

x Trans-Scribe x

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1983

An Organisation representing Transgenderists throughout New Zealand.

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"Trans-Scribe"

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FROM THE EDITOR

EROTIC NARCISSISM: This seems to be the definition of Transsexualism as defined by a group of so-called professionals who, because they themselves are transsexual, feel they know all the answers.

By excluding anything which contradicts their ideas, they feel able to conclusively state that transsexualism is 'ABNORMAL' and that persons afflicted are indulging themselves in a type of self love manifested by becoming the object of their sexual desires.

Because the opposite sex is the object of every 'NORMAL' person's sexual desires, this group have decided that transsexuals, because they feel they are undesirable as their true selves, are obsessed with the desire to become the person of the opposite gender that they want to love.

By transferring their desires from the opposite sex to themselves they are, in effect, seeing themselves as the opposite sex and are now able to love themselves.

As my dictionary defines NARCISSISM as 'tendency to self-worship, excessive or erotic interest in ones own personal features' the use of the word erotic combined with narcissism is totally unnecessary.

In conclusion I would have to say that we are all purely and simply Narcissistic and besotted with ourselves. Therefore it would follow that there is no need for us to have any other person in our life and we only need masturbation as a means of sexual relief.

Read the article which appears in this issue and form your own opinion. THEN SEND US YOUR COMMENTS.

Subsance now due

THIS COULD VERY EASILY BE YOUR LAST COPY OF TRANS-SCRIBE.

The next issue will be coming out in June and if your subs are not paid by then you WILL be dropped from the mailing list.

Why should those who do pay their subs have to subsidise those of you who will not.

IT IS NOT EXPENSIVE The sub is still only \$15.00

It seems to me that there are a few members who are prepared to pull their weight while the rest sit back and reap the benefits. THIS HAS GOT TO STOP.

If you cannot make a contribution to Hedesthia why should Hedesthia contribute to your well-being

If there are genuine reasons for not paying your subscription I am sure that something could be arranged but please let the Secretary know.

If you wish to continue receiving Trans-Scribe, make sure that your subscription is in the mail TODAY

A Piece to ponder:

There is no more miserable human being than one in whom nothing is habitual but indecision. William ██████s.

NATIONAL REPORT AND ROUND AND ABOUT

Hi Everyone, I hope everyone's well and enjoying their particular persuasions.

It is pleasing to see Hedesthia moving forward again after being in the doldrums for so long.

Our Editor is 'hell-bent' on getting the 'Trans-Scribe' out on time. She tells me "Meet the deadline or you are on the breadline."

Joanna, who was our national secretary in the past has re-emerged and is willing to take over the position once again. I am very grateful for this as it will certainly bring things up to date once more. She has been coming over most days this week to sort things out and bring the records up to date.

For those of you waiting for a reply to your letter, don't give up hope. Yours could be in the next post.

Hedesthia has once again been asked to form a panel to speak to the student nurses at Carrington Hospital. This has become a yearly thing and is enjoyed by all who take part.

I take this opportunity to personally welcome all those who have just joined us. May your association with us be a happy and rewarding one, but remember, along with existing members, you only get back the equivalent of what you put in.

With reference to the talkback show mentioned in the last issue - to date neither Deanne nor myself have received any adverse comments or feedback. Rather the few feedbacks have all been in our favour.

I would like to stress that our financial year ends on the 31st Mar. and SUBS ARE NOW DUE. The subscription remains the same at \$15.00

Suzan [redacted] (Nat Co-ord)

CHAPTER REPORTS

I have no reports from Dunedin or the Christchurch Chapters but that is my fault to some extent as I owe both letters.

The Auckland Chapter has been having its regular Friday night meeting with good attendances. The girls have been taking advantage of the Aquarius Club on Saturday nights. A most delightful evening was spent at Joanna's nite spot - see review of this evening later in this issue.

Saturday the 2nd April was the night of the fancy dress at 64 but more about that at a later date.

