

# GENDER NETWORKER

Vol.1, No.2 For Helping Professionals and Resource Workers August 1988

## THE GENDER GENE: Research Review

For years, geneticists have taught that an XX combination of sex chromosomes produces a female fetus; an XY, a male. In fact, we all begin life with a female brain as embryos of both sexes evolve identically till about five weeks after fertilization. It is only then that, in males, some genetic signal (unknown till now) sets in motion a cascade of biochemical events that trigger the male sex hormone, testosterone. This in turn "washes" the brain at a critical point - leading to the closure of the newly-formed vagina opening and the formation of the male genitals. In the absence of this signal, the embryo evolves as female. (Excerpted from "Sex Switch Scientific American, March 1988)..

Very rarely though, an XX male or an XY female is found. A group of researchers headed by geneticist David C. Page, of the Whitehead Institute for Biomedical Research in Cambridge, Mass., set out to learn why. Using elaborate DNA analysis, they found that the sexual switch is thrown by a single gene on the Y chromosome. Without this vanishingly small bit of tissue (about two percent of the chromosome), the fetus remains female. Occasionally, the gene, termed TDF ("testes determining factor") turns up on an X chromosome, and male anatomy results. Page believes the defects arise during spermatogenesis. Possible applications of the discovery, including engineering the sex of livestock, are a long way off. (Excerpted from "Identity Crisis", Discover, March 1988)...

Since 1959, researchers have known that gender is determined by the pair that consists of an X and a Y in men and two Xes in women. Yet, they have never understood exactly how the process unfolds, until now. Geneticists led by David Page, of Cambridge, Mass.' Whitehead Institute, have apparently discovered a gene that determines whether a human embryo will be male or female. They found that a man with two X chromosomes also had a fraction of a percent of a Y chromosome. Just this tiny bit was enough to make him male. Studying the chromosomes of an XY woman, they found that her Y chromosome was incomplete; it lacked the crucial two percent that would have made her a man. Page's team cracked the biochemical code that reveals what the gene actually does, regulating the activity of other genes. These others (still to be identified) may well include not only genes that shape the body but also those that (cont'd. p.16)

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## THE GENDER-REASSIGNED RESOURCE WORKER: Doubly Damned or Warmly Welcomed?

by Rupert Raj, "The Gender Worker"

As a resource worker for the past 17 years, I have given generously of my time and energy, my financial and emotional support, my knowledge and expertise. I've shared my personal experiences with male and female transsexual peers and helped significant others to understand the plight of their loved ones. I've provided information and referrals to cross-dressers, and counselled transvestites who felt they may be transsexual but weren't sure. I've networked with individuals and organizations in the transgender community and exchanged newsletters with other gender journalists. I've educated helping professionals and students working in the field of gender dysphoria, trying to clarify the complexities of the sexual/gender spectrums. I've reached out to the public through TV and radio in an attempt to debunk some of the myths and to appeal for acceptance as fellow human beings. I've criticized the media for irresponsible reporting ("tarring with the same brush" TSs, TVs, transgenderists and "drag queens"). I've lobbied the government and prisons in Canada and the US for fairer treatment of gender-dysphoric/reassigned citizens under the law of the land.

And, of course, so have many other gender-reassigned (and gender-conflicted) resource workers and helping professionals. (I have made mention of some of these people in a previous article, "BURN-OUT: Unsung Heroes and Heroines of the Transgender World"). Like myself, many of these people have been giving their all for next to nothing. (These are resource workers). Yet, a growing number, myself included, are now starting to charge a fee for services rendered. (These are

helping professionals). In my own case, just last September I registered my educational resource and counseling service, "GENDER WORKER", with the government and have been paid (for the first time ever) for office consultations; counselling, information and referrals by correspondence, presentations, workshops, seminars, TV appearances and newsletter subscriptions. (Parenthetically, I must say financial remuneration is a powerful motivator that may serve to somewhat relieve the persisting symptoms of my two-year chronic burn-out. (I wrote of this in an open letter, "Not Quitting The Game, Just Switching Sides").

The point of this piece is: I wish to point out to both consumers and professionals of just how valuable (and rare) GR resource workers and helping professionals are (but not all of them, so beware and evaluate carefully. I'll write on this later). Yet, in spite of this, most of the resource providers who have crossed the gender line themselves (and therefore, have a twofold perspective of the world) are, in point of fact, either "badmouthed" or else emotionally blackmailed by the many "moochers and whiners" in the TG community. Alternatively, on the other side of the counter, many are also stigmatized by gender clinicians (in particular, psychiatrists - a truly defensive lot!) who feel threatened by these consumers-cum-providers - who are perceived as interlopers invading their minute market. After all, gender dysphoria is still rated as a mental disorder by the "shrink set". (Of course, a fair number of TSs, TVs and TGs present as psychologically unstable and do require therapeutic intervention, but often their problems are essentially unrelated to the issue of gender conflict/confusion).

