

Outreach Beacon

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"The Social Dynamics of Gender Shift"

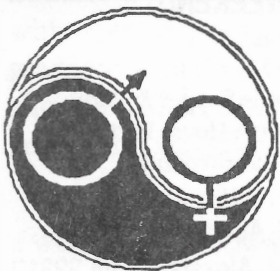
by

A. Kane, M.Ed.

Most of us typically rely on a gender role that is somewhat consistent with our biologic sex. If you're born a male this tendency and the culture reinforces the fact that you will grow up to be a "man". Similarly, for natural born females, the tendency is to develop a gender role, "woman", that is congruent with the biologic sex. But, studies indicate that there is great disparity between one's sex role, *i.e.*, the biology with which one is born, and one's gender role. (Money, 1986) Gender role is considered a social construct in which there is wide variation and also, several problems.

In some cases these problems or issues are self-generated. However, in others, they are in conflict with a culture/society that opts for gender rigidity and that offers few alternatives. When I speak about gender shift, I refer to an option for a person who wants to be considered a member of an alternative gender from the natural biologic sex.

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The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute is a not-for-profit educational corporation of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. It serves as a resource for helping professionals, transsexuals, cross-dressers, and androgynes.

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All inquiries to the Outreach Beacon should be addressed to the Outreach Institute, Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215

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Such a person can be male and live as a woman. There is much evidence to support this notion of gender shift. (Kane, Presentation at SSSS, 1985)

What is the nature of this process of gender-shift, of going from what you were born with and raised to be (man or woman) to an alternate gender role? Over a time span, which includes adolescence, an individual, expressing gender confusion, finds that the prescribed gender role of the culture/society does not reflect the "real me." The dynamics of developing the "real me" gender role will be the substance of this paper. Limited reference will be made regarding the etiology and generalized motivation for gender shift.

Some of the determinants found to support the concept of gender shift have been uncovered in the hundreds of cases and studies that we have done during the past decade at the Outreach Institute.

A critical determinant, and one that is difficult to get exact data on, is early childhood events. Some of these are explicit and can be vividly recalled. Others are composites of several events from which inferences have been made. Consider a mother who wanted a girl and it turned out that a boy was born. All of those pink things that were purchased in anticipation of that girl, in this culture/society, would have been non-useable for this infant.

However, because of economics or some other factor, the mother might think "well, it wouldn't be so bad to put him in pink." This is a case where the explicit determinant had to do with choosing clothing colors for infants based on a traditional cultural mores (the "Blue Blanket" Syndrome). Many people associate pink with girls and blue with boys. If you were a male child dressed in pink, then you would gradually grow towards a perception of gender associated with being a female child. Observers of this infant would assume it to be a girl and treat it according to the culturally defined mores.

The implication in this example is that by treating an infant, with a well-defined biologic sex, as if it were of the opposite gender is: "I

always knew myself to be a girl or woman, but my biologic sex prevented this from happening."

More explicit events include dressing young children (of both sexes) in the same attire until age 5. This was done in England and France from the nineteenth century until the start of the second world war. This sort of event has had important influence on later development of a gender role and any decision for gender shift.

Another determinant is related to the reinforcement of a gender/sex congruity during puberty. For instance, if a pubescent male receives positive reinforcement regarding one's activities, the chances are good that a gender shift will not occur. On the other hand, if the male is pubescent but there are no positive feelings that result from one's puberty (*i.e.*, that it's bad to masturbate or have sex with girls, or it's bad to be in a too anomalous situation, etc.), a conflict begins to emerge. The child at that particular point may have serious questions about gender role and this could influence gender shift.

A third determinant that influences gender shift is the recognition of the self as a unique individual. In this Western culture, one refers to people by their gender roles (men and women) rather than as human beings. Implied here is that gender roles are fixed. If a person feels comfortable with one's self-worth, and gets the 'stroking' appropriate to that good feeling, than his or her gender esteem is not jeopardized. When gender appears, this could present a burden associated with guilt to a person. It leads to much anxiety and stress that is reflected in self-doubt about the congruity between biologic sex and gender role. Such a person will look for alternatives to this situation and may consider gender-shift. Here gender-shift may underlie a person's need to compensate for gender discomfort.

In the last two decades great strides in cosmetic surgery and sex reassignment have made it possible to change the body to reinforce an individual's preferred gender identity/role. However, the cost factor and more importantly, the decision to seek congruity between "soma and psyche" do present some challenges for both society and the person to resolve the conundrum. Many cases support the notion

that low self-esteem is a determinant in gender shift (Lothstein, 1985 and Steiner, 1986).

