



# TWENTY MINUTES

## ANNIVERSARY ISSUE

OCTOBER 1990

THE XX (Twenty) CLUB

\$2.00

### Engineer 'just knew' he was really female

By Kathleen Kenna  
TORONTO STAR

VANCOUVER - Angela Wensley will never be the person she used to be - but then, she never really was. To someone looking at her life from the outside, Wensley appeared to have everything - the house, the happy marriage, the doctorate, the great job. At 42, she had soared to the top of her profession and was among a handful of engineers world-renowned for their expertise in corrosion.

Amid all this success, Wensley was plagued by an inner torment that had shadowed her since childhood. At work, Wensley was a man. In her heart and soul, she had always been female.

Just before Christmas last year, Wensley made a move that was to rock corporate Canada: She went to London, England, for a \$12,000 sex change. Don Wensley was to all appearances a normal male: a tall, athletic guy. The transition to becoming Angela Wensley was long and hard.

Over a three-year period, Wensley gradually revealed her plans to family and friends. Once they got beyond the initial shock, all were supportive. She found the worst was breaking the news at work - to a per group that was mostly male.

She began the medical phase of the changeover in December, 1988, with regular visits to Gender Dysphoria Clinic at Vancouver General Hospital. The doctors advised her the actual operation would not be performed unless she spent months living openly as a

woman, although she was still physically a man.

On the advice of her boss and after discussing her situation with close co-workers, Wensley called a meeting of colleagues, in March 1989, and told them how she was a woman who was a man who wanted to be a "complete woman." After a half-hour monologue, "there was just this thunderous applause. It was very moving. Some people even had tears," Wensley says. The acceptance was unexpected. Two weeks later she came to work dressed as a woman.

"I went through a real androgynous phase" for about eight months, she says, wearing heels, make-up and woman's clothing and undergoing electrolysis to rid herself of facial hair. Female co-workers gave tips on wardrobe, hair styles and mannerisms - and male workers didn't laugh when she rocked on high heels.

One of the most agonizing decisions was to get a divorce after 20 years of being "very happily married," because doctors won't perform the surgery otherwise. The operation was performed in December, 1989, and she returned to work in February. Wensley says she has agreed to make her story public to make the way easier for other transsexuals in high-profile jobs.

"I want people to know we're not freaks. We can be normal contributing members of society," she says. "We're treated as if we're less than human. We need acceptance desperately, because we're going through hell. I'm still the same person I always was. I'm happier and more comfortable now that I can allow my female self to express itself after being locked up for so long."

### *Business as usual after sex change*



JEFF WAINCK FOR THE TORONTO STAR  
SHARING STORY: Angela Wensley hopes telling how she changed from a man to a woman will help others. Transsexuals "are not freaks," she says.

(EDITOR'S NOTE... Reprinted from the TORONTO STAR, August 4, 1990 edition.)

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CLUB CALENDAR

MEETINGS

- Saturday, Oct. 13
- Saturday, Oct. 27
- Saturday, Nov. 10
- Saturday, Nov. 24

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

Christ Church Cathedral  
45 Church Street  
Hartford, CT

(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.

POST-OP MEETING

Saturday, Oct. 12

As a way for post-ops to keep in touch and be able to help each other with pertinent issues, a special (before the regular meeting) meeting will be held on the second Saturday of every even month. The purpose is to keep the post-ops involved with the group instead of just disappearing back into the woodwork. So, come back and renew old acquaintances. **Time: 1:30 pm.**

FOR SALE

PANASONIC KX-P1091i 9-pin dot matrix 4-font NLQ printer for IBM PC or compatibles. \$150 or best offer. Proceeds go to the XX Club treasury. See your treasurer, Becky, at the meeting.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Balance - from August \$1635.40

INCOME:

Collections - meetings	17.15
Newsletter subscriptions	133.00
Brochure sales	4.00
IFGE sales	5.00
GF sales	4.00
Donations	.00
Savings interest	8.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$171.21</b>

EXPENSES:

Refreshments	16.31
Newsletter & brochures	.00
Postage	50.00
Supplies	18.81
Bank Fee	.00
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 85.12</b>

Net Income for September \$ 86.09

Balance - end of September \$1721.49

TWENTY MINUTES ARTICLE REPRINTS

Assistant Editor, Sonia, has put together the complete index of all major articles, editorials, reviews, and other useful information that has ever appeared in *Twenty Minutes* since its inception back in October 1987. For \$1.00 to cover copier and mailing charges, you can order the index through the XX Club PO Box. From this list you can order copies of these past articles. The index is arranged by subject to help you find the material of most interest to you. **ORDER NOW.**

UPDATE

For those of you following the story of Sarah Luiz of NH, she has settled her lawsuit (out of court) with her insurance company for an undisclosed amount. She plans to have the operation by Dr. Ivan Menard in Montreal. She's also planning a modeling or acting career. She has been working with writers on a movie and books pertaining to her life story as stated by Catherine A. Brown in the *TS VOICE*.

TWENTY MINUTES

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THE TRANSEXUAL SUPPORT  
GROUP OF NEW ENGLAND  
AND NEW YORK

THE STAFF

- Editor: Becky Ann
- Editorial: Veronica Jean Brown
- Assistant Editor: Sonia
- Cartoonist: Angel
- Contributors: Gender Expressions  
ETVC Newsletter
- Advisor: Rev. Clinton Jones

A special feature is attached to this newsletter, a book list which was submitted to *Twenty Minutes* from sources unknown. Is it real or is it memorex? Even if it's not, it sure looks like fun and interesting reading.

*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.



## OCTOBOO #4

by Veronica Jean Brown



As I write this, it's the middle of August and already the nights have turned cooler but by the time you read it in October, the Toronto Department of Streets will have begun constructing the hundreds of igloos needed to house the city's homeless population during the long Canadian winter.

But wait! A duck, a mongoose and a ferret walk into a drugstore. The duck says, "Do you have any chap stick..." naw, I can't go on with that one.