The GR Resource Worker (cont'd.)

In the face of this double onslaught from consumers and providers alike, no wonder the GR helping professional or resource worker frequently falls prey to burn-out, especially since s/he receives virtually no emotional or financial support from either group. And, as everyone knows, even "caretakers" need "strokes" on occasion. (This was the purpose behind the "Awards of Merit" I, on behalf of the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, presented to 50 GR and GD resource workers - and a number of non-GR helping professionals. In addition, I plan to issue "Gender Worker Awards" to future deserving recipients as soon as I can afford to do so. Furthermore, the real need for mutual moral support among GR providers is the original reason for publishing "Gender Networker". I addressed this issue in a paper titled, "The Need to Network Now").

To sum up, I think that GR helping professionals and resource workers find themselves "caught between a rock" (exploitative GD consumers) "and a hard place" (intimidated gender clinicians), because consumers often take personal offence when GR providers act as objective discerning professionals, instead of as "gung-ho" peers who might indiscriminately confirm wild fantasies and unrealistic desires when evaluating or recommending clients in terms of gender dysphoria and reassignment. Similarly, many gender clinicians labour under the delusion that GR people are still tainted with elements of a mental disorder. (Remember, Gender Dysphoria Syndrome is even now listed in the DSM-III revised edition), and should, God forbid, never be considered "normal", nor should GR professionals ever be treated as legitimate peers for, after all, they were once consumers themselves, and could not possibly,

in a million years, be unbiased or without a vested interest in selling "the change" to all self-styled TSs. Yet, in actual fact, every GR helping professional I know that works with GD people (ie. psychiatrists, psychologists, therapists, counselors, social workers, surgeons, nurses, teachers and clerics) - and most lay GR resource workers I know, usually try to discourage their patients, clients and/or group members from "changing sex" because they know this is only a last resort for a minute fraction of gender-dysphorics who are "true transsexuals". So, they try instead to provide alternative choices to GD persons who might otherwise be gay, bisexual, transvestite, transgenderist, neurotic, or psychotic.

So, should we not welcome with open arms, rather than blindly damning, these rare, valuable "gems" - gender-reassigned, helping professionals and resource workers? - before they all burn out? Its really up to you.

GENDER ♀ NETWORKER

Introducing a new bimonthly newsletter for helping professionals resource workers and others interested in Gender Dysphoria Syndrome. Edited by Rupert Raj. \$18 for six issues. Make payable to: "Gender NetWorker," P.O. Box 1224, Station A, Toronto Ontario, Canada M5W 1G7.

G	* Transsexualism * Transgenderism * Transvestism	W
E	Rupert Raj, B.A. (Psych), P.R.	O
N	P.O. Box 1224, Station A	R
D	Toronto, Ontario M5W 1G7	K
E	* Info * Referrals * Counselling * Rap Socials * Liaison	E
R	* Workshops * Presentations * Media Outreach * Networking	R

Tribute To: JUDITH V. COUSINS



Judy Cousins is a household word to all transsexuals and many helping professionals in the United Kingdom, inasmuch as she founded the first support group in Britain exclusively for TSs, the Self Help Association for Transsexuals (aka SHAFT) in 1980. She served as the President for seven years, looking after the membership, correspondence and accounts, and also acted as Editor of the bimonthly newsletter for a time, before she resigned in February 1987. However, she still remains with the group as an Honorary Executive President.

After a career as a male officer in the British Service and the Indian Army, Judy retired at the age of 40, and after completing a three-year course at art school, she established herself as a talented sculptor

with a particular penchant for portraiture. She has been a member of the Society of Portrait Sculptors, and has exhibited in the Royal Academy Summer exhibitions.

Not only has she a proven ability to "catch a likeness", but her works are well designed, suiting both the personality and the age of the subject. Apart from faces, Ms. Cousins is greatly interested in the introduction of the subject's hands in her compositions, and particularly recommends works cast in the new material, resin bronze.

After marrying as a man, and raising a family, Judy Cousins decided to cross the gender line to become the woman she always felt herself to be, at the age of 53. Now that her family responsibilities were over, she arranged to disappear so that her family would not be able to find her, as she felt this was the kindest and most compassionate way of achieving her aim, and one that would spare her family the anguish of knowing the truth. However, she was eventually traced by the press and so, she arranged to meet her family. Her daughters have accepted the change - and she is a doting grandmother to their children - but her former wife and son have not yet "come around".

Judy has had the honour of having the recently-published book, Body Shock, dedicated to her "in affection and gratitude" by its author, Liz Hodgkinson. The book contains photographs of her both as Lewen, and as Judy.