A fourth determinant is body type or somatypes (ala Sheldon). There are people whose body types more consistently line up with being male although they are females. Some body types conform to a female phenotype although they are male. If one receives enough reinforcement that says "she looks like ..." and "she" is actually a "he", that can be a catalyst for gender shift.

The final determinant is the use of body language or verbal communication within a gender role. Most of us learn some form of verbal communication in our gender persona. You sit in an open masculine pose in the men's locker room and you start talking about dates and how many women you screw and so forth. That is the body language and the verbal communication that goes with being in a masculine gender role for the average man in this culture. If one feels uncomfortable with intruding upon the space of others and prefers to talk about sewing or fabric or other kinds of things that are not germane to the usual gymnasium or gym locker room mentality, then a conflict may arise. If it persists through a variety of situations, then the current gender role is in jeopardy and that could trigger a gender shift for that person.

To summarize: we have found five major determinants that influence an individual's decision to seek a gender shift. They are:

- Early childhood events
- Lack of reinforcement of a gender/sex congruity at puberty
- Lack of recognition of a person's selfworth (low self-esteem)
- Body Type
- Body language & verbal communication

Any one or combination of these determinants plays a significant role in the start of the gender-shift process. In addition, the phenotype and genotype must also be considered in the process, as well as the

overall familial/social background of the individual. It is also important to consider the time frame in which a gender shift pattern began, how long it has persisted, and what coping strategies an individual has tried in hoping to resolve the gender conflict.

To illustrate more specifically how gender shift can take place I'd like to share two composite cases. One of a male and one of a female. Not all of the factors apply to one particular case but over a series of 150 that we've seen, this is, generally, the pattern.

Case One: A Biologic Male into Gender Shift

This is a male who, between the ages of 25 and 33, married in the conventional sense and has 2 children. He is relatively successful in his chosen career but shows signs of discontent with his chosen lifestyle. Upon observation and sharing, we find that in the early part of his life he was involved in crossdressing experiences which gave him great pleasure and he continued these experiences into puberty and adolescence. Then, with periods of high and low intensity, he continues to crossdress as an adult. This activity has been hidden from the mainstream of his lifestyle. Nobody, as far as he knows, is aware of the hobby or behavior pattern. He feels shame and guilt about engaging and sharing this experience with others. In order to ameliorate the guilt and stress associated with this behavior, solace is sought through alcoholism or other addictive type behaviors. These interventions are temporarily successful, but do not resolve the core issues. The person may also seek professional help through counseling or therapy.

Through involvement with other CDs of like persuasion in a social contact group, the individual "comes out". At this point the elements of a gender shift emerge. Now the person doesn't have a guilt which to relate to his crossdressing and he has some serious and perhaps some meaningful questions to raise about his original concept of gender role. With the "coming out" process and sharing most of this guarded secret of his life he begins to explore the meaning and expression of an alternative gender role. There is a search for safe, social harbors to explore this gender shift.

At first it's superficial. Maybe it's just with the clothes and accessory factors. And then with time and positive reinforcement there is a deeper search within the psyche to resurrect the meaning of what this all means. At this point the person has arrived at a decision about his gender role. Does he want to remain in the same gender role? Does he want to shift? And for how long? To what extent? What are the trade-offs?

Case Two: A Biologic Female and Gender Shift

This is a female between 24 and 30 years old, unmarried and with a history of lesbian relationships going back to early puberty in junior and senior high school. These relationships were less than satisfactory to her. But, in the absence of wanting to share her "problem" with a guidance counselor, kept it mostly to herself and lived a frustrating sex life. She has developed a career that has been rather successful in a field that is usually relegated to what was once thought to be "men's province". A pattern of unhappiness with current lifestyle becomes apparent. Along with discontent about conventional gender role, mode and behavior. Secretly, she harbors strong masculine gender feelings. She sees her relationship with others as her manhood versus the work, conventional, and social world that she lives in. In an attempt to dissipate the strength and guilt of these feelings she resorts to alcohol or other addictive behaviors. She dresses in masculine attire at all times, especially at work and in various social settings. She desperately seeks to share her secret with someone; but doesn't know who to talk to. She can't talk to her parents, she can't talk to her siblings, she can't talk to her friends because they'll all think that she's off the wall. She finally discovers a counseling service that can offer some help and clarification of the issues for her. She feels much relieved and wishes more help with diagnostics or the dynamics related to her gender shift. Here the gender shift is already present, but it needs validation.

Both cases have been generalized from hundreds of cases that we have seen over the last decade of both of male and females. They come from all over New England and other parts of the Northeast.

For sex educators, counselors and therapists who work with gender-conflicted clients, awareness and knowledge of the determinants and the process of gender shift are very important in providing strategies of coping and resolving gender issues.

