

Oakland, Calif.
Tribune
(Cir. D. 167,309)
(Cir. Sat. 176,901)
(Cir. Sun. 196,410)

Bill Laub

AUG 6 1976

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A Slender She Now a Husky He

By RICK MALASPINA

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EMERYVILLE—Six months ago Steve Dain was a woman—the only woman physical education teacher in the Emery Unified School District.

His name then was Doris Richards, a slim, sandy-haired teacher in her mid-30s whose pixie personality made her a favorite among men teachers and staff at Emery High School.

A sex change and hormonal correction operation at Stanford University has changed all that.

Today Emery High's only woman P.E. instructor is most definitely a man. The 5-foot, 3-inch frame has turned stocky and filled out to about 145 pounds as described by startled colleagues. The voice has dropped an octave or two and Steve Dain sports a beard, thick and handsome.

But there's one thing the switch from woman to man has not altered. Steve Dain wants to keep his teaching job.

School officials admittedly don't know quite what to do when school starts next month and Steve Dain reports for work.

Emeryville's Board of Education took its first shaky step toward solving the predicament last night. An hours-long session behind closed doors produced no decision.

Supt. Lewis Stommel is unsure what, if any, decision is in order.

It seems that Dain—then Miss Richards—was granted sick leave six months ago. She apparently gave no warning that she would return as a man.

Dain, however, is a fully tenured 10-

year member of Emery High's teaching staff and undoubtedly expects a job come September.

"This is a very sensitive, personal matter," Stommel said. "I don't know if there's a decision to be made."

Dain did not appear at last night's meeting and efforts by The Tribune to interview him at his Union City home were unsuccessful.

Emery High teachers and staff who have seen Dain since the operation are just as befuddled as Stommel and district trustees at the situation Dain has wrought.

"I don't think anyone knew she was going to have the operation," said one teacher. "She was a good looking woman. She—I mean he—has a beard now. It's thick and beautiful. A lot of men couldn't grow a beard like that."

The teacher said men on the Emery High faculty may find adjusting to their new colleague particularly awkward.

"She was very well liked by the men here. One used to joke with her and put his arm around her," the teacher recalled. "There was a lot of happy male and female horseplay, you know."

Dain was described as extremely open about the sex alteration and happy to be back at school.

"She asked me if there was anything I wanted to know about the operation—any personal specifics," a teacher said. "We talked a while in the multipurpose room and, boy, was my face red when I left."

Some parents of Emery High students are concerned about what type of teaching assignment Dain will draw when school starts. They want to know if he will remain a P.E. instructor or receive

classroom duty.

The state education code expressly prohibits males in a women's locker room, but, Stommel was quick to note, the school already has matrons who tend to locker room chores like handing out towels.

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And, he asked, perhaps not so rhetorically, what of men whose coaching and guidance have produced great athletes—female athletes.