Ms. Cousins was made an Honorary Life Member of the recently-folded Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, and she has also been sent an "Award of Merit" by former President Rupert Raj, for her past years of dedicated service to the transgender community of England.

## GENDER WORKER UPDATE (Sept.-Sept.)

COUNSELLING: I have counselled 12 transsexual clients and three mates in my "office" and other locations.

PUBLICATIONS: I have published two issues of my new bimonthly newsletter Gender Networker, and I am now working on the compilation of my anthology of transsexual transvestite and transgenderist verse.

WORKSHOPS: I sponsored a workshop for male-to-female transsexuals on various aspects of sex reassignment, including: hair removal, hair transplants, Minoxidil, voice therapy, voice surgery, tracheal shave and genital surgery, on Jan. 31.

RAP SOCIALS: I facilitated a social get-together in the country for male and female transsexuals, their mates and friends on June 11.

PRESENTATIONS: I gave a presentation on transsexualism, focussing on lesbian male-to-female transsexuals and gay female-to-male transsexuals in relation to the homosexual community, to the Lesbian and Gay Youth of Toronto on July 26.

LOBBYING: I wrote letters to the Editor of the New York Post, New York State Governor Cuomo, and the New York State Council on the Arts regarding the case of Mariette Pathy Allen. I also approached the Ontario Human Rights Commission on June 7 to request that transsexuals and transvestites be covered under medical grounds, rather than sexual orientation or mental handicap. The OHRC asked me to submit a position paper, and also, to give a talk to their staff on TSism on Sept. 30.

NETWORKING: I have written 66 letters and made several calls to various individuals and organizations in Canada, the States, and abroad.

## INFORMATIONAL BROCHURES

TRANSSEXUAL GENERAL INFORMATION (everything you always wanted to know about transsexualism but were afraid to ask), 12 pages, (\$2).

GENDER IDENTITY CLINIC OF NEW ENGLAND (initial contact and general information), 4 pages (\$1.50).

THE BRUSSELS CONNECTION (male-to-female sex reassignment surgery in Brussels, Belgium by Dr. Michel Seghers), 12 pages (\$2).

TRANSFORMATION IN COLORADO (sex-reassignment surgery in Trinidad, Colorado by Dr. Stanley Biber), 4 pages (\$1.50).

All four brochures for \$6. Twenty Club, P.O. Box 80690, Forest Park Station, Springfield, Mass. 01138.

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## KEEP THE GIFT OF FELLOWSHIP MOVING

In a certain Western Indian culture, there is a custom during an annual festival in which the tribes give each other a symbolic gift. The gift has no intrinsic value, but must be passed on by its recipient. The tribes call this "keeping the gift moving." We may apply this concept to the transgender community. While it might well be impossible to "pay back" those who initially helped us in our journey "out of our closet or in our quest for gender congruity, we can "pay forward" by helping others who are still trying to find their own way. Please keep the gift of moving [Reprinted from Rosebuds, July 1988.]

Book Review: IN SEARCH OF EVE: Transsexual Rites of Passage, Anne Bolin, Bergin & Garvey Publishers, South Hadley, Mass., 1988, 210 pps. (\$13 U.S.)

Reviewed by Ari Kane

Professional literature in the field of transsexualism can be broadly classified into two major categories: a) Medical - including psychiatric and psychological research. This approach is "clinical" because it focuses on the phenomenon as a syndrome subject to treatment and observation, b) Sociocultural - in which transsexualism can be viewed as a phenomenon related to, and existing with, the larger sociological and cultural matrix.

In Search of Eve is a sociocultural study of the transsexual phenomenon. Dr. Bolin, a cultural anthropologist, has worked with a research population of 16 transsexuals over a period of two years. During that period, she had ample time to explore in depth a variety of pertinent issues for the TS. She hypothesizes that the process of gender shifts, followed by the quest for sex reassignment surgery are "rites of passage" as described by A. Van Gennep, a noted early 20th-century socio-anthropologist.

The "rites of passage" model originated by Van Gennep - and refound by American anthropologists in the 1940s - offers a twofold conceptualization of stages: separation, transition, and incorporation.

Van Gennep summarizes the underlying premise for the rites of passage: "Transition from group to group and from one social situation to the next can be looked at as implicit in the very fact of existence. A person's life is viewed as being composed of a succession of stages with similar ends and beginnings: ie. birth, social puberty, marriage, parenthood, advancement-

to higher class, occupational specialization and death. For each of the above events there are ceremonies whose essential purpose is to enable an individual to pass from one defined position to another, which is equally well-defined.