[Ari Kane, M. Ed. is Executive Director of the Outreach Institute and a Gender Specialist with Theseus Counseling Services in Massachusetts.]



*"JoAnne
goes to college."*

A perceptive format - illustrating how to promote positive attitudes towards crossdressing without creating stressful resistance in the process.

- Side one = Talk given to Univ. of Wisc. Human Sexuality Class.
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"It's Awe-full Being Yourself"

by

J. M. L. Seckman, M. A.

I have found that discovering what you are really all about is rather like opening up a series of Chinese boxes. As you search for that 'hidden treasure' that is you, you find that you must continually open smaller and smaller boxes. As you open your realm of possibility, you discover that the smallest of boxes is simply the matter/stuff which makes up your physical life and surroundings. The biggest, and perhaps most difficult box, contains spirit. Somewhere inside that large wonderful box lies the real you. It embodies a mysterious but magical feminine being which influences and occupies much of our 'outer space and time'.

Kierkegaard said, "that the most common despair in life is to be in despair of not choosing, or willing, to be oneself and that the deepest despair is to become something 'other' than who you really are." Guilt comes from self-depreciation or being less than what one is. The sooner crossdressers begin opening the boxes, the sooner crossdressing behavior will appear as process-addictive, and the sooner they can begin to make controlled choices.

One needs inner-directed willingness to become responsible for one's actions. Responsibility leads to accountability and to commitment. Commitment leads to motivation and motivation to more discipline and understanding.

Growth implies a development to maturity, not only by getting bigger but also through inner growth. The same is true for all living and viable systems. As crossdressers, many of our future choices will be ambiguous at best. In our desire to make our lives better through wise choices we need to move and be moved to a place of inner peace and comfort. These should come from a sense of self-actualization which allows us to move from simple points of view to a viewing point.

We need a broader vision of the relationship between the old and the new, between the familiar and the uncharted. We need to see our new dynamic selves from the perspective of our familiar, but limiting attitudes as well as to look back on them from our new perspective.

One of Buddha's noble truths states that the minute you grab onto something in life, you will begin to suffer. The cause of that suffering is clinging or attachment. If you hold to youth - you will suffer about old age; if you hold to the idea of riches- you'll suffer about being poor; if you hold to masculinity - femininity will suffer. If you hold only to what others perceive you to be - you will suffer.

The contemplation of self is embodied in action. Enlightened action is the requirement of our times. They're the only times we have. Each one of us must open those boxes, especially the box of spirit, to discover who "you" are. Truth waits for eyes that are unclouded by longing - by longing to balance the masculine and the feminine.

What "rites of passage" are needed to create improved self-esteem? These rites need to come from within ourselves, our spirits. What would it be like if we simply accept that which creates wholeness in ourselves and in one another?

One's dreams come true when one takes the time to listen to the music in one's heart. Which box is your heart in? Which box is in your heart?

[J. M. L. Seckman is Director of the Children's Learning Center in Wisconsin, and considers himself an androgyne with not only a history, but also a future.]

"A friend is someone who knows all about you and still loves you" Kelly Digby

Transexualism and the Law: Child Custody and Family Law

by

M. Elizabeth, n/SSE

[Editor's note: The following article is the first in a series concerning legal issues involving a transsexual or transsexualism. We invite comments from our readership on this well-researched article.]

In child custody cases involving a gender-conflicted parent, one hesitates to predict what action the courts will take. As Jan Elliott¹ points out, "[t]here are few published court opinions dealing with cross dressers ... [and] in general the opinions present a "mixed bag."

The traditional legal standard for dealing with children is to place the welfare of the child in a predominant position. While the relevant factors are relatively comprehensible in the ordinary custody proceeding, a case involving a gender-conflicted parent presents a unique situation, the threshold question being whether the gender-conflicted are by definition unfit parents.

In RE Tenure Hearing of Grossman² the trial court held and the Court of Appeals affirmed that the mere presence of a transsexual teacher whose sex reassignment was known to the children caused the likelihood of psychological damage to the children sufficient to justify her dismissal.

On the other hand, the Colorado Appellate Court ordered that custody remain with the natural "mother" (now a male) in Christian v. Randall.³ The court found that "[t]he record contained no evidence that the environment of the respondent's home in Colorado endangered the children's physical health or impaired their emotional development."

In 1987 a Minnesota appellate court, reasoning that the best interests of the child would be so served, sustained the grant of sole custody of a daughter to her "transvestite" father. Important to the

decision were the facts that the father did not crossdress at home; would tell his daughter about his crossdressing at an appropriate time with the help of a therapist; and, perhaps critically, that the child had been abused while in the mother's custody.⁴ Finally, in 1988, custody was given to a transsexual parent, In RE Custody of T.J.⁵, who had determined for the present to maintain his male identity and not crossdress, even though his son knew of his father's gender conflict.