AUSTRALIA

The Auckland Chapter played host to Fiona from Victoria. She proved to be a delightful and attractive person. It was interesting to get all the news of the Aussie scene first hand and to hear how Marcia is getting on. It seems that Victoria really puts an effort into their evenings

SCOTLAND

I have no immediate news from Vanessa but then I do owe her a letter. We do have an article sent over by Vanessa and will be most interested to hear your comments on a very controversial topic. The theme that our habit is of an infantile nature makes all wonder whether we should be wearing nappies instead of pantyhose.

NEW MEMBERS

The following are new additions to our membership. May I take this opportunity to extend to them a cordial welcome and hope that their association with us will be a happy and rewarding one.

- 6562 Robyn [redacted] Auck.
- 6563 Rachell [redacted] Auck.
- 6564 Roslyn [redacted] Wanganui.
- 6565 Darwina [redacted] Auck.
- 6566 Helen [redacted] Auck.
- 6567 Stephanie [redacted] Chch.
- 6568 Brenda Rita [redacted] Westland.
- 6569 Leigh [redacted] Hastings.

THE NATIONAL SECRETARY'S POSITION IS FILLED.

Hi Girls and Boys,

This is Joanna speaking. I have been asked to take over the vacant position of National Secretary and have accepted it gratefully. I feel that it is time that I did something positive for Hedesthia again. I expect a lot of members will remember me from the old days. I was one of the original founder members with Christine and ran the Upper Hutt and Wellington Chapters for a long time. I then moved to New Plymouth because of my work and drifted away from Hedesthia. While I was living in New Plymouth I started work on my own life seriously. I wanted to put my 'Brother' in the closet and be Joanna as much as possible. I succeeded up to a point but found I needed more scope. I then moved to Auckland and was determined to let Joanna come out completely. I am pleased to say that these days I live almost totally as Joanna and love my life. Even though I work in an all male environment I have been accepted as Joanna. It has taken time and I had a few personal problems to sort out but I have won. I would like to thank Hedesthia for all it stands for because without it I would not be living as I do now.

As National Secretary I hope I can shake things up a bit. I have had discussions with Suzan whom I will be in liaison with and she agrees that there are some things that need to be sorted out. I intend to straighten out the office and bring all records up to date. To achieve this I will be writing a personal letter to every name that we have on record. We will then know who are still members. Subscriptions have fallen by the wayside. It is still only \$15.00 per year and we need your support to survive. Admin costs have risen, printing, postage etc so we need you all to be financial members. Our newsletter Trans-Scribe will be published regularly. I know you all look forward to receiving it so lets make it better. We would like letters, stories, articles and comments from you that we can print. Library books are a sore point. There are a lot that have not been returned. A Lot of books were either donated or bought with Hedesthia funds. They are hard or impossible to replace. Have a look around and if you have any tucked away please send them back. Our Librarian will be making out a complete list of books that can be borrowed. If you have any books or literature that you would like to donate they will be received gratefully. Send them into Central. Well I guess thats all for now. I will be keeping in touch with you all and will welcome letters and ideas from you all. Love to you all

LADY JOANNA (6435)

THIS NUMBER IS YOUR PERSONAL MEMBERSHIP NUMBER. Please use it on all correspondence as it makes things easier for us and your reply will probably be quicker.

JOANNA'S PARTY. FRIDAY 4th MARCH 1983.

Joanna asked if members would like a change of venue for a Friday meeting. She would put on a party at her house and all members were invited so that she could get to meet them. A knockout punch and a buffet would be provided and we could bring our own. All told, counting 'Joanna's friends there were about 14 or 15 people for the evening. When we arrived we were ushered into the bar, or as it is locally know "LADY JOANNA'S NIGHTSPOT". Introductions were made in a very warm and friendly atmosphere where Joanna proved to be a very competent barmaid. Someone said that she'd had plenty of practice. It was then nice to wander round the exotic oriental lounge before going into the old english dining room where the buffet was laid out. It did look very nice and no one could resist nibbling. I was enjoying the different cheeses until I attempted to cut the ornamental piece with the mouse in it. I should be forgiven though as it was in the early hours of the morning. Tinnika gave a floor show of a kind. Fell right off her bar stool. Apparently she has done it before. I do hope your posterior wasn't too sore Tinnika. Then there was Stuart with the wandering hands. Quite 'armless really but I must get him on my own one day. The only real problem that we had occurred at about 3am. Couldn't get Robin's car to start. It was all hands for a push and Oh Dear, we demolished the corner of Joanna's wall. Yes Yours truly was steering but I was going in reverse. We must have made a bit of noise as Joanna was heard to mumble "Please don't wake the neighbours". I am usually so quiet." Those members who didn't attend missed a delightful evening. Everyone enjoyed themselves and we will be looking forward to a return visit in the near future. You will have us back wont you dear? I would like to thank Joanna for her hospitality. Well done Girl. Suzan X.

