

# Transsexuals In Prison

"TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON, INC. A NEWSLETTER FOR AND BY THE TRANSSEXUAL INMATES"  
 May, June, and July & AUGUST. 1992 Vol. II, Issue 14

The Executive Board of Directors of Transsexuals In Prison, Inc.,

CEO OPERATIONS & INDIANA REGIONAL DIR. Vanessa Meriwether #24493 P.O. Box 30 Pendleton, In. 46064 *****	) CANADIAN REGIONAL DIR & ) DISTRIBUTION DIR. ) Mrs. Patricia Fisher ) C.P. 293, Succ Cote-des-neiges ) 5858 Cote-des-neiges Blvd ) Montreal, Qc., Canada. H3S-2S6 ) *****	) TENNESSE REGIONAL DIR, ) AGAPE MINISTRIES, & MINORITY ) PRISON PROJECT: Rev John Prowe ) [REDACTED] ) Memphis, Tenn. 38104-2012 ) *****
Executive Dir Federal Division T.I.P. & P.A.T., Dee Farmer #23288-037 P.O. Box 4000 Springfield, Mo. 65808 *****	) ***** ) California Regional Dir & Dir ) & CEO of Pan Transsexual Awareness ) Lofofora Conteras #04587 ) Box 7500, C3E-119L ) Crescent City, Calif. 95532-7500 ) *****	) Executive Dir of Counseling ) Services; Roni Soubrette ) Route 2, Box 94 ) Attica, Ks. 67009 ) ) ) *****

POLICY AND STATEMENT OF TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON, INC.

Transsexuals In Prison, Inc., is a national and international organization of incarcerated transsexuals and non-incarcerated transsexuals with a multi-purpose besides our networking, informational exchange, education and organizing the transsexual inmate and the community, we strive to ensure that both the male and the female transsexual has access to legal issues concerning medical treatment while in prison, along with referrals, for them once they are released, for the treatment of Gender Dysphoria. Our actions in both State and Federal Courts through litigation of the medical treatment of the transsexual prisoner is an assurance that we will be accorded the respect, and our rights preserved and implemented by State and Federal Correctional Systems. T.I.P., has been established in a number of States, and in Canada, each region is active in the medical and civil rights issues concerning the transsexual prisoner.

Transsexuals In Prison, is a non-profit Organization which operates on personal budgets of each of it's members, (Board of Director),  
 Because some Board Members are prisoners themselves they are not allowed to receive funds for their work under some state laws, however, contributions are received, if agreed by those non-prisoner member of the Board of Directors at the offices of the; Canadian Regional Director; Tennessee Regional Director; and the Director of Counseling Services; for T.I.P., they however, have the sole right to reject any funds they desire. (Should contributions be made and accepted in some cases may constitute as a tax deduction, see your tax consultant for details).

Transsexuals In Prison, reserve the right to reject and not to print any articles, and or print articles that do not inform the members of our organization with their plight's, Photos etc as well. All material received must be true and signed for release; and must be a factual account of the plight at hand, and include documentation to support the allegations. WE DO NOT FORWARD MAIL TO OTHER TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON FOR THE PURPOSE OF PEN-PAL RELATIONS. If it does not relate to the business of this organization or it's referrals network then it will be returned un-answered. Networking referrals can be sent to; The Canadian Regional Office; The Tennessee Regional Office; The California Regional Office; and The Kansas Regional Office.

T.I.P. PRESS RELEASE: As many of you know our founder M.J. Ashford and Executive Director of Texas, Lynn Marie Scribner have made parole over the past few years. We here at Transsexuals In Prison worked hard, along with other Transsexual and Non Transsexual Official Organizations to gain the release on clemency for our C.E.O., Vanessa Meriwether... Although the Indian Parole Board recommended Vanessa for Clemency, and forwarded their decision to Indiana's Governor, Gouvenor Beyh, after carefully reviewing and examining her case sent his decision back to the Indiana Parole Board to inform Ms. Meriwethe that he would not grant her clemency petition due to the "nature and circumstances of the offense." on April 24, 1992. We of the T.I.P. wish to thank those who helped in the support of our sister and friend in this quest. We know that Vanessa's time in prison is down to just four years and seven months, before she is released without a hearing and we are looking forward to your continued support of her and thank you for it as you have through the years. Sincerely, In the struggle of Freedom of Identity. The Staff of T.I.P., Inc., 1984 - 1993.

