

V O L . 5 # 5 1

Membership \$12 per year.

N O V E M B E R 20 1976

PRES: William M. [redacted]
[redacted]
Albany, New York

PHONE: [redacted]

NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma [redacted]

Hello once again:

It sure was a wonderful day for traveling as most of the T.V.'s here tonight had to do. The girls who came to be with one another were: Paula D. from Lanesboro, Mass., Michelle B. from Summersville, Mass., Dean and Gloria B. from Pittsfield, Mass., Wendy and Joan B. from Schenectady, N. Y., Winnie B. from Schenectady, N. Y., Bill and Joan S. from Bronx, N. Y., Sandra and Christine from Bronx, N. Y., Francine G. from Henrietta, N. Y., Kathy G. from Syracuse, N. Y., Sharon T. from Cohoes, N. Y., Jean E. from Plattsburgh, N. Y., Kristine R. from Clifton Park, N. Y., Kris M. from Malden-on-the-Hudson, N.Y., Laura B. from Colonie, N. Y., Joan H. from Colonie, N. Y., Crystal S. from Menands, N. Y., Wilma and I.

The girls looked fine in their dress, Sharon looked very good in her fancy jumpsuit with it's wide sleeves trimmed in lace, looking good Sharon. Francine looked good in her short wig, I'm glad she took my advice about how much better she looks in a short wig rather than a long one. I really like to help these girls out where ever I cam, as I know they all want to look their best.

Kathy G. back from the Fantasia Affair couldn't stop talking about the good time she had and all the wonderful new experiences she found with all the good Sisters from all over. So glad she could go for the first time, I understand she already made her reservations for next year.

Being so close to Thanksgiving, I made the girls a full Turkey dinner with Turkey, dressing, creamed potatoes, corn, sweet potatoes in rum sauce, cole slaw, olives, apple sauce, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, mince pie, coffee. I had help from Kristine and Gloria in the Kitchen as it seems all my helpers who are usually in the kitchen with me had deserted me this month, I mean Gail, Betty, Dennie but I'll forgive them this time as I know they can't make all the meetings. My many thanks to Kristine and Gloria for their help and of course I can't leave Bill from the Bronx out as he helped me clean up all the dishes at evenings end. It seems a little out of place to see Bill as a male, as I had been so use to seeing him as Wilma of the Bronx, but as long as he is happy , I am glad for both Him and Joan.

Joan and Kristine sat in the Kitchen and talked with Sharon and another Christine who are more or less following in their footsteps. They certainly all look good in their new roles as a woman. Good luck girls.

I am sorry we are not having a gathering next month, but it is so close to the Holidays and most of us like to be with our families, that it wouldn't be fair to take you girls away. Hope you all have a very merry Xmas and a Happy and bright New Year. We will see you all in Jan. for our 6th anniversary.

I want to thank the girls for sending the shoes and clothing that they can no longer use as some of our girls here are glad to receive them (Nancy , I'll have you know I myself took a few of the fancy panties for myself, me like you I am a bug on fancy pants. Thanks again.

Elayne W. What has happened we don't see you or hear from you, we miss not seeing you. You know it was you and Jody that first made me see what a Transvestite was and what they really wanted from life and this is something I'll never forget as I was a green horn at knowing the difference between a T,V. and homosexuals and all the rest. Up to now I think I have learned a lot from knowing you Elayne and all the rest of the girls. Last night I learned more from Kristine and Joan when they were explaining to Sharon of what she had to prepare herself for in order to become the woman she wants to be. There is so much you can learn about the different forms of life, when you listen to one who has gone thru the ordeal than to someone who thinks they know all about it. It was a good educational program for me last night. Thanks girls.

Untill we all meet again in Jan. may God Bless you all and keep you safe and well and may all your fondest dreams come true. I hope to see all you gals, Sheila, Ekayne, Betty , Sue, Dennie, Joan, Gail, and all my regular lovelies.