TWENTY MINUTES made its debut three years ago this month in October 1987 and how well I remember folding, stuffing and licking the stamps from the waterfront room I shared with my fiancé at the Boatslip Motor Inn on Commercial Street in Provincetown Massachusetts in late September. Things were much different for me in those days and a lot has happened. But isn't that what life is about?

That first issue wasn't much, just another debut of a six page insignificant club newsletter that boasted an article by "Tiffany Tanner", a then confused pre-op (but then aren't we all?), who for one reason or another decided she was a non-op. The good thing about this was that she made up her own mind what was best for her. SRS isn't for everyone. The bad part was that perhaps to bolster her own convictions, Tiffany came on a little too strong with other people about the supposed "joys" of being a non-op. We lost track of Tiffany after she returned to Western New York state and her boy friend.

The opening editorial was the usual collection of words every editor sets down about leadership, the whys and wherefores of people with a similar interest coming together in a group and a plea to support the club by subscribing to TWENTY MINUTES. The Twenty Club had about sixty dollars in the treasury and three of the five newly elected club officers were soon to "vanish" in thin air, leaving their jobs to Becky Ann and me.

The Octoboo 1988 issue featured a piece of editorial "fiction" by Melanie Brooks about a pre-op TS who got a little something more than what she bargained for when she tried to circumvent the system. This issue and any others you may not have in your collection are available from the TWENTY MINUTES editorial office.

The editorial in the Octoboo 1989 issue was titled, "Our Goose is Nearly Cooked", and featured a reprint from the Transsexual Voice a couple of years earlier by a TS who had been trying to stir up some collective identity within the transsexual community but to no avail, plus some timely comments about the nefarious amendment to the U.S. Senate Bill 933 by a narrow minded senator with brain damage.

So now it's October 1990. Governmental legislation continues, babies get born, people die and all over the world, men and women from diverse backgrounds come to terms with their gender dysphoria. After all the bally-hoo about rights or the lack thereof, what has changed? Nothing has changed. So why bother writing about all this stuff? The smart ones will make through anyway.

A recent phone call from a friend in Ottawa only served to focus on the real problems for transsexuals both within and outside of the community. And those are the problems of communication and information. Period. That's what this is all about. That's what we're here for.

A brief mention in the hair transplant article in the August TWENTY MINUTES on page four about Ontario's OHIP medical insurance covering voice surgery prompted the above mentioned phone call from two Canadians, one a post-op by Docteur Menard of Montreal and the other a pre-op currently in the process of choosing a surgeon, neither of whom were aware of this fact, a fact which had been conveyed to me by a number of Toronto area Canadians who've had such surgery.

The pre-op seemed to have her house in order and was at that most critical stage as she put it, "examining all options..." Should it be Docteur Menard or Docteur Seghers in Brussels for \$3500? Or should she go to the U.S. and spend \$10,000 or more? Well, she's seen at least one Menard surgery and had all kinds of questions about Seghers. My question to her was what she thought of TWENTY MINUTES. She paused and said, "...it was okay when there were educational articles of interest to her current needs.

I guess that's what this is all about, communication, the sharing of information and first hand experiences and most of all, having a sincere understanding and caring of what the others feel as they progress through the "pipeline" of the system towards gender congruity. Our numbers are small and we can't afford fancy conventions, but there are other ways where those most determined will get through it all. It's simple really, get in, get it on and get out.

But wait! An agitated pre-op M-F transsexual goes to see a world famous sex change surgeon about her genital operation. She asks nervously, "Tell me doctor, I've heard it's painful and I'm upset over that. Is it painful?"

The kindly white haired man behind the desk smiles and says, "No, the genital surgery isn't that painful."

"But what about my breast implants, will that hurt a lot?"

"No, your breast augmentation surgery procedure won't be too painful," says the doctor.

"B-but doctor," the transsexual goes on, "w-what about when you shave my Adam's Apple, won't that hurt?"

"No, no, you'll hardly feel a thing, my dear, trust me."

"But doctor, please, please be honest with me. When you alter my voice, will that be painful?"

"No, just a slight sore throat," he says.

The transsexual slumps down in the chair much relieved.

"But I'll tell you what will be painful," the doctor says with an evil look and craggy brows upraised, "what will be painful is when I shrink your brain and widen your mouth!"

Now that we have had a chance to see how our new leaders handle their job of running the XX Club meetings, this Top 10 list seems to have suggested itself:

### TOP 10 THINGS TO DO... If (When) the Meeting Loses Momentum

By Sonia and Becky

- 10- Motion to adjourn early
- 9- Go look at the most recent post-op's "vacation" pictures
- 8- Go check your car to make sure no one has stolen or hit it
- 7- Go into the bathroom and fix your hair
- 6- Start a rubber band fight
- 5- Have a cigarette in the hallway
- 4- Wait 'till someone falls asleep and pile all of the coats on top of them
- 3- Throw paper airplanes out the window
- 2- Eat all of the food early
- 1- Insult the president of the group (After all, it's her fault if she can't keep it interesting!)

"The major problem - one of the major problems, for there are several - one of the many major problems with governing people is that of whom you get to do it; or rather of who manages to get people to let them do it to them.

To summerise: it is well-known fact that those people who must want to rule people are, ipso facto, those least suited to do it. To summerize the summary: anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job. To summarize the summary of the summary: people are a problem.

And so this is the situation we find: a succession of Presidents who so much enjoy the fun and palaver of being in power that they very rarely notice that they're not.

And somewhere in the shadows behind them - who?

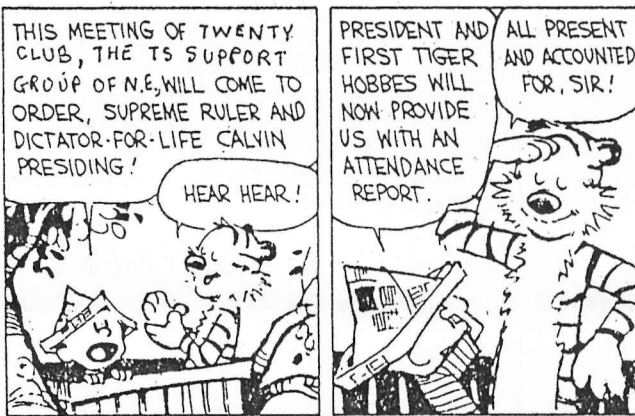
Who can possibly rule if no one who wants to do it can be allowed to?"