SHE'S A MAN AND HE'S A WOMAN

Continuing our story from last issue, courtesy of Sunday News.

Louise is a lucky fella.

He has a husband who is standing by him during his slow metamorphosis to womanhood.

His husband understands because he used to be a woman.

Louise and Martin are an Auckland couple who have changed sex.

Martin looks like a husky he-man. But once he was a girl with a 44 inch bust that made men's eyes pop. He is still genetically a female.

Louise is fragile, fair and feminine. She is genetically a male but sincerely believes she is a woman in a man's body. She lives as a woman - and a wife.

But it wasn't always that way.

In a remarkably candid interview with her husband, Louise confesses that her life had been "very sordid" in her search for her true identity

"I had led a sordid life, but always had the conviction that as long as I remained in possession of my own mind, nobody could hurt me.

"As a little boy I was chubby and played rugby. I wasn't a shy child but as far as other boys were concerned I was a non-issue. I preferred the company of older people

"I showed the usual interest in finding out the differences between girls and boys. I always found the company of women pleasurable, but I was sexually attracted to men. Intellectually I identified with women.

"When I was seven years old I decided I wanted to be a woman.

"I have never seen myself as being anything other than a genetic male, but emotionally a woman.

"At the age of ten I had an incestuous relationship with my brother. When I was about 12 he 'gave' me to a friend. My brother held me down but I would probably have done it even if he hadn't been there.

"I have had relationships with men ever since then.

"The only serious relationship I ever had with a woman was one who was many years older than me."

Louise had many woman friends. A lot were "Ship Molls"

"There were two sides to my life. By day I was a 'nice' boy. Then there was the other person at night.; Someone who was outrageous and outspoken, who would do anything for a laugh."

Louise had her fair share of bashings from "poofter bashers", but claims it never worried her. She had some brushes with the law.

"Some policemen were nice, some weren't."

One of her "brushes" with the law resulted in a six-month prison sentence.

"Prison was not all that bad. People talk about it being a dreadful place but I enjoyed it. There were some bad times. I was gang-raped and subjected to physical abuse.

"But before I went into prison I had been drinking heavily and was a pretty mixed up person.

"While I was in prison I determined to do something about becoming a woman."

Louise was eventually referred to a doctor who gave her the necessary hormone pills which would in time feminise her masculine features and stimulate growth of her breasts.

She has not had the famous 'cut and tuck' operation which many transsexuals have. Louise would like to have an operation outside NZ where doctors have progressed further with surgical techniques. They have a much better success rate with an operation that removes the penis and uses the same tissue and skin to create a vagina - in the one operation.

Louise and Martin were friends for several years before they gave in to their attraction.

"Initially we were very frightened of each other. I wasn't sure whether I was attracted to Martin as a masculine woman or as a man. So we just remained friends.

"Now I couldn't think of him as being anything but a man."

The one thing many homosexuals admit missing is family life - not being able to bring up their own children.

Does the same apply to transsexuals?

"Martin would like children, but I know I would make a dreadful Mother. I don't like children. They're very perceptive and can be very cruel. I've been on buses where they have deliberately asked if I was a man or a woman.

"We don't have intercourse - We'd get the giggles.

"There was a case in England of a transsexual couple who had a child but that was before they changed their sex," said Louise.

Do Martin and Louise give their marriage high chances of survival?