Untill then all of you here and there and all over the states have a real Happy Happy Holiday.

Wilma and I will start remodeling the House this coming week, it is somethin we have wanted to do for some time, but never found time untill she retired. now there will be no excuses. I might have to take the whip out but it will be done.

Love to you all
HELEN and WILMA

IMPRESSIONS OF DREAM AND FANTASIA FAIR - by WinnieDREAM 76 (Sept. 11-18)

Following the success of three previous Dreams and the urging of participants eager for more, Marilyn and her organizing team were inspired to expand Dream 76 to a full week, comprising five basic days plus two optional "extras". Any doubts about the wisdom of this decision were soon dispelled by a steady stream of applications, reaching a record total of 56 TVs and 13 GGs. And, for the first time, Dream attracted girls from overseas - Australia and Malaysia were represented this year.

During the entire week in balmy mid-September, we had the opportunity to live en femme amidst beautiful surroundings on the unspoiled Oregon Coast. A large modern beach-front condominium and its attendant facilities (heated indoor pool, sauna, recreation hall and patio with access to the beach) were reserved for our exclusive use. Each of the suites included a spacious, tastefully decorated living room, full kitchen, two bedrooms and two complete baths, so that an atmosphere like living-at-home prevailed. In fact, four evenings were devoted to informal entertainment in "hostess" suites with meals prepared by a committee of volunteers (bless the GGs - aren't they wonderful?) And nocturnal parties were the rule for all the night-owls.

The extra time this year afforded the chance to expand the "Charm School" from three to four days, making the schedule less hectic and allowing each girl some choice of classes. Sessions in makeup, styling and care of natural hair as well as wigs, compartment, modeling, wardrobe and fashion were available. I found the new format very helpful in improving my knowledge of the feminine arts. As before, the personal overall critiques were particularly valuable. The staff of instructors, all lovely girls from a first-rate professional school in Portland, was increased to cope with the larger crowd and pay special attention to the GG guests. Besides their devotion to us Dreamers during the day, these wonderful girls lent their charm and grace to all our social events. Everybody was just gorgeous.

While the semi-formal classes occupied the mornings, the afternoons were left open for "TV Lib" time. Besides simply relaxing on the beach, in the pool, or elsewhere, one could have her hair set, get a manicure or receive similar personal services by appointment. Also, a clothing boutique and wig salon were set up in the staff suites, and we could get expert advice in selecting our purchases. On some days, discussion groups were arranged, and informal gatherings for gossip and picture-taking were popular, as were afternoon coffee klatches.

The evening round of festivities began on the first day with the traditional Pacific Salmon Barbecue, delicious as always. Other "at home" menus included the Carrousel Dinner featuring cook-it-yourself fondue and a very informal hamburger barbecue, for which "grubbies" was the recommended attire. Two formal banquets and a luncheon were held at

the best restaurant in a nearby resort town, overlooking the Pacific and reached by chartered bus. At the luncheon, our sister from "Down Under" spoke about the activities of the Seahorse Club. It seems that the interests of TVs are much the same all over the World.

The Sugar 'n Spice Dinner on Monday and the Pink Banquet on Thursday held to the successful format of previous years; the latter being the occasion for receiving bonafide diplomas from the Finishing and Modeling School, as well as a fashion show featuring fine apparel from the boutique, representing one of the better stores in Portland. The models were some of our own TVs and GGs selected by the critical eye of the school director and further rehearsed to display the proper feminine poise. Altogether, a fitting climax for a truly fabulous week.

The last full day, Friday, was devoted to "winding down" and a farewell luncheon (en homme) for those leaving early. With no classes, appointments or other scheduled events, I found it a welcome respite to get up late, dress leisurely, relax with friends and prepare for the informal party that night - a final fling of feminine fun before returning to the mundane masculine mode.

