

And now for something completely different.

Actually, not too different, but just a little. Well maybe more than a little. What size would it be then that would be more than a little, but not a really huge amount? Anyway...

There are changes in TWENTY. The addition of several new volunteers to the staff will make it possible to continue production with the high quality we have been trying to maintain. There will be changes to the format to make it easier to read and (hopefully) more informative. We intend to try out several new features, and see how you respond. That means that we expect you to write to us and tell us if you like something, or if you don't.

We also want to hear from you if you agree or disagree with something that we publish. Informing you about people, places and things is important, but this newsletter should also be a forum to make you think. Not everything printed is intended to be the absolute truth, or the answer to Life, the Universe, and Everything. A significant amount of what you read is opinion, and if you didn't write it, you may not agree with it. It may make you think, however, and look at something from a different perspective. In the end, you still may not agree, and that is your right. But during the thinking process, you may have gained a little more knowledge about life and yourself. Either way, we want you to respond, to write down your feelings and observations and share them. There is not one person among us whose opinion is less valid than any others, and all submissions will receive equal consideration.

It would be nice if more people contributed original articles. If writing original articles is not your cup of tea, how about sending in appropriate newspaper articles, cartoons, or whatever. This newsletter will only be as good as what we put into it.

Please take a moment to look at the mailing label on your envelope. (Get it out of the trash please. Paper shredder? Oh dear). The very first line on the label indicates when your subscription to TWENTY will expire. If the date is surrounded by asterisks, such as *****02-28-1992***** it means that the date is greatly outnumbered and should surrender immediately. (NO IT DOESN'T!!) It really means that this is your next to last issue, or in this month's case, that your subscription is past due. If you see **[[02-28-1992]]**, this is your LAST ISSUE!! Please, if your subscription has expired, or is going to expire, renew as soon as you can. If you have financial difficulties, please write to us and let us know. We don't want anyone to be without a newsletter.

Judy

Pilot regains job she held as man

TRENTON, NJ — A Continental Airlines pilot fired for having a sex-change operation will be reinstated under a settlement ending a job discrimination lawsuit, a newspaper reported Tuesday.

The settlement reinstates Jessica R. Stearns — a decorated Air Force pilot in the Vietnam War — to the first officer job she held as a man prior to the surgery two years ago, the Times of Trenton reported. It quoted a Continental source it didn't identify.

Ms. Stearns, 51, of Princetown Township, reached the settlement Monday with Houston-based Continental, which is in the midst of bankruptcy proceedings. U.S. District Court Judge Garrett E. Brown in Trenton signed the settlement Tuesday, said his courtroom deputy JoAnn Mattis. The deal's terms were secret.

Ms. Stearns, her lawyer, Kim Otis of Princeton, and Continental spokesman Richard Danforth declined to comment on the case Tuesday.

Reprinted from the Waterbury Republican-American, Wednesday, June 24, 1992

Appeals Court Clears Runway for Transitions

Jane Doe vs. Boeing

A seven year legal ordeal is nearly over for a former Boeing engineer, fired for following the terms of the Harry Benjamin Standards during her transition. The State Court of Appeals has ruled that Washington's largest employer did not provide "sufficient accommodations" to Jane Doe under the state's codes dealing with "sensory, physical, or mental disabilities."

Pending a review by the state's Supreme Court, the decision may mean other transsexuals in this state will have a legal precedent in fighting discriminatory hiring practices. It doesn't mean, however, that the battle will become immediately easier. Future discrimination battles are likely to continue to be heard by the courts.

Please see Boeing on page 5

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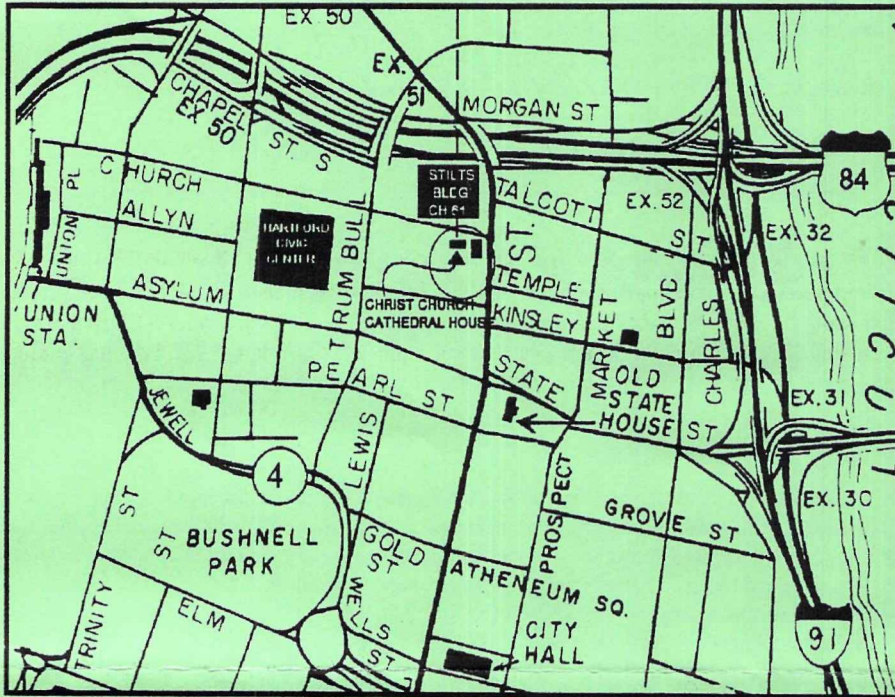
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XX Club Meetings

Regular meetings of the XX Club are held the second and fourth Saturdays of every month at 1:45PM to 4:45PM.

Meeting are held at:

**Christ Church Cathedral (Parish House)
45 Church Street
Hartford, CT 06103**



Upcoming XX Club Meetings

- Saturday, July 25th - Picnic at Stratton Brook Park
- Saturday, August 8th - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral,
- Saturday, August 22nd - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday, September 12 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday, September 26 - Our Guest Speaker will be Dr. George Higgins, Ph.D., President of GICNE.
- Saturday, October 10 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday, October 24 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday November 14 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday November 28 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday December 12 - Christmas Party at Christ Church Cathedral
- Saturday December 26 - Support Group Meeting at Christ Church Cathedral

The XX Club, Inc.

P. O. Box 387
Hartford, CT 06141-0387

Advisor

The Rev. Canon Clinton R. Jones, D.D.

President

Jennifer L. Adams

Vice Presidents

Leslie D.
Jamie Lee R.

Treasurer

Julie Anne Wright

Secretary

Jackie O'Clair

Community Liason

Standing Committee

Treasurer's Report

Future Treasurers' reports will be published quarterly.

The Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc. (203) 646-8651

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The Reverend
Canon Clinton R. Jones, D.D.

President

George Higgins, Ph.D.
Clinical Psychologist

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Newsletter articles referring to specific programs, services and/or products do not necessarily constitute endorsement by the XX Club, Inc., or, the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc. Articles involving medical aspects of gender dysphoria are not intended to be medical advice and readers are cautioned not to make any changes in treatment based upon such information without consulting a physician.

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS Newsletter submissions may either be mailed to the XX Club at our address above or submitted at a XX Club meeting. While not necessary, it would be helpful to the editors if your contribution was submitted on an MS DOS computer disk

(5-1/4" or 3-1/2") (any word processing format or ASCII). This newsletter represents the XX Club, Inc., and the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. For that reason, a submission will not be printed if it does not center on an issue of importance to the transsexual community, or if it in any way slanders any individual or group of individuals. Due to space and time constraints, your submission may not be printed immediately. Unfortunately, we cannot be held responsible for the return of any materials submitted. Please state clearly what name, if any, or any other personal information you want, or don't want included in publication of your submission. Personal information about contributors will not be disclosed. Please give due credit to your sources. All submitted material will be considered, and VERY much appreciated. Material submitted serves as a defacto release to publish. Any photographs submitted must have a signed release from all individuals in the photograph.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: Please send new address and old address, including zip codes, to "XX" at the above address.

Special thanks and appreciation are extended to Veronica Jean Brown and Becky Ann for their many years of dedicated service through publication of the newsletter, Twenty Minutes, which has ceased publication.

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XX (Twenty) Club Information

The XX (Twenty) Club, Inc.

**The Transsexual Peer Support Group, of the:
Gender Identity Clinic Of New England, Inc.**

P. O. Box 387

Hartford, CT 06141-0387

Tel: (203) 646-8651

Nature: The XX (Twenty) Club is the transsexual peer support group of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. Our purpose is to provide knowledgeable information and ongoing peer support to transsexual persons throughout the many stages of their transition, as well as information about the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, Inc.. Friends and relatives are encouraged to attend in the hope of gaining greater understanding and acceptance of their loved one's gender dysphoria. We are open to both male-to-female, and female-to-male gender dysphoric persons. The XX Club, Inc. is non-profit and non-sexual. While our meetings are held at a church, we are not a religious organization and have no official affiliation with any religious denomination. We hold no prejudice against any other group of people. We are a peer support group, we are not a dating service, or an instant source of new best friends.

Services: The XX Club, Inc. officially publishes a bi-monthly newsletter (XX) Twenty, serving persons with gender dysphoria and helping professionals. We meet twice a month (2nd & 4th Saturdays, 1:45PM-4:45PM), at the Christ Church Cathedral; 45 Church Street; Hartford, CT. Meetings are structured to provide support, information, and open accepting understanding. On occasion (no more than one meeting per month), we have professional speakers on educational and medical subjects of interest to gender dysphoric persons. We also have social get-togethers, club parties, outreach to New England and New York gender organizations, and a speakers bureau. There is No Smoking allowed during our meetings. Smoking is permitted during our refreshment break, and after the meeting in designated areas only. In the course of our meeting we have a half-hour refreshment break. People are encouraged to get to know another during the break and help themselves to food and beverages. Please feel free to bring food to share with our group.

Security: We hold no security restrictions on people who wish to subscribe to our newsletter. Persons interested in attending a meeting are welcome to come as long as they have a personal interest in gender dysphoria, understand the supportive nature of our group, and are willing to respect the anonymity of all persons attending. At no time may another persons name, address, telephone number, or any other personal information be given to another person without full permission. Cameras and recording devices are not allowed at our meetings.

Membership & Meeting Fees: Annual membership dues for the XX Club, Inc., are \$20.00 per year. Dues include a one year subscription to our newsletter. (XX) Twenty. Members and visitors are encouraged to contribute a minimum of \$1.00 per person at each meeting to help defray our expenses. Membership dues and meeting fees are used to contribute to Christ Church Cathedral for the use of their facilities and personnel, defray the cost of newsletter production and distribution, and provide refreshments for Twenty club and GICNE meetings. While these contributions allows us to remain self sustaining, no one will be turned away because of lack of ability to contribute.

President's Message

A friend of mine in Seattle transitioned on the job last year, yet she still receives phone calls for "XY". One exasperated caller couldn't seem to grasp the situation, despite her best attempts to explain. Finally, she summed it up for him in two words: "Things change."

Yes, things DO change, and life goes on. Does this seem to echo what Judy said in the last newsletter? Probably so. The concept of change occupies a major portion of our waking thoughts. We at XX Club know change as well as anyone. Personalities, names and faces may come and go, but the Club itself remains, enduring, through whatever transitions it - OR WE - may experience. It - WE - still serves as THE primary support group for the transsexual community in and about New England.

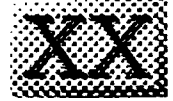
Support wears many faces. We have a strong desire to see this newsletter continue to thrive as a valuable instrument of information and education, particularly for members and friends of our community. We pursue other informational avenues as well, aimed [eventually] toward [segments of] the public at large. Our social calendar appears to be on track, with the picnic July 25 and plenty of leeway till December to plan for our annual Holiday celebration. We have several speakers in mind and on tap for upcoming presentations on subjects of interest to our community (Next? Don't miss Dr. Higgins, Sept. 26!!!). Too, relationships, correspondences, and phonecalls with transsexual persons and organizations across the country are running apace.

Your new officers are engaged on several fronts regarding various advocacy issues for our community. While some of these efforts may seem to go beyond our formal role of individual personal support, they are geared toward improving conditions in the overall climate for ALL of us, collectively.

Yet, while this healthy menu of activities is highly desirable, let us not lose sight of that central support feature, which holds all these things together. It's the soul of our organization's existence. Even despite the most radical changes in life, so often our core reality keeps its essential nature, its continuity. So it is with XX. Our basic traditions continue unchanged, in the same spirit established and carried on so ably by our predecessors. We are a SUPPORT group. Sometimes that's not easy. Sometimes it hurts. But with your continued help, participation, and

SUPPORT, we'll succeed in carrying out this purpose, offering a "home" for those with none other like it, those perhaps with no other place to turn. A home for ALL of us. The Club IS us.

As someone - probably a French-speaking person - once said, "Plus ça change, plus c'est la meme chose." I wonder: was it one of us? Have they ever been to a Twenty Club meeting?



Greetings:

There comes a time and a place when we all have to "pay our dues." The process of our transition is an expensive endeavor. The cost of living, in every sense of the expression, is not inexpensive either. Life goes on, and we're all responsible for our own expenses.