NEW PEN PAL SERVICE OFFERED. A TRANSEXUALS In Prison Pen-pal Project: Please send us the following information if you seek pen pals with sincerity. Please fill out the information below as "HONESTLY" as possible. Be Real and Honost, Letting us know about you for our Pen-Pal Listing who You Are and What You Are Interested In. Thanks.....Rev. John Prowett, [REDACTED], Memphis, Tennessee, USA, 38104-2012.

Further Information of Pen Pal Possibilities, there are presently people in one of our countries in a friendly-overseas county, wishing to have pen-pal friendships with people in the U.S.A. and Canada. People with friendship & without any prejudices send information to, Patricia Fisher, P.O. Box 293, Côte-des-neiges P.O., 5858 Côte-des-neiges Blvd., Montreal, Quebec, Canada. H3S 2S6.

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LOCATION \_\_\_\_\_  
AGE: \_\_\_\_\_ WEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ HEIGHT: \_\_\_\_\_ HAIR: \_\_\_\_\_ EYES: \_\_\_\_\_ RACE: \_\_\_\_\_  
CIRCLE ONE: TV TS QUEEN GAY BISEXUAL HERETSEXUAL HOMOSEXUAL  
INTRESTS AND HOBBIES: \_\_\_\_\_  
LIKES AND DISLIKES: \_\_\_\_\_

CAN YOU WRITE OTHER PRISONERS: \_\_\_\_\_ CAN YOU RECEIVE MAIL FROM OTHER PRISONERS \_\_\_\_\_  
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WHAT ARE YOU IN PRISON FOR: \_\_\_\_\_ WHAT IS YOUR RELEASE DATE \_\_\_\_\_  
REMEMBER THIS PEN-PAL SERVICE IS FREE ONLY TO THOSE TV/TS PERSONS IN PRISON. THOSE ON THE OUTSIDE AND NON TV/TS PRISONERS WILL BE REQUESTED TO SEND A DONATION TO COVER COST OF PRINTING AND MAILING.

IF SOMEONE WRITES YOU, AND YOU ARE NOT INTRESTED: PLEASE AT LEAST WRITE THEM BACK AND SAY, "NOT INTERESTED IN CORRESPONDENCE AT THIS TIME". OVER 3 COMPLAINTS FROM PEN-PALS WRITERS AND A PERSON WILL BE DROPPED FROM THIS SERVICE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Request of John Fall 206-[REDACTED] Dtd. April 14, 1992. Please send all materials following item to: Cold Iron, c/o John Fall, [REDACTED], Seattle, Washington, USA, 98122. Deadline for submissions is December 31, 1992. "Gay/Lesbian/Queer Prisoner Anthology Seeks Submissions. Cold Iron, an anthology of writing and art by and about lesbian, Gay and Queer prisoners, is seeking submissions. Any work that reflects experiences and concerns of Gay, Lesbian or Queer prisoners, their lovers or friends will be considered."--"I am especially interested in articles that are the result of collaboration between prisoners and non-prisoners. A focus of the anthology will be on building bridges in an attempt to create and maintain positive relationships across the walls." said editor Lin Elliot, a Cherokee/Scotch Irish Prisoner incarcerated at Challam Bay, Washington. Individual works are also desired.

The anthology will reflect the diversity of Lesbian, Gay and Queer communities, Including works by women and men of all ages, races, national origins and political, religious and economic perspectives." Cold Iron, is interested in all of the problems facing the transsexuals in prisons; All the topics of your concerns are eligible to be considered.. Submissions must be 3000 words or less. Only Black & White Art Work or Phots. Please send materials to John Fall above.

RONI'S SCRIBBLES: FANTASY vs. REALITY! REALITY: is the property of being real, of really existing. It is what is, despite appearances. It is opposed to the imaginary, the make believe: Reality to me is that honest down to earth part of what is between my fantasy, and the road that it took through transformation for me to become what I am today...The REAL WORLD.