FANTASIA FAIR 76 (Oct. 15-24)

This outstanding event on the TV calendar repeated the success of last year in the same unique location (Provincetown, Mass.) and for the same duration (9 days), but was advanced one week to avoid infringing upon the well-established events of Halloween in P-town, which draw a different crowd. In this way, the affairs planned by Ariadne Kane and her committee were able to reflect the special interests of TVs alone, as well as relieve the accommodations crunch. The most significant feature of Fantasia Fair is the fact that we are able to go out into town and be accepted with courtesy in many local establishments. Walking along the streets, a TV attracts the expected curiosity of some, is simply ignored by many, and may receive some harassment from a few. With the exercise of due caution, trouble was avoided. It is next-to-impossible for a typical TV to "pass" in P-town - unless she is prepared to "dress down" to the point where much of the fun is lost!

Circumstances delayed my arrival until Monday; however, I heard that the demonstrations, discussions, dinner and dance held during the first weekend were popular and successful. Throughout the week, the fashion and beauty course filled the mornings of those who wished to attend. The main instructor, Paula, oriented her presentation towards dress and makeup for the critical audience and harsh lighting one encounters in a supermarket. Her knowledge of all the feminine artifices, gained by years of experience, was conveyed to an intent class by remarkably lucid descriptions and practical demonstrations. Paula's enthusiasm rubbed off on her listeners, and her exercises for raising the

FANTASIA FAIR (continued)

voice will long be remembered - "Tay, Tee, Tie, Toe, Tue". Her friend and professional assistant Connie (GG) was also available for individual hairstyling and beauty appointment during the course of the Fair. One could also patronize a local beauty parlor, as I did, for all the services needed to highlight her crowning glory.

The afternoon hours were free time, and most girls took advantage of the opportunity to enjoy a leisurely lunch, see the sights of P-town, or go shopping. There are many high-quality craft, jewelry and clothing stores in Provincetown, as well as restaurants, at which our business was welcome. The weather was kind to us, being quite mild during most of the week, and a light coat was sufficient.

On Monday evening, a public symposium was held at a sympathetic church. Several speakers from our group explained the various aspects of cross-genderal behavior and answered questions from the floor. A delicious pot-luck supper followed, during which further discussions took place. Events like this are an encouraging step in enlightening the public.

The featured Ages of Fashion Ball on Tuesday brightened the Back Room of the Crown & Anchor. A number of ladies invested considerable effort in putting together some fabulous costumes, making the task of the local-volunteer judges very difficult. The competition was followed by discotheque dancing - most enjoyable, but quite exhausting.

A cocktail party on Wednesday provided a good chance for Fair participants to get together and chat in a convivial atmosphere. Upon leaving the party, we were faced by the most adverse weather of the entire week - heavy rain combined with high winds - but inside-out umbrellas failed to dampen our spirits.

The formal banquet next evening featured excellent food served buffet-style by the Clambake and was the occasion for presenting well-earned awards to members and friends of Fantasia Fair, including some elected by ballot among the attendees. All the ladies looked lovely in their finery. Those girls with modeling ambitions had another chance to show off their best outfits at the fashion show in the Back Room on Friday, and their efforts were well received by the audience. Later, a number of us accepted an invitation to visit the Zodiac Lounge just outside of P-town and hear the great singing of Linda Gerard, making a truly memorable evening.

A free morning on the final Saturday of the Fair allowed for late rising and brunch. We were favored with reserved seating for the Drag Show in the Back Room and could attend the Drag Ball later that evening, which are annual events in P-town. However, the main thing for the Fair-goers was a leisurely full course dinner at the Terrace restaurant in a quiet and intimate atmosphere. Many girls, reluctant to say farewell to P-town and our friends, spent the wee hours of Sunday morning at one last party, leaving little time

for sleep before packing and the final champagne brunch - alas, the end of a wonderful week.



Presidents Pen



I am skipping my editorial this month due to lack of space. This space has been filled in by Winnie who tells us of her trip to DREAM 76 & FANTASIA FAIR: A job well done, WINNE. Our Journal can use more articles like these. So how about it, there must be others who can write something.

