is not predicated on my being male instead of being female —I think it is not.

I hope these ideas help to provide some answers to the questions you have. There will be many more. ASK THEM!!!! Don't wait! Don't speculate! Don't feel embarrassed! After what I just told you let me assure you I can not be easily embarrassed! I also have access to a variety of pertinent information such as video tapes of interviews, books and technical papers. I want to provide anything I can which will help you to understand the changes I am going through. That's what friends are for.



From The Other Side

by J. Greene

This article is a follow-up to Jennifer A.'s description of XY's experience with his revelation at work to "The Captain." You see, I'm one of the half dozen or so people here at The Company to whom XY has revealed his (her?) inner identity and his/her plans for making the BIG SWITCH. Please note that in this article, all names and other identifying characteristics have been slightly altered to protect the innocent, condemn the guilty, and add dramatic effect.

First of all, a little background information.

I've known XY for about five years. He (and I have only known him as HE) is the manager of a very large, technically complex project to which I have provided technical input, comments and review. I am responsible that his project is submitted to our friends in Washington D.C. on time, and meets all regulatory requirements set forth by the FED. Needless to say, our professional relationship has not always been one of joy and exultation. For example, I've had to twice petition the FED to extend deadlines which XY couldn't meet, and yet the project was still submitted late. (No offense, XY, but I'm just creating the mood. And it IS true. Yes, I know there were reasons, and I was several of them, but that's not important here.)

On a more personal level, a few years ago XY and I attended a workshop in Washington concerning industry efforts related to this project. We car-pooled to and from this seminar together, spending five hours each way sharing our life histories and personal belief systems. Our discussion led to matters

DANGEROUS CURVES AHEAD.

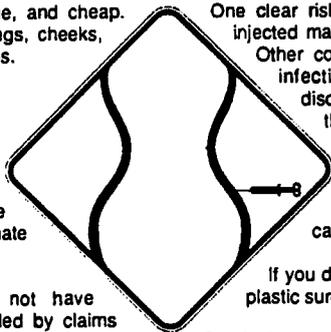
Curves! Beautiful, sexy, feminine, and cheap. Breasts, hips, thighs, buttocks, legs, cheeks, chins, and even full, voluptuous lips.

Sounds too good to be true?

Yes, it is.

By now, you may have realized that we are talking about silicone injections (the kind that no legitimate physician would ever administer).

Freely injected silicone does not have USFDA approval. Don't be fooled by claims such as "Just as good as surgical implants, but without the price." The truth of the matter is that non-medical, non-sterile grade silicone is often used, and is frequently adulterated with other non-medical grade substances. It is injected by people not trained in medical techniques or human anatomy, who frequently reuse needles.



One clear risk is migration or slippage of the injected material into other parts of the body.

Other complications include inflammation, infection, and connective tissue disorders, as well as extrusion from the body. AIDS (from contaminated syringes) and other dangers may not become apparent for some years.

Sometimes the price of beauty can be too high.

If you desire surgical augmentation, see a plastic surgeon.

Send for our free pamphlet, "Dangerous Curves Ahead: Why Silicone Injections Can Be Hazardous to Your Health."

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metaphysical, including the nature of the soul and spiritual reincarnation. It was a highly unusual yet deeply personal sharing between two highly technically oriented professionals within our incredibly conservative, if not militaristic, industry. (Remember "The Captain"?) As close as we came during this trip, there was something I wasn't telling XY, and I could sense the same in him. It wasn't that we were deliberately trying to deceive each other, it was just a matter of limits. After all, there's quite a risk involved in overexposing your soul to a coworker. However, from that day forward, I considered XY a special friend here at The Company, one to whom I could share anything (well, almost anything) with.

Now onto the real purpose of this article.

Several weeks, maybe two months ago, we began to notice that XY had lost some weight. Not that he was overweight to begin with. Far from it. But then it seemed that he had REALLY lost weight. A LOT OF WEIGHT. His suits didn't fit anymore, and with his belt cinched tighter and tighter, the ill fit was accentuated further. He wasn't wearing any new clothes, nor was he altering his existing wardrobe. And I, and surely others as well, noticed that XY wasn't taking care of his personal grooming. His hair was getting long. Very long. Then I noticed that his once immaculately clean-shaven appearance was marred by frequent episodes of 3-to-4-day beard growths. And a rash developed over his face. XY looked terrible. I mean HORRIBLE.

