

V O L 1 0 - N O 1 0 4 (E S T A B L I S H E D 1 9 5 4) M A Y 1 5 1 9 8 2 .

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NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

Hello Girls:

It wasn't a bad day for the girls to get together for their usual bits of chatter and to be with one another. The evening started off with the girls at the bar having their drinks and tid-bits untill most of the girls were here. Now Wilma comes out with a special Fruit punch for the girls to have and to celebrate another happy year of marriage for Michelle Ann and Dennie. Let me tell you this punch had some kick, Elanda was eating the fruit and drinking the punch pretty steady, so you can guess how she was feeling. Somehow they all seemed to enjoy the fruit. Michelle Ann was in the right mood last night that she ate the fruit and drank some of Wilmas potent stuff. All in all the girls really had a good time. The girls here were: Denie and Michelle Ann from Somerville, Mass., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Sue from Nassau, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Cheryl from Troy, N.Y., Alice from Colonie, N.Y., Renne from Stratford, Conn., Frances from Rochester, N.Y., Pricilla from Scotia, N.Y., Malinda from Messina, N.Y., Beverly from Rexford, N.Y., Connie and Alice from Cooperstown, N.Y., Wilma and I.

The meal for these girls was a nice rare Roast beef, mashed potatoes, corn, honey buttered carrots, cauliflower with cheese sauce, stuffing and gravy, cottage cheese and apple sauce, rolls and butter. For dessert we had one of Elandas famous cakes which she made special for Michelle Ann and Dennies anniversary. All I can say to Vi and Sonya is that the mashed potatoes and stuffing with gravy was a real treat as it was delicious, sorry you girls had to miss your favorite.

It is always nice to see Connie and Alice here up from their winter home and in their summer home up north. this gives them a chance to meet with some of our girls up this way.

Elanda and Cheryl did some fancy stepping to lively music, while some of the other girls were chatting away. Somehow the girls find things to say and do that the evening slips by to that one O'clock deadline.

I want to give my thanks to Dennie for her help in the kitchen and to the other girls that came to bring the food to the table.

My special thanks to Renne and Frances for their Birthday gifts to me, and to the girls who have sent me birthday cards.

A couple of the girls went with Pricilla to her cabin up north and they are going to hike up in the woods today and clean up some wood for Pricilla so she will have all her fire wood for next season to make that wonderful syrpy we all enjoy on our pancakes and french toast that she brings us each year.

Cheryl was telling me about her trip shopping with Yvonne and Vickie in Poughkeepsie and how good it made her feel. She was completely at ease with herself and enjoyed her shopping trip. It was nice of Yvonne and Vickie to take Cheryl shopping, as I know that a lot of the girls like the idea of going out shopping, but don't have the nerve as they are afraid of being read and perhaps run into some kind of trouble. Dress properly and avoid heavy makeup and I am sure you would not be read as easily as if you would if you appeared overdressed. Some could readily pass as women with no problem, and then some of the girls would have to be very careful in how they present themselves as not to cause disturbances because then you loose what you have tried to do in being accepted as a woman. If you are out shopping and you feel someone looking at you just keep calm and finish doing what your doing, don't start rushing and keep cool as if you didn't even see them looking at you. Some times if you ignore their gazes they will just move on and that will be it. When you get home take a check of yourself, was your makeup on alright, was your beard covered good, how about your dress, was it too short, did your slip show, was your hair nice and neat and not all frizzy and uncombed looked. If you can say that you check out on all these things then you had nothing to worry about. Always keep in mind that you dress your age and act like the lady you are portraying and you will therefore be judged only as a nice lady. Don't for heavens sake think that this is something easy you want to do, carelessness could cause you to have some very embarrassing moments, not only for you but whoever may be with you. For an example: Cheryl passed well enough that Vickie didn't hesitate to introduce her to her friend whom she happened to run into while they were out shopping, Cheryl didn't get up tight but acted mannerly and enjoyed the fact that she was introduced as Cheryl.

Looks, like I'm at my end so I'll say bye for now and we'll see some of you next month and then off for two months for the summer.

Stay healthy, happy, and have a good summer.