The tasks of maintaining the services of the Twenty Club are costly too. Perhaps the most expensive bill that we face is the cost of our newsletter. The related expenses of publishing, printing, and mailing the newsletter you're reading are subsidized by your annual dues. In addition, we have a regular contribution which we offer to Christ Church Cathedral for the use of their facilities for our meeting place. When individuals, groups, or organizations contact us for information pertaining to us, we see that their requests are answered. Recently, we have been faced with several unusual, though legitimate costs which require reimbursement. Even the refreshments we eat and drink at the meetings usually cost money.

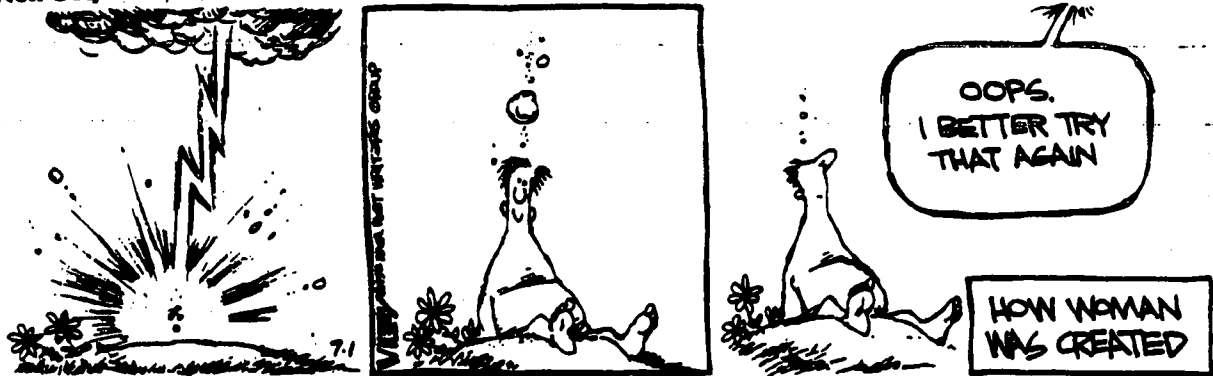
After talking with our newsletter editor, it is apparent that a number of members have not paid their annual dues. Naturally, we are concerned that many may be surprised when their issue of "Twenty" no longer comes to them. Unfortunately, we cannot afford to send newsletters on a complimentary basis. Furthermore, our other bills have to be paid. Your annual contribution is beneficial for you and for the common good of the group only when it is paid on time.

Please note the expiration date on the label of the envelope in which you received your newsletter. If you have not yet paid your membership fee, please do so as soon as possible. After all, we all have to "pay our dues."

From the keeper of the "purse strings,"
Julie A. Wright



Non Sequitur / WILEY MILLER



Boeing from page 1

"I've never had a client who's enjoyed the process." Attorney Kelby D. Fletcher told an audience at Ingersoll last month, "Legal action is messy and non-efficient — and there's a reason for that."

While Boeing attempted to paint Doe as a crusader, seeking to win a political victory, she said that was never her aim. Although some have compared her efforts to the legal precedent set by Rosa Parks (a black woman in Alabama who one day found herself too tired to go all the way to the back of the bus, as custom dictated), Doe says "I did this for me."

Doe was fired on November 5, 1985, after she failed a daily inspection put in place by management. A memorandum issued a few weeks earlier ordered Doe not to wear anything that "would cause a complaint if she wore it in the men's rest room." Boeing did not permit her to use the women's rest room, but did "allow" her to leave the premises during lunch to use off-site facilities.

A trial court had ruled earlier that gender dysphoria is a disability under the terms of the state's handicap accommodations act. However, at the same time, the court ruled that Boeing made reasonable accommodations to Jane Doe in her preparation for sex reassignment surgery. The court cited the offsite restroom accommodation, Doe's official name change in Boeing records, and her ability to wear unisex clothing on the job.

Fletcher argued in his appeal that Boeing did not make a reasonable accommodation, in fact, Fletcher noted that all employees "including the chairman of the board" under Boeing dress codes, could wear androgynous clothing. As an engineer, Doe was able to leave the Boeing premises for lunch anyway. The form Doe filled out to change her name on official records, was available to everyone.

Fletcher also said that though Boeing claims to have "prevented harassment of Doe on the job," it was Boeing management that was responsible for most of Doe's harassment. "The members of her work group were accepting and supportive. It was Boeing management that subjected her to daily inspections and refused to permit her to dress in the professional manner she preferred," Doe's attorneys point out in a footnote to the Appeals Court's ruling.

Throughout the trial and appeals court proceedings, Fletcher said, Boeing attempted to link gender dysphoria to sexual orientation. Boeing attempted to prove to the court that proposals specifically to include sexual orientation into the state's disability laws, as well as proposals to bar discrimination based on sexual orientation statewide, have consistently failed.

The court "wisely," according to Fletcher, distinguished gender dysphoria from homosexuality. He noted that there is no "prescribed medical procedure" relating to homosexuality. In other words, there is no medical "cure," short of self-acceptance. On the other hand, he said there is a widely accepted procedure — i.e. the Benjamin Standards — for dealing with gender dysphoria. The Benjamin Standards, commonly accepted by all professionals dealing with the disorder, were never questioned by any party to the case.

This distinction is one reason that Fletcher sought out a judicial review rather than a jury trial. Because of the general lack of information in the public arena, a jury would be unlikely to make the distinction between homosexuality and gender dysphoria, he said.

Fletcher believes there is a good chance that the Supreme Court will choose not to review the case. Even if it does, however, Fletcher is confident of ultimate success. "We're on strong legal ground," he says.

AIDS

What You Don't Know Can Kill You

Call The National AIDS Hotline
1 800 342-AIDS

A major factor in the success of the case to this point, Fletcher notes, is the generous funding by the American Civil Liberties Union. The national watchdog on discrimination and abuses of the Bill of Rights has made a major commitment to this case. The seven years of legal proceedings have already run up \$60,000 in professional fees, as well as \$7,000 in court costs.

Despite its financial and human total, the case is not likely to become a landmark case for transsexual rights. "It only affects the first judicial district of the State of Washington, and is not applicable to any federal agencies," Fletcher points out.

As Rosa Parks and others have learned, however, barriers are often shattered with one small pebble through the window of opportunity.

Florida Human Rights Panel Echoes Decision

Just 10 days after the Washington Appeals Court ruled in Jane Doe vs. Boeing, the Florida Human Rights Commission ruled that a transsexual employee of the Jacksonville Sheriff's Department was fired for similar reasons.