I also noticed that he was out of the office quite regularly and mysteriously. Alternate Tuesdays, Friday mornings, strange hours. All his secretary knew was when he was expected to return, and that he was accounting for the time as "personal vacation." What's going on here?

Since I considered my relationship with XY to be...well, closer than most, I asked him what was up. "Oh, nothing. I just wanted to lose a little weight," came the reply. Well, that just didn't do the trick. Everyone was (and still is) talking:

Joan, XY's secretary:

Joan: "XY said he lost the weight on purpose, but he's gone too far. I think that once he got started, he just couldn't stop. There's a name for that, isn't there?"

J.G.: "Anorexia. But that usually occurs only in teenage girls."

Joan: "Well, whatever it is, I don't like it and I told XY to put some of the weight back on."

Clairol, J.G.'s secretary:

"Did you hear about XY? They say that he's blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah! But I'm not one to spread any rumors. Besides, it's no one else's business but his own that he's blah blah blah blah blah blah!"

Dina, our Vice President's secretary:

Dina: "His weight loss couldn't be deliberate. You would think that

if it were, he would buy new clothes, or at least alter SOME of his suits. And he would be taking better care of himself. Look at his hair and unshaven face. XY looks terrible! I've only seen rashes and rapid weight loss like that on people with cancer. He must be sick, maybe dying, and doesn't want anyone to know. It could be AIDS. That's why he's being so secretive. I think he thinks that people would avoid him if they thought he had AIDS. It's a shame. I'm worried about him."

J.G.: "Me too."

Princess, Executive V-P's (the Captain's) secretary:

Princess: "How do you like my new Barbie doll?"

J.G.: "It's very nice draped like that over your computer - one ankle tucked behind her ear and the other pointing towards the ceiling. And I especially like the way your anatomically correct Ken doll drools over her. By the way, what's that fragrance you're wearing? It becomes you."

Princess: "Thanks, it's my own formula. Spermicide and Summer's Eve." BZZZZZZ. "It's The Captain's intercom. He's got a little dick—tation for me to take care of. See ya'."

As you can see, we were all quite concerned about XY. Monday (just four days ago), after our regular 8:30 AM morning briefing, I happened to run into XY outside his office. So I asked, "What's with the hair? Are you growing a ponytail or something?"

XY: "Well actually I might be putting it in a ponytail soon. I wore one in college for awhile."

J.G.: "Really? Clairol challenged Mike and me to grow one, too. Mike's going to do it and I'm just letting my hair grow longer. Actually, I couldn't help noticing that you've really lost a lot of weight. Considering the hair and everything, is there anything going on here? I mean, it's hard to think that it's not all related."

XY: "You'll see soon enough. It'll be clear in a few months... Well, tell you what. Got a few minutes? Come on into my office, we'll talk."

He closed the door behind me and then...the BIG NEWS!!! I couldn't believe it! After all, you know a guy for years, and I thought I really knew him. I mean, I've shared common rest room facilities with the man for years and can personally attest to his physical attributes. Was this all a big practical joke? Was he setting me up for public embarrassment? Was this revenge for getting him in a little hot water with The Captain because his project was falling behind schedule? No. Nobody would go through what XY has already done just for effect. It HAD to be real. The weight loss could be temporary, he could cut his hair, even the effects of the hormone treatments could be reversed, but the facial electrolysis???

He had already told our Personnel Department (the SRS most likely would be covered as a medically necessary procedure); Legal Department (a lawsuit would be filed if XY, or later, Jennifer, were fired/harassed/demoted); upper management (Executive V-P, "The

Captain”); and the President of The Company (also an ex-Navy Captain and once actually The Captain’s Captain. Hmmmmmm). This could be no joke and it had a lot more to do than with just him and me.

Then he showed me a stack of photos taken of Jennifer with her TV/TS friends. It really began to sink in now. Okay, this is the real McCoy, folks. I can deal with it. But it’s going to be real tough for him to make THE BIG SWITCH here at The Company.

I support you, XY, in what you’re doing, but you know it’s going to be sheer hell. It must have been hell already. I understand. In my own words -you’re integrating your physiology with your psychology. I can dig it. I’ll do whatever it is you need to help out. For now, I guess I can help dispel some of the rumors. (“No, he doesn’t have AIDS/cancer/anorexia/facial psoriasis.” “Yes, he IS aware of how baggy his clothes look.” “No, he’s not losing any more weight.” “Yes, he’s putting a little of the weight back on again—a little on his newly developing bosom, the rest rounding out his hips...” Then again...)