-Douglas Adams

Got the straw surgery blues?

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Only \$20 for TWELVE colorful issues!

And that's only \$1.66 per issue, ppd.

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## TRANSSEXUALS IN THE WORKPLACE -- A GUIDE FOR EMPLOYERS

by Barbara L. Chambers, contributing editor (West Coast)

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To the employer: possibly you were presented this material by one of your employees, quite likely soon after learning that the employee was undergoing or had already undergone a "sex change." Much information and misinformation abounds in the media, but little of it is helpful to the employer in comprehending the new status of their employee. Also, small or new companies are likely to have never encountered such a change in status before; hopefully the text that follows will be useful and informative. This article is written in respect to the case of the male-to-female employee; however, most of the information applies identically to the female-to-male employee if the sense of the pronouns and gender-specific statements is reversed. The remainder of the text is presented in question/answer format.

*What IS a transsexual?*

The answer to this question is best given in rather technical medical terms. Strictly speaking, a transsexual is a person with the condition known as Gender Dysphoria Syndrome, a psychiatric term which means "feelings of conflict and discomfort felt by a person due to the anatomical gender of their body." Research indicates that Gender Dysphoria Syndrome is the psychological condition which results from a birth defect in the matching of brain and body, similar and perhaps related to the condition known as intersex, in which a child's body at birth has genitalia which are not clearly either male or female or has characteristics of both male and female. In other words, transsexuals are persons born with a perfectly normal and healthy brain of one gender, but in a body with a perfectly healthy and normal anatomy of the opposite gender. The affected person lives with a struggle to reconcile their natural personality, gender identity, and body image with their physical body and social status until a time in their life when the conflict becomes too great to bear and they seek medical help to change their anatomy and social role. No effective psychotherapeutic treatment for transsexualism exists, since the only defect is the mismatch of body and brain, and a healthy gender identity (even a mismatched one) cannot be changed; therefore the only effective

treatment is to surgically change the gender of the body to align with the person's natural gender identity, a "sex change." Such treatment is effective in relieving the secondary problems of depression, low self-esteem, and anxiety which often accompanies gender dysphoria, and the patient is then able to pursue a normal life in their new gender.

Today, transsexuals are potentially valuable research subjects in the new studies of pre-birth programming of gender identity and personality into the brain during fetal development, though the rarity and desire for privacy of transsexual persons often makes the gathering of data difficult. At present there is little agreement in the medical community as to the cause of a person being born transsexual; researchers and physicians today are largely divided into groups advancing theories of either genetic causes or fetal-development causes. Environmental conditions seem to have an effect on how long the individual is able to adapt to their reversed-gender life situation before seeking medical help to correct it. Transsexualism is rare, occurring at a rate of one for every ten thousand births. Currently, no method capable of detecting the condition at birth is known.

*Why aren't there any female-to-male transsexual persons?*

There certainly are: about 45% of all transsexuals are female-to-male. Male-to-female transsexuals receive the largest amount of exposure through the media of TV and print, apparently because they are considered more "newsworthy" in our traditionally male-oriented society.

*Are Transsexual persons homosexual?*

No, transsexualism has nothing directly to do with sexuality at all; the "sex" root of the word refers to gender rather than sexual preference. This misconception, largely disappearing today, apparently resulted from public confusion of transsexuals with two much larger groups:

effeminate homosexuals (gay males imitating feminine mannerisms or dress as an expression of their sexuality) and transvestites (males, usually heterosexual, who find enjoyment in wearing female clothing); neither of these two groups has the body-identity gender conflicts which are experienced by transsexuals and lead to an eventual change of physical gender. Transvestites outnumber transsexuals by at least 50 to 1; gay males outnumber transsexuals by about 900 to 1. In addition, these other two groups are composed entirely of males only; transsexuals are nearly evenly divided between male-to-female cases and female-to-male cases. Transsexuals, both before and following surgery, may be heterosexual, bisexual, Lesbian, or celibate, with the proportion of celibacy being somewhat higher than with the general population of women. Transsexuals are NOT members of any known AIDS high-risk group.

*Does this affect our company's medical insurance?*

Many group insurance policies have specific exclusions which limit or eliminate payments for transsexual surgery; if your policy has no such exclusions, your employee may seek coverage for medical expenses under your current plan. Insurance companies with exclusion provisions do so only because the surgical costs are expensive -- surgical and hormonal treatment for transsexuals has been legally established as medically necessary treatment, and not cosmetic in nature. An insurance company might, for instance, have a similar exclusion for liver transplants, another very expensive procedure. Whether or not your insurance company provides coverage, it should not affect your rates.

*Will this affect the productivity of my employee?*

Often, the employee in their new gender role is more productive and produces higher quality work than in the past, due to the improvement in their own self-esteem and motivation. Time off from work to recover from surgery procedures may be necessary, however -- but it should be noted that your employee will have no need for maternity leave in the future since she will not be able to bear children, so net time lost from work may prove to be less than in the case of your other female employees. The process of changing gender usually takes several years to complete, with surgical, hormonal, and social changes progressing at different rates with different individuals; you can expect a dramatic change in her appearance and in the expression of her personality. Your employee may already have completed much or most of the transition before advising you. Transsexuals are often conservative individuals and frequently set high standards on their appearance and performance following their gender change. If your

employee is doing heavy physical work, bear in mind that her entire muscular structure will change to female norms, and she may not handle tasks requiring physical strength as easily as she did before. [The opposite applies to the female-to-male, of course.]