I want to thank everyone who sent me the Beautiful Birthday cards and also the the very nice cards for a Happy Retirement.

When writing to new members or other TV friends, please let them know that you are a member of TVIC, Albany, N.Y. This helps us all to keep to-gether.

When coming to our TV gatherings, please let us know of your coming four days in advance, also should you wish to have me reserve a motel unit for you, state, Single or double and in what name and about what time you expect to arrive at the motel.

I want to thank Charles B. [redacted], RR1 Box 60, New Palestine, Ind. 46163

Eben B. [redacted], [redacted] South Rayaton, Vt. 05068

Paul D. [redacted], Box 345, Bloomington, Calif., 92316

for the articles of shoes and clothing that they had no use for. It would be nice ~~fr~~ of all you members to drop each of them a thank you note. Anyone else who has anything that they do not want around, that is too small, too large or even tired of looking at. Send it to me and it will be here for all of you

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"There's absolutely nothing wrong with you Mr. Jones But you can trust me to keep it confidential."



Presidents Pen (continued)

to pick over and take what you want at no charge. So when you come to the gatherings and you don't see ~~these~~ these items ask Helan or I. Here is another member who sent in some shoes.

FRANCES G [redacted], BOX 397, NESCONSET, L.I., N.Y. 11767.

I have the negative of the group picture taken at the October gathering taken by that lovely member who came all the way from MISSION. JAN S [redacted], BOX 8613, Sappington, Mo. 63126. If any member would like to have a colored copy, please send 50¢. I will hold up the order of printing till Jan. 1st so that I can get them all printed at one time and will mail them out with the Jan. Journal.

As you all know there will be no gathering in the month of December. NEXT GATHERING JANUARY 15th AND FEBRUARY 19th.

NEW MEMBERS:

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of six new members this month.

CRYSTAL S., MENANDS, N.Y. - WINDY B., SCHENECTADY, NY. - REENE C., STRATFORD, CONN. - MICHELLE B., SUMMERVILLE, MASS. - and ELISABETH J., TULLAHOMA, TENN.

TO E.O.N. : I reprint all news received by me. I give credit when I have a Name to give credit too. If I receive a news etem from another member and He or she does not state where they got it I can not give credit.

Thats about all for this month. Hope to see many of you at our JAN 15th gathering.

W I L M A

letters to the editor

My dear Wilma:

Just received the Journal, for which many thanks. First, congratulations on your retirement - I really didn't think you were that old, you look great! Second, I was very disturbed about the report of trouble outside your home in September. Apart from the potential danger of having rough kids in the neighborhood (I noticed them right away when I first joined), the cause of the problem is quite obvious. For some reason that is beyond me, some of us TVs have an apparently irrepressible desire to "go public." So strong is this desire that it seems to override all caution and those who are subject to it have supreme confidence in themselves that they cannot be read. I know I'll get rained with rebuttals for saying this but in my opinion, about 10% of us can really get away with it, so far as a casual glance or two is concerned.

This last part is important because it must now be quite certain that the kids who hang around know what's going on and so even the best-passing TV going into or out of your home is bound to be subjected to very close scrutiny, not just a passing glance. In my opinion, the only way we can avoid open trouble - which would be utterly disastrous - is for you to insist that everyone dresses and undresses inside the house. Sure, it will be a pain and cause some inconvenience but we cannot afford to have any recurrences of the type of incident that took place in September. The stakes are too high and the chances of some ugly scenes are too great as things presently stand.

I was delighted and surprised to read that there were two girls from Pittsfield at the last meeting. I thought I was the only member in this area. Could you please send me their mailing addresses? Dianne and Gloria, I believe. I'd love to get in touch with them and perhaps we could get together soon for a dressing session.

I notice that you were asking for clothing that we no longer needed. I've got quite a lot of it and if I may, I'd like to stop by some time and drop them off at your home. I'll call ahead of time so as not to surprise you.