Van Gennep's model provides a framework for understanding the processes and dynamics of the transition (female to male or male to female) states of the transsexual. Its significant asset is that it cogently reveals the cultural components of the passage from one gender/sex role to a preferred one.

Dr. Bolin has created a valuable piece of literature in our understanding of the TS phenomenon by using Van Gennep's rites of passage scheme and analyzing diverse aspects of the quest of the TS.

Her book includes chapters on: The Rite of Transition, Becoming a Woman, What Kind of Woman?, Hormonal Management, Strategies and Rituals of Passing, Personal and Sexual Relations, and The Rite of Incorporation. She has provided clear tabulations of the data used to support her thesis with insightful observations and conclusions.

In this work there's frank discussion about the clinical approach to working with transsexuals. Bolin indicates some areas of weakness in viewing the phenomenon strictly as a "psychiatric syndrome" with restricted avenues for positive individual development (as opposed to cloning, using cultural stereotypes of gender/sex roles).

Bolin writes clearly, sympathetically. Her style is like a storyteller with sincere intent and purpose.

Review: In Search of Eve (cont'd.)

In Search of Eve is a positive contribution toward one's understanding of transsexualism and the TS. It is recommended reading for all professionals in the field of sexuality, as well as people who have

embarked on a quest for full happiness in a preferred gender/sex role.

[Reprinted from the Outreach Beacon, Winter 1988. In Search of Eve is available for \$19 U.S. from the Outreach Institute, Kenmore Station, P.O. Box 368, Boston, Mass. 02215]

Book Review: BODYSHOCK: The Truth  
Columbus Books, London, U.K., 184

About Changing Sex, Liz Hodgkinson,  
pps. (£6 or \$16 Cdn.)

Reviewed by Christina Dewhurst

"The Truth About Changing Sex." This is a strong claim to make and many transsexuals would no doubt maintain there is no such thing as one simple truth about such a complex subject. Yet, the book is a considerable achievement. For a start, it is extremely sympathetic. The author is not transsexual herself, and there's no suggestion that anyone close to her is. She met a number of transsexuals while preparing her book. She clearly liked many of them and dedicated her book to one of them (Judy Cousins).

Hodgkinson, a freelance journalist, was motivated to write about what sorts of people wanted or achieved a change of sex, and why, and what it involved. She starts by reminding us that gender ambiguity has a long and illustrious history, and that there are now many people, in all walks of life, who have crossed over. She surveys some of the modern examples: Christine Jorgensen, Roberta Cowell, April Ashley, Jan Morris, Renée Richards, Stephanie Anne Lloyd, Judy Cousins and Adèle Anderson. She also brings forward some lesser known examples of females who have changed sex, emphasizing there is an unknown but probably quite large number of female to male transsexuals, as well.

The author looks at the medical and psychiatric approach to transsexualism and at the processes involved in making the switch. She demolishes some of the myths - held by the public and also, the medical profession - about its causality before exploring a more recent theory which suggests that the condition is created before birth. True, the chromosome pattern is determined at the moment of conception and nothing will alter it. Yet, the theory goes, hormone imbalance while in the womb, may send the unborn child in a different but just as undeniable direction. Hodgkinson explains the theory persuasively.

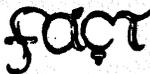
The chapter on how transsexualism affects others may prove to be particularly useful. Revealing such a closely-kept secret about oneself is a fearful prospect for most TSs, who tend to put off telling those closest to them rather than risk losing their affection and respect. The book gives us examples, however, where this has worked, at least in part. Take the case of Judy Cousins, who changed sex at 53 and tried to disappear so her family could not trace her. After her whereabouts were publicized in a newspaper, she met with her family and was accepted by her daughters. A photo in the book shows Judy holding a grandchild in her arms. (cont'd. p. 9).

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## Book Review: BodyShock (cont'd.)

Hodgkinson looks carefully at the effect that transsexuals have on other people. She does this with an appreciation of the vulnerability of someone considering how to come out and also, with an understanding of how frightened and baffled other people can be by the revelation. To TSs, who have lived many years with the knowledge of the contrast between their "real" self and how they appear to the world, the whole situation seems totally normal, if perplexing, and demands very difficult decisions. The odds of avoiding causing shock, bewilderment or consternation to a family member or a spouse of a TS are virtually nil. Yet, with great sensitivity and care, it is possible, BodyShock suggests, to help them through the initial pain and panic, and to preserve something of the previous relationship in a renewed, if inevitably very different, one. The book also poses questions about the dilemma of the TS who is accidentally found out by the mate - whose sense of betrayal at not being entrusted with such crucial information seriously threatens the relationship.

There is also a chapter in which the author contrasts homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals. Her distinction among them - that sexual arousal by dressing is always the motive for transvestites but never for transsexuals - is neat but also, rather too sweeping.