*How do other companies handle this?*

With the increased public awareness of transsexuals today, the major problem which remains is that the employee is an object of curiosity among co-workers for several days following her appearance in her new gender role. Very large corporations with large numbers of employees may encounter a transsexual employee every few years, and often set up internal guidelines. In nearly all cases, a memo is circulated among coworkers informing them simply that the employee will return to work at a certain date as a female employee. Some companies call a short meeting of coworkers at which management and the employee is present to inform them of the change and to answer any questions which may appear; this technique is particularly effective in keeping the transition smooth. One company (IBM) also transfers the employee laterally for several months to a different department; at the end of that time she is given the option of either returning to her original department or staying in her new position. If the employee is new to the company sometimes no action at all is necessary, since her former gender status may be undetectable to others, or even to management itself.

*What is my employee's legal status?*

Upon completion of her surgery, under state law in every state she is considered to be female, and entitled to all the considerations applying to that gender. There are differences in details of how administrative law handles such cases from state to state -- your employee will take care of any needed legal matters concerning state and federal identification papers, tax status, social security, and legal name change herself. Please note that for employers participating in a state-subsidized equal-employment plan, your employee may now be a "double bonus" person, fitting into both the female and handicapped categories, and entitling the company to a substantial subsidy (details vary from state to state.)

## Gender **EXPRESSIONS**

Electronic Media ARTS  
PO Box 150  
Concord NH 03302-0150





**THINGS THAT GO BUMP  
IN THE NIGHT**

by Sonia and Becky

It was a dark and eerie Halloween night. Suddenly the doorbell rang disturbing the timid male-to-female TS who was sitting in the darkened house watching the *Simpsons* on TV (television that is). She was cuddled on the sofa, the glow from the screen glistening off of her long dark hair and reflecting off of her long red nails. She stumbled through the living room to peer out of the curtains to see who it could be. Two sets of fiendish beady eyes stared back as the voices of these mysterious visitors bellowed out.

"TRICK OR TREAT!"

The started TS jumped back and fell to the floor. Her heart is pounding from the fright she just suffered. The visitors ring and yell again but the TS cowers in the darkness and does not answer. She heard them scurry away as she returned to her sofa in the rear family room and resumed watching her program. Soon she heard a tapping noise coming from the window. She peered out through the blinds only to see those two sets of beady eyes yet again.

"TRICK OR TREAT!", they shouted.

The TS finally got up the courage to speak, "I don't have any candy, GO AWAY."

They knock on the glass and yell again, but the poor TS refutes them again to go away. Peeking through the blinds again, she can see that the intruders are a little girl dressed as a witch and a little boy dressed as the devil. The children become indignant.

"If you don't give us our candy, we'll soap all your windows and throw eggs at your car", they demanded.

The worse thing that could possibly

happen to this paranoid pre-op TS is to be terrorized in her own home on Halloween by the local neighborhood hoodlums.

She meekly responds, "But I really don't have any candy, that's why I turned off all the outside lights. Please go away."

They continued to chant "Trick or Treat" over and over.

The TS responds yet again, "What do you want from me? I have no candy."

The witch intones, "We know all about you, we've been watching you all year. We know what you're doing and we'll tell everybody. So give us some candy or you'll be SORRY."

Thoughts are now racing around in the mind of the TS. She's been trying to make the transition as quiet as possible. All she wants is to be left alone. She retorts, "You can't do that. I'll call the cops."

This time the devil replies in a snooty tone, "My daddy is a cop so you can't do anything about it."

The kids continue to run about the house shouting "Trick or Treat". Our innocent TS sits in the corner of the room in the fetal position fearing the worst.

What can our poor pre-op TS do?

Will the mean little kids tell everyone in the neighborhood about the FREAK?

Will they soap all the windows and throw eggs at her car?

Will she be totally disgraced and have to move?

For the answer to these and many other ridiculous questions, tune in next year to the continuing saga of...  
*Things that go Bump in the Night!*

**Stereotyped Expectations**

By Natasha Josefowitz  
(From "Transgender Views")

The family picture is on HIS desk.  
(Ah, a solid responsible man.)  
The family picture is on HER desk.  
(Umm, her family will come before her career.)

HIS desk is cluttered.  
(He's obviously a hard worker and a busy man.)  
HER desk is cluttered.  
(She's obviously a disorganized scatterbrain.)

HE is talking with his co-workers.  
(He must be discussing the latest deal.)  
SHE is talking with her co-workers.  
(She must be gossiping.)

HE'S not at his desk.  
(He must be at a meeting.)  
SHE'S not at her desk.  
(She must be in the ladies room.)

HE'S not in the office.  
(He's meeting customers.)  
SHE'S not in the office.  
(She's must be out shopping.)

HE'S having lunch with the boss.  
(He's on his way up.)  
SHE'S having lunch with the boss.  
(They must be having an affair.)

The boss criticized him.  
(He'll improve his performance.)  
The boss criticized her.  
(She'll be very upset.)

HE got an unfair deal.  
(Did he get angry?)  
SHE got an unfair deal.  
(Did she cry?)

HE'S getting married.  
(He'll get more settled.)  
SHE'S getting married.  
(She'll get pregnant and leave.)

HE'S having a baby.  
(He'll need a raise.)  
SHE'S having a baby.  
(She'll cost the company money in maternity benefits.)

HE'S going on a business trip.  
(It's good for his career.)  
SHE'S going on a business trip.  
(What will her husband say?)

HE'S leaving for a better job.  
(He knows how to recognize a good opportunity.)  
SHE'S leaving for a better job.  
(Women are not dependable.)

B.C.



The Editor's promise:

**STUPID ADS**

WE GUARANTEE IT!

Becky Ann  
Editor, Twenty Minutes

## If Only It Were So Simple...

by Sonia

For about 12 years, I have been a player of an immensely large and complicated game known as Advanced Dungeons & Dragons™. One of the most alluring parts of this game is the existence of magic in this fantasy world. As I was reading through one of the many large tomes full of rules and magic items, I came across the following entry under Miscellaneous Magic:

only as long as the individual actually wears the girdle. Benefits such as additional languages and combat bonuses against giant-type opponents never apply.