Apart from dropping-off the clothes, I'd really welcome the opportunity of having a talk with you. I've started to talk with you a few times at the meetings but you have so much to do and so many people to talk to that it's never long enough!

My best regards to you and Helen - I've missed seeing you and I've also missed seeing so many of the nice girls I've had the pleasure of meeting - to say nothing of getting to work on the organ!

PAULA D., LANESBORO, MASS. 01237



MICHELLE



DIANNE





Letters your dues?

Dear Helen and Wilma;

Heard of the results following the September meeting prior to your last journal and it is most difficult to express my thoughts as to the final outcome the - future -, For sure - sincere sympathy for all concerned - it should not have happened - blame solves nothing - even greater care than ever must be exercised - ! How inadequate, the above but I feel I must inject something. Of course, from the pure selfish angle, I am concerned, as should any thing interfering with the wonderful friendships which I have recognized in Wilma and Helen - the exciting meetings and the overall sincerity - if halted - I would consider catastrophic ! To be discreet - conservative - careful - should always be our way but never to take that risk or practice in such a way as to harm or cause anxiety to others and especially to our friends. Love.

Jean E. Platzberg, N.Y.

Dear Wilma;

Just a line to say Hi, also to say I've sent you another package. Hope some of the other girls can use them. I have often thought of writing to you and your wife but, as you know it is always promise's, really appreciate your newsletter and look forward to it every month. It must take a lot of work, But don't feel for a minute it is not appreciated, as I am sure there are a lot of TVs that look forward to it. You may wonder why I am not using the things I have sent so far, well I am an impulsive buyer. I have often bought things I could not wear, this is a prime example, also I have a problem with my foot. There is one thing I would greatly appreciate, if some of the girls who did get the shoes would write me, I'd appreciate it very much. Also I'd love to have a full picture of you and the gang up there. Love . Fran. NESCONSET, L.I., N.Y.

Dear Wilma;

This is to inform you that I have changed my address. It is now

E B E N B [REDACTED], [REDACTED], SOUTH ROYALTON, VT. 05068

It was imposible for me to keep up the trailer and the work around the grounds alone. I wish I could attend more of your meetings but at 75 it is hard for me to travel alone. I have to house trailers that will have to be sold. If anyone is interested tell them to drop me a line. Sincerly, Theda.

Dear Wilma & Helen:

A short note to tell you both how much Peg and I enjoyed ourselves at the Sept. gathering. It is so nice to meet so many lovely girls and to renew acquaintances with friends. On our way home we chatted fondly about the wonderful time that we had and how we enjoyed Andreas wit and Kays strip routine. To me, that meeting was everything that I have ever hoped to see in a gathering of our kind - "That is, human beings just having a good time being to-gether." I must congratulate you on your retirement and wish you many years of happiness as you start out in this new venture. "God bless both of you." Lynda.

Lynda B., West Hill, Ont., Canada.

Dear Wilma;

You ask me why do I like to dress? Well being a male I have to compete in the male world to make a living for myself and family. I have 4 children. This is hard for me, I do not enjoy it, after a time I feel like I will break down from the strain, then I change my personality and become a female. when I do this, I relax completely and build up strength to compete in the male world again. I believe I have the best of 2 worlds, another way of putting it is that when my batteries are rundown in the male world I recharge them as a female. Then I'M ready to face my male world again. CHARLEN B., CUDAHY, WISC.

(ED. NOTE: How about the rest of you members leting me know why you like to dress. I'M sure all of our readers would like to know.)



FRANCINE G.

The Transsexuals:

By EDWARD EDEISON
Science Editor

"A transsexual is not somebody with two heads or who minces down the sidewalk," said Dr. Renee Richards recently. "... I am in a position, because I am a reputable physician and not a freak, to show that transsexuals are people who can hold their heads up high."