LOVE TO ALL
HELEN

W I L M A ' S V I E W S

THE AVERAGE CROSS - DRESSER:

Have you ever thought what an average cross - dresser was like, what made him the way he is and what are some of the components that have made up his life and experiences? Well, I have often thought about this and adding together some interesting statistics that I have gathered over the years, I would like to relate the results. Because of having the opportunity to look at over 1,000 categories, I believe that I should put these facts together and see what comes out. First of all, I should state that I'm not trying to place anyone in a "pigeon-hole" as such, but merely trying to piece together what the average TV is all about. I should also state that using over three thousand applications, I can conclude, with a good deal of accuracy, what areas of development and likes and dislikes the average TV consists of. So with this bit of information as a prelude, let's see what does make up our "average TV".

He was first attracted to some article of feminine clothing, something "silky" about age ten. Before this age most TV's don't remember, but ~~must~~ recall some associated interest in "Femme-things" even earlier. He was one of 3 children and felt some degree of envy toward a sister, playmate or cousin a few years older than himself. This interest started from noticing the difference in clothing and to some degree, ignorance of the physical differences that made up girls. The curiosity grew to experimentation with articles that were readily available in the bathroom or laundry. Upon trying on something feminine, usually undies, an excitement resulted and a pleasing sense was felt inside. Experimentation with more than one article developed with an increasing feeling of self satisfaction at how he looked as a girl and about age 14, some trial cosmetics were used, mostly lipstick.

Development as a boy seems to be fairly average except a definite desire to prove "being a man" by participating of sports of all kinds. The guilt feeling usually became quite pronounced in the middle teens with constant purges resulting, such as "never to do it again". Also, a good degree of confusion became evident in the middle teens regarding whether our average TV was "Gay" or not. The feeling that he was the only man in the world that liked to dress as a girl and strong feelings of sexual attraction toward girls caused periods of depression which were ended by some masculine feat being accomplished.

Mr. Average TV started buying some intimate articles of feminine apparel in his late teens as money became available & his taste become more sophisticated. After high school he went into service; majority served at least 2 years with "dressing" opportunities confined to leaves. The "desires" seemed to diminish somewhat while in the service, but become more pronounced once a civilian again. Dating was frequent & Mr. Average TV was well accepted by the ladies, although his search for understanding from his girl friends regarding his femme desires took him to many different girls. He told at least 1 person of his desires, usually a girl friend. The reaction of these "informed" people was mostly a "so what" type of thing, but little help or encouragement was ever realized. Mr. Average has 1 yr. & 1 semester of college education & is a business man or professional. The incidence of financial success seems to be about on the norm with most men. Mr. Average is 35 yrs. old, married (once) & has 2 children.

He didn't tell his wife anything about his TV desires before marriage, although a large percentage, nearly one-third, did tell the wife-to-be, because he thought his urges would diminish or disappear after marriage. To his shock, the desire returned within a year of marriage & seemed to increase after that time. Secrecy was still maintained, but guilt, fear & depression built to a high level. Mr. Average TV went to see a psychiatrist for approximately 3 sessions within 2 yrs. after marriage, but was disappointed with the results & lack of knowledge on the subject. His pattern seemed to be one of buying complete feminine costumes, including shoes & some makeup. Dressing in these things whenever possible including business trips out of town.

After much agony with the realization that he either couldn't or wouldn't quit he told all or as much as he knew to his wife. This very tense occasion took place about 3 yrs. after marriage. The average reaction by the wife to her TV husband is one of some degree of understanding. At least permitting dressing while she is not present & an occasional feminine gift was received. It is interesting to note that the early TVIC applications showed little acceptance by the wife & a helpful wife was usually the exception. With the last 500 applications averaged in, however, acceptance to a good degree is now normal and complete hostility is very much the exception. Our Mr. average TV is fairly stable now and is trying to integrate his femme desires into a normal, reasonably healthy life. There you have it: nothing really new or startling, but a factual account of just what TVism is about these days. The results should dispell much of the professional conclusions published in the past based on a few case studies with extreme patterns of behavior. But for now our average TV looks very average and blends into the norms of the average male in society.