**Girdle of Femininity/Masculinity:** This broad leather band appears to be a normal belt, but, if buckled on, it will immediately change the sex of its wearer to the opposite gender. It then loses all power. There is no sure way to restore the character's original sex, although there is a 50% chance a *wish* might do so, and a powerful being can alter the situation. In other words, it takes a god-like creature to set matters aright with certainty. Ten percent of these girdles actually remove all sex from the wearer.

**Girdle of Giant Strength:** This belt looks similar to ordinary belts, but it is imbued with very powerful magic. When worn it increases the physical prowess of its wearer, giving him

Ahhh.. if only it were so easily achieved. An interesting dilemma is that most males take the rolls of big, strong, macho male characters. imagine if you will, the consternation this one simple magic item could cause:

**Game Master (GM):** "You open the chest, and find it contains several gold pieces, and what appears to be a normal broad leather belt. What are you going to do?"

**Player (PL):** "Oh... hmmm... you said 'seems to be', I bet it's a girdle of Giant strength, right?"

**GM:** "You have no idea, at least nothing is apparent from looking at it."

**PL:** "Ok, my huge fighter, Conond will put it on- He'll be stronger than ever now!!"

**GM:** "You feel a warm glow all over, and you are bathed in a blinding blue light. In a few seconds, it fades away. You suddenly feel VERY different...In fact, your clothes suddenly seem not to fit properly."

**PL:** "Yah... I bet it's all that extra muscle an..."

**GM:** (interrupting) "No, actually you look down to find that your clothes are sliding off your body, which itself looks rather curvier than you remember it being. In fact, you seem to be in altogether the wrong body."

**PL:** (extremely nervous) "What do you mean curvier... wrong body... WHAT HAPPENED TO ME???"

**GM:** (hardly able to suppress her amusement) Well, Mr. Conond seems to have been transformed into Ms. Conond... I guess it wasn't a Girdle of Giant Strength after all.

**PL:** "Aaarrrggghhh... What am I supposed to do now.. Conond is girl.. How can he.."

**GM:** "SHE" (correcting him)

**PL:** "...She... be my character... I don't know how to be a girl!"

**Rod Serling (RS):** "You have just entered another dimension, a dimension not only of sight and sound, but of anguish and despair. There's a signpost up ahead... Your next stop, The Gender Dysphoria Zone.

## Are you in a Rut? Bored with Your Old Job? Looking for a New Career?

If so, we have the answer to your problems...

## THE PROFESSIONAL TRANSSEXUALS' SCHOOL

That's right friends - the Professional Transsexuals' School. Now you can learn the ins and outs of being a public professional transsexual in the comfort of your own home, as you prepare for this exciting job in the high status, fast growing field of gender dysphoria.

Just imagine the looks on the faces of your family when they learn you are a public professional transsexual! And as a public transsexual, you will be smug in the knowledge that wherever you go, people will admire your courage to be different and famous talk show hosts everywhere will be beating down your door to have you on as a guest.

Under the watchful eyes of our experienced instructors, noted public professional transsexuals all, this correspondence course will teach you all the secrets of being a non-passing public professional transsexual.

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# 10 Halloween costumes most popular among crossdressers



By Bambi and Gandi

- 10- Pregnant woman (extremely bad taste)
- 9- Fairy princess
- 8- Dominatrix
- 7- Southern belle (Frank...I mean Scarlet, I don't give a damn...)
- 6- Pink ghost (most popular among those who don't really pass all that well)
- 5- Witch (very unoriginal and fairly boring, but it seems to work)
- 4- "A girl" (many TS's seem to do this one a little TOO well... It can raise a lot of questions among friends and family)
- 3- French maid
- 2- Hooker
- 1- Elvira (without the pointed head)

## More

NO-NOS FOR THE TRANSVESTITE:

NEVER, NO MATTER HOW SURE YOU ARE, GO UP TO ANOTHER CROSSDRESSER AND GREET HER...



## The 32 Most Guilt-ridden Words

Millions of transvestites, transgenderists and transsexuals have been hurt and have felt guilt-ridden because of the following Bible passage:

Deuteronomy 22:5 "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God." (from the King James version of the Bible).

These words have a little truth to them, but King James in the 16th century changed their meaning by leaving out words and phrases. Deuteronomy was written in the 7th century B.C. for the tribes of Israel. The original words translate approximately to: a woman shall not wear men's clothes to impersonate holy men and men shall not dress in women's garb to go into ladies tents to rape and pillage-to do so is an abomination to God.

The words and meaning changed several times in 23 centuries, but a homophobic, authoritarian despot completely changed their meaning and has made millions of TV's, TS's, TG's miserable and guilty for a long time.

Just remember that crossdressing is fun, exciting and enjoyable - there's nothing wrong with it.

In today's terms: Just do it...and be happy.

- Kim

(EDITOR'S NOTE...Reprinted from the Educational TV Channel Newsletter, Volume 9, Number 2, Sept-Oct 1990)

## MEDICAL NEWSFLASH

The search for breast-enlarging implants that won't obscure potentially cancerous tumors on mammograms has led researchers at Washington University in St. Louis to try vegetable oil wrapped in silicone envelopes. The surgeons have applied to the FDA for permission to begin testing the implant on women seeking breast augmentation.

## FOOD CURES

At the University of Alabama, pharmacologist Stephen Barnes, Ph.D., is researching a possible connection between soybeans and breast-cancer prevention. Soybeans contain phytoestrogens - naturally occurring molecules with a chemical nature similar to both estradiol (a type of estrogen) and tamoxifen (an anticancer drug used to treat hormone-dependent breast cancer). Dr. Barnes theory is that they can inhibit tumor growth. To test the connection, animals given soybeans had less than half as many breast tumors. When he tried it again with cooked soybeans, the results were the same. Tofu contains the same levels of the important molecules as the original soybean, but soy sauce contains none.