The controversy continues, however. In Re Clark,⁶ an Orange County Superior Court judge approved an adult adoption of a 25 year old prison inmate. A week later, the judge changed his mind and rescinded the adoption decree, having belatedly discovered that both parties were labelled as transsexuals. The presiding judge ignored the fact that the adoptive parent was: 1) now legally female and had been for the past 12 years, and 2) a highly respected member of the local community with considerable community support for her action. The judge's position was that the adoption was not in the public interest.

Parental rights became a major issue in the case of Daly v. Daly,⁷ when the respondent mother petitioned the trial court to terminate appellant's parental rights. The trial court terminated appellant's parental rights and appellant appealed. The court reviewed jurisdictional grounds for termination of parental rights under Nevada statute NRS 128.105. Expert witnesses examined the child and testified that there was a serious risk of emotional and mental injury to the child if she were allowed to be in her father's presence. Further, the child stated to the court that it would be disturbing to visit with her father and made it graphically clear that she didn't want to see him again. Based on the above, the trial court found the requisite jurisdictional grounds existed to terminate parental rights.

Whether the gender-conflicted are per se unfit school teachers and/or parents is clearly unresolved scientifically and judicially at this time. Preliminary psychiatric data, however, indicates that as parents, the gender-conflicted do not adversely affect their own children's sexual identity. Richard Green, Professor of Psychiatry

and Forensic Law, having studied 16 children of gender-conflicted parents over a two year period stated that "[a]t this stage I tentatively suggest that children being raised by transsexuals ... do not differ appreciably from children raised in more conventional settings."⁸

¹Jan Elliot, "Questions of Law," 4(6) Alpha Zeta & A Rose News 4 (May 15, 1988).

²Paula Grossman v. School diistrict of the Township of Bernards, Somerset County, New Jersey, 316 A.2d 39 (1974); aff'd. 538 F.2d 319 (1075); cert. denied 429 U.S. 181 (1976).

³Christian v. Randall, 516 P.2d (1973).

⁴In Re Welfare of N.H., 412 N.W.2d 389 (Minn. Ct. Ap. 1987).

⁵In Re Custody of T.J., 1988 Minn. App. LEXIS 144 (unpublished February 9, 1988).

⁶In Re the Adoption Matter of Anna Marie Mostyn, Orange County Superior Court, No. _____, January 11, 1983.

⁷Suzanne Lindley Daly, formerly known as Tim Daly, Appellant, v. Nan Toews Daly, Respondent, 102 Nev. Advance Opinion 20 (March 6, 1986).

⁸Green, R. "Sexual Identity of 37 Children Raised by 28 Homosexual or Transsexual Parents," American Journal of Psychiatry 692-697 (June, 1978).

[The author is the founder of the Sisters of St. Elizabeth of Hungary and her ministry has been to serve the gender-conflicted by providing information resources for those in need (see J2CP ad page 20).



"Gender Issues for the 90s: All Day Institute"

by

E. Ratner

An all-day institute on Gender Issues for the 90s will be held on July 20th, 1988 in Boston, MA for a limited audience of 25 people. This institute is sponsored by the National Lesbian & Gay Health Foundation (NLGHF) and the Human Outreach & Achievement Institute (HOAI).

For the past two decades we have been engaged in unraveling the mystery surrounding the concept of gender, as a social and cultural phenomenon, rather than just a "psychosexual disorder." We have learned much about some of the social dynamics of gender shift, some of its determining factors, and some effective coping strategies in dealing with gender-conflicted people.

The program consists of two parts:

A. Symposium - A panel of presenters on relevant gender issues for the 90s with other approaches toward understanding the complexities of gender (9 A.M. - Noon). This segment is open to all registered conference attendees.

B. Workshop - New and diverse strategies for counseling and doing therapy with gender-conflicted clients. Several tested and useful 'tools' will be presented. These can be used in connection with various coping strategies available to sex educators, counselors, therapists, and other helping professionals only.

Audio tapes and abstracts of the presentations will be made available through the Outreach Institute.

For further, please contact the Outreach Institute, POB 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215.