Dr. Richards is getting at least part of what she wants—public attention to the existence of transsexuals. Not since Christine Jorgenson made her publicity-packed debut before an astonished American people two decades ago has the phenomenon of transsexualism gotten such headlines.

True, most discussions so far center on the propriety of opening women's tennis tournaments to someone who was a high-ranking male tennis player until last year.

But the story of Renee Richards—who lived most of her life as Richard Raskin, has a successful medical practice, fathered a child and has turned the tennis establishment upside down—is making a lot of people realize that transsexualism exists, and that sex-change operations are almost routine.

Whether the phenomenon of transsexualism is worth all that ink is another question. In numbers, transsexuals are rarities. Experts estimate that there are no more than 10,000 to 20,000 transsexuals in the United States, and that the total number of sex-change operations done worldwide is between 2,000 and 3,000.

At least part of the fascination of the subject is that it is the ultimate living out of a standard fantasy.

"Everybody, especially in childhood, has toyed with the idea of being the opposite sex," says John Money, a psychologist who is co-founder of the Gender Identity Clinic at John Hopkins University.

"With the transsexual, the idea has a compulsive grip. It becomes the dominating thought in their lives. It won't let them alone," Money explained.

The experts are careful to point out that a transsexual should not be confused with a transvestite, a person who

enjoys dressing as a member of the opposite sex. Nor is a transsexual the same as a homosexual.

"In gross terms, a transsexual is one whose sense of gender identity is at odds with the anatomic facts," said Dr. Charles L. Ihlenfeld, a New York physician who is an expert in the field.

"A transsexual is a person who wants to be a member of the opposite sex. People who are predominantly homosexual find that in terms of sexual orientation they prefer partners of their own sex."

Dr. Richard Raskin fit the transsexual description. "Ever since I was an infant, I always wanted to be a girl," Renee Richards said.

"I used to go to bed at night and pray, 'I wish I were a girl, I wish I were a girl.'"

What causes those feelings? Physicians don't really know, although they agree on the outlines of a theory that starts with something that happens before birth.

"There could be some kind of vulnerability factor programmed in before birth by some unusual balance of sex hormones when the pathways in the brain are being laid out," said Money. "There is some good beginning evidence to support that from the study of animal behavior."

"That by itself is almost certainly not enough. But such a person is an especially easy target for a gender identity transition during the early years. The prenatal hormonal programming may be followed by some social programming in late infancy and early childhood life."

But Money acknowledges that the nature of those social influences is "a big puzzle."

Some gender identity problems seemed to be caused by nonsexual influence, such as the loss of a loved one during the critical developmental period of childhood, Money said.

"I think that the commonest contribution is some sort of ambiguity about sex that is programmed into the home," he said. "But sometimes I can't for the life of me see it as an individual case."

Gender identity problems occur in members of either sex, the experts say. The ratio is uncertain. Ihlenfeld worked for years with Dr. Harry Benjamin, the acknowledged leader of studies in the field.

It was about eight to one in our practice, predominantly male-to-female," Ihlenfeld said. "But one review of the world medical literature found that the number of reported operations is almost even, male-to-female and female-to-male. In the United States, the ratio was 2.5 to one, male-to-female."

Operations simple, inexpensive

Only limited trust can be placed in those statistics, Money and Ihlenfeld agreed, because many operations take place outside medical centers and are not reported in the literature.

The operation appears to be relatively simple and rather inexpensive. It is preceded by a period of hormone therapy. Men who wish to become women receive feminizing doses of estrogens, the female sex hormones. Women who wish to become men receive androgens, male sex hormones.

In the male-to-female operation of the sort that turned Richard Raskin into Renee Richards, the male organs are removed and a female organ created surgically. In the female-to-male operation, a male organ may be created by using a flap of skin from the stomach.

As far as appearance goes, women who have become men blend in better than men who have become women, Money said.

In the male-to-female case, the transsexual is noticeably taller than most women. The voice is deeper, the body build retains masculine traces and the electrolysis done to remove facial hair may not be totally successful.