After all, it's a marriage between a man who was a woman and is still genetically a female, and a woman who is still genetically still a male.

"We have something that other marriages don't have. Because we have both been what the other is now, we understand each other. And we accept each other," said Louise.

"We're less likely to look at other people because there are not many people who would understand us. For that reason we are very lucky to have found each other."

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CONUNDRUM

By

Jan Morris

Most people are now aware that James Morris, the author of many travel books, has undergone a sex change and is now Miss Jan Morris.

This book is her story of her journey through life until her transformation into the woman she always felt she should be.

As a winner of the Heinemann Award for Literature, in England and The Polk Memorial Award for Journalism, in the United States, there is no better qualified person to discuss the tangled meanings of Trans-sexualism.

Treating the matter in a 'decent' manner she doesn't regale the reader with lurid tales of sexual encounters but rather she movingly evokes the indefinable, inexorable, and foremost, the unimaginable force of the instinct which led her through many years of torment to the surgeon's clinic in Casablanca and her eventual self fulfilment as a woman.

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I WANT WHAT I WANT

By

Geoff [redacted] n

This novel, although first published nearly 20 years ago is still one of the finest Trans-sexual stories available in fiction.

The Hero/Heroine of this story is a highly intelligent boy with little education and a love for his sister's clothes. His dad is appalled, his psychiatrist fails to communicate and he is unable to get the operation he wants. But he dresses as he would like until Frank falls in love with him.....
A very sad and moving story well worth reading.

talking - Point

A STUDY OF THE NATURE OF TRANS-SEXUALISM.

The following article was sent to us by Vanessa, our Scottish correspondent. It's value lies in its observations on Trans-sexualism which are highly controversial. I shall forward my own views on this article to the editor at a later date. Suzan [REDACTED] y.

A small group of people, all of whom are in active practice in the professions, and all of whom are trans-sexuals, have been meeting over the last few years to investigate and discuss the nature of trans-sexualism. Some have not changed their gender roles for family or professional reasons, but others have been living in their preferred role for a number of years.

The following notes summarise some of their main findings. They do not claim any conclusive authority, but are offered for what they are worth as a contribution to the wider discussion of the matter. Names cannot be given, and the status of the panel may be judged only from the character of their conclusions. They have considered the subject in two main aspects, namely; (a) T/Sism as it exhibits itself in adult patients, and as society at large reacts to it; (b) T/Sism in its origins and development.

The first of these aspects is largely a matter of observed and verifiable fact; the second is largely a matter of informed speculation.

As to the first aspect, T/Sism is seen to be a simple psychological disorder in the form of an abnormal and compulsive desire to belong to the opposite sex. It is simple in the sense that most T/S display no other abnormality medically, therefore, the treatment is also simple. The immediate problem is completely resolved by allowing the patient to change gender roles, and by supporting the patient in the changed role. There is, however, a largely logistical problem, where surgery is required; in deciding the best allocation of medical resources between this and other priorities for surgery. This is at the present time being influenced by suggestions that many T/S (whatever some may loudly assert in order to justify what they have had done to them) are not significantly happier after surgery than before.

But it is at any rate clear that whether or not they are significantly happier after surgery, many T/S are very unhappy without it.

So far as social role is concerned we can now say fairly confidently that T/S are completely acceptable in all aspects of social life; - in the family; among social friends; in public; and at work. there are three main exceptions:-

(1) Marriage. This is perhaps the only real important social problem Experience has shown that in the case of T/S who have married in the original gender role it is very rare for the spouse to be able or willing to continue to associate in any way with the T/S after gender change. It is our view that one of the chief functions of doctors and associations like SHAFT, is to warn married T/S of this danger at the earliest possible stage. It is irresponsible to encourage T/S to hope that any kind of companionships at all can be looked for between spouses or ex-spouses after the change, despite the few happy exceptions which prove the rule.

(2) Family. This may seem as important as marriage, but in the panels view it is not; because experience shows fairly early that where family (other than spouse) relations were good in the first place, they will remain good after the change (except where bedevilled by spouse-conflict); and where they were bad in the first place, little of value is lost after the change.