PARTIES :

There are many TVs who resent having having to pay a charge to attend a party. However, I have yet to meet one person ever having made any substantial gain from hosting TV parties. Even if a profit was made, it is usually so small as not to even compensate for the time and the effort involved in settinf up such parties. How many of you would open your home to such parties DAM FEW.... Remember, there are the chores of cleaning up afterwards and the refreshments and food to be taken care off. Then there is the chore of repair- ing any potential minor damage done during the party (cigarette burns etc.) When you consider the many details that must be attended to, you begin to realize that any charge is being put to good use, and is far more reasonable than the amount a caterer would charge for the same service....Besides, how many places can you go free of charge for an evening of enjoyment? Not too many, so why gripe at the fee for a TV party?(if you find the fee to large stay home)You can be yourself, relaxed, mingling with other interesting people like yourself: that's more than you could do in most public places.... Others are afraid that if they attend a party, they'll be walking smack dab in the middle of some kind of an orgy. This couldn't be farther from the truth As of September party fees will be - MEMBERS \$8 (\$1 extra) -WIVES \$5 (same) GUEST \$15 (\$5 extra) If a guest becomes a member the night of a party he/she will be refunded \$7. The reason for this small extra charge is that we have been runing in the red from \$20 to \$40 at each party. If we can not break ~~WE~~ even we will just have to discontinue all parties.... MEMBERSHIP still \$17, SUBSCRIPTIONS to the JOURNAL still \$12 per year....A 4 DAY ADVANCE RESERVATION MUST BE MADE FOR ALL PARTIES. ..ALL RESERVATIONS WILL STOP AT 30 PEOPLE. NEXT PARTIES ..JUNE19th...SEPTEMBER 18th...OCTOBER 16th. No parties in july and August.....

NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of 4 new members this month.
BILL M..... BUFFALO....N.Y. CHRIS F..... SPARKS.....NEV....
MICHELL W.... ALBANY.... N.Y. JERRY K..... WESTON,ONT.. CANADA....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO

FRAN [REDACTED] JUNE 4 - BRENDA [REDACTED] JUNE 14 - BRENDA [REDACTED] JUNE 24
CAROLL [REDACTED] " 7 - PAT [REDACTED] " 18 - CONNIE [REDACTED] " 25
DOLLY S [REDACTED] " 10 - Michael [REDACTED] "1 18 - ALLEN [REDACTED] " 29
DEE DEE [REDACTED] " 13 * SALLY [REDACTED] " 23 - KARREN [REDACTED] " 30

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TOO

Mr. & Mrs. C. [REDACTED] JUNE 8 Mr. & Mrs. F. [REDACTED] JUNE 29
MR. & Mrs. K. [REDACTED] " 9

SPECIAL THANKS

TOO- Percilla Evans - Leslie Abbott - Rosemarie Eply - Carl Taylor for the extra \$ sent in to help with the postage.
TOO- Marla Chaplin - Elaine Stausel - Shiela Glass - Kristina Horne - Rose- marie Eply - Fran Vose - Linda Frank - Rachail Jacobs for the lovely pictures they sent in for the club album.
FOO- Percilla Evans for the jokes she sent in for the Journal.
TOO- Marlyn Murry - Leslie Abbott - Paula Davenport for newspaper articles.

NOTES:

JACK FOSTER does not wish to receive anymore mail. Please remove this name from your TVIC directory.

RACHEL ANN ADAMS will be in the hospital in Rochester, N.Y. to complete her change over operation on June 2nd. Best of luck - Gal.

LETTERS - If you want to write someone in reply to a letter in the Journal, you can send it % TVIC. Please send your letter in a sealed stamped envelope with a note attached stating the person whom it is to be sent.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH :

Since we are transvestites and desire the general public to accept us in our life span or as soon as possible can we really accept each transvestite on a friendship basis, no matter what personal enjoyments each other has than cross-dressing.

CORRESPONDENCE WANTED :

ARIYANANDA [REDACTED] RAYMOND C. [REDACTED] VALARIE [REDACTED]
% PETER BEECK [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Dear Wilma,

Why do I let you do this to me? First you hooked me into a chess game that could not be completed. Then you ask these Questions of the Month. Just when I think I've answered your Q of the M, along comes another issue of the journal and another batch of questions. It wouldn't be so bad if they were dumb questions. I just wouldn't bother answering them. But they are always thought-provoking.