Up to now I had thought that coming to terms with my own personal issues in the work environment was going to be tough. After all, The Captain and his ex-Navy buddies (and there are quite a few here) don’t exactly embrace the thought of a gay man in their midst. (Yup, I finally told XY what it was I had avoided saying that day while carpooling to Washington. He had suspected that was the case all along - and I him. He was right, I was way off.) The born-again, the overzealous conservatives, and the religious fundamentalists (you name the flavor, they all taste the same to me) would not make life easy for me. But for XY!!! At least I can choose who is to know. And I’ve selected a few already. But when XY is gone and Jennifer is here, there will be no selectivity. Everyone, and there are over 1,000 of us in this building alone, will know. There will be no choosing. And I fear for the first time Jenn is caught alone in an elevator with the wrong crowd. Maybe she could ease the transition by starting with a few conservative (navy?) pant suits before going all the way into dresses. (Although, Jenn, you do have nice legs and it would be a shame to hide them.)

Thank you, XY, for sharing your personal truth with me. The road ahead for you at The Company will be a very difficult one, but I, and a number of others, will be here to support you all the way. Your courage is an inspiration to us all. As I said to Dina (to whom XY had told subsequent to the Pres./E-V-P confrontations), “XY sure has balls - while they last.” The humor is black, but the sentiment is genuine. Through humor, grace, and strength of willpower, we will all get

through this together. I only hope that The Captain comes around to provide the leadership and role model for what most assuredly will be one of the greatest management challenges of his career. Unfortunately, I truly don’t think he’s capable of it. However, in my heart I believe that the Captain’s Captain, as President of The Company, will come through, putting his personal feelings aside, and take command of this highly unusual situation. He’s a good man.

I look forward to meeting Jennifer.



IN THE PASSING LANE

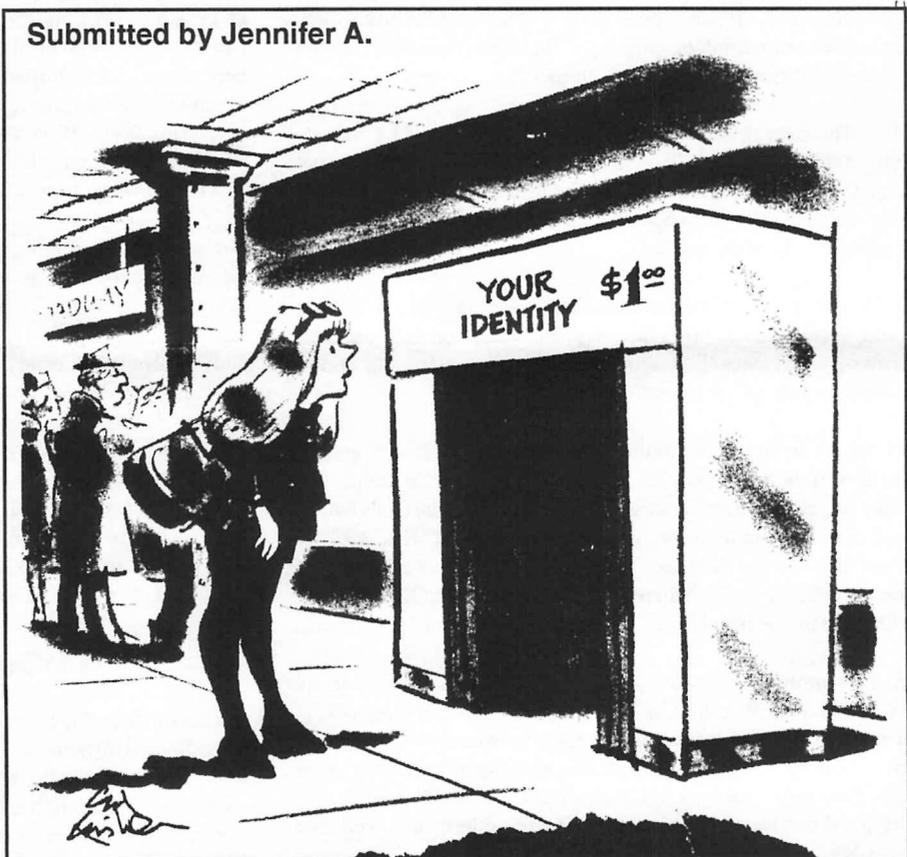
OR

THE SCARLET LETTER

by Jennifer A.