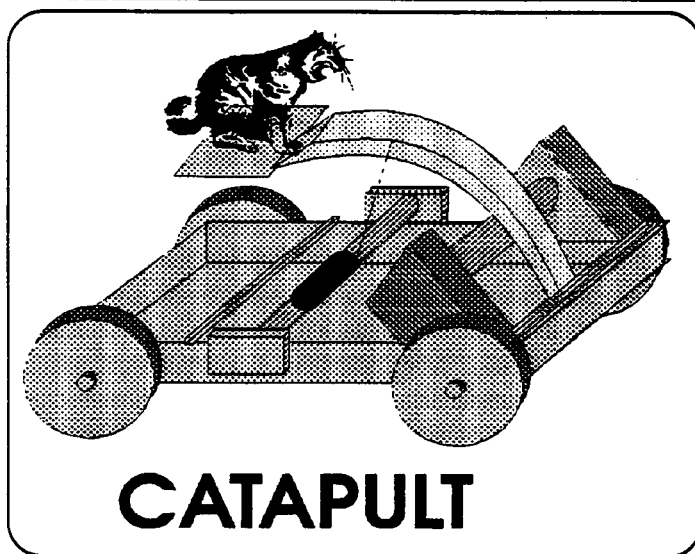
For the first time in its history, the commission ruled 8-1 that Belinda Smith, a former lieutenant, was wrong-fully discharged because of her disability.

Reprinted from "Transitions", the Newsletter of the Ingersoll Gender Center, Seattle, WA, Spring 1992

Blue Genes

by Judy Summers

Our sex and gender are laid down by our genes, which are bundled together in each cell in 23 pairs of microscopic packages called chromosomes. The 23 human chromosomes can be numbered and distinguished from one another by consistent differences in appearance. For chromosomes 1 through 22, the two members of the pair appear



identical. Only in the case of chromosome 23, the sex chromosome, do the two representatives differ, and even then only in men, whose twenty-third chromosomes are of unequal sizes: a larger X chromosome paired with a smaller Y chromosome. Women have two paired X chromosomes instead.

What do the sex chromosomes do? Many X chromosome genes specify traits unrelated to sex, such as the ability to distinguish red and green. However, the Y chromosome contains genes specifying the development of testes. Between the fifth and seventh week after fertilization, human embryos of either sex develop an all-purpose gonad that can later become either a testis or an ovary. If a Y chromosome is present, that all-purpose gonad will begin to commit itself by the eighth week to become a testis. But if there's no Y chromosome, it waits until the thirteenth week and then begins developing as an ovary. Thus the natural tendency of our primordial gonad is to develop as an ovary if nothing intervenes; something special—a Y chromosome—is required to change it into a testis.

But there's more to a man than testes alone. A penis is among other obvious necessities, just as women need more than ovaries—for example, it helps to have a vagina. To form a penis, vagina, and other sex organs, the fetus is endowed with other all-purpose sexual structures besides the primordial gonad. However, unlike the case of the testes, the development of these structures is not directly specified by the Y chromosome. Instead, these structures are channeled toward male organs by secretions of the testes themselves, while a lack of testicular secretions channels them toward female organs.

For example, in the eighth week of gestation, the testes, if present, begin producing the hormone testosterone, some of which gets converted into the closely related substance dihydrotestosterone or DHT. DHT goes on to convert some all-purpose embryonic structures into the glans penis, penis shaft, and scrotum. Those same structures would otherwise develop into their female counterparts: the clitoris, labia minora, and labia majora.

Embryos also start out with two sets of ducts, known as the Müllerian ducts and the Wolffian ducts. In the absence of testes the Wolffian ducts atrophy while the Müllerian ducts grow into a female's uterus, fallopian tubes, and the inner part of the vagina. With testes present, the opposite happens: androgens produced by the testes stimulate the Wolffian ducts to grow into a male's seminal vesicles, vas deferens, and epididymis. At

the same time, a testicular protein called Müllerian inhibiting factor does what its name implies: it prevents the Müllerian ducts from developing into the internal female organs.

A long series of further biochemical steps, programmed by chromosomes other than the sex chromosomes, is required to produce all the structures other than the ovaries or testes. Every step involves the synthesis of one enzyme, which is specified by one gene. If one gene is defective or absent, then the enzyme for which it's responsible will be defective or absent.

It has been demonstrated by modern imaging techniques such as CAT scans, PET scans, MRI and other techniques, that there are physical and functional differences between the brains of male and female humans. Since these differences are consistent between the sexes, some genetic theorists believe that the structure of the brain is determined by some or all of the same factors that determine other sexual characteristics. Therefore they theorize that gender may be determined genetically, just as sex is. As the most complex creatures that ever evolved on this planet, I am not surprised that occasionally things do go wrong, but rather I am astounded that things go right as often as they do.

Parts of this article were excerpted from "Discover" magazine, June 1992.



THE XY SHUFFLE

by Jennifer A.

What's this? The XY Shuffle? The latest dance sensation to sweep the nation? Another of Dick Clark's terpsichorean BANDSTAND offerings, in a long illustrious line that goes back to South Philly to when he really WAS as young as he looks, before most of us were gleams in someone's eye? A new way to manipulate playing cards to cheat your friends out of enough moola to cover those electrolysis treatments or that SRS you've been dreaming of? A [slightly underhanded] verbal technique for obfuscating "facts" that people really DON'T need to know?

Well, no, not exactly, though it is SORT OF related to ALL of the above. Yes, the XY shuffle DOES involve some fancy footwork. And, in a sense, it DOES involve manipulating the cards so you can buy time to get those things done you've always dreamed of. And it DOES require some [slightly underhanded] techniques whose direct purpose is to obfuscate "facts" that people DON'T need to know, either "yet" or "now" or "never".

Actually, it's a term Julie came up with. But before I give you HER clear, precise, and cogent definition, which gets right to the point, let me see if I can try to explain it first in my own rambling way. For some reason I've never been able to figure out, you CAN'T simply go from point A in this world to point B instantaneously, because there are simply too many things that have to be done, too many bases to cover, too many activities to orchestrate - ALL with too many people watching. The problem here is, you've gotta make SOME people believe you're gonna stay at point A; in fact, you've gotta make them NEVER GUESS you're headed for point B. And at the same time, you've gotta make OTHER PEOPLE believe you've ALWAYS been at point B without EVER GUESSING you started out at point A. Sound simple enough? That realization is just a first step of the XY Shuffle.

Okay. One thing makes it a little easier, and that's people (namely, FRIENDS) who know about this Point A to Point B transition. OH! Did I say, "TRANSITION"? Well, I guess that sort of lets the [proverbial pussy]cat out of the [proverbial] bag, doesn't it? (Let's hope so!)