In the April issue, you wondered Does Wilma write too much about TS? No! What you write is of interest to both TS & TV people as well as their relatives.

Does Wilma give the wrong impression about TS?

Wilma gives HER impression. Joyce gives HERS. The reader can take or reject either view.

Finally, Wilma wonders just what is a TS.

We all wonder the same thing. No one has yet been able to define it well enough to make an early diagnosis to prevent it's developing into an incurable condition.

A stranger recently asked me what is a ts, and I replied, "It's a woman who looks like a man." In simplest terms, there is truth to that definition, but it does nothing to aid in self-diagnosis. You might try a set of questions for self-analysis :

1. Did you feel - before the age of 7, that you want to be (or should be) the opposite sex?
2. Did you do at least some cross-dressing at a very early age?
3. Would you be willing to sacrifice EVERYTHING to get a sex reassignment?
4. Would you rather be married to someone of the same biological sex as yourself, or someone of the opposite genetic sex?

If all four questions seem absurd, you probably have no serious cross-gender identity problem.

If the answers to all four questions seem to indicate a transsexual nature, then it is quite possible that you are TS.

If the answers to the first two questions indicate a gender dysphoria, and the answers to the next two questions do not, you may well be TV.

If only the first and/or fourth questions indicate gender confusion, you might possibly be homosexual.

Any other combination of answers might point to the need for more extensive analysis.

However, quickie tests are not very reliable. The best indicator that I have seen in my limited experience is the adult who is normal in most respects except for the all-consuming desire to be the opposite sex. Even in the near-absense of cross-dressing, such a person could be considered to be transsexual.

Now let's take a look at your article on the international standards for treatment of gender dysphoria. You question the attitude that a complete reassignment on demand is contraindicated. Experience has shown that people seek mutilation for a variety of reasons including masochistic, psychotic and just plain whimsical. Some screening is necessary - not to discourage the honest transsexual, but to weed out the non-transsexuals. Consider the case that occurred just a few months ago involving reputable specialists with good intentions. The patient had brief psychiatric counseling and demanded full reassignment. After surgery, the patient complained that the doctors were too hasty with the scalpel and proceeded to sue all of the doctors involved in the case. A more thorough screening would have given the patient a better opportunity to consider the treatment before it had progressed to the irreversible stage.

As to your opinion regarding the sequence of hormonal therapy and the "real-life" test, I concur wholeheartedly. The initial administering of estrogen to a male patient is an excellent diagnostic tool. It is also innocuous for the first few months. Furthermore, it is obviously requisite for a social gender change. A book could be written on this topic, but let the paragraph suffice for the nonce.

Allow me to comment on one other item in that article. You proffered the concept of peer counseling and immediately dropped the idea with no comment. The concept is laden with both merit and problems. Where would we find our supply of post-ops who would volunteer their time, effort - and possibly their reputation to aid the novitiates. Some post-ops are highly trained specialists who could be helpful and deserve to be paid for their time. Others are just average people who want only anonymity and obscurity. They have neither the training nor the inclination to help the new post-op. What makes a post-op more qualified than a pre-op to render assistance to another TS? Why is the source of help limited to another TS? A compassionate TV could be helpful. An open-minded clergyman could be useful. Help could be found in a battery of lay experts including the cosmetician and the hairdresser.

The XX club of Hartford does provide informal peer counseling to the pre-op and the post-op TS. The Albany TVIC does its share. Boston has the Tiffany Club as a haven for all cross-dressers: male & female, TV & TS, pre-op & post-op. Other organizations throughout the country can and do serve as peer counseling groups. It is not within the scope of the international committee to require peer counseling as a professional standard.

Now Joyce offers her own concept of professional aid to the cross-dresser.