(3) Society. Some few unfortunate T/S may encounter at work or among acquaintances an element of ignorance or boorish ridicule. But experience shows this to be rare, and becoming rarer. In this connection members of the panel some years ago wrote to their respective M.P.s seeking a home office directive to the police that medically certified T/S should not be proceeded against under the Public Order Acts in the

event of complaints by the public, so long as the T/S were otherwise well-behaved. In reply, the panel received written opinion that the police were most unlikely even at that time to proceed against T/S, and it was expected that as time passed and the T/S condition became more generally known and recognised the possibility of public complaint and police action would diminish and disappear. Happily this seems to have happened; and we do not now consider that well-behaved T/S need feel themselves in this respect to be other than normal citizens.

Public acceptance of T/Sism seems to rest largely on the fact that T/Sism is of little or no consequence at all to ordinary people, but thanks to sympathetic publicity in recent years, most people accept that it is very important and necessary to the T/S. Because of this, we feel that whereas T/S should not 'advertise' themselves, they should not be ashamed of their true status. Some T/S harbour a fear that in any social situation they may be 'unmasked'. This, in our view, is a mistake arising out of shame and self-delusion. We should never fear the truth, but should happily accept ourselves as we are. In this way people will happily accept us as ourselves. It is of course true that none of us ever fully knows ourself, but it is important that what we do know we should accept.

Turning to the second aspect of the group's enquiries; the origins and development of trans-sexualism. It might reasonably be asked why, if the condition is a simple disorder, and a simple and effective treatment is available, there is any need to enquire or speculate about the condition's origins. To put the answer very briefly; the group feel that T/Sism is abnormal, and that in the last analysis normality is the only satisfactory state, and must always be preferred to abnormality. We have been unable to find any escape at all in the notion that every individual is unique, and that every individual must find his or her own normality. Taken to its conclusion, this notion leads only to anarchy. There must be an overriding norm or type to which all might preferably approximate and within which each individual may find his fullest uniqueness, but outside of which lies only disfigurement and chaos.

It may be urged against this that nature herself produces abnormalities, and the best fulfillment of the abnormal individual lies in the fullest nurture of his own uniqueness, including his abnormality. In this way he may be normal to himself and find his own truest fulfillment

We do not dispute this in cases offering no reasonable chance of restoring normality such as, for instance, Downes Syndrome or 'mongolism'. Such individuals, and many others suffering from untreatable disorders, may well best be loved and cherished for their uniqueness. But we must hold fast to the principle that it were far better if they could by miracle be restored to normality.

The same, we are persuaded, is true with trans-sexuals. We cannot be content to say that the condition is 'uncurable' and leave it at that. We can see no other course but to assert: (a) T/Sism is abnormal, and (b) normality must always be preferred to abnormality.

If then, we are even to begin to look for a cure, we must first establish the nature of the disorder, and it is to this end that our speculations on the genesis of the condition have been directed.

But let us first look more closely at the nature of T/Sism from the evidence as presented to the group over a number of years. Leaving aside those who have come to T/Sism by way of homosexual or bi-sexual states, perhaps the most remarkable thing about those we have seen is that T/S seem to be distinguished from normal people only by one small abnormality. Whether they were born male or female they are not totally free from the normal desire for union with the opposite sex, and in most cases have made more or less successful and fruitful marriages in their original gender roles, but they differ from normal people in that their normal sexual desires have become associated with an imaginative view of themselves as members of the opposite sex, and therefore objects of their own sexual desires. The strength or weakness of their own sexual vigour seems to be irrelevant. What matters is the mental association between sexual desire, however weak, and the cross-gender image.

Despite published assertions to the contrary, we have been obliged to disregard any suggestions that T/S are convinced they are really members of the opposite sex, but have been tragically 'born into the wrong body'. We conclude that all such assertions are in the nature of wish-fulfilment, and self delusion.