Now, as any mathematician worth her salt can tell you, there exist [conceptually] an infinite number of points along any continuous pathway connecting two separate points (unless they've changed the rules while I wasn't looking). And every single one of those intermediate points is DIFFERENT from all the rest, including A and B. [Ha! I'll bet you never dreamed I'd confront you with your worst fear: MATH!]

Let's go to the videotape. ISSUE ONE: You CAN'T just jump from here to there. People have tried and found that out the hard way. OH! Electrolysis? For HOW long?! What's that? Hormones? To do WHAT?! Oh, yeah, my boss, he'd FIRE me if he found out! And what'll the NEIGHBORS think?! Gosh, they don't REALLY have to know, do they? I'll just sneak in and out for a while, okay? And, uh, gee, yeah, all those family members. And THEIR [stupid] friends. Mmm, oh yeah, forgot about that high school reunion next summer. And my pharmacist DOES give me strange looks whenever I show up for pills; for now, everything is still in XY's name. ["This is, uh, YOUR prescription? Oh. OH!!"]


Sometimes I worry about doing XY, if it'll be able to get ME where I need to be. I mean, here's a role that's gonna disappear soon anyhow, but NOT soon enough, and in the meantime I'm SO DEPENDENT on its stable functioning - IT'S JUST NOT FAIR!!! Because I CAN'T BE MYSELF! I have to sit back and shut up. And hide. And wait. And hope. Just doin' the XY Shuffle.

Okay, Folks, time to wrap it up now, no more baloney. Let's get to the heart of the matter. All right, here it is, here's Julie's DEFINITIVE definition in her own words:

The "XY Shuffle" is the ongoing (although temporary) process of having to do ("shuffling" as) XY when you JUST DON'T WANNA BE XY. In other words, sometimes people, places, or circumstances oblige us to live the XY role at moments when we would much rather be our true, female self. Naturally, this evokes the question (with apologies to Anheuser-Busch), "WHY XY?" Unfortunately, doing the XY Shuffle (unlike doing the Jitterbug) causes a condition called the "XY Blues" (not to be confused with the Blues Brothers). That's the "worry" part of doing the XY Shuffle.

Jake and Elwood? Blues? Worry? Interesting, but that's another article, and maybe SOME DAY Julie will get off her FAT BUTT and WRITE IT! Hey, no problem! Time for ME to shuffle on outta here. Later, Dudes!





ELECTROLYSIS
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(Face & Body)

APPROVED BY AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION

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435 Hartford Turnpike, Vernon

XX Club Gives Presentation to CHRO

By Judy Summers

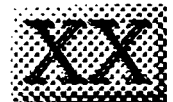
On Friday, July 10, 1992, members of the Twenty Club and the Reverend Canon Clinton R. Jones, D.D. of the Gender Identity Clinic of New England gave a brief presentation to the Connecticut State Commission on Human Rights and Opportunities concerning the legal difficulties faced by transsexuals during transition. All Commission members received literature from the Twenty Club's information packet.

The invitation to address the Commission was extended by the president, Dr. Brett, whom Jackie O'Clair had contacted regarding the legal status of transsexuals. The purpose of the presentation was to inform the Commission members of the problems we face, and to request their help in finding solutions to these problems.

Jackie opened the presentation with a discussion of definitions, such as what a transsexual is and is not, the purpose of the Twenty Club and the Gender Identity Clinic of New England, and a brief description of the requirements of the Benjamin Standards of Care. She also described the inequities in Connecticut's current statutes concerning discrimination against people in transition.

Jennifer Adams gave a poignant description of some of the problems faced by persons in transition, such as discrimination in housing, employment, and credit. Canon Jones conveyed some of the pain he has witnessed in his many years helping the transsexual community.

Members of the Commission asked a number of questions, almost all of which concerned technical and legal issues. Their attitude seemed to be one of willingness to help. As we listened to them discuss this issue and several others that they feel are important for the approaching session of the General Assembly, it is possible that the reality of politics may cause relief to be somewhat delayed.



The Legal Corner

This will be a new feature in Twenty. It's intent is to provide our members with information on recent court rulings and laws that could affect transsexuals. I will try and keep informed on the issues but need all your help to keep fully current. This is especially true for members outside of our immediate area since my ability to keep current on laws being considered in other states is limited. Please forward information to:

The Legal Corner
C/O Twenty Club
P.O. Box 387
Hartford Ct. 06141-0387

continued on next page

Connecticut Gay Rights Bill Excludes Transsexuals

Jackie O

On October 1, 1991, Connecticut became one of only five states to provide protection for gays and lesbians in employment, housing and credit. It's illegal to discriminate against someone just because they have a different sexual preference than you. Some people argued that this was giving additional privileges to gays, but after a long, heated floor debate, reason prevailed and the good legislators of Connecticut realized that what they were really doing was guaranteeing that the same rights everyone else had were granted to a minority group of Connecticut's citizens.

So what about us? - Every bill that denies gays rights excludes transsexuals in the same paragraph, so we must be all set now.WRONG..... The painful truth is that either through ignorance, prejudice, or omission we were in fact excluded.

Is this a big deal? - You bet it is. Under current laws your boss could fire you if (He/She) feels that your need to present yourself in your new gender role is causing a disruption in the work place. The responsibility for not making any waves falls on you. You are protected up to the point of transition and a gain, after surgery, you come under sex discrimination protection. It's that grey period after you have changed to your desired gender and before you achieve surgery that's at issue. Denying you a salary increase or promotional consideration because of your appearance could also be done legally during the transition period. There is a loophole in that, if you are hired in your new gender role, you are then protected under the sex discrimination laws even though you have not had surgery.

The same holds true for credit and housing. Would you like to be denied a loan because a loan officer felt as a transsexual you were unstable and undesirable? How about a room in a hotel?

Twenty is trying to do something. To date we have met with Mr. Marten, Director of the Connecticut Commission on Human Rights and explained our situation. He saw the need and is placing us on the agenda for a Governor's Council meeting in July. It's this group that recommends to Governor Weicker, what legislation he should sponsor for 1993. We're also trying to meet with the head of the Connecticut Judiciary Committee (see our letter). All bills must pass through there. Rep. Tulisano heads the committee and was instrumental in steering the Gay Right's Bill through the legislature during 1991.

What can you do.....

Let your legislator know there is a problem. Watch the elections and if it looks like there is a change coming in your district, get to all the parties. Write a letter and state the facts. Disinformation is killing us.

Use the principles of the standards of care to help these people realize that we are a legitimate group of people with a medical problem and an acceptable solution for Gender Dysphoria.

When people understand that we must live in our new role for at least a year before surgery, I have found them to be very concerned and helpful. It is our job to educate people and to win them over. Stress that we're working with the medical community to solve a problem and that we are trying to improve the quality of our life.