1. When a cross-dresser seeks professional help, the first target is usually a psychologist or a psychiatrist. Every such doctor should know at least enough about the phenomenon to recommend a specialist.
2. Psychologists & psychiatrists who specialize in the treatment of the cross-dresser (and other sexual minorities) should be at least acquainted with the nearest gender clinic. Where indicated, they should refer the patient to the clinic for enrollment in a program that is designed to provide the optimal benefit to the patient. The clinic would make the final diagnosis.
3. As to patients who display TS symptoms, hormonal therapy should be started in conjunction with continued psychotherapy.
4. In those cases where the hormonal therapy has been beneficial, the social gender change should be recommended. In the case of the male patient, extensive electrolysis should precede the gender change.
5. After several months of living in the chosen gender and having benefited from hormonal therapy, surgical reassignment should be seriously considered for any patient who demands it.
6. After a minimum of 9 months of psychotherapy, hormonal therapy, and real-life test, surgery should be scheduled for any patient who meets all of the requirements:
 - a) Physically able to withstand surgery
 - b) Of legal age OR with consent of guardian who was counseled by the psychiatrist who rendered psychotherapy to the patient
 - c) AND on the demand by the patient.

That is enough for this month. Now Joyce of Hartford must pack to move. Next month, she will be Joyce of Manchester, New Hampshire. Wish her luck! Sincerely,

Joyce
Joyce [redacted]

Dear Wilma;
Please convey my deepest appreciation, to the people that have written me. Their response---though un-expected---was a real thrill, and I know that Velvet shares this thought. In this respect, the people (which we READ about), attending the Meetings, have become Friends, and we have the illusion of being with you, not---in "spirit"---but as really being there. Thank you, very much, for allowing us to become a "Real Part", of the TVIC. PRISCILLA [redacted]...MEMPHIS....TENN.....

Dear Wilma & Helen:
Re: Question of the month.
(Q) Do you write to much about the TS's. (A) NO.
(Q) Are you giving the wrong impression? (A) NO.
(Q) What I think a TS is? (A) A person that does what a TV dreams of doing.
JANET F....EAST ROCKAWAY....N.Y.....

THE PENILE PROSTHESIS:
Garrett Oppenheim reported in No. 6 of TRANSITION; A Confide Publication, ~~XX~~ ~~XX~~ OCT. 1978, that an impotent male patient who had had the Scott prosthesis implanted, then flew across the U.S.A. and after performing sexual intercourse superbly, could not get his phallus down when he pressed the "deflator" ~~X~~ button. So, hiding his erection penis underneath a raincoat, he flew back to the operating surgeon who discovered the problem to be a defective valve. So, beware--there are problems with this penile prosthesis!

SEX-CHANGE SURGERY CHANGES INCOME, TOO: Men who underwent a sex-change operation to become women earned less money in their work than before the surgery, says Stanford University psychiatrist Dr. Norman Fisk. However, women who became men earned more money than before, added Dr. Fisk, who interviewed 173 transsexuals.....

They call panties a pair, but anything you can't lose one of, isn't really a pair.

There was a TV who tried to join the Waves so she could go down to the sea in slips. (I don't think that was so hot. Anyone got a better one.?)

Dear Wilma;

In answer to the question of the month; Should Children Be Told? This depends on the individual's particular family circumstances. If the wife is understanding & accepting, what are the ages & personalities of the children, etc. In my case I have 3 children in their teens & a wife who cannot tolerate my dressing; therefore. I see nothing to be gained by telling the children particularly as they are having a difficult enough time dealing with adolescence. I think children of this age are less tolerant than younger children or when they are into their twenties & hopefully more mature. Since my feminine self is kept well out of view of both my wife & the kids, what possible good could come from telling them?

Why Am I A TV? If I knew the answer to that question I expect I could make a pretty decent living counseling others. I suspect it has something to do with the fact that my father wasn't present during my early childhood & died when I was 10. In addition there were no other strong father figures in my life/. I have wasted countless hours searching for a plausible explanation to that question. A few years back I finally come to accept myself for what I am & I no longer have any regrets, remorse or guilt about it. I only wish I could Make my wife accept me for who I am.

Why Continue/? How does one stop being oneself? A couple of years ago I had To promise my wife I would stop in order to save my marriage. This is a promise I find just about impossible to keep.