## MOTHER FINDS KEN DRESSED LIKE BARBIE

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) - Barbie and Ken dolls have changed through the years, but a woman here believes she's purchased a one-of-a-kind Ken doll dressed in Barbie's clothing. Carina Guillot and her 12-year-old daughter, Jocelyn, were shocked to find a "My First Ken" doll clad in a purple tank top and lace apron over a turquoise and purple skirt. Toys R Us store director Greg Warren said he and other employees examined the cardboard package and concluded its seal was intact.

TOILET DEBATE

Remember the great toilet debate of 1989 on whether to allow male crossdressers to use the ladies restroom? Well, this year the debate has been reversed as women seek access to the men's restrooms because the lines to the ladies rooms are too long. (Well sure, like with all those male cross-dressers clogging up the facilities as they, you know, check out how feminine they look in the mirrors.)

Facts: 55 % of the population is female. 10 % of the male population are crossdressers. With over 60 % of the population using (or trying to use) the women's restroom and only 40 % using the men's restroom, is there any wonder the ladies restrooms are more crowded?

NANCY



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OH, WELL... MAYBE THEY'LL MAKE AN EXCEPTION THIS ONCE...

# Do women need more restrooms?

By ELAINE AYALA  
The New York Times

It wasn't the first time Denise Wells had stood in line outside a public restroom, watching men surge in and out of their restroom, thinking how unfair it all seemed.

But on this summer evening in Houston, Denise Wells needed to go — real bad. So she did what many women have contemplated but never dared: She used the men's restroom.

It was an instinctive decision that led to surprising personal repercussions: She was fined \$200 and thrown out of the George Strait concert she was attending. And suddenly, she's become something of a celebrity, perhaps even a symbol of a longstanding debate over potty parity.

The television networks and new wire services have carried her story across the country. When a Houston newspaper asked readers: "If nature calls you to the wrong restroom, should the law look the other way?," 75.2 percent said yes.

Now, as this 33-year-old legal assistant prepares for a November court appearance to appeal her fine, her lawyer has received scores of calls from women willing to testify on her behalf.

"It's not how I wanted to get notoriety in life," says Wells. "But after the story came out, it was reassuring and fun to see the solidarity that's out there."

It's an issue that's been debated in state legislatures, city halls, architectural circles and the line to the loo. What constitutes parity in plumbing? Long after achieving separate-but-equal toilet facilities, women are saying they need more facilities. Researchers are, too.

"I think they ought to make the women's bathrooms bigger because women have to go to the bathroom more," says Hoover, adding, "It goes a lot faster for men, so to speak."

"The current 1:1 ratio," says the Building Officials and Code Administrators, which establishes plumbing codes for Northeastern and Midwestern states, "has the effect of discriminating against women and works a particular hardship on elderly women, handicapped women, pregnant women and women with small children."

In his book, "The Bathroom," Alexander Kira outlines in great detail the anatomical differences that give males a biological edge in efficiency.

Beyond biology, there's the clothing difference. Women's clothing ranges in restroom efficiency from dresses and pantyhose to jump suits and undergarments. Finally there are the unique — and time-consuming — differences of pregnancy, menstruation and caring for small children, says "Plumbing Engineer" magazine in a June story: "Sex, Laws and Restrooms: A 'Potty Parity' Update."

I USED TO BE  
DISGUSTED, BUT NOW  
I'M JUST AMUSED

FEATURES

# Toilet controversy just plain stupid

By ERMA BOMBECK

A few weeks ago, Denise Wells cupped her hands like blinders around her eyes and entered one of the major battlegrounds of the women's revolution... a men's restroom. Considered an infiltrator behind enemy lines, she was found guilty of entering a private restroom and fined \$200.

Her decision was a no-win situation. Because the women's line to the restroom was in double digits, biologically she only had two choices left... either of which would have broken a city ordinance.

Not only are the eyes of Texas on this Houston urinal-basher, but the attention of women all over the country is focused on the problem. Let's talk toilets. I'm an authority. For more years than I care to remember, I have presided over unisex toilets. I change toilet tissue spindles, put lids down and make the water run blue. When I was named grand marshal of the Rose Parade a few

years ago, it was the first bowl I ever saw I didn't have to clean.

As a woman who likes to attend public events, I can tell you I have never heard an overture, never seen a curtain rise on the second act, never heard "The Star-Spangled Banner," or ever had the luxury of finding my seat with the lights on. Where have I been? In the restroom line.

Why does it take women so long? Women's clothes are not designed to accommodate our anatomies. Two women in jumpsuits

could create a line out to the parking lot.

All of this takes me back to the infancy of woman's battle for equality. The mere mention of the word "unisex" bathrooms caused the opposition to the ERA to have a case of the vapors.

I remember one of the biggest controversies in Texas was the election of Barbara Jordan to the legislature. How could this happen? They didn't have a women's bathroom for her. Her answer: "Build one."

I cannot begin to tell you the times I have availed myself of men's facilities. Most women have. It seems unreasonable and very unwise not to. It's a stupid controversy... especially when you consider that after the hoopla in Houston, I'll bet you money that in the wee hours of the morning, when everyone had gone, a lone figure went into the men's room with mop and bucket to clean. A woman, no less.



Dear Becky and the XX Club,

Though Surgery went very well (July, Friday the 13th - No kidding); the trip and Brussels was a bit much for this small town girl. Two important hints for those going away for surgery. 1- if at all possible have someone travel with you. It's better to have someone else run around for stuff after getting out of the hospital. Besides a familiar face is a great comfort. 2- try not to get scheduled at the end of Dr. Seghers calendar. It's nicer to have others at the hospital with you. Good luck to all.

Lisa, Stayton, OR

Dear friends,

I am writing you with warm and sincere greetings and with the hope that I can be of some help to your members - with no financial obligation.