See also the reprint of the Jane Doe vs. Boeing "Appeals Court Clears Runway for Transitions" - Transitions, Spring 1992. We're using the principles established in this court ruling to further our argument with the state, that we have a medically diagnosable condition and a medically accepted course of treatment.

It's a long battle and we have just begun, but we won't quit. We deserve the same rights as any other citizen in this state. We deserve the right to a quality life where we can feel secure in being ourselves and should have the chance to prosper in our new roles. Let us know how you feel about this issue. If you send a letter to your representative how about forwarding it and any comments received from them to us.



This is a copy of the letter written to Representative Tulisano, chairman of the Judiciary Committee

Representative Richard Tulisano
Legislative Office Building
Hartford, Ct 06106
6/29/92

Representative Tulisano,


Please accept my sincerest thanks for having your assistant Michael Bellafiori speak with me. Representative Namoi Cohen asked me to contact you. I am secretary for the support group of The Gender Identity Clinic of New England. I am also Gender Dysphoric, a condition I was born with and will die with. The problem occurs in trying to maintain a quality life until that time comes. Recently I attended my first memorial service for a Transsexual who couldn't cope with the problems of acceptance and committed suicide.

By way of background, Gender Dysphoria is a condition in which your mental being and your physical body are out of sync. It is caused by a chemical imbalance as the brain and sexual organs are developing (we are all female until the 9th week) and it occurs between the 9th and 12th week of the pregnancy.

Your gender identity is intuitive and has nothing to do with sexual preference or orientation. A small child knows that they're a boy or girl long before they realize there is a difference in their bodies. One in 30,000 births produces a child who's mind will be out of phase with their body. It is not a choice you make, your mind dictates what you must be.

Continued on next page

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Continued from previous page

In 1979 the medical community developed and has since universally accepted the Harry S. Benjamin Standards of Care. These standards are used to diagnose Gender Dysphoria, set background educational standards along with rules of conduct for the medical community that treats Transsexuals and establishes the minimum requirements that must be met by the patient. They also dictate the course of treatment that must be followed in order to receive surgical reassignment approval. Please see enclosed attachments for a copy.

One of the requirements and perhaps the most stressful one is that we must transition full time in our chosen gender for at least 12 months prior to being accepted as a candidate for surgery. It is one of the last things we do in a long road to be what we must be. Consider it a final exam but there excellent reasons to require it.

It is because of this requirement that I am contacting you. In January I announced to my company that I had a medical problem that required that I change my Gender. The company was very supportive, after all I have been there over twenty years and hold a very good position as a product development manager. When they presented it to my senior management the roof fell in. I was told that I could not transition in my current job since it would cause too much of a work disruption. They would, however, find me a job elsewhere in the company when I was ready to live as a female.

I was also told that I had no protection under the law until I had my surgery. This applied to both federal and the new Connecticut Gay Rights Bill activated last October "End Of Discussion". Many wonderful people continued to work for me. As my body changed these people worked to help find ways to protect me. I will tell you that the stress caused by my management's position and the feminization of my body along with the inability to explain to people what was happening was intolerable.

In April my company found a recent Washington State appellate court ruling against Boeing Co. that stated that in the case of Jane Doe, they considered Gender Dysphoria to be a narrowly definable medical condition with a prescribed medical course of treatment and that the period of time when the patient is following that course of treatment they should be considered as having a temporary handicap. I have now transitioned with my company's help. They have changed all my records

to Female and assisted me in informing my co-workers and customers that I have a medical problem and should be considered a female. It all went very smoothly and I have received tremendous support.

I have won my battle but there are others who are not as strong or who work for more close-minded companies. We must live in our new gender role for at least a year before we can qualify for surgery as required by the Standards of Care. This process is very visible, requires great courage, and is the time we are most vulnerable to harassment.

We need your help to get the Gay Rights Bill amended to protect Transsexuals until they are through their surgery. Could we please meet sometime soon and discuss what steps must be taken to accomplish this. I would also like to discuss the recent court ruling in Seattle Washington that helped me in changing my company's mind.

Thank you in advance
for your consideration.

Jackie O

Secretary Transsexual Peer Support Group G.I.C.N.E.

Copies, Michael Bellafiori
Rep. Naomi Cohen
Attachments, Standards Of Care
DSM-III-R Gender Identity disorders
Information on Gender Identity Clinic
of New England


Singing the XY Blues

by Julie W.

Okay, you've done the "XY shuffle" (see Jennifer A's article). Now let's sing the XY blues (and if you're really good you can sing lead on the song at the end of this article!). Actually, we're all too familiar with the melody to this little ditty. In fact, before we transition (and regrettably for some, even after transitioning), the sounds of this haunting theme have echoed through the activity of our daily living. It's the sound of our own pain that makes the XY blues what it is - a sense of our own (often intense) dissatisfaction with living in the wrong gender role that, like a dissonant chord, causes tension within the depths of our being.

I first sang the XY blues as a young child when I wanted to socialize with all the little girls in my kindergarten class. When the teacher insisted that I play with the boys and their toys, the music began to play. The theme became more and more familiar as I grew older. Living in the role of XY became the usual (though not natural) way of existing, and doing the XY shuffle was always accompanied by the XY blues (sort of a song and dance routine, so to speak). Many, many times my song reached its crescendo in tears of pain and sadness that poured out of a heart broken, but longing to be whole.

There are many verses to the XY blues. Some of us have sung them all; all of us who are confronting gender-related issues at least know how some of the verses go. In fact, if I tried to list all the frustrations associated with doing the XY shuffle, I probably would omit your own struggle in the process (kind of like trying to remember and sing all the verses of a song without forgetting a few words here and there - ever try



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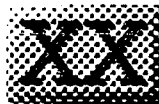


memorizing all the words to "American Pie?"). But there are some common themes to those verses - frustration, anger, fear, self-doubt, impatience, sadness, despair, and even suicidal thoughts - themes which find their common meter in the key of pain.

One way in which some of us have tried to confront our gender dysphoria is to surrender to the music, grit our teeth, and try to shuffle (uncomfortably) through life with all the harmony of a minor chord. I remember in college trying this tactic; I was the captain of our cross-country running team, and would go into the training room to lift weights, stretch, pound the heavy bag - anything to drown out the incessant sound of my true nature. After one particularly grueling session with the heavy bag, I left the weight room with bruised and bleeding fists and a weight on my shoulders far heavier than anything I had ever lifted. How terribly strange it was that one moment I wanted to act like a Rocky or a Rambo, when deep inside I wanted to be female (a Rockette, perhaps?). Seriously, I knew that sooner or later I would have to face the music, and confronting my own gender issues was something I was not yet ready to do.