Would I Rather Be Without The Problem? Under my particular circumstances I'm sure it would be best for the general welfare of my family if it didn't exist; however, as an individual I can only say that I Derive exquisite pleasure from it & I'll be damned if I can see what is so wrong with that. When my wife accidentally discovered about 6 years ago she tried very hard to understand, accept, tolerate, etc. At the same time, because it had now become known, I was trying to explore it more fully myself. There followed several years of quite a bit of turmoil. She saw my exploring it more fully as my being increasingly drawn into it & felt that I was "out of control". Unfortunately I have been singularly unsuccessful in explaining my feelings to her & in providing her with sufficient reassurances and she finally decided that she wanted a husband that was a man not one who enjoyed acting like a woman. I can't blame her for this but on the other hand it doesn't do me much good. P.S. I enjoy exchanging letters & photos with other members. KRISTINA.

K. [REDACTED]

Dear Wilma:

In answer to the Question of the month.; How Did I buy My Wig? I purchased my 1st wig about a year ago. I selected a nice wig store, kind of out of the way. It took a while to get my courage up, a long while truthfully, but I went right in & acted as if I knew exactly what I wanted. An Oriental lady (the owner) & a 30 year old or so black lady were there & asked if they could help. The Oriental lady was busy & really took no notice of me as thinks went on. I asked the black lady to show me the ecomoney section. She seemed a little confused as to why I was there & at 1st ~~kindly~~ simply looked, finally, with her help I found several styles I liked & then, I came up with all my courage & asked her if I could try them on. She seemed surprised for a moment, then nervoisly said yes. Apparently she saw I was nervous too & started chuckling. I smiled & laughed with her & she looked me straight in the eyes sort of searching me out. She saw I was not there to cause trouble and in a moment of understanding, she took charge of me as she would any of her female customers. She helped me try on each wig and explained how to care for it, etc. She sat me in front of a mirror and table & combed the wigs in different manners to shaw me what could be done with each. Needless to say, I was in a near orgasmic state of exhilaration for 35-40 minutes there. Since this was in a time of day in which business was slow, she only had to leave 2 or 3 times to assist other customers, none of whom paid any attention. Though I told the girl I'd leave if other customers came in, she never made any insinuation or remark that I was in the way. I rather think she enjoyed the experience, too. I've been there twice since then and she treats me very kindly, cordially and modestongly. KATIE...

M. THOMAS...NORTH CHARLESTON...S.C.....

H E L P:::::

I have learned that Dr. Stanley Bieber, a noted transsexual surgeon of Trinidad, Colorado, is having some problems which were related to us as "insurance problems". He needs testimonial from persons that he has operated on. Also If you know ANYONE who has successfully completed the surgery, you can help Dr. Biber by convincing your friend (s) to write a letter that documents how they've fared post-surgically - in the areas of employment, income, lovelife, genital functioning, etc. They needn't have had Dr. Biber as their surgen to help, for what's needed is testimony on the effectiveness of surgical treatment, not on Dr. Biber's ability or integrity. Support letters should be sent to Dr. Biber's attorney, Joseph Jaudon, 717 17th Street, Denver, Colorado. 80702. I ask that other tv/ts groups also pass this information along to their members.

Sex-Change Man Changes Back

By PATRICIA TOWLE

He was a man who became a woman — and now he's back to being a man!

In one of the most bizarre sex-change stories ever, Ronald Earl Rigsbee had surgery to turn him into a woman — then 10 years later had an operation to make him back into a man.

When he was a woman, Rigsbee says, he was raped and discriminated against, got into lesbian relationships and became so despondent that he tried to kill himself 36 times.

And then, he says, God called him to become a man again . . . and work as an evangelist who can understand the problem of either sex!

"As Susan Jeanette Fontaine, I fooled everyone — my female roommates, my boyfriends and even doctors," Rigsbee told *The ENQUIRER* in an exclusive interview. "The only person I couldn't fool was myself. But when I was down as low as any human being can be, God reached down and saved me.

"It was at that point I knew He wanted me to be His little Ronnie once again. And I am repaying God by not only becoming the man He created, but also an evangelist to spread His word."

Born a boy in 1944, Rigsbee grew up confused and dreaming about frilly dresses and growing up into a beautiful woman.

After a stint in the Navy, Rigsbee tried a number of jobs and finally became a junior administrator at a Philadelphia college. "I set about becoming a respected man in the community," he said. "But I wasn't happy. As hard as I tried to work at being a man, I felt incomplete."

That's when Rigsbee read an article describing sex-change surgery. In 1970, at age 26, he underwent operations that changed him from a man into a woman.