There are some very Famous Transsexuals today, Star studded Led by the first media exposed Christine Jorgenson; Tennis Star Renée Richards, Jan Morris Writer and so forth. No Longer the topic of transsexualism turns up every day, The tabloids expose us, TV. Like L.A. LAW AND DONAHUE, and Geraldo. Now we are recognized by scientists as really existing, we are really people who are different, They can not agree as to why and may never. Reality: Caroline Cossey is a model a top model. Was a sort of star in a movie, posed for play boy. She Tall Gracefull, six feet of her molded with this heavenly body that most of us would kill for, A Drop Dead gorgeous face and a sexy Bedroom voice that has just a trace of huskiness... She is the picture of femininity and she is known as TULA. She had the world in the palm of her hand. She was a Transsexual, She posed for play boy in a nude lay out and fooled them... She was on top of her profession of modeling and along came a roll for her in For Your Eyes Only... Then her world came crashing down as REALITY struck... A Tabloid revealed her secret: James Bond Girl Is a BOY: In truth she was a Boy... She was Post Op at the time of the movie and had been for years. But you see reality is that we will always be transsexuals no matter how long after the surgery we are exposed we will always be Males who had a SEX CHANGE... First Case in point. If Reality is that contrary to our fantasies, we will do any thing to gain the surgery that we so desperately need... Proof is the number of us who are incarcerated in the USA. My Own personal experience will tell you that... There is a long time and a long road between those first Thoughts that I am different I am not a Boy, I would rather be a girl and the Hours after surgery when we first believe that at last I AM A WOMAN. I am free... well girls you may be women, but you are far from free. I was born and given the Name of Roni Lynn Broken Bow. Why my Mother chose the Name of Roni' Lynn is still a mystery to me... But as far back as I can remember I never felt like a boy, I was always most comfortable with my Sisters and playing with the dolls and house type things. I was always considered a Sissy and was the brunt of all sorts of things as I grew up, Most of which made me hate boys even more... It came to a head three days after graduation from High School just after my sixteenth Birthday. A severe beating before and after a Gang Rape left me a Eunuch. A Casterated Transsexual... A Sixteen year old who knew that I was a Transsexual, who was born with a chromosomal abnormality, Three X's and one Y instead of the normal XY of a male...I also had been subject too totally accidentally to a massive bombardment of my system from early youth by female hormones, then used as growth hormones in chickens... I had nice firm little breasts at the age of ten... But even then my transformation did not come over night... I started taking Female hormones right after the surgery to castrate me. Soon after came breast augmentation, while working as a dancer, Larger Tits helped me make more money, better tips. Next came a diabolical thing called a Dicky Tack or Trans Tie. This coupled with a Very Tight special G String let me pull off the Female impersonation. The G String was painful to wear, but I got use to it... The surgical Gel I had injected into my breasts was a Gamble But I lived with it and the extra money got used for the things that I needed to walk down the path of transformation... A long prison sentence got in my way, But, I used them to educate myself about myself and my phisic self. I came out and went to work getting a degree in the field that I thought that I could make a impact on society for transsexuals in Counseling... I did any thing and every thing that I could to pay for my schooling and to keep my self alive and work toward a double goal... Degree and Surgery I danced again, I waited tables Finally becoming a Bar made who then worked again after hours... The degree came easier then the surgery... That is a long slow road and contrary to some of your beliefs it is not a on demand surgery or a on request surgery... and I do not care that you do have cash money in hand, You will follow the prescribed path from discovery to the surgery room... Many thousands of dollars and many years will be spent in your quest... That is reality: It will be a long hard road between those first doubts about your sexuality and the realisation that you are a woman in the wrong body... It will be a long hard expensive road down the path of transformation, through shrinks, Hormone therapy, real life tests etcra till your surgery. And then, even then life will not be the dream you dreamed and that my Girls is reality.