Sooner or later we all have to face the music and confront the reality of our gender dysphoric condition. We can do our share of serious meditation and soul searching and change the lyrics to the dirge, or we can deny our condition until later in life, struggle onward, and shuffle to our graves. The truth is, the song remains the same until you, and only you change the melody. Only you can do it for yourself; only you are capable of helping yourself. No one can make that decision for you; no one knows you as intimately as you do yourself. At the same time, there are many who are supportive of you as you face the music. Perhaps that's what the Twenty Club is all about: we're shuffling along the same path together, and we're singing the same tune ...

No, there's no catchy tune here at the end. That little reference at the beginning was intended to get you to read this far. Hah! By the way, as regards the remark in "XY Shuffle" about my pronounced posterior, I decline to comment. After all, aren't we at "the end" of this article?



Experiences Wanted

[Editor's Note: This is a new feature in TWENTY, and it requires your support. We will propose a question regarding our development as individuals and as a group, and you write to us with your answers. The results will be edited and printed in a future edition of the newsletter.]

The first question is:

What questions should we ask?

Women's Humor Reflects Society's Changing Roles

by Carolyn Battista

The changing role of women in society is being reflected in their use of humor, says Dr. Regina Barreca, who teaches English at the University of Connecticut in Storrs. Dr. Barreca, author of the book "I Used to Be Snow White... But I Drifted: Women's Strategic Use of Humor," published last year by Viking, said that women's humor has a long tradition, but it used to be more constrained and less recognized.

Now women's humor is taking new directions and getting more visibility, because "women are ready to take risks, step over the line," she said. Her book features quotes from dozens of funny women, from Mae West to Judy Tenuta, as well as Dr. Barreca's own advice. She writes that a woman should stay ready for "the guys at the bar, the nasty co-worker, the snotty salesman" by maintaining an assortment of humorous responses, cultivated "like a beautiful and slightly poisonous garden."

For instance, Dr. Barreca says, "When your co-worker sneeringly tells you that he never argues with a lady, answer, à la Mae West, 'Playing safe, huh?'" Or if a woman's lover leaves her for someone much younger, she should explain to friends that the man aims "to save money on all those half-fare plane tickets."

LAUGHING AT MOTHERHOOD

Dr. Barreca said a woman should use humor to "capture the hearts, minds and respect" of her audience. Noting that women often aim their humor at "power and the misuse of power," she said that is effective, because "once you start to laugh at something, you can't take it as sanctimoniously as you might have."

Even motherhood is not exempt as a target for her laughter. Dr. Barreca cites an Erma Bombeck rejoinder to a complaining child: "So you swallowed the plastic dinosaur from your cereal box. What do you want me to do, call a vet?"

Other Connecticut women seem to agree about the power of humor, including a publisher, several performers and the head of a university women's studies program.

The publisher - Knowledge, Ideas and Trends Inc. of Manchester - recently issued "Be an Outrageous Older Woman," a 206-page paperback by Ruth Jacobs, who teaches sociology part time at Regis College in Weston, Mass. She advises readers how to sneak into private beach clubs to take healthful swims. She says a dignified guest ("though a free one") may even contribute a certain amount of class to a place.

Dr. Jacobs takes shots at the way America often treats older women by introducing readers to her creation Dr. Demo Graph, organizer of Project Crone (Can Get Rid of Elderly Nuisances Efficiently).

"This book stirs the pot and hits the buttons," said the president of Knowledge, Ideas and Trends, Sandra Brown.

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COMEDY AT A FUNERAL

Dr. Barreca says that telling a joke is taking a risk, so women who tell jokes on stage are leaders in risk-taking, and she is glad to see more such women in action.

One of them is Joyce Anisman-Saltman, a stand-up comic and associate professor of special education at Southern Connecticut State University in New Haven. She performs her routines at schools, business meetings and nightclubs, "and I actually did comedy at a funeral," she said. The family of a friend who had died asked Ms. Anisman-Saltman to recall the many funny times they had all shared. "Tears and laughter are both cathartic," she said.

Ms. Anisman-Saltman, who calls one of her routines "Laughter: Prescription for Survival," stresses that laughter is physiologically as well as psychologically beneficial. She added that humor helps people deal with what they fear, "by taking it out of the realm of the horrible."

Judith Sloan, who grew up in New Haven and began performing there, is now a full-time comedian. She lives in Queens but returns often to Connecticut. She said that people both laugh and cry at her material, which targets, among other things, American foreign policy. One of her routines is titled "The New World Odor."

"I think that a full range of the emotional palette is one of the things women offer," she said. But she added that she spoke not only as a woman but also as "a person in a completely twisted world."

Dovie Thomason, an American Indian storyteller who now lives in Canton, noted that many of the old tales employ humor to teach a lesson. "When you laugh at yourself because you got the message, then change is possible," she said.

ATTACKING THE PERFECT HUSBAND

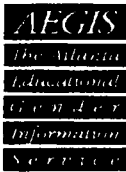
She finds such stories very useful, she said. She is marking this year of Columbus by telling a story "about how native people observed the newcomers' lack of social graces, and asked Coyote to teach them," she said. "It's a funny story with an edge."

Mary Ashton, a dance-performance artist in New Haven, uses humor in a piece in which she takes on "the perfect husband, who wants his wife to throw the perfect party, wear the perfect dress." She does this by attacking a Ken doll.

"I bite his head," she said cheerfully. "I drown him." By making the audience members laugh, she said, she makes them see just what she means.

Gertrude Hughes, head of women's studies at Wesleyan University in Middletown, pointed out that humor "is a good subversive tool," because the minute people laugh at something, like the attack on Ken, it shows that they understand the situation. "I really should include a unit on humor in Women's Studies 101," she said.

Chrysalis Quarterly



Join AEGIS and receive four issues of CHRYsalis QUARTERLY, plus three booklets from AEGIS as they are published. Also available to AEGIS Members is the AEGIS Bibliography of Gender Dysphoria, over 250 pages of references to books and articles covering the many aspects of gender dysphoria. Fill out this card, send it and \$30 (\$40 outside the U.S. and Canada) to:

CQ
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Submitted By Jennifer Adams

CHEF'S CORNER

[Editor's Note: This is a new feature to our newsletter. Anyone wishing to contribute a favorite recipe may contact the newsletter editorial staff. Let us know whether you enjoy this type of article. ED.]

Rice Pilaf: An Armenian staple

Deidre E.

Growing up, as I did, exposed to a proud Armenian heritage, my palette was exposed to a marvelous variety of foods. Textures and tastes sometimes subtle, sometimes powerful but always pleasantly satisfying. Of all the Armenian foods I have experienced, my favorite is rice pilaf.