"Waking up after surgery to find I was a woman was one of the happiest moments of my life," he remembered.

Rigsbee went on to have almost 20 more operations — including extensive cosmetic surgery — to become the most perfect woman possible. He changed his name to Susan Jeanette Fontaine.

But life as Susan wasn't the bed of roses Ronnie had thought it would be. The initial shock came when he was raped.

"I know it's something every woman fears. But for me it was totally horrifying," he said. "This was my first sexual experience as a woman. I'd gone to a club in the Lower East Side of New York City to apply for a job as a dancer. The club manager locked the office door, then attacked and raped me.

"It was hard to forget such a terrifying experience. I wanted my knight in shining armor. I wanted to march down the aisle in pure white. I wanted a loving husband and children. I wanted all those things every woman wants. And this experience had spoiled it.

"For more than a year I couldn't have anything to do with men. For a short time I even became a lesbian. This may seem odd because as a man I had never enjoyed making love to women. But as a woman, I was revolted by what I saw as the sexual exploitation of women by men.

"I remember one job I had as a barmaid.

"Men would try to pick me up. They'd say, 'Hey honey, how about coming up to my place tonight?' And

I wanted to tell them, 'I know that line. I've been a man myself.' But of course I didn't. I kept my identity a secret."

As Susan, Rigsbee lived with female roommates. "None of them ever knew my secret," he recollected. "I was just one of the girls.

"None of my boyfriends ever knew



HIM Ronnie was in the Navy before his first sex change.



TO HER After switch, he became Miss Susan Fontaine, a barmaid.

I was once a male either. Even doctors didn't know my past," said the man who switched and then switched back.

But Rigsbee was not happy as Susan. "I was depressed," he said. "Even though the world saw me as a normal female, I was not normal. I thought of myself as a woman and I

looked like a woman, but going to bed with a man was still something unnatural. It wasn't right."

Thirty-six times, Susan tried to kill herself, said Rigsbee.

Then in 1980, she began to attend church. "This was the turning point in my life. I began asking myself, 'Who am I? Suzie or Ronnie? Male or female?'"

"Finally I came to the realization that I could never serve the Lord completely as Suzie. She had to go so that the man God had created could live.

"I realized then that Suzie had been a lie.

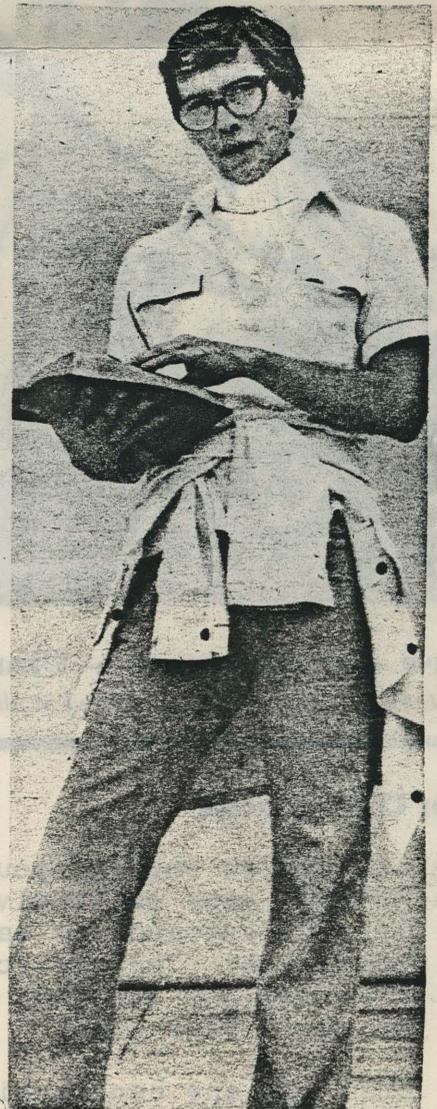
"If God had intended me to be female, He would have created me that way," he said.

So last November, Rigsbee went back to being a man again — he had his breasts removed and underwent hormone treatments.

Although doctors could not restore him completely as a man, Rigsbee said, "I will live out the remainder of my days as a eunuch for the Lord — a male who has special insight into the problems of all God's children, male and female."