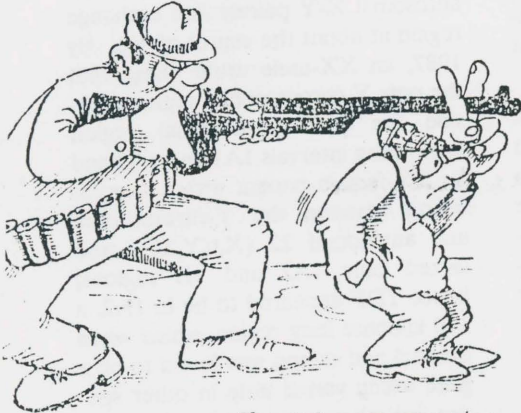
SURVIVING IN A MEN'S PRISON. Condensed as editing for length would be acceptable by the author, A. Beyer (202141) O.S.C.I., P.O. Box 3310, Oshkosh, WI, USA 54901. Condensed By Patricia Fisher in July 1992. "Surviving in a mens' Prison though female by Melissa M. Beyer..." Who'd ever think that we should find ourselves in a mens' prison, let alone in prison period. I know that I never dreamed of coming here. I remember back to the day the Judge had sentenced me and how I cried and begged not to go. But gee that was a long time ago, it seems, in here where days seem like weeks, weeks, like years, and years like decades. But we survive. Why? to me that is a very good question. One I have long pondered in my thoughts. It seems suicide has been a problem for many of us. Some of the thoughts that fill our every reflection of thoughts, Visions of rape, assault, harassments every side. Both from the inmates to the guards themselves arise the nightmares of it. The loneliness that that we of the same sex face as individuals. Most of all, feel I need someone that we can go and talk with openly without worry being ridiculed. Sure, there is the Prison Psychologist and psychiatrists. But how would they know what we go through? Are they us??? Only we know and it is a very difficult burden for even the strong. Yes, I am a transsexual, though I do not view this as a problem, though it does have its' difficulties. I view this as a learning process. A conditioning period to face the very world of a male population. To strengthen myself for the hardships of the outside world. We are strong but a chain is only as strong as its weakest link. For some of us that is our own insecurities, Some of our own fears and jealousies. Just because we want to be females does not mean we want to be defenseless. One of our best defenses we have is our own minds. Therein lies an escape for all the things we find alarming and frightening. I feel we are people as human beings who desire choices. Remember this, no one can make you feel any emotion you do not choose to feel. When you are angered it is because you chose to be angry. We fear the unknown and that which we do not understand. We did not choose to be the way we are, and need good friends with feelings who care that are educated to understand us. I am not ashamed if I may be different in some ways from other and want to stand proud with others. People do not like secretiveness. Sometimes all we have is our dreams. I wish in my dreams to be what I could be doing, or what I would like to do such as of my apparel, to being with a husband or boyfriend. Most of all I am leary of the mind games that people play. We learn to remember, never volunteer information. If they ask then answer them but don't talk too much. It seems that gossip is common with all people without preference of both male and female. It is best to use gentle words and to pick them with care. Many of our problems may work themselves out given time and experience. I can well remember many years ago when a transsexualism was unknown and not ever heard about. We I feel have come a long way since then. There are a few of us battling for honest expression of our rights. I feel that prison will be a very good teacher, though it will be painful. We are just a small minority. I feel to act like a woman, ones own age, protocol and to maintain appearances is preferable. I would like to have a man on my own background if possible. It is good to have a "Man" while in prison, if it helps you. He may make your territorial claim on you and most of the men will leave you alone. If an older man, will protect what he claims as his. There is again caution, however we must also depend on ourselves and be careful to try not to get too attached- too attached unless certain of not being harmfully set up. It seems that both men and women can be extremely devious when it comes to courtship. It seems wiser to always take ones time when doing anything. We all need to have good friends. In reality even though it may seem everyone is out to get that may not be the way it is. Would be good to have a man for protection, and to share sexual favors if they were given but not taken disadvantageously. To be treated decently and to understand the person you are with as an individual. I for one believe we should never seek revenge. Silent prayer and meditation, relieve a lot of the frustrations and anxieties. I feel meditation helps us.. I feel I need good and sincere friends, and that we all have that basic need. Completed. I hope that I have served favorably in reducing this article by Melissa Beyer to one page from 6½ pages of 1,650 words. Patricia

granted to edit for clarity and or length. The articles was edited for length for reasons stated in the following article on this page.

AUTHOR'S PERMISSION TO PRINT

Permission is expressly given to TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON, INC., a non-profit organization, to print in their regular publication newsletter of 'Transsexuals In Prison' the following:

NAME OF ARTICLE:	Surviving in a mens' prison though female.
APPROXIMATE LENGTH:	1650 words (6 1/2 pages)
DATE FIRST WRITTEN:	May 03, 1992
AUTHOR'S NAME:	Melissa M. Beyer (aka: A. Beyer)
RIGHTS OFFERED:	Any editing for clarity and or length would be acceptable and understood. All other rights are granted, as would express transsexualism, and be of further benefit to the transsexual community as a whole. Additional permission and authorization agreement must be granted by and recieved from the author for any sale or profit of this article, other than that expressly granted herein for publication in the 'Transsexuals In Prison Newsletter'.