BodyShock concludes with a chapter entitled, "Transsexualism and the Battle of the Sexes", which touches on a theme from Janice Raymond's book, The Transsexual Empire (Beacon Press, Boston, 1979). That is, that transsexuals have a part to play in narrowing the gap between the sexes but are actually, according to Raymond, increasing it. The argument is based on the premise

that TSs have a uniquely privileged view and understanding of both the male and the female experience, and are living proof of the common ground between the sexes, and therefore, should be in the forefront of the battle to change male (and female) attitudes as to what comprises masculinity and femininity.

Yet, Raymond argues, most male-to-female TSs meekly conform to the stereotyped image of femininity, once they have finished "the change." We are human beings first and foremost, she claims, and only after the recognition of that should we be regarded as male or female. Still, who better to lead the way than transsexuals? They should, as Hodgkinson describes Raymond's stance, "point the way and could teach us much if they were not so desperate to repudiate every thing they possibly can about their original sex." However, most TSs have lived their lives not as the front-line troops ready to leap out of the trenches that Raymond seems to require, but more as secret agents deep in enemy territory, who feel isolated and vulnerable, and are frightened by the penalty which would arise from discovery. Certainly TSs have their part to play, but only after society has been persuaded to take them seriously.

And, that's where BodyShock comes in. It is the best introduction to the whole subject of transsexualism and is a remarkable piece of writing, detached yet very sympathetic. Everyone should buy this book, the only question is: how many copies? For anyone who thinks they might ever want to explain the TS experience, a second copy is a must.

[Reprinted from TV Scene, Issue 5, 1988. BodyShock is available for £6 from TMC Publishing Ltd., Dept. TV55, 403-409 Bury Old Road, Prestwich, Manchester, U.K. M25 5PS.]

GENDER NETWORKING: COMPUTER BULLETIN BOARD SERVICES IN THE U.S.A.

THE JERSEY SHORE SYSTEM, Ocean County, New Jersey, 609-693-8849, 300/1200/2400 baud. Log on using the name APRIL MAY and enter the password FRIENDS (all caps). This gets you into a sub-board of the main system. If you wish access to GENDER FORUM (a special subsection for the gender community, featuring monthly electronic newsletter, "Hot Stuff", on fashion and gender news, discussions on cross-dressing, and photos of some of the participants) you may register for a \$15 fee.

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GENDER NET, Oakland, California, 415-763-5173, 300/1200 baud. The oldest continuously-run BBS dedicated to the TV/TS community. Two board sections: private (available to subscribers only) and public.

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PASSING FANCY, Alexandria, Virginia, 703-765-6290, 300/1200/2400 baud. Two sections: private (available to subscribers only) and public. Answer system prompt with FANCY to access the public section.

\* \* \*

CAROLYN'S CLOSET, Minneapolis, Minnesota, 612-452-2676, 300/1200 baud. Free. User-written stories, outreach, discussion and files on gender issues. Private electronic mail may be sent to other participants.

\* \* \*

PRETTY IN PINK, California, 415-570-4639. NO other info' available.

\* \* \*

FEMINET, Gender BBS, Felton, California, 408-335-4387. Free. To access the gender section (a hidden superset of a public board, "Digicomputronica", offering message areas), press K, E, Y, pausing between letters, when you see the WELCOME menu.

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Gender \* Networker

RECENT/UPCOMING EVENTS

"BE ALL YOU WANT TO BE WEEKEND", (sixth annual), June 9-12, Detroit, co-sponsored by Chi Chapter, Paradise Club, Crossroads and TransPitt. Over 230 participants attended. The guest speakers were: Sister Mary Elizabeth, Dr. Richard Docter, Virginia Prince and Naomi Owen. The program included: a beauty course, a Hawaiian luau, a talent show and a special TS workshop. Next year's event will be held in Chicago.

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SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER ISSUES FOR THE 90s, Part I of an All-Day Institute given by the 2nd Int'l Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation Conference, July 20, 1988. Presenters included: Anne Bolin, Ph.D. ("The Anthropology of Cross-Gender Roles"), Ari Kane, M.Ed. ("The Social Dynamics of Gender Shifts"), Nancy Ledins, Ph.D. ("Past Life Imprinting"), Naomi Owens, J.D. ("Social Contact Groups for Crossdressers"), Tomye Kelley, M.A. ("Cycling in the Gender-Conflicted and the Crossdresser") and Clinton Jones, M.Div. ("Theological Reflections on Gender Issues"). A \$15 audiotape is available from the Outreach Institute, Box 368, Boston, Mass. 02215.

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FANTASIA FAIR (14th Annual), Oct. 14-23, 1988, Provincetown, Mass. Live, learn and explore diverse aspects of alternative gender lifestyles. Programs for spouses & girlfriends. Fantasia Fair, Lincolnia Stn., Box 11254, Alexandria, Virginia 223312.