We have also looked at, and set aside, all of the following speculations as to the nature of T/Sism: Hormonal imbalance, absence of H-Y antigen, Psychosis of parents, Learned gender role, Chromosomal aberrations, and reincarnation. We cannot say categorically that in isolated cases such factors may not be significant, but we have had to eliminate them all as factors in the condition as generally presented to us. In the majority of cases, if not all, we are of the opinion that the condition might best be termed "Erotic Narcissism".

This is not to suggest that T/Sism is little more than a perverse caprice. It is a deeply rooted and intractable disorder, and it may well be that for many years to come the best treatment will be to support 'gender change'. But the panel's findings do seem to show there is a strong element of wilful perversity in most T/S, often involving conscious obscurantism regarding their own condition. For instance, a considerable number in the group interviewed, even including transvestites, at first denied that they had ever masturbated to T/V or T/S fantasies, but when faced with the evidence of others, eventually stated that masturbation had been a vital part of their T/V or T/S activities throughout their lives. Others sought to diminish the role of masturbation by asserting that their female image (male to female trans-sexuals) long preceded puberty and the start of masturbation. Others, again, stated that their libidinous sexuality has always been weak and might therefore be discounted as a factor in their T/Sism. Then again, some claim to be 'transgendered' and not trans-sexual. It will be seen from our later considerations of the genesis of T/Sism that all such factors are irrelevant. The true condition of all these cases can best be described as "Erotic Narcissism".

Of course, each individual is in some degree entitled to say that he or she is an exception to the rule, for in a sense we are all exceptions to the rule. But the consistent nature of the evidence we have found over the years leads us to a fairly compelling view of the nature of T/Sism, whatever any of us as individuals may say about ourselves.

We now turn to the most speculative results of our enquiries; those relating to the initial causes of T/Sism. The panel's conclusions are of a very general nature, but they do seem to point in a fairly clear direction. In general terms then, we believe the condition to be entirely psychogenic, deriving from the infant's relationship with parents, guardians, and family; particularly infant/mother relationships. (here we will use the male pronouns to include the female).

The origins may and probably do go back to the first years of life, and the infant/mother relationship, though not primarily a blissful symbiosis as suggested by Dr. Robert Stoller, but a more complex sequence of interactions.

The difference between the T/S and normal persons seems to lie in his own view of himself in his physical sex-image, and their view seems to be conditioned at a very early age, probably, though not necessarily in earliest infancy, by intimate interpersonal experiences, usually between infant and mother.

Thus a normal individual learns in infancy from his mother's love to value himself as he is. We would go so far as to suggest that he learns from his mother's love, and his own physical responses to that love, to love himself as he is, and indeed to love himself sexually as he is.

This state of self-love, and indeed of sexual self-love, becomes firmly programmed in the subconscious or unconscious mind long before puberty so that, at and after puberty the normal person, although now seeing members of the opposite sex in the conscious mind as the objects of sexual arousal, and responding to them physically as such, achieve and sustain this response by the deeper prompting of the unconscious mind, which itself treats the sexual lover as a corroboration of its own sexual self-love. In this sense the sexual lover acts for the unconscious mind as the perfect instrument of masturbation. This, we suggest, is the normal state, both for the male and the female.

Of course, to say this is to say little more than in order to love your neighbour as yourself you must first love yourself. Or that in order to love your neighbour sexually you must first love yourself sexually.

This may seem to be a mere truism, but from the enquiries we have made we do believe it is at the heart of Trans-sexualism.

It is fairly common knowledge that the person who is unsure of himself cannot give himself fully to others, and that the real trouble with the misanthrope is that he hates himself. We believe that self-love is the bedrock of self-identity, and that sexual love is the bedrock of sexual-identity.

This is why the normal person will defend his sexuality with his life. It is an absolutely necessary part of his identity as a living being.

If so much is conceded, it can be seen how the T/S might most probably diverge from the normal. The T/S, whether or not he has learnt self-love at his mother's breast, has never learnt sexual self-love. Thus his unconscious mind can offer up to his conscious mind no reassurance that, as a male, he is loveable at all; not that males generally, as males, are loveable at all. But at the same time his psycho/physical male sexuality acting in the conscious mind is telling him, (immaturely but effectively before puberty and maturely after puberty), that females are sexually exciting and desirable.

