Sex-op lands pilot the sack

A SEX change operation brought an airline pilot down to earth with a bump.

The operation was a success, but the airline he worked for sacked him.

Now pilot Kenneth Ulane, 39 — renamed Karen—Is suing Eastern Airlines in Chicago for £2million. She alleges sex discrimination and wants her £30,000-a-year lob back.

The airline, who employed Karen for 12 years, dismissed her because she was taken on as a man and they feared she might cause problems returning as a woman.

Karen, a blonde divorcee, was decorated for bravery during the Vietnam war.

After her operation last year, she was declared fit to fly by the Federal Aviation Administration, the governing body of American commercial flying.

She said: "I knew from as far back as I can remember that I was different."

AUGUST 16th 1981