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The NATIONAL MEETING of the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, Nov. 12, 1988, San Francisco (featuring the symposium, "Masculinity in Flux", sponsored by the Outreach Institute). Contact: SSSS, Box 208, Mount Vernon, Iowa (319-895-8407).

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August 1988

## Film Review: VERA

Starring Ana B. Nogueira, a film by Sergio Toledo, presented by Jerry Winter & Grange Communications, an Embrafilme Production, Brazil, 1987, in Portuguese, English subtitles.

Reviewed by Rupert Raj

The story of a woman longing to be a man, "VERA" is the only film ever to portray a classic case of a female-to-male transsexual. (The lesbian sorority cannot justly claim Vera as one of their "sisters this time" - as they arbitrarily tried to do with Radclyffe Hall who told her story in "The Well of Loneliness").

Vera Bauer is an orphaned, teenage, ex-convict, living with her guardian in Brazil, who dresses and tries to work as a man, and who passionately wants to be one. Bauer (as "he" likes to be called) "freaks out" when "invaded" by "his" first menses, not able to comprehend why this is happening to "him" - who should have been born a boy rather than trapped inside a girl's body. Bauer is similarly bewildered when "he" is "told off" at work for wearing a suit and tie - angrily retaliating that "he" is dressed in the correct fashion while a co-worker is not because he lacks a tie. If this is not sufficient indication of "his" transsexualism, Bauer adamantly refuses to remove "his" undershirt when urged by "his" female "straight" lover, and jumps out of bed and her life forever - feeling hostile, humiliated and hurt that she does not regard "him" as a male lover, as a boyfriend - something a "butch dyke" (masculine lesbian) would not do. To top it off, Bauer desperately appeals to his guardian (a kindly professor who feels for "his" anxious and depressed ward) to help him get to the U.S. where sex-reassignment is possible.



Yet, regrettably for Bauer, and the viewer, the ending of the film is left up in the air as "he" returns to the orphanage to consider, in solitary contemplation "his" seemingly hopeless plight of gender-discomfort and "his" futile quest for long-sought gender-congruity.

Other than the powerful and poignant performance of Nogueira (who deservedly won the 1987 Berlin Film Festival Award for her role as Vera Bauer), there is another very good reason to view this film. It pertains to GR resource workers and helping professionals. We must take care never to entirely forget those same emotions of acute agony and debilitating despair afflicting the "true TS" that we ourselves, at one time, experienced, while at the same time, to never compromise our objective stance and professional detachment (although quite a feat, not impossible to do), so as to prevent the clinical arrogance, uninformed presumption and manipulative power-tripping that a lot of non-GR gender clinicians are guilty of. Knowing both sides of the fence, we have no excuse to act in this way.

Tribute To: DR. LEO WOLLMAN



Leo Wollman, M.D. - a veteran practitioner in endocrinology, gynecology, plastic surgery, psychiatry, hypnotherapy and acupuncture - has for all time made his mark in the transgender community. He worked with the late Dr. Harry Benjamin, and has treated thousands of transsexuals, crossdressers and gay people in his Brooklyn office. He also facilitates a support group for TSs which meets regularly. And over the years, he has actively participated in a variety of educational and therapeutic activities designed to aid the gender-conflicted/confused.

For instance, he has served on the Advisory Boards of the Erickson Educational Foundation, CONFIDE: Personal Counseling Services, and the Foundation for the Advancement of Canadian Transsexuals, and was also, a Professional Consultant to the former Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation. In addition, he was one of the founding members of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association.

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Gender \* Networker

Dr. Wollman has to his credit the editing of the 35 mm. docudrama, "Born A Man, Let Me Die A Woman" - a film about male-to-female transsexuals (in which he also appeared) that was shown in theatres in 1979.

A prolific writer on sexuality, several of his more than 60 papers have included the following:

**TRANSSEXUALISM: Gynecological Aspects**, Transactions of the New York Academy of Sciences, Series II, 29 (4):463, Feb. 1967a.

**SURGERY FOR THE TRANSSEXUAL**, Journal of Sex Research, 3(2):145-47, May 1967b.

**TRANSVESTISM AND HYPNOTISM**, British Journal of Medical Hypnotism, 15(3):2-4, 1967a.

**CROSS-GENDER IDENTITY (TRANSSEXUALISM)**, Journal of the American Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine, 15(3):84-87, July 1968.

**OFFICE MANAGEMENT OF POSTOPERATIVE MALE TRANSSEXUALS**, Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment, Richard Green & John Money (Eds.), Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, 1969.