OUTREACH SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT OF 1988 ACTIVITIES & PROGRAMS

By Ari Kane, Executive Director

- Speaking Engagement at Boston Area Gay & Lesbian Youth (BAGLY) Overview of crossdressing & crossgender behaviors; over 50 people in attendance; Jane Peabody accompanied Ariadne and shares her experience with the group:
- Mtg. of Society for the Scientific Study of Sex, Los Angeles Chapter. John Money presented ideas about the formation of a Center for the Study of Sexual Dysfunction and Gender Anomalies with national referral service throughout the USA.
- 3 hr presentation at Institute for Advance Studies in Human Sexuality, San Francisco, CA. As a Wardell Pomeroy Lecturer, Ariadne Kane spoke on the "Social Dynamics of Gender Shift and Counseling Strategies For The Gender Conflicted". The Institute provides the most comprehensive and update sex education and sex therapy training in North America. Currently practicing psychologists, nurses, psychiatrists, social workers and guidance counselors, and invited foreign experts in the field attended the program. (An MD from Peoples Republic of China was in the class.)
- 1 1/2 hr lecture presentation at San Francisco State University. An invitation to speak at Advanced Human Biology class of Professor Bernard Goldstein. An overview of gender issues was presented and included several lifestyle currently available. Over 160 students in attendance at the largest lecture facility in the Campus Science building. Judging from the quality of the Q & A segment as well as after class conversations, the material and the approach were well received.

- International Foundation for Gender Education Convention held in Chicago, Feb.25-28. Ariadne Kane gave two lecture presentations; "The Helping Professional & The Paraculture Connection", an historic review of major events and people (professionals and paraculture) related to gender issues, and "The Dynamics of Gender Shift", an overview of the process of gender shift, its principal determinants, coping strategies during transition, gender lifestyle issues in American Society. Both programs were well attended and well received.
- Mtg with Founder of Bisexual Network of USA in San Francisco. Discussion centered about the relationships between gender role options and sex role orientations. Possible programs could emerge later this year cosponsored by NBN and Outreach Institute.
- Bay Area Men's Guild of Counselors & Therapists, Berkeley CA. An introduction to The Outreach Institute, its programs and services and presentation of a Workshop entitled "Masculinity in Flux". Well received and will serve as a springboard to more formal programs with individual members of this group.
- Western Regional Meeting of the Society For The Scientific Study of Sex, Dallas, TX March 23-29. 3 hr. workshop on "Masculinity in Flux".
- KERA, Public Radio Station in Dallas, Appearance by Ari Kane and Nicole W. on a 1 hr Evening Talk Show with Host Karen Denard. This program covers a listening radius of about 75 miles and includes Fort Worth and Denton TX.
- 1 hr presentation at Graduate School of Education program in Human Sexuality. "Overview of Gender Issues". Attended by HS Counselors, Elementary School Administrators, and Social Workers. University of S. Maine, Gorham, ME.

- Attendance at 1988 Continental Conference on AIDS held in Provincetown MA. Workshops and Panels were presented on the latest Medical Information, Sexuality, Nutrition, Politics, Ethics, Legal Issues & Alternative Healing. It was sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist AIDS Action Working Group. An excellent program, in every way. Important for the paraculture to be informed on this dreaded epidemic.

"A New Program for Couples"

by

A. Kane, M. Ed.

A new program has begun for couples who have learned to live with a crossdressing issue, but who want more out of their relationship. Helping Our Partners Experience the Fullness of United Love (HOPEFUL) was founded by J.L. and Michelle and is sponsored by Theseus Counseling Service of Brookline, MA.

The founders want to show how a couple's relationship can grow and prosper because of the unity that is possible through understanding crossdressing and gender-related issues. "We have spent years struggling, looking for cures and coping strategies when we finally realized that issues surrounding crossdressing and gender could serve as a springboard to explore and broaden the basis for a more unified love relationship between us." They would like to share the process of finding the fullness of this unifying experience with other couples.

The program is on-going and takes place in one Saturday afternoon (dates are available from the Outreach Institute) each month beginning July, 1988. There is a nominal charge (\$35.00 per couple). For a full brochure and details for registration, write to the Outreach Institute, POB 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA 02215, or to Theseus Counseling Service, Suite 302, 233 Harvard Street, Brookline, MA 02146.

Outreach Book Project

Dr. Harry Benjamin 's Classic "The Transsexual Phenomenon" is Reprinted

The Outreach Institute is proud to make available The Transsexual Phenomenon, (out of print since the late 1970's).

Dr. Benjamin's classic title is now available in standard and deluxe editions through the Outreach Institute's Book and Reprint Service.

The Human Outreach and Achievement Institute, in cooperation with the Renaissance Education Association, Inc. has printed a limited number of copies through a special arrangement with Crown Publishers (owners of Julian Press). Funding for this project has been provided by Renaissance, and the book is being distributed by the Outreach Institute.

The Transsexual Phenomenon is the third out-of-print title that the Outreach Institute has published. Canary: A Biography and A Year Among the Girls were previously rescued from out-of-print status by the Outreach's continuing educational and research services.

