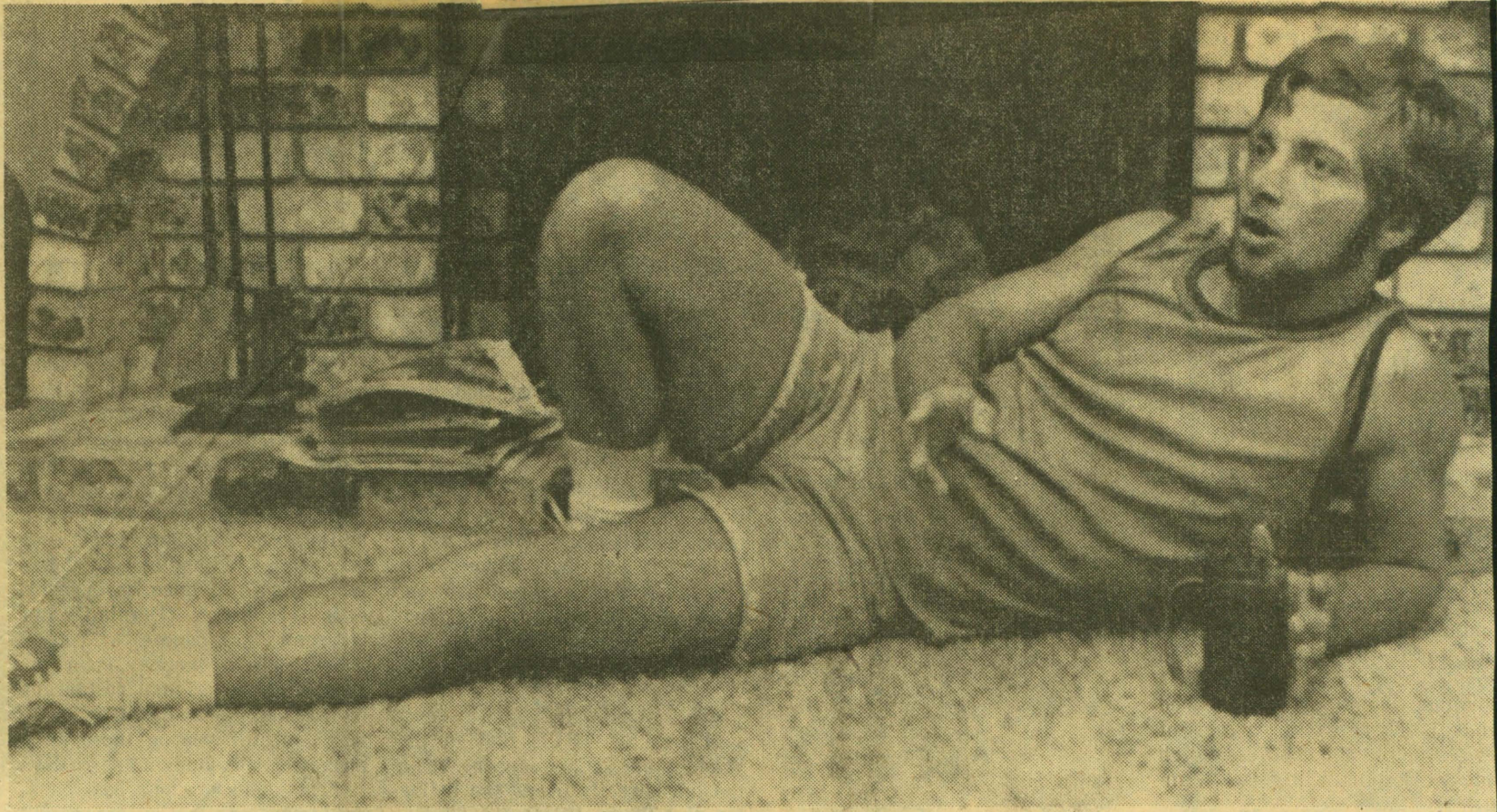


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NEW LIFE—Steve Dain, 37, who as Doris Richards used to teach girls physical education at a high school poses at

his Union City home after completing a sexual identity change program at Stanford University. Even though he knows

“who I am and where I am,” Doris Richards is not forgotten.

—AP Wirephoto

## TEACHER WANTS TO STAY AT SCHOOL

# Union City Woman Now A Man

UNION CITY — The kids think their handsome neighbor, Steve Dain, is great. But then, that's what they thought when she was a woman named Doris Richards.

Dain, 37, says he took his real place in the world eight months ago when he completed a sexual identity change program at Stanford University. But even though he now knows “who and where I am,” Doris Richards is not forgotten.

In Union City, where he lives in a big house with his three dogs and a baby raccoon, Dain says he is still the same person who taught the neighborhood children to swim in his pool.

As a woman, Dain said in an interview, Doris Richards was a “gentle and loving” person — “But a man can be that, too.”

His old job at Emery High School was teaching women's physical education. That was as Doris Richards, who was named 1975 Teacher of the Year in the small community.

There was a stir in town over the sex change, but Dain says he wants remain on at the school, although not at his old job.

“I don't meet the physical qualifications anymore to be a woman in a locker room,” he

said. He's been teaching at the school for 10 years.

Dain said he had not intended to return to the 280-student school after the sex change, which involved considerable psychological and physical therapy, as well as surgery. But now he wants to stay.

He went before the board to talk to members “so they would realize I hadn't blown my mind.”

“I said I would like to come back if it would not involve a lot of hassle,” he said. “I knew the kids would adjust.” He said the board promised a decision before Sept. 1.

Schools Supt. Lewis Stommel suggested it is a decision worthy of the U.S. Supreme Court.

“The law is not concrete,” he said. “The pivotal question is the children.

“Sex change is a drastic personal, psychological and physical procedure,” the superintendent added. “I always wonder whether this person has his act together. A teacher is dealing with impressionable kids.”

Dain recalled that Doris Richards was a popular and attractive person, but not comfortable, always torn by an inner conflict she

had known most of her life. She was heavily muscled, and had enough facial hair to require shaving.

She was a dominant personality who felt “I always had to keep in check and behave more femininely than my real self.”

Doris Richards often dieted to keep her weight at 110 pounds, and stayed petite with pretty clothes and makeup. Now, Dain is 145 pounds.

Immediately after the sex change, Dain said, “I was able to live as a man being called ‘sir’ when it really is ‘sir.’”

Dain said he broke the sex change news to his neighbors in advance and received their pledge of loyalty.

As Dain was being interviewed at his house, some 15 neighborhood kids, aged 2 to 14, hung around outside, worried about what was going on.

A reporter asked them, “How do you feel about him?”

“Good,” they chorused. Sherry Garcia, 14, put in, “It's what she wants to do. She is our best friend.” Some others corrected her, “he.”