An editor too, he has edited the American Society of Clinical Hypnosis Newsletter, the Journal of the Society of Psychosomatic Dentistry and Medicine, the Society for the Scientific Study of Sex Newsletter, and was Associate Editor of the Journal of Sex Research. He has also served on the editorial board of the Journal of Family Counseling and the Journal of Homosexuality.

Dr. Wollman graduated from Columbia University, New York University and the Edinburgh Medical School. At one time, he taught in a private school. He has also been ordained as a minister of the Universal Life Church. Versatile for sure!

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### Tribute To: Dr Leo Wollman (contd)

At the age of 70, Dr Wollman decided to go into retirement, a month after undergoing a coronary bypass operation in March 1984.

The good doctor has received many honors and awards, and has been granted a host of honorary assignments and memberships to various scientific societies. He was given an Honorary Life Membership in the MMRF and was also recently presented with an "Award of Merit" by former President Rupert Raj.

Dr. Wollman has been featured in Gender Review (September 1978 and July 1980) and in the Metamorphosis newsletter (June 1984).

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### NEW TRANSABRIDGED DICTIONARY

[The entries below are a sample of those listed in a new transabridged dictionary written by Megan G. and Diana C. and published by Morning Star Ltd. Additional entries to this listing were provided by Becky O. Reprinted from Twenty Minutes.]

**transboring**, tranz-bore'ing, adj., when a pre-op male-to-female transsexual can speak of nothing except how well she can pass in public.

**transfection**, tranz-fec'shun, n. 1. the virus that causes a transsexual to seek the transfix. 2. what causes gender dysphoria in a transsexual.

**transfix**, tranz-fiks', n. the surgical procedure of altering or 'fixing' external genitals to conform to the inborn gender identity code.

**transformer**, tranz-for'mer, n. 1. a surgeon who performs the transfix. 2. a former transsexual of either gender who has passed through this stage to become a real woman or man.

**transit**, tranz-it', n. 1. a neutered transsexual. 2. one who has really been 'fixed'.

**transitive**, tranz-i'tive, adj. a transsexual very sensitive about not passing.

**translate**, tranz-late', v. when a post-op male-to-female transsexual has missed her period.

**translocate**, tranz-lo'kate, v. the act of finding a transformer to do the transfix.

**transmate**, tranz-mate', 1. n. transsexual roommates. 2. v. when a male-to-female and female-to-male transsexual attempt to produce offspring.

**transmeditation**, tranz-me-di-ta'shun, n. a specialized technique of meditation used by transsexuals to convince themselves they are gender dysphoric.

**transmigrant**, tranz-mi'grant, n. a transsexual who changes location during transition to avoid detection.

**transmiserable**, tranz-mis'er-abil, adj. 1. a post-op transsexual not happy with the transfix. 2. a pre-op transsexual not yet approved for hormone therapy.

**transoceanic**, tranz-o-she-ahn'nick, adj. a transsexual who goes overseas for a lower costing transfix.

**transom**, tranz-sum', n. a large sum of money paid by the transsexual to the transformer and hospital for the transfix.

**transpire**, tranz-pi'er, v. when a transsexual dies on the operating table.

**transude**, tranz-soode', v. what a transsexual did to the transformer when he or she didn't like the results of the transfix.

## RECENT BOOKS IN PRINT

GENDER DYSPHORIA: Development, Research, Management, Betty W. Steiner (Ed.), Plenum Press, New York, 1985, 430 pps. (\$77 Cdn.). Nine specialists from the University of Toronto and the Clarke Institute of Psychiatry contributed to this tome. Collected papers include: the origin of gender identity, the etiology of transexualism, gender disorders in childhood, the meanings of cross-dressing, transsexuals, transvestites and their partners, and medical-legal issues.

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MASCULINITY/FEMININITY: Basic Perspectives (Vol.1, The Kinsey Institute Series), June Machover Reinisch, Leonard Rosenblum & Stephanie Sanders (Eds.), Oxford University Press, New York, 1987, 364 pps. (\$30). Twenty-three specialists, including: John Money, Anke Ehrhardt, Frank Beach, Roger Gorksi, Sandra Bem and Eleanor Maccoby contributed to this compendium on sexual differentiation. The book examines masculinity/femininity from a number of perspectives: psychobiological, neuroscientific, evolutionary, behavioral genetics, developmental, psychosocial, and cultural.

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'THE SISSY BOY SYNDROME' AND THE DEVELOPMENT OF HOMOSEXUALITY, Richard Green, Yale University Press, New Haven, Conn., 1967. This 15-year investigation identifies a correlation between boyhood effeminacy - including an early, intense desire to be a girl - and becoming homosexual or bisexual as an adult.

