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*Transsex*  
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## The problems of transsexualism

AS SOCIETY becomes better educated, taboos fall by the wayside. Years ago the phrase "venereal disease" wasn't mentioned in polite circles. Even newspapers referred to it as "social disease."

But most "no-nos" come out of the closet sooner or later. Psychiatrists say it doesn't pay to bottle up emotions, desires and disappointments. There would be fewer suicides off the Golden Gate Bridge if disturbed persons could spill out their troubles to somebody.

George Jorgensen Jr., an American, made headlines 25 years ago when he disclosed that Danish doctors had transformed him into a woman. The former soldier, who became known as Christine, was then generally regarded as a freak.

Transsexualism is now in the open with homosexuality and transvestism. It is receiving sympathetic attention from compassionate medical specialists. These experts point out that a transsexual's desire for change is not based primarily on sexual urge but to justify a proper sense of sexual identity.

Today's best known transsexual is Renee Richards, 42, the tennis player. As a male, Richards had a thriving practice as a New York eye doctor but gave it up to concentrate on tennis to prove that transsexuals are not "psychotic or freaky."

Counseling and treatment are offered trans-

sexuals at more than 40 "gender-identity" centers in the United States, including one here at 2107 Van Ness Ave. and another at Stanford University Medical Center.

It is encouraging to know that researchers still hope they can find the cause of this tormented, psychotic suffering early enough to provide treatment and a normal sex life.