This dish is simple to prepare and enjoys nearly universal appeal. It complements any entre, from fish to beef to lamb and pork, to chicken. My personal favorite meal consists of roasted chicken, pilaf and a salad. A side benefit is that the bones left over from preparing the chicken may be easily converted into the stock needed to prepare the pilaf. More on that later. Here's the recipe for a traditional rice pilaf prepared the way my grandmother and mother passed on to me:

RICE PILAF

- 1 cup long grain white rice
- 2 cups College Inn chicken broth
- 1/4 cup vermicelli or very fine egg noodles

PREPARATION

- 1) Into a large dutch oven pour approximately 1/8 cup oil (corn oil, peanut oil are fine. For a treat, try adding a small amount of olive oil).
- 2) Add the vermicelli or egg noodles.
- 3) On high heat, rapidly stir the vermicelli until golden brown.
- 4) Add the rice to the vermicelli and oil; continue stirring until rice is coated with oil. This should take no more than 30 seconds to avoid burning the vermicelli.
- 5) Add chicken broth, stirring the mixture well. Bring mixture to boil. Add salt to taste, probably 1 tsp will do for a start.
- 6) Continue stirring boiling mixture until the liquid level is well reduced. The liquid should appear just over the top of the rice mixture; the rice should appear slightly swollen from absorption of the chicken broth. This step may take some practice!
- 7) Place a lid on the dutch oven; remove from stove top. Place into a preheated, 350 degree oven for 15 minutes.
- 8) Remove pilaf from oven. Stir the mixture. Replace lid and return to oven for another 15 minutes.
- 9) Remove from oven and serve hot.

Note: You may find you have to vary the cooking time slightly, depending upon your oven and the amount of liquid boiled off prior to placing into the oven.

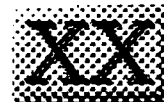
A couple of cautions. First, be sure to use chicken broth. Soups and bouillon cubes don't do the trick. Second, long grain white rice generally gives the best results. Don't use minute rice or the like.

For variations, try using beef or turkey broth instead of chicken. You may also experiment with various types of rice: brown, wild, etc. Try mixing different rice varieties for a delightful texture.

I mentioned earlier that chicken broth may be easily made from the bones left over from a roasted chicken. Indeed, the bones left behind from chicken prepared in nearly any manner will do fine. To prepare the broth, fill a large dutch oven or similar pan with 5 cups of water. Add bones (and skin if it isn't coated with too much barbecue sauce) and bring to boil. Reduce heat and continue to boiling for about 1 hour or

until liquid is reduced to about 4 cups. Let cool slightly for ease of handling. Strain broth with seive to remove sediment. Pour into freezer boxes; cover and freeze for later use. Frozen chicken broth will keep well for many months/years.

I know you will enjoy this side dish. It's easy to make, may be made ahead of time then reheated just prior to serving in either a double boiler or microwave. It will complement just about any main course. And it's tastier than the store-bought varieties. Give it a try and discover what Armenians have been enjoying for centuries. Bon appetit!



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This Conference is for attorneys and other legal professionals; for employment, personnel, and other human resources professionals; and for members of the transgender community, all of whom have an interest in the current status of and in strategies for progressive changes in either the law and/or employment policy as they pertain to the transgendered community

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RESOURCES

The following organizations are known to the editors to provide valuable support to the gender community. This does not constitute an official endorsement by XX, The XX Club or The GICNE, however you are encouraged to investigate any and all resources and judge their value to yourself. Updates and additional information are welcome.

REGIONAL RESOURCES

The Connecticut Self-Help Mutual Support Network 389 Whitney Avenue New Haven, CT 06511 Telephone (203) 789-7645 Resource Type: This is non-profit Ct. State organization that has knowledge of over 400 support groups of all types.

Connecticut Outreach Society P.O. Box 163 Farmington, Ct 06034 Meetings: 2ND Sat & 4TH Wed in West Hartford, (203) 371-6292. Resource Type: TV & TS Support & Social Group

Tiffany Club of New England, PO Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888-9483. Resource type: TV & TS Support group.

Crossroads of Buffalo. 2316 Delaware Ave., Suite 102, Buffalo, NY 14216. Resource Type: TV & TS Support Group

Harriet Lane's TV Set P.O. Box 4002 Wallingford, Ct 06492 Meetings: 2ND & 4TH Saturday Evenings 8-12PM. Resource Type: TV & TS Social Group

Renaissance Education Association P.O. Box 552 King of Prussia, PA 19406 Telephone (215) 630-1437. Resource Types: TV & TS Support Group and Newsletter

TGIC - Transgenderists' Independence Club, P. O. Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604 Tel: (518) 436-4513 (Thursday 7-9PM) Resource Type: TV & TS Support & Social Group

Transsexual Support Group formed by The Tiffany Club of New England. Meetings: 1ST and 3RD Sundays at 6 Cushing St in Waltham, MA from 10:00 to Noon. For information Call Vivian Purves (617) 899-2212. Resource Type: TS Support Group

The XX (Twenty) Club, Inc. - That's Us! P. O. Box 387, Hartford, CT 06141-0387. Resource Type: TS Support Group and Newsletter. Affiliated with GICNE.

NATIONAL RESOURCES

GICNE- Gender Identity Clinic of New England. 68 Adelaide Road, Manchester CT 06040 (203) 646-8651. Provides coordinated services for help with attaining SRS through adherence to the Benjamin Standards of Care.

AEGIS - Chrysalis Quarterly P.O. Box 33724 Decatur, GA 30033 Telephone (404) 939-0244 (Evenings & Weekends). Resource Type: Publisher of a superb TS Newsletter

HBIGDA - The Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association, Inc. - 1515 El Camino Real, Palo Alto, CA 94306 Tel: (415) 326-4645. Resource Type: The international association of gender professionals. Establishes the Standards of Care, the international guideline for professional treatment of Gender Dysphoria.

IFGE - International Foundation for Gender Education - TV/TS Tapestry Journal. P.O. Box 367 Wayland, MA 01778. Tel: (617) 899-2212 and (617) 894-8340, weekdays 2-10p.m. Resource Type: Provides communications medium, outreach device, and networking facility for entire TV/TS community. Publishes "TV/TS Tapestry".

J2CP Information Services - P. O. Box 184, San Caspitano, CA 92693. Resource Type: TS Information and Referrals.

The Transsexual Voice P.O. Box 16314 Atlanta, GA 30321 Resource Type: Publisher of a TS Newsletter

Ingersoll Center- 1812 East Madison, Suite 106, Seattle WA 98122-2843, (203) 39-6651. Support for TSs and TVs; Provides coordinated services for help with attaining SRS through adherence to the Benjamin Standards of Care.


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