Strictly speaking, that thing we call a DRIVER’S LICENSE (as opposed to that other thing we generally call “that thing”) is nothing more than a license, issued by one’s state of residence, to operate certain classes of motor vehicles. Whatever identifying information is contained on it simply ensures its use by the person to whom it was issued, not someone else. This document—often termed an

Submitted by Jennifer A.



"Operator's Permit" - is called in Connecticut a "Motor Vehicle Operator's License."

Given its widespread availability [nearly everybody has one, of one form or another - just like that OTHER "thing"], the driver's license (DL) has become THE standard form of "ID". In recognition of this, each state's Motor Vehicle Department (MVD) makes available to its NON-DRIVING residents an identification card for such purposes.

Typically, this document displays the holder's full-color photograph (while Vermont is finally getting around to it, New Jersey is reverting BACK to a non-photo format - GO FIGURE!) along with certain remnants of what was once a much longer written list of personal identifying characteristics. Historically, before photographic reproduction technology made picture licenses possible (and reasonably inexpensive), DLs included (depending on the issuing state) such data as name, address, date of birth (or age, assuming one could count), race, height, weight, color of hair and eyes, restrictions and limitations (glasses, physical handicaps), and in some instances unusual distinguishing features (in California they take, but don't display, a thumbprint). And, of course, SEX, though SOME states - such as the Commonwealth of Massachusetts - no longer even designate THAT, I suppose under the rationale that a law enforcement officer will probably NOT ask you to lift your skirt or drop your trousers for a quick roadside inspection. In Connecticut these have been reduced to name, address, DOB, limiting conditions (e.g., corrective lenses), and SEX.

At any rate, in the usual course of events for MOST people, this designation, when it appears, presents no difficulty. One might even accept the necessity for it, originating in those pre-photo days, given a couple of additional factors I can think of:

A.) The prevalence of potentially confusing unisex names: Adrien, Ashley, Beverly, Bobbie, Chris, Dallas, Dana, Evelyn, Frankie, Georgie, Jackie, Jamie, Jan, Lynn, Leslie, Lee, Moon Unit, Pat, Stevie, Tommie, etc. (Some of these sound familiar? Once I get started, it's hard to stop.);

B.) The unisex "look" of the sixties and seventies: men with long hair and jewelry, even make-up; women with short hair and full eyebrows [moustaches?], wearing NO make-up. (Not to mention unshaven armpits and legs, etc.)

All of which tend to blur traditional lines and modes of gender distinction. For many people, confusing. Still, while some may consider sex as a reasonable identifier, I'm not sure the designation adds all that much in the way of a clue toward IDENTIFICATION - except that it's the first categorization we tend to make about someone, no hot news flash there - unless there's a SPECIFIC NEED to determine the license holder's sex. SO - in general, no problem.

There IS a problem, however, if you happen to be one of those EXTREMELY FEW individuals in the overall population who is gender dysphoric and in transition. A person for whom the designation of "SEX" on his or her driver's license, that one small letter - F or M, take your pick - serves ONLY as a DISCREDITING marker of sociological gender. For, whereas that person has, in accordance with the legitimate Standards of Care, assumed the legal name and

appearance/presentation of the desired gender of FULL-TIME LIVING, his or her original genitalia - though visually hidden - remain EXPOSED to public scrutiny by virtue of that one little [discordant] letter.

Thus, picking an example COMPLETELY at random, a [most TOTALLY modest and credible] "Jennifer" with the most elegant long golden hair, the cutest little (cosmetically-reduced) button nose, and the sweetest lipsticked smile gracing the most feminine of made-up feminine faces - though living and working full-time as a woman prior to her final reassignment surgery - will find herself INEVITABLY STIGMATIZED by that one small letter "M" on her driver's license merely because she HAPPENS to live in Connecticut. For all the world to see! DRAT!! No hiding from it. Discredited. Wherever she goes. By WHOEVER should happen to view that document. Like nosy state troopers as she merrily zips down through South Carolina and Georgia. For her, a REAL PROBLEM. (Slow down, Jenn, slow down!!) Another something to worry about amongst all the other things she has to worry about. A "something" that WILL eventually be rendered unnecessary. But for her, at present, no recourse?