By contrast, male hormones will make a beard grow quite satisfactory in a transsexual who has become a man. A short, slight male is not as obvious as an extremely tall female, Money said.

A transsexual's life can be quite satisfactory after such an operation, Money said, especially in the case of the male-to-female transformation.

"They definitely report a satisfactory sex life," Money said. "Some of the pa-

tients I talked to say they have a feeling not to different from what they had before they embarked on sexual reassignment. It's no longer quite the same as it was, but it's perfectly okay with them.

"Others talk about a 'diffuse body glow' that is highly satisfactory. The important thing is that such a transsexual has always wanted to function sexually as a woman, and it is thrilling to be able to do this."

Being able to fulfill such a long-held desire is a major factor in sex change operations, Money adds. "The transsexual has a very vivid stereotype of the male she wants to be or the female he wants to be," he said, "and they really stick pretty close to the stereotype."

"I know of one transsexual who wanted to be a hard-working midwest farmwife and is actually doing a good job of it. Most women who become men want to be the hard-working man who supports the family, although I do know of one who wanted to be a gangster."

"I have never seen a female-to-male who wanted to be a hustler, but I have seen the reverse, the transsexual who wanted to become a prostitute and did."

To the experts, the critical period is the time before the operation. Often, the decision to seek an operation is preceded by many years of agonizing indecision.

Richard Raskin went to Casablanca — a well-known center of sex-change operations — in 1967, but decided against it. Later, Raskin married and fathered a son. A divorce last year was followed by the sex change operation.

Major medical centers that do sex change surgery, such as Johns Hopkins and Stanford University, generally insist on a long period of study and waiting before surgery is performed.

At Hopkins, for example, candidates are required to go through a "real-life test" of at least two years, dressing and living as a member of the other sex, before a decision is made. One person at Hopkins spent eight years in this real-life tryout before deciding to have the operation that made him a woman.

Many transsexuals are unwilling to wait so long, Ihlenfeld says, and they

get what he calls "black market operations". The cost of such an operation is in the neighborhood of \$3,500, Ihlenfeld says.

Surgically, the results of such operations usually are satisfactory, he said. "But you can get a bad result from other factors. In many cases, the surgical selection is not done very critically. These are the cases in which you will find the suicides and the bad depressions."

Surprisingly, the publicity given to Renee Richards has not meant an increase in inquiries at the medical centers that do gender identity studies. It is a measure of the revolution of recent years, Ihlenfeld said, that sex change operations now are available so freely.

Has mixed feelings

"It is only recently that we have had the medical and surgical abilities, to offer sex reassignment," he said. "Only a few years ago, no medical people would consider it as an option in therapy and there was certainly no social setting in which people who chose that option would be accepted."

Money said that his clinic has been getting letters "from young people who are floundering around and get a ray of insight into themselves from such stories. Some of the letters from younger and middle teenage kids are quite pathetic."

As for Renee Richards, Ihlenfeld has mixed feelings about her competing in women's tennis tournaments. It is true, Ihlenfeld said, that estrogen therapy of the sort that Rene Richards now takes tends to decrease muscle strength and stamina.

"But if I were a woman at Forest Hills, I wouldn't want to play against a woman who grew up as a man, Ihlenfeld said. "I don't know if she would have the advantage, but I do know that she would not be physically the same as I am. I don't think this detracts one iota from her position in civil rights. But in terms of biology, some things cannot be altered."

Women's Bathhouse Attendant Is Male

BOSTON, Feb. 22 (AP) —The city has been told it must hire a man as an attendant for a women's bathhouse at a public swimming pool.

The Civil Service Commission and the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination told the city it could not restrict the job to women and must hire the first qualified applicant, even if that meant hiring a man.

And it did. Parks and Recreation Commissioner Anthony Forgione said everyone expected the man to decline the job when he was interviewed, but he said he wanted it. He would not identify the man.



There is a difference