All three titles are available from the Book and Reprint Service. The Deluxe Edition of The Transsexual Phenomenon is printed on glossy cover stock and is priced at \$39.95. The Regular Edition is printed on regular stock and is priced at \$34.95. Both editions include photographs from the original hardcover edition. Pre-publication orders are now being accepted.

Details on ordering can be found on the inside back cover of this issue of the Beacon.

"Electrology 2000"

by

B. Piranio, D.D.S. and R. Piranio, R.E.

Laughing gas, treating each hair follicle only once, permanent hair removal, medical pain prevention, no scarring, no regrowth, clearing any area - even those areas that will be on the inside after surgery, all while watching your favorite movies, and done by people who care and understand why you need it. Welcome to Electrology 2000.

This new approach to electrolysis is a fusion of scientific follicle elimination with pain prevention.

Human Hair Follicles after Electrolysis:

In a comparison between two methods we found that the use of an insulated probe with short wave thermolysis eliminated the hair producing part of the follicle with only one treatment, while the use of a bare needle did not. Why? The bare needle begins diffusing current at the surface and burns the flesh from the surface to the end of the needle. Dr. Kligman states that as much as 90% of the current is lost by the time the pulse reaches to the bulb, often resulting in partial elimination of the follicle as well as damage to the glands and elastin that keeps the skin flexible and young-looking. The insulated probe, on the other hand, delivered all of the current to the bulb area leaving the natural surface unharmed. (As personal testimony, my beard shadow was removed in less than a year without scarring or regrowth. For me, seeing was believing.)

Pain Control;

As for pain control we have found that when the patient is comfortable and not struggling to endure discomfort, the electrology moves much faster. More hairs can be terminated per hour, for more hours at a time, which makes the overall cost lower. We use several techniques. Laughing gas (nitrous oxide) is a safe analgesic that I used in my dental practice for year to reduce pain and provide comfort and even enjoyment. People don't go to sleep, yet they can sleep

if they wish, and they have no hangover. When using the gas, we play video tapes to entertain clients and we encourage people to bring their own tapes as well. We also use local anesthetic to numb areas so that the electrolysis is painless. We have even been able to remove hair from penile areas that will be relocated in surgery. Anything that will be on the inside of the body needs to be void of hair.

We consider electrolysis to be a medical procedure, and sterile techniques are employed to protect everyone. We consider every patient to be a person deserving the best of care.

[The authors work as a team in an electrology practice in the Greater Dallas-Fort Worth area.]

J2CP Info Services

J2CP Information Services provides information/referral services formerly provided by the JANUS Information Facility and its predecessor, the Erickson Educational Foundation, and Renaissance: Gender Identity Services.

J2CP Information Services provides an information package consisting of pamphlets concerning gender dysphoria syndrome, in particular transsexualism. This package is available for a donation of \$30.00 to cover research, printing, first class postage, and secretarial services.

Please send your certified check or money order made payable to J2CP Information Services, POB 184, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92693-0184.

Book Review

"Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment"

by

W. Walters and M. Ross, M.D.

Reviewed by A. Kane, M. Ed.

It is rare to review books on transsexualism and find a work that presents and updates many important aspects of the subject. For the editors of this work, transsexualism is viewed as "a complex of symptoms whereby a person, who is biologically a member of one sex, is convinced that she or he is in fact a member of the opposite sex."

The topics in the book reflect the multi-dimensional attitudes of its editors and contributors. There is a good review of gender identity, etiological factors that cause gender dysphoria; psychological aspects and psychological testing for whom, and for what measures of testing can reveal about candidates for sex reassignment surgery. There are excellent, if somewhat technical, chapters on; Endocrine and Hormonal Factors; and Therapy; and Voice, Speech and Language Aspects with persons who are in gender shift.

The book evolved from personal and professional interaction and experiences of its editors (Walters and Ross) and its several contributors whose on-going work with the Australian CD/TS community is well-known.

If this reviewer sees a weakness with this book, it would be its failure to clearly separate and distinguish gender role behaviors from sex role orientation. My sense is that most if not all of the articles have been written from a heterosexist rather than a humanist view of gender issues. Nevertheless, the data presented by various authors comes from the foremost respected academic and medico-clinic

Book Review

studies. There is a full set of references for each chapter as well as an appendix on hormone preparations and suggested dosages.

I am touched by an essay from a contributor who has had sex reassignment surgery (M-F) and currently leads a useful, productive life in Australia. Entitled "The View from Within", it is a poignant account of her quest to become the fully actualized person she is today. It recounts her struggle to communicate her feelings and her longing for congruity between her psyche and body. The essay reflects a beam of hope for all who have similarly experienced her odyssey to inner peace and fulfillment.