Well, folks, as we all know, there ARE extra-legal ways to get the job done - to slide through between the cracks, as it were. One COULD (and many do) demurely claim that a simple but horrible mistake had been made and hope for a quick, "Oh my, YES, Dear, let me fix that for you. How could they have DONE such a thing?!" Alternately, one COULD tell a little white lie on one's application, reasoning that - regardless of what the STATE may deem proper - I REALLY AM a man/woman. Or maybe other ideas, who knows? I'm sure they've all been tried, or at least thought of. But I'm talking here about having things done RIGHT - no lies, no subterfuge, no potential trouble if things should ever get out of hand and catch up with you. WHICH, you may rest assured, they invariably WILL if you give them even half a chance. The word FRAUD comes to mind; and its consequences, when found out, ain't pretty.

Let's return for a moment to a slightly different question: what legitimate purpose is served in the first place by retaining the "sex" designation? Some states (like our enlightened neighbor to the north) have eliminated it altogether. Has this led to waves of fraud and immorality (over and above those levels already existing there)? I seriously doubt it. Does the inquiring law enforcement officer, lounge doorkeeper, or sales clerk REALLY CARE about that private region between your legs? No, probably not. Probably not unless you've been involved in a serious accident and hospitalized (or worse, morgued), or (YIPES!) should fall under suspicion of having committed some heinous crime (hopefully NOT for using the "wrong" restroom!). But okay, that's moot. The designation IS there and for now we DO have to deal with it.

A MODEST PROPOSAL

I propose that the humane and sensible course of action in this hypothetical instance would be to bring Jennifer [and, by extension, everyone like her]'s sex designation on her driver's license LEGALLY into congruence with her LEGAL name, her photograph, her (internal) gender of mental and emotional orientation, and her [full-time] externally presented gender. Further, I submit that such

a policy or procedure would not be overly burdensome to implement or objectionable if pursued along lines based, perhaps, upon the following.

I understand that some years ago the [then] Administrator or Director of the Connecticut MVD was approached regarding this issue for TSs. His (and I assume it was a "he") opinion then was that the SOLE DETERMINANT of sex designation on a driver's license would be that person's physical genitalia. Period. Hence, any change in said designation would be effected by MVD ONLY upon medical proof of error or intervention, as by that person's completion of sexual reassignment surgery (SRS). While this opinion may reflect a strict accounting of propriety from an abstract legalistic point of view, satisfying purists and Puritans alike, it begs the question. It falls short of the mark set by other states that have moved forward to establish progressive policies on this very matter. Like California, where the DMV will change both name and sex designation with a statement from a physician or therapist that an individual is under treatment for gender dysphoria. Like New York, where XX Club member Rachel C. not only obtained her "F" DL with appropriate name and photograph, but by virtue of having telephoned the day before was told WHICH individual at DMV to ask for and then was promptly ushered to the head of the line! [Who said life was fair?!] Surely, consideration of a more compassionate approach is indicated for Connecticut.

Here, we are fortunate to have available the services of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England (GICNE) and its associated support group, our own XX Club. The Clinic Board is made up of practicing healthcare professionals - offering spiritual, physical and mental/emotional counsel - who are expert and experienced in dealing with the (generally misunderstood) phenomenon of gender dysphoria. For years GICNE has provided a recognized, legitimate pathway for screening gender dysphoric individuals in pursuit of SRS, from initial determination of acceptability for hormonal administration to approval for the final SRS itself. For those seeking professional help, it is strictly under GICNE auspices and with its guidance that passage through this difficult transition can best be accomplished.

Would it not be possible, then, to arrange an understanding or agreement with MVD whereby, for instance, proof of the legal transgender name change ALONG WITH written confirmation by GICNE of a person's pre-operative TS status, for which full-time living in the desired gender role is REQUIRED prior to SRS, would together constitute sufficient grounds for enabling a new designation? Clearly, under these circumstances, fraudulent or immoral intent is ELIMINATED as an issue; this alone might well overcome objections raised by skeptics or potential opponents. Further, if the question of sex WERE to arise in a particular situation, additional documentation or explanation could then clarify the matter. On balance, this simple, straightforward option offers a positive solution to the uncomfortable and unfortunate dilemma currently faced by pre-operational TSs; it would go far toward

serving those who most need its benefits.