I am a psychologist with clinical training. I did some of my graduate work and also worked in the clinic at the University Medical Center in San Francisco, CA. I also worked at Clarks Summit Mental Hospital in Clarks Summit, PA. I further taught psychology in several schools of nursing in Scranton and Wilkes-Barre (when such institutions were still owned and operated by the hospitals themselves - Colleges have now absorbed most of these 3 year nursing programs into 4 year degree programs).

When I did my graduate work in CA, I worked with transvestites and partial or complete transgenders. I found the work very rewarding because I helped them (particularly the transsexuals) move into and adjust to a new life style they were totally committed to.

Since I found the work so rewarding I would like to extend to your membership my hand of friendship as an accepting sincere and supportive confidant who would like to help if a caring concerned and sincere friend is needed. I also just completed the construction of a restaurant to which I will be happy to extend a complimentary invitation to those who write.

Richard Castelli  
PO Box 31  
Factoryville, PA 18419

Dear XX Club,

Enclosed please find a description of our psychotherapy group. There are currently four members and we are actively interviewing for four more members. The group began in late May 1990, so it is still young. However, it is very dynamic and all members are actively working on themselves.

We support group members in the attainment of the goals and life that they feel are most appropriate for them. If that includes reassignment surgery, we can support it. However, that is not one of the major functions of the group. At this point, we feel that the Standards of Care as defined by the Harry Benjamin Foundation is a reasonable guide line.

We would like to become an ongoing community resource, so we welcome referrals from other community resources. Please call us if there are any questions we can answer. We appreciate your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Van L. King, MD  
Freedom Trail Clinic  
Erich Lindemann Mental Health Center  
25 Staniford Street  
Government Center  
Boston, MA 02114  
(617) 727-7720

ANNOUNCING A NEW PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP ESPECIALLY FOR TRANSEXUAL PERSONS

OVER THE NEXT MONTHS, WE WILL BE FORMING A PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP FOR TRANSEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER PERSONS. OUR GOAL IS TO HELP PERSONS EXPLORE THE MEANINGS AND FEELINGS ASSOCIATED WITH THEIR GENDER CHOICE AND BECOME MORE COMFORTABLE WITH THEIR IDENTITIES. IMPORTANT INTERPERSONAL ISSUES OF TRUST AND INTIMACY WILL ALSO BE EXPLORED. THE PSYCHOTHERAPY GROUP SETTING IS AN IDEAL PLACE TO SAFELY OPEN UP AND HEAL ONE'S SELF AS WELL AS CONTRIBUTE TO THE HEALING PROCESS OF OTHER GROUP MEMBERS. IN ORDER TO EXPLORE THESE ISSUES IN THE GREATEST COMFORT AND SAFETY AS POSSIBLE FOR ALL GROUP MEMBERS, A MINIMUM COMMITMENT OF SEVERAL MONTHS TIME IS REQUESTED.

INTERESTED PERSONS SHOULD CONTACT DR. KING AND SET UP AN EVALUATION APPOINTMENT. THEY WILL BE THOROUGHLY EVALUATED AND COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OPTIONS EXAMINED, AND ANY QUESTIONS THEY MAY HAVE CAN BE ANSWERED. UNFORTUNATELY, WE ARE NOT ABLE TO MAKE REFERRALS FOR SEX REASSIGNMENT SURGERY OR CONDUCT ONGOING EVALUATIONS TOWARD REASSIGNMENT SURGERY AT THE PRESENT TIME.

THE GROUP IS SPONSORED BY THE ERICH LINDEMANN MENTAL HEALTH CENTER AND MASSACHUSETTS GENERAL HOSPITAL AND WILL BE LIMITED TO EIGHT PEOPLE. FEE IS SLIDING SCALE ACCORDING TO ABILITY TO PAY. MEETINGS WILL BE HELD WEEKLY AT EIGHT TO NINE-FIFTEEN PM WEDNESDAYS.

FOR AN EVALUATION APPOINTMENT, CONTACT DR. KING OR BREITER AT 727-7720, THE FREEDOM TRAIL CLINIC OF THE ERICH LINDEMANN CENTER. IF WE ARE NOT AVAILABLE, PLEASE LEAVE A MESSAGE SO THAT WE CAN ARRANGE A MEETING TIME WITH YOU.



**XX CLUB BROCHURES**

**TRANSSEXUAL GENERAL INFORMATION** \$3.00  
 Brochure contains everything you always wanted to know about transsexualism, but were afraid to ask...and a few things you don't want to know about. (ppd. 1st class)

**GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND** \$1.00  
 Brochure contains initial contact and general information about the gender clinic. (ppd. 1st class)

**THE BRUSSELS CONNECTION** \$3.00  
 Brochure contains initial contact and general information about the lower cost male-to-female sex reassignment surgery option available in Brussels, Belgium with places to stay, and passport information. (ppd. 1st class)

**TRANSFORMATION IN COLORADO** \$1.00  
 Brochure contains general information about Dr. Stanley Biber and the sex reassignment surgery available in Trinidad. (ppd. 1st class)

Make check or M.O. payable to:

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TV-TS TRAVESTY JOURNAL, current issue - \$10.00. The most over rated publication on the subject of transvestism with much disinformation about transsexualism available today. World's largest snob listing (notice how we center the country around Wayland, MA?) The biggest money maker for us, when we get around to getting it out, that is.

TV-TS TRAVESTY JOURNAL, back issues - (#39) \$6.00, (#40-46) \$8.00, (#50-55) \$10.00. Once we got the suckers hooked, we raised the prices, or, how to unload print over rune. But for only fifteen bucks, we'll gladly photocopy any of our early newsletter format issues that were originally done on Abe Dick's mimeograph machine.

CURRENT DIRECTORY OF ORGANIZATIONS AND SERVICES (#11) - \$5.00. An expensive printout of the current listings you'll find in the back of every Travesty. We've got a few 'ladies' sitting around the Cushing Street office these days and we've just taught them how to use the new electric stapler, so please buy several copies for your friends and relatives.