While the editors and authors are from the Australian Medical Community, their work reflects an international flavor of clinical and medical work done in other major centers in the United States, Western Europe, and several Eastern countries.

Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment is intended to serve as an overview of the subject and provide a better understanding of this issue in society. It is highly recommended by this reviewer as a useful resource not only to health care professionals and the paraculture, but also to lawyers, clergy, teachers, law-enforcement personnel, and friends and family of gender dysphorics.

[Transsexualism and Sex Reassignment is available from the Outreach Book and Reprint Service. See the inside back cover of the Beacon for a complete list of currently available titles and ordering instructions.]



Book Review

Masculinity/Femininity: Basic Perspectives

Edited by

J. M. Reinisch, L. A. Rosenblum, S. Sanders

Reviewed by H. Marshall

The best introduction to this volume is to quote directly from the preface:

"Masculinity/Femininity: Basic Perspective is the inaugural volume in The Kinsey Institute Series. In each volume, researches from a wide range of academic disciplines draw on their own data and the viewpoints of their own area of expertise to address the central issues in a specific arena of discourse. The chapters of each volume are written after the contributors participate in a Kinsey Symposium on the topic."

The interdisciplinary approach of the symposium fits the subject of this volume extremely well. Approaches to the subject include that of psychobiology, neuroscience, evolution, behavioral genetics, developmental (both our own and other species), psycho-social, and cultural.

The volume is well written and well edited. Depending on your interests and scientific or statistical background, however, the book will read easily or with difficulty in some sections. I must admit that I didn't understand the implication of the following sentence:

"At the present time we have found that at postnatal day 2, the cells of the SDN-POA do not take up radiolabeled methltriennolone, a nonaromatizable

Book Review

androgen, but do take up and retain moxestrol, a non-steroidal estrogen not bound by alpha-fetoprotein."

The quote is taken from the article "Sex Differences in the Rodent Brain: Their Nature and Origin." My technical skills are not up to Roger Gorski's, and I'm not qualified to comment on the applicability of his study to more general questions or issues.

Lionel Tiger's "Alienated from the Meanings of Reproduction?" was easily accessible to this writer. Tiger's article is based on a study that he and Joseph Shepher published as "Women in the Kibbutz." They reviewed more than 34,000 histories of men and women over three generations in kibbutzim. What they found was

"...really quite dramatic. The initial generation tended to have relatively similar labor-force gender patterns; that is, males and females tended to do more or less the same thing, independent of physical difficulties...With each succeeding generation the polarization of work within the labor force increased, so that by the time we did our study, in 1971-72, the polarization of work in the kibbutz was greater than that of Israeli society in general...Here income is not a factor, and we had a mysterious case of real polarization based, it appears, on the choices made by individual men and women, and by the community at large, in terms of allocating its scarce resources of labor."

The polarization to which Tiger refers is that males and females in the kibbutz shared, more or less equally at the inception of the kibbutz, all types of work: meaningful and menial, hard and soft, indoors and out. Over time, tasks became gender-related as men worked more in the fields and on construction than did the women, and women moved to more child-rearing tasks. Women became more protective of "their" work than did men. The collective concept of the kibbutz yielded to pressures of "nuclear" families.

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Tiger examines the relatively high birthrate in the kibbutz, the pattern of extending childbearing over the full range of a woman's procreative years, the women's interest in bearing children. He compares the data from the kibbutzim to trends in Western society of a declining birthrate, of the dissolution of the nuclear family. He states:

"If one runs a zoo, the customary view is that if the animals are reproducing it's a good zoo. In our case, we have a very low birth rate. Perhaps signaling ambiguity about maleness and femaleness has consequences for reproductive capacity."

He wonders about the paradox of those societies most capable of affording a high birthrate having a low birthrate and vice versa.

He now has me wondering about the paradox.

Therein lies the value of this collection. Most everyone who reads the Beacon will find something to mull over, to question, to examine. As I flip back to S. L. Bem's "Gender in the Mind of the Perceiver", I find:

"Because of the role that sex plays in reproduction, perhaps no society could ever be as indifferent to sex in its cultural arrangements as it could be to, say eye color, thereby giving the gender schema a biologically based priority over many other categories."

So it interweaves, social and biological, hard concepts and soft data, hard data and soft concepts, throughout the book. And the value of the interdisciplinary approach is proved.

Probably all readers would derive significant benefit from some parts of this volume; probably no readers will derive value from all its sections.