In closing, permit me a small digression - given NOT as a counterexample but rather to provide a lighter note. A true story. In Washington State, among others, one readily obtains the sex designation OF ONE'S CHOOSING on one's driver's license, though a quick trip to Olympia may be advised, and PRESTO! Diane, a TS friend of mine in Seattle, well into full-time, was involved recently in a fractious divorce case when her soon-to-be-ex-wife complained with great indignation to her lawyer, the bailiff, the judge - to whoever would listen - that HE had used the LADIES ROOM during a recess and should be ARRESTED and thrown in jail. (Yes, this WAS a fractious case!) The wife's lawyer, astutely spotting an opportunity to discredit his adversary, eagerly joined in, raising the hue and cry to a fever pitch. The accused was called forth to the bench.

"DID you use the ladies room?" the judge asked.

"Yes, Your Honor," Diane admitted, "I did."

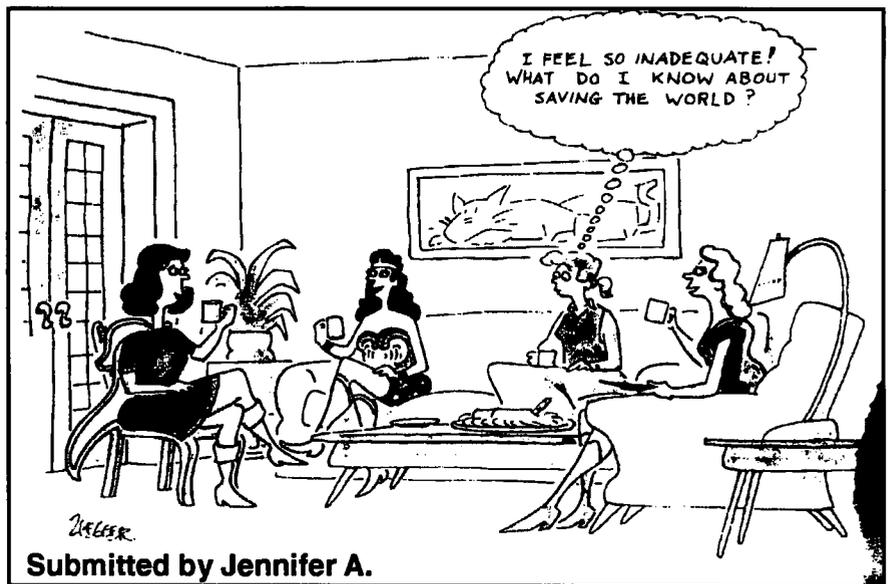
"See? I TOLD you!" screamed the complainant, interrupting, her attorney nodding furiously. "He's a MAN, throw him in JAIL!"

"How shall we resolve this?" the judge pondered, Solomonic, swiveling in his chair, rubbing his chin. He turned back to our heroine. "What does your driver's license say?"

"Female," she responded, a wide grin o'erspreading her radiant face. She fished it out and handed it up to him.

The judge examined the evidence closely. "Not guilty!" he proclaimed, relieved, smiling, then glared down at the soon-to-be-ex-wife and her lawyer for wasting the court's time and trying its patience. "Case dismissed!"

The moral? Believe it or not, sometimes the good guys (or girls, as the case may be) win.



Submitted by Jennifer A.

Sexuality Survey Results

At the Twenty Club Meeting on November 9, 1991, our guest speaker, Dr. Lois Spivak discussed the topics of sexual behavior and sexuality. She distributed a questionnaire to help her obtain insight into the sexual nature of transsexuals.

Presented here are the results of the survey which was taken by 14 pre-op and 1 post-op TS. Included with this issue of the newsletter is a new survey. We would be very grateful if you would take the time to fill it out and return it in the supplied envelope. The survey is and will remain anonymous.