DEFINITIONS (Or The World According To MSL), by Merissa Sherbert Lyme, (#12) - \$5.00. Another expensive printout of the definitions in the so-called gender community as penned with not so great wit and malice of after thought by our fearless leader, Merissa Sherbert Lyme, whose legal male name, Percival "The Wade" Southwick is known only to a few close cronies.

RELIGION (#14) - \$5.00. Much ado about a topic that bores 83% of the population and scares the other 50%. Edited from the pages of Travesty and written mostly by people without any serious theological credentials at all.

THE TINKERER, by Merissa Sherbert Lyme, (#69) - \$15.00. See how MSL finds intrinsic values in the mysterious world of Existentialist Zen Motorcycle Repair through her early days as a New Hampshire ski bum and how she gave true meaning to her life at the age of nine by constructing a three dimensional model of the crossdressing universe with a set of Tinkertoys.

BRIDGE 101, by Merissa Sherbert Lyme, (#45) - \$20.00. Learn the basics of playing basic bridge while dressed in an androgynous manner and countering all those side glances.

THE STING, by Merissa Sherbert Lyme, (#99) - \$49.99. The secrets of avoiding life in the real world by building up and living in a fantasy gender empire with MSL at the top. Contains much documentation of MSL's early days as a wide eyed kid under the auspicious eyes of the pro's in a now defunct B&D (Bully & Dyke) club.

TRANSSEXUALISM (#15) - \$10.00. Lots of M-F and F-M stuff again edited from the pages of you know what by well intentioned true transsexuals pouring their hearts out and know it all wanna-bees and done without payment of course.

WIVES AND INSIGNIFICANT OTHERS (#16) - \$10.00. A masterful collection of articles, editorials and letters from the Travesty written by the experts on the subject, so other crossdressers can rub their wives' faces in it. See Martha?

HORMONES (#17) - \$5.00. Wanna grow your own real tits without your wife knowing about it? Wanna just get off by READING about it? The unpaid contributors to Travesty help you get your rocks off with this fine collection of hormones articles.

THE TRANVESTITE AND HIS WIFE, by Virginia Prince (not his real name) (#21) - \$10.00. While we don't really agree with the 'godmother' on a lot of stuff, it's good PR to include his books in our resource listing.

UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING, by Virginia Prince (#22) - \$11.00. For an extra buck, we'll let you understand yourself better. Comes with an AC adapter and batteries.

HOW TO BE A WOMAN THROUGH MALE, by Virginia Prince (#23) - \$12.00. Yep. Another buck increase over the last one. We didn't understand the title either, but it has to be as good as the other two. At least the words are arranged differently.

HANDBOOK FOR SPEAKERS ON CROSSDRESSING, by Virginia Prince (#24) - \$10.00. Not what you think. This excellent 42 page booklet helps you verbally abuse all those hecklers you'll encounter when speaking about crossdressing in the real world. Comes with a plastic shield (MIL. SPEC. R3304-SS/66904) to help you live through the barrage of rotten eggs and veggies.

TRANVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS: Toward a Theory of Cross-Gendered Behavior, by Doctor Ricardo L. Doctor - \$37.50 (includes P&H). How he got it published with a mainstream publisher (Plenum Press) we'll never know, but it's so boring, he can't sell it anywhere, so we're helping him out.

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH, by Wally Billy (#30) \$10.00 plus \$2.50 S&H. A great attempt to explain away modern crossdressing by turning to ancient religious customs of the Berdache Indians whose wives suffered with the same problems that wives of modern crossdressers have.

MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES (and so do his friends and they've got them all stretched out), by Peg E. Runt (#31) - \$11.50 (includes P&H). Well, if you've got to live with a crossdresser, might as well make a buck off of him and write a book.

CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY?, by Peggy Runt (#42) \$12.95 plus \$1.50 P&S. So how dignified can a burly, 250 pound guy with a massive chest, gigantic calves and a beard shadow showing through his make-up wearing a mini dress with sequins, a long blond wig look as he totters down the street in size 14 six inch pumps. How dignified do you think he looks? Buy this book and find out!

TRANSFORMATIONS: CROSS-DRESSERS AND THOSE WHO LOVE THEM (#32) - \$27.45 (includes P&H) (Who comes up with all these odd figures

anyhow?) Well Hajorette Apathy Allyn did shoot a lot of film of us over the years at Provincetown, so it's time she stroked our egos and got paid for it as well.

GENDER DYSPHORIA: Development, Research, Mismanagement (#33) \$65.00 plus \$2.50 S&H. Edited by Bette Beerstein, Clarke Institute of Psychiatry. Find out why all the local Toronto transsexuals hate the shrinks at the Clarke Institute.

LEGAL ASPECTS OF TRANSSEXUALISM - 1990 EDITION, by Sr. Mary Elizabeth, SSE (#36) \$10.00. This book won't tell you why Sr. Mary "sold out" to the boys at IFGE, but we can say it was to get some cash for some of her own worthwhile non-gender interests. If you are into footnotes and occult legal references, this book is for you.

FROM MASCULINE TO FEMININE AND ALL POINTS IN BETWEEN, by Jennifer Ann Stevens (is that her real name, or what?) (#37) - \$31.50 (includes P&H). Remember Dick and Jane and how they saw Spot run? Easy to understand wasn't it? Well so is this book, written primarily for all those thoroughly confused about themselves in relation to the "T" phenomenon and who'd like someone to tell them to dress or else, thus removing all feelings of inherent guilt.

THE TRANSSEXUAL'S SURVIVAL GUIDE, by JoAnn Altwoman Stringalong (#41) \$20.00. A married post-op TS woman as opposed to a regular married woman, JoAnn did a great job in getting all kinds of information from other transsexuals to put in this book.

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NOTE: IFGE is strictly not for profit. But we make a bundle anyway. All proceeds from the sale of publications and reprints will be used in "service" to the gender community, or for Merissa Sherbert Lyme's retirement fund. Please write to us for a complete monthly disbursement of all IFGE monies. Go ahead, we dare you!