Sexual excitement is therefore associated in his mind exclusively with the female, to the extent that he is unable to see sexual life and sexual joy as anything other than an exclusively female condition. At the same time he is sadly aware of his own totally unloveable maleness. He sees himself as a kind of sexual zombie, without any sexual life, joy, or identity of his own. He comes to hate his physical sex.

It is the shortest of steps not only to wish to be female, but to discover that his entire psychological and physical male sexuality is in excited harmony with that desire. His strongest sexual fantasies become those in which he imagines himself to be female, and he finds his most intense sexual satisfaction in masturbation or spontaneous orgasm excited by these fantasies. In the fullest development of the T/S state, his sexual compulsions allow him no option but to pursue sexual fulfilment in changing his sex as fully as possible.

Having done so he is then as near as he can get to the condition of normal woman, whose unconscious mind sees her male lover as the perfect corroboration of her own sexual self-love. The chief difference being that in the case of the operated T/S, this corroboration is experienced with great joy in the conscious mind.

Although our enquiries have been directed towards T/Sism, it seems to us that other sexual abnormalities may be accounted for by a similar mechanism. Thus the male homosexual will have learnt in infancy that males are exclusively desirable, because his mother, consciously or unconsciously, has cherished him exclusively for his maleness.

In a similar way the bi-sexual will have learnt at one period of infancy that only males are sexually loveable, and at another time that only females are sexually loveable.

The normal person will have learnt in infancy that both sexes are loveable in an equal and balanced way.

So far as the widely believed difference between transvestites and trans-sexuals is concerned, we have been able to find no difference at all. All the evidence we have points to the fact that the T/S is the T/V only more so.

If there is some truth in these findings it will be seen that at the present time there is little possibility of identifying the T/S before maturity, or of changing him after maturity. The only way to change him would be to change his unconscious mind, and there is no known way of doing this.

We must leave it to the psychiatrists, if they are interested, to make what they will of these ideas, and to offer treatment as they see fit. Our own conclusion is that the only hope of curing the T/S lies in persuading him (or her) in the subconscious or unconscious mind that he is just as sexually exciting and desirable as are members of the opposite sex. If that can be done, it seems to us a perfectly sound and socially acceptable procedure to allow them to change their gender or sexual role with or without surgery.

FOOTNOTE BY VANESSA.

The foregoing was published in one of the SHAFT Newsletters, and sparked off some sharp comments from one or two quarters which were answered by the author of the script.

Days in My Life

By Marcia

Episode 6

There is nothing special about today. It has been a long and tedious day at work, but now it is evening and I'm going to enjoy myself in my usual way, by walking around in the park for an hour or two. I have done this countless times before and it never fails to please me. Rarely do I now affect the exaggerated costumes that I used to prefer, since wearing them automatically banished me to remote and deserted open spaces. Now I find it far more rewarding to use more convenient city parks. There are, I suppose, some risks involved but I've never had any problems.

After work I have a snack, then go to the library and search the shelves for books referring to transvestism. It's surprising how many there are now, compared to twenty years ago, when I really needed them. What a needless burden of guilt I carried around in those days - I am so much happier now, having finally come to terms with my dressing and accepted it as a positive form of self expression. It's a pity my wife cannot share in it, but that's not surprising. At least we can occasionally discuss it now, and although she still cannot understand why I can't give it up, I no longer feel in the least ashamed of being a transvestite. In fact I'd rather be the way I am, than a 'normal' man - I feel I have something extra.