Rigsbee has become an evangelist in Charlotte, N.C.

"Suzie is dead and buried. I am Ronnie Rigsbee once again. I've found myself at last."



HIM AGAIN Now back into male form, he's an evangelist.

sex-change squabble

Compiled by BRIAN SCHWANER

Karen F. Ulane — a pilot for Eastern Airlines — has filed a \$4 million lawsuit in Chicago charging she was fired because of her sex-change operation. Ulane, 39, who worked 12 years for the airline as Kenneth Ulane, was fired April 24. Ulane, who flew air transport missions during the Vietnam War, is seeking reinstatement to her pilot's job, back pay, \$4 million in compensatory damages and an unspecified amount in punitive damages. Fay Clayton, Ulane's attorney, said her cli-

ent, who is divorced, told Eastern officials of her sex-change plans during the winter of 1979. She said the airline never indicated that Ulane would be out of a job after the operation. Clayton said her client had passed medical and psychological tests and received a first-class medical certificate from the Federal Aviation Administration. The suit includes a letter signed by Thomas R. Buttton, Eastern's senior vice president for operations, telling Ulane that pilots indicated they would not fly with her. Ulane's presence, the letter added, "would undermine the effort to reass-

sure passengers as to the safety of air transportation" and said she would not have been hired if Eastern had known she was contemplating a sex change. Clayton said the Airline Pilots Association has filed a grievance on behalf of Ulane, who once was a union representative for the group. Ulane attempted to settle the case out of court, but rejected Eastern's offer of \$2,100 a month, Clayton said. As a pilot, she had earned more than \$50,000 a year.

He traded his 40-year-old wife for two 20's, and then he discovered he wasn't wired for 220.



—UPI telephoto

Karen — ex-Kenneth — Ulane

Shot out of the friendly skies — and not at all happy about it

Sex Roles May Be Harmful

... mold in order to please the parent who desired him or her so much. Such behavior is damaging, warns the psychiatrist. Expecting a child to achieve a parent's fantasy by fulfilling a preformulated pattern of exclusively masculine or feminine interests or behavior stunts the child's emotional growth.

Surprisingly, many parents wish for either a boy or a girl, "in order to have someone inherit their possessions," according to the magazine. "Fathers may want their sons as heirs to the family name but mothers are more inclined to distribute tangible property." Psychiatric social worker Shirley Cooper interprets this "bequeathal fever" as a parent's attempt to ensure his or her own immortality. "In this search for immortality," the magazine noted, "it is important to many parents that a daughter inherit her mother's traits and a son receive his father's. Immortality, they seem to think, cannot be attained through a child of the opposite sex."

"Men seem to conquer their disappointment at not having a son more quickly than women accept not having a daughter. Perhaps this is so," stated Parents, "because men have always been encouraged to make their own lives successful rather than expecting their children to provide fulfillment for them."

NEW YORK — The highest form of rejection for a child is the knowledge that his parents desired a child of the opposite sex from his own, a noted psychotherapist warns. Carol Gardner Silverman asserted in an issue of Parents magazine that this experience can severely undermine the child's sense of self-worth.

... Some children are forced into an ultramasculine or ultrafeminine mold in order to please the parent who desired him or her so much.

There is also a dangerous corollary for a child of the desired sex. Psychiatrist Joseph Schonberger believes it may pose problems as difficult to resolve as those of the "wrong sex" child. Dr. Schonberger believes some children are forced into an ultramasculine or ultrafeminine

Nude wife taking setting-up exercises gets her heels hopelessly tangled behind her head. At just that moment her myopic hubby enters room, squints her way, and says, "Better comb your hair and put your teeth in, Dear . . . you're looking more like your mother every day."

In Her Own Words

The smart way to enlarge your breasts is to know as much about your own individual physiology as possible. Understand the basic task that you must accomplish. Then select the method or combinations that you and your doctor think will help you reach your goal.

Good luck! No one can promise that exercise, vitamins, hormones, hydrotherapy or anything short of surgery will provide any of us with lasting results, and surgery may not be appropriate for each of us. But there should be a lot of fun with the correct foundation garments.



It states quite clearly on the invitation, MacFarlane—EVENING dress.