1. Your sexual behavior during transition (check one or more)

- a. No sexual interest 0
- b. Feeling sexual but not knowing what to do 5
- c. Close relationship(s) not sexual 5
- d. Masturbation 6
- e. Brief sexual encounters or brief sexual relationships 2
- f. Close ongoing intimate sexual relationship 1
- g. Other 3

h. Comments:

- Not comfortable acting on sexual feelings
- One nighters with men
- Lost interest after being on hormones for a long time
- Intense unrequited relationship with other TS

2. If you have had Sex Reassignment Surgery, your sexual behavior after surgery was:

- a. No sexual interest
- b. Increased sexual interest 1(anticipated after surgery)
- c. Masturbation 1(anticipated after surgery)
- d. Dating with sexual involvement
- e. Brief sexual encounters
- f. Intimate sexual relationship 2
- g. Other

h. Comments

Several said "Marriage to a man is the ultimate goal"

3. What was your sexual orientation prior to transition and surgery, homosexual, heterosexual, or bisexual?

- Homosexual 4
- Heterosexual 7
- Bisexual 4
- Were you ever married? 5 were married
 - How many times?
 - Once 3
 - Twice 1
 - Three or more times 1

4. During your transition did you expect to be attracted to the same or opposite sex of your chosen sex? (Ex. m-f being attracted to men as the opposite sex).

- Same 3
- Opposite 7
- Stay the same 3

5. What actually happened with sexual orientation during transition?

- More open minded 1
- More options 1
- Attracted to straight men 1
- Bisexual with preference to women 2
- No change 3
- Bisexual with preference to men 3
- Confused 3
- Both equally 3
- Men in fantasies 1
- Nothing much 3

6. If you have had SRS what were your expectations about sexual attraction?

(Some results based upon expectations after SRS)

- Bisexual 2
- To men 2
- To women 1

7. Who have you been attracted to or had a relationship with after SRS (same, opposite sex of choice, or both)

Some respondents expected both

8. Have you found your sexual orientation to be a confusing issue?

- yes 7
- no 8

9. Any additional comments are welcome.

- 1. Little relationship between sexual orientation and gender identity, probably 10-12% as in general population, maybe a little higher for TS.
- 2. Many possibilities of relationships with TSs
- 3. Dreamed of and longed for heterosexual relationship with straight males, feasible only after SRS
- 4. This questionnaire seems to focus on post-ops; There is supposed to be a smooth transition.
- 5. Once considered suicide-"now believe post-op can be beautiful, dream of husband and career".



Sex Information and Education Council of Connecticut

A ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION, April 8, 1992
TRANSSEXUALISM: Gender Identity Issues for Educators and Therapists

Presenter-- George Higgins, Ph. D., President of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc., and Professor of Psychology at Trinity College

Guest Speakers

- The Reverend Canon Clinton Jones, D. D., Pastor of Christ Church Cathedral, Coordinator of the XX Club and Clinical Coordinator of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.
- A panel of transsexuals some of whom are presently going through "transition" prior to sex reassignment surgery, with and without hormones, and others who are post-surgical.

Roundtable Objectives

1. an increased understanding of the differences among transvestites, transsexuals, and transgenders
2. an increased understanding of the components of gender transposition, i.e., core gender identity, gender role, and sexual orientation
3. an understanding of the various stages of the ongoing process required for individuals who are seeking sex-reassignment surgery. Case studies and clinical issues will be presented
4. the opportunity for firsthand dialogue and interaction with transsexuals
5. knowledge of the latest research and theories on transsexualism

Date: Wednesday, April 8, 1992

Place: Swain Library, Hamden Hall Country Day School, 1108 Whitney Avenue, Hamden, CT

Schedule for the evening:

- 7:00-7:30 Registration and Coffee
- 7:30-9:00 Program

DIRECTIONS TO HAMDEN HALL COUNTRY DAY SCHOOL:

From Interstate 91: Exit 6 (Willow/Blatchley). Right at end of ramp, onto Willow Street. Right at 0.7 mi., onto Whitney Avenue. Left at 1.3 mi., into Hamden Hall campus (opposite a reservoir). Park in lot, go up stairs. Follow signs to Swain Library.

From Merritt Parkway (Rte. 15): Exit 61 (Whitney Avenue). Right at end of ramp if coming from Hartford (or left if coming from New York), onto Whitney Avenue. Right at 2.8 mi., into Hamden Hall campus (opposite a reservoir). Park in lot, go up stairs. Follow signs to Swain Library.

NO CHARGE. OPEN TO ALL.

For further information call the program coordinator, Lois Spivack, at 776-9708.

Dr. Jeanette Tedesco, Health Science Department, Western Connecticut State University, Danbury, CT 06810

RESOURCES

The following organizations are known to the editors to provide valuable support to the gender community. This does not constitute an official endorsement by XX, The XX Club or The GICNE, however you are encouraged to investigate any and all resources and judge their value to yourself. Updates and additional information are welcome.