When it's dark enough, I drive to a secluded car park in the domain and change into a long flowing dress of dark green satiny fabric. It has a high neck, long sleeves, a very full skirt and a tightly fitted bodice, and when zipped into it I feel deliciously feminine. The addition of my long dark wig, dainty shoes, gloves and jewellery enhances this feeling even further. I feel like a girl, I look like a girl, and I'm forced to behave like a girl. True, few girls would risk walking alone in a park at night, and fewer still would dress in quite the way I do, but while I must look a little odd I know I can get away with it. Girls do in fact wear quite extraordinarily beautiful dresses these days. It's amusing to recall my daydreams of years ago, when I longed to see woman wearing the full length dresses that I've always found so alluringly feminine. At the time, miniskirts were the rage, and it seemed inconceivable that such dreams would ever be realised. But now of course, women of all ages have rediscovered the attractiveness of ankle length skirt, which to my biased eye make pretty girls appear more beautiful than ever. And so, amazingly, fashion trends seem to be converging with my own predilections and I am able to risk being seen, something I once had to avoid at all costs. In fact, I am finding that it actually gives me a thrill to be seen. I want to be noticed. I don't want anyone to look at me, but I want to be seen. The total solitude, that I once went to such lengths to ensure, I find to be no longer even desirable.

And so I set off now, locking the car, walking across the close cropped grass, along the paths in the silence of the evening. There is traffic about, and many cars are parked in quiet corners, but hardly anyone is about on foot and it is easy to remain out of sight. I walk through the gardens, pausing frequently to allow the beauty of the situation to sink in. Then I cross more open ground, to stand on a prominent terrace and overlook the city lights. Here I am, a woman for all to see.

In a state of highly excited self-consciousness I walk slowly and gracefully across the terrace, in full view of anyone who might be looking, before taking once more to the shadows. The best moments are all those where I am completely exposed like that, but I daren't push my luck too far. I make my way back to the gardens; suddenly I am startled to see a man walking directly towards me! It's too late to avoid him and biting my tongue, I force myself to walk past, head lowered, ready to pick up my skirts and run - not that I'd get far in these heels. But we pass and nothing happens. I've passed as a girl! Oh wonderful.

It's been a wonderful evening.

Aunt Aggie's

aggonics

Hi there Girls,

This is your ever-loving Aunt Aggie and I just have to tell you all about the most tackiest movie I've ever seen.

Called 'The Alternative Miss World' this movie consisted of some of the tattiest drag I've ever seen outside of some of our meetings.

Miss Divine, the 300lb transvestite from America seemed incapable of movement and spent her time on stage sewn into a leopard skin gown that would have to look better on a leopard, and sweating like a perk chop. Considering her size I am amazed that she was able to move let alone make her way delicately down the steep stairs which led onto the stage and which even some of the contestants had difficulty with. Her beard shadow rivals even that of the worst I've seen among our members.

The winner was Miss Carriage and she certainly lived up to her name - enough said.

Talking of names - I am not in the habit of dropping them but it does seem that a certain person who frequents the Aquarius is in the habit of disappearing into the ladies loo taking her alcoholic beverage with her. Whats the matter dear? Have you gone lesbian or don't they put enough water in the booze for you?

"She" the cats mother, was lamenting the fact that everytime she goes out these days the nights seem too long for her. After about 1'am her eyes begin to water as she peers at all the people having fun. I think they are really tears as she dreams of her lost youth. Will he ever come back to her. I even heard that she had advertised in the local papers to no avail. Perhaps she should consider upping his wages.

Another young lady has been seen recently wielding a large hammer and a saw. I know she wants the OP but really dear, that's no way to go about it. You'll only make a mess of yourself.

Rumour has it that a certain visitor to our meetings is a 'white Magician'. Well a little birdie told me that he was looking rather black recently. It seems he went shopping without any money and was invited to spend some time as Her Majesty's guest. Silly boy. He should have used his magic to make himself invisible.

The same little birdie tells me that we have a high flyer in our midst. Just remember dear that Icarus flew too near the sun and got burnt. I'd hate to see you singe your pretty wings.

Talking of birds and things it seems that a little nestling of one of our members is getting too big for the nest. I heard that the other night he pushed mother out of the nest so that he could entertain some other little chick that he has befriended. My my! Don't they grow up fast.

Professor Higgins once said or rather asked 'Why can't a man be more like a woman' it seems he hasn't heard of women's Lib.

An acquaintance of mine told me recently that she was into women's lib and gave me this definition of a Macho Woman.

One who kick starts her vibrator and rolls her own tampons

Well after seeing her on a motorbike and rolling her own, I'm not at all surprised.