\* \* \*

THE SPIRIT AND THE FLESH: Sexual Diversity In American Indian Culture, Walter Williams, Beacon Press, Boston, 1986 (\$22 U.S.). This field study presents proof that the N.A.

Indian institution of the berdache - the religiously and culturally-sanctioned adoption by men of female social roles - is still practised by traditionalist tribespeople. The author (openly gay) is a scholar of Indian culture.

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THE UNINVITED DILEMMA: A Question Of Gender, Kim Elizabeth Stuart, Metamorphous Press, Portland, 1983, 173 pps. (\$12.50 U.S.). The book for new transsexuals, significant others and professionals new to the field of gender dysphoria, it focusses on: gender and sexuality, going to school and working, childhood, adulthood, medical arts, and androgyny. [Gender Worker has sold 167 copies.] A RESEARCH SUPPLEMENT 61 pps. (\$12.50) is also available.

\* \* \*

SEX AND THE BRAIN, Jo Durden-Smith & Diane deSimone, Arbor House Publishing, New York, 1983, 325 pps. (Warner Books). A pioneering study of the inborn genetic differences in the brains of men and women, it attempts to answer the question: Is biology destiny? This controversial report of new scientific discoveries that challenge accepted views of our sexual nature and roles includes sections on nature/nurture, the sexing of the brain, the brain and the body, sex, and society.

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SEXUAL VARIATIONS: Fetishism, Sado-masochism and Transvestism, Chris Gosselin & Glenn Wilson, Simon & Schuster, New York, 1980, 191 pps. (\$13 U.S.). Two psychologists from Britain's University of London and the Maudsley Institute explore the personalities, preferences, quirks and fantasies of variant groups of people, including transsexuals (whom they lump together with transvestites) and their mistresses, and compare their sexual patterns with control groups.

## EDUCATIONAL TV CHANNEL

ETVC is support group that serves the educational, social and recreational needs of gender-challenged people, their spouses, significant others, family members friends and helping professionals. A bimonthly newsletter is published. ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.



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## THE TRANSSEXUAL VOICE

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## The Transsexual Phenomenon

By Dr. Harry Benjamin

By special arrangement with Crown Publishers, this long out of print book is available again in limited quantities from *The Human Outreach & Achievement Institute*. Deluxe Edition, \$39.95, Regular Edition, \$34.95. Add \$3.50 postage and handling. Send remittance to the Institute at: Kenmore Station, Suite 368, Boston, MA 02215-0368



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The Gender Gene (cont'd. from p.1)

sculpt the brain, making men's gray matter different from women's. Now researchers are looking for these other crucial pieces of genetic material, hoping to solve the rest of the ago-old puzzle of sexual differentiation. (Excerpted from Cell as reported in Twenty Minutes)

Now, the odd mystery of people who are genetically women but recognizably men has been solved by Finnish researchers. Our sex is determined at conception, and results from the activities of the X and Y chromosomes. Women normally have two Xes, men one X and one Y. Yet a small number (one man in 20,000) have two X chromosomes. Why are these double-X men not women? One of the two X chromosomes, the one that comes from the father, has seemingly suffered an accident. To verify this, a team of researchers under Dr. Albert de la Chapelle, of Helsinki, Finland, investigated a double-X child and his parents. Normally, a father's cells would split to provide sperm with an X or Y. But in the case of this boy, one of his chromosomes had enough Y affixed to it to make him appear male-although he would be sterile. The question was whether the chromosomes with the added Y came from the father or the mother. The most likely guess in this case would be the father, as the mother would not have any Y if she were normal. The Helsinki group's success was that, for the first time they found evidence for this supposition. One of the boy's two Xes had some Y genes along with some other factors that only the father had. Moreover, the same chromosomes were short of another factor found only in the father. That is, in possibly only one sperm a bit of chromosome had fallen off and been replaced by the fragment of Y. (Excerpted from the Sunday Times, U.K., May 2, 1984).

Just prior to the dissolution of the Metamorphosis Medical Research Foundation, former Founding President Rupert Raj issued 50 "Awards of Merit" to helping professionals and resource workers for meritorious service in the devotion of time and effort to the cause of the gender-dysphoric community. Mr Raj wishes to continue to acknowledge deserving individuals in the form of a new award for specific, significant, current contributions. These awards will take the form of honorable mention until such time as certificates become available.

The first four awards go to the following people: to Ariadne Kane, Director of The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute in Boston, and JoAnn Roberts, Director of The Renaissance Education Association in King of Prussia PA -for reprinting Dr. Harry Benjamin's classic, The Transsexual Phenomenon. And to Lynn K., former President of the Gender Identity Clinic of Colorado and Christine M. President of same - for establishing a transgender legal defense fund (under the auspices of The International Gender Education Response [TIGER] to help support the rights and freedoms of the transgender community.

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