Book Review

Half the Human Experience: The Psychology of Women

by

J. S. Hyde

Reviewed by A. Kane

"The Concepts of Masculinity and Femininity are intuitively appealing and meaningful to the average person. Most of us have a sense - perhaps somewhat fuzzy - of what characteristics make a man masculine and a woman feminine - Such an assumption underlies several theories about gender/sex roles and much traditional psychological research."

Dr. Hyde, a professor of psychology, not only provides the reader with clear, uncomplicated prose about the knotty gender issues; but also prods the careful reader to raise questions about many aspects of tradition based gender/sexual behaviors.

Included among the 17 topics covered in this work are "Images of Women in Mythology and Religion", "The Psychology of Men", "Gender Differences in Personality and Behavior", "Biological Influences on Women's Behavior", and much more.

Each chapter contains relevant and aptly chosen pictures, charts, and graphs that correlate with the text.

The author's prose style flows easily and gives the reader a sense of having clearly caught the meaning of the topic or concept.

Each topic is current and of great importance to counselors, therapists, educators, and other health care professionals who work in the many areas involving human sexuality.

Book Review

Each chapter ends with suggested further readings on the specific topic. A full bibliography is also included for each chapter.

From this reviewer's perspective, this book is a breakthrough in broadening our basis for in-depth awareness about gender/sex issues for all of us in the next decade.

[Half the Human Experience is available from the Outreach Book Service. See the inside back cover for a list of currently available titles and instructions on placing an order.]

The Outreach Institute
is pleased to announce
the appointment of

Howard J. Ruppel Jr, MA., A.C.S.

to the
Board of Directors
Ruppel is currently an
Executive Director of SSSS,
Adjunct Associate Professor in The School of
Social Work at the University of Iowa
and
Director of the Center for Sexual Growth

Recommended Reading List

The Human Outreach & Achievement Institute

Title	Price
Transsexuality in the Male	\$28.95
Female to Male Transsexualism.....	29.95
The Androgyne: Reconciliation of the Male and Female	21.95
Men in Frocks	14.95
Bisexuality, a Study	21.95
Sex & Gender, A Theological & Scientific Study.....	24.95
The Tapestry	10.00
Understanding Crossdressing.....	11.95
Dressing Up	12.95
A Year Among the Girls	15.95
How to be a Woman though Male.....	12.95
The Transvestite and His Wife	11.95
Mirror Image (Nancy Hunt).....	14.95
Canary, Story of M-F Sex Change (Canary Conn).....	15.95
Mother Camp, Female Impersonators of America	9.95
Splendor	15.95
Gender Dysphoria	39.95
Information for the F-M Crossdresser & Transsexual	6.00
The Language of Clothes	16.95
Monograph #1 (Crossdressing)	5.00
Monograph #2 (Transvestites).....	5.00
Monograph #3 (Androgyny)	5.00
Monograph #4 (Partners of Crossdressers)	2.95
Legal Aspects of Transsexualism	15.00
Abstracts of a Symposium on Gender Issues for the 80's	6.00
Herland.....	7.95

Title	Price
The Woman's Dress for Success Book	4.95
TV - TS: Mixed Views	15.95
Sex & Gender	24.95
Sexual Signatures.....	9.95
Ariadne	10.95
The Spirit & The Flesh	26.95
Looking Terrific	8.95
Man & Woman, Boy & Girl.....	14.95
Designing Your Face	11.75
Toward a New Psychology of Women	8.95
The Transvestite Memoirs of the Abbe de Choisy	9.95
Transvestia (#100)	10.00
Second Serve (Renee Richards)	19.95
Natural Selections	19.95
Geraldine, The Love of a Transvestite	13.95
In Search of Eve: Transsexual Rites of Passage	15.95
Color Me Beautiful	16.95
Gender, an Ethnomethodological Approach	17.95
Standards of Care for Transsexuals (HBIGDA)	5.00
Half the Human Experience: The Psychology of Women	26.95
Masculinity/Femininity: Basic Perspectives	33.95
Transsexualism & Sex Reassignment (Walters & Ross)	32.95
Towards Recognition of Androgyny (Heilbrun)	7.95
The Transsexual Phenomenon (Benjamin), Deluxe Edition	39.95
The Transsexual Phenomenon (Benjamin), Standard Edition	34.95

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AN INVITATION TO JOIN OPERN

There has long been a need for sensitive and responsive INTAKE, EVALUATION and COUNSELING SERVICE, nationwide, for people of all ages needing help in resolving personal gender problems. These would include crossdressers, gender dysphorics, transsexuals and androgynes. In answer to the need, the Outreach Institute has organized the first network of its kind, the OUTREACH PROFESSIONAL EVALUATION and REFERRAL NETWORK (OPERN).

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- Quarterly Newsletter given with annual membership fees.
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