REGIONAL RESOURCES

The Connecticut Self-Help Mutual Support Network 389 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Telephone (203) 789-7645 Resource Type: This is non-profit Ct. State organization that has knowledge of over 400 support groups of all types.

Connecticut Outreach Society P.O. Box 163 Farmington, Ct 06034 Meetings: 2ND Sat & 4TH Wed in West Hartford, (203) 371-6292 Resource Type: TV & TS Support & Social Group

Crossroads of Buffalo. 2316 Delaware Ave., Suite 102, Buffalo, NY 14216. Resource Type: TV & TS Support Group

Harriet Lane's TV Set P.O. Box 4002 Wallingford, Ct 06492 Meetings: 2ND & 4TH Saturday Evenings 8-12PM Resource Type: TV & TS Social Group

Renaissance Education Association P.O. Box 552 King of Prussia, PA 19406 Telephone (215) 630-1437. Resource Types: TV & TS Support Group and Newsletter

TGIC - Transgenderists' Independence Club, P. O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604 Tel: (518) 436-4513 (Thursday 7-9PM) Resource Type: TV & TS Support & Social Group

Transsexual Support Group formed by The Tiffany Club of New England. Meetings: 1ST and 3RD Sundays at 6 Cushing St in Waltham, MA from 10:00 to Noon. For information Call Vivian Purves (617) 899-2212. Resource Type: TS Support Group

The XX (Twenty) Club, Inc. - That's Us! P. O. Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387. Resource Type: TS Support Group and Newsletter. Affiliated with GICNE.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

GICNE- Gender Identity Clinic of New England. 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040 (203) 646-8651. Provides coordinated services for help with attaining SRS through adherence to the Benjamin Standards of Care.

AEGIS - Chrysalis Quarterly P.O. Box 33724 Decatur, GA 30033 Telephone (404) 939-0244 (Evenings & Weekends) Resource Type: Publisher of a TS Newsletter

HBIGDA - The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. - 1515 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 Tel: (415) 326-4645. Resource Type: The international association

of gender professionals. Establishes the Standards of Care, the international guideline for professional treatment of Gender Dysphoria.

IFGE - International Foundation for Gender Education - TV/TS Tapestry Journal, P.O. Box 367 Wayland, MA 01778 Tel: (617) 899-2212 and (617) 894-8340, weekdays 2-10 p.m. Resource Type: Provides communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for entire TV/TS community. Publishes "TV/TS Tapestry".

J2CP Information Services - P. O. Box 184, San Caspitano, CA 92693. Resource Type: TS Information and Referrals.

The Transsexual Voice P.O. Box 16314 Atlanta, GA 30321 Resource Type: Publisher of a TS Newsletter

Ingersoll Center- 1812 East Madison, Suite 106, Seattle WA 98122-2843, (203) 39-6651. Support for TSs and TVs; Provides coordinated services for help with attaining SRS through adherence to the Benjamin Standards of Care.

Help Wanted

We desperately need help for XX Newsletter Production.

We promise: No benefits, Lots of Hard Work, and No Pay. Position does come with the everlasting thanks of our editorial staff. Fringe benefits include our stimulating company, ongoing entertainment provided by two weird cats, and exposure to a high technology, fully equipped, Novell multiple-server computer network: test, consulting and engineering facility.

DATA ENTRY HELP NEEDED

As part of our regional outreach efforts, the XX Club needs volunteers to assist in data entry. Our goal is to make the XX Club and the GICNE known to helping professionals and human resource organizations throughout our region. We have been requested to provide this service by professionals who were astonished to find us.

Female-to-Male Support Group Forming

A support group for F-to-M Transsexuals is forming in the Boston area. A meeting will be held on Sunday 8 March at 2PM in Watertown MA. Please bring food for pot luck, and it is requested that significant others not attend for the time being.

For information call

Mike at (617) 522-5605

or

Lonnie at (617) 926-7691

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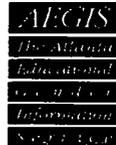
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XX Club/GICNE Information Packet. Includes; XX Club & Gender Identity Clinic of New England Brochure; Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, "Standards of Care"; Excerpts from Amer. Psychiatric Assoc., DSM-III; Harry Benjamin, Sexual Orientation Scale; Order Forms From Other Leading Gender Support Organization. **Info. Packet \$ 6.00**

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