The only compensation expected, is in the form of a byline; although appreciation is expressed for listing author's address.

*Melissa M Beyer*  
Author's Signature

*May 03/1992*  
Date

A. Beyer (202141)  
F.L.C.I.  
P.O. Box 147  
Fox Lake, WI 53933



FINANCIAL REALITY UPDATE ON WORLD ECONOMY: By Patricia Fisher.  
ECONOMICS: Economics in our present time here in Quebec, Canada, in the USA, and all the other countries at this time, we are expericening a WORLD BUSINESS RECESSION. Here many of our present Business Factories and Manufacteurs are loosing money. Our Welfare Rools are up and the Unemployment sometimes expires for many people who are not working. They are sometimes absorbed onto the welfare rolls. In our present society with the new free trade laws comming into effect, our apperance of economic prosperity is sometimes exagerated. Our Gross National Product needs an uplift. Many of our youth are now trying to stay in school to improve themselves and their education. Your educations can give you an advantage in the future. Many of our stores have closed their outlets. I am gratefull that I have been working in the past up to this date. I am on a two month layed off for vacation now into late August. This has been stressfull on all the people who work out here for a living. The T.I.P., may seem late but will continue as long as possible. I do care about it and each of you. We do the best that we can do for you in our T.I.P. Newsleter.  
CHANGE OF PERSONAL ADDRESS AT HOME: For those of you who use my personal home address, I have moved from appartment #5 to appartment #17, in the same Street and Building address as before. My Post Office Box address has not changed however and is still the same. Patricia G. Fisher.

ANSWER TO LETTER ANOUMIOUSLY HERE: It is sometimes necessary to try to adjust to your community around you and to accept and to like and appreciate all the people without any prejudices that are inherant from social cultures. When we all learn to like and love and to understand other peoples we will be much happier in our own lives. There is also a great feeling of appreciation to learn other languages and to become assumulated with and become part of the people. Sometimes people who are effiminate naturally may find some masculine trates may help them succeed in their lives. Please keep a good faith. Patricia

## IS THERE A GENETIC CAUSE FOR TRANSSEXUALISM?

Copyright • 1990 - Sarah Seton, M.D.

A major breakthrough in the understanding of sexuality has occurred with the appearance of four scientific articles in *Nature*, Vol 346, 19 July, 1990. These articles report for the first time the isolation of a novel family of embryonically expressed genes responsible for sex determination in humans and mice. In addition, a human sex-determining gene which encodes for a protein with similarity to a conserved DNA-binding motif has been discovered. I will attempt in the following review article to explain the significance of this achievement and how it changes the way we will think about transsexuality in the future.

It has long been known that Nature creates females unless some unknown mechanism of sex-determination is activated to make males. In 1959, geneticists showed for the first time that this male-determining mechanism is located somewhere on the Y-chromosome of mice and men. Seven years later, the search was narrowed to the short arm Yp of the Y-chromosome. Next, a highly conserved and repetitive DNA sequence sex-specific in snakes was discovered but this sequence was barely represented in the human Y-chromosome. From 1966 to 1976, an hypothesis held sway that the histocompatibility antigen H-Y found in males was the primary testicular determining factor; it was thought that once the primitive gonad was triggered by this antigen to form the testis, maleness followed. Eicher in 1979, isolated the H-Y antigen in humans for the first time and showed that in male-to-female transsexuals, the H-Y antigen blood levels were lower than in normal males and in female-to-male transsexuals, H-Y

antigen levels closely approximated normal males. However, these results were disputed by other researchers in 1981 who found no such correlation in transsexuals. What finally killed the H-Y antigen hypothesis was the discovery of mice that had testicles but lacked H-Y antigen.

In 1971, the sex-reversal phenomenon was discovered: a fully developed male with XX-chromosomes, the genetic endowment of females. Since that time, phenotypically normal females were found with XY-chromosomes, the genotype of males. By 1984, there were so many cases found that the prevalence was estimated to be one in twenty thousand births – fairly common. While these sex-reversal patients are sterile in many cases, they have all the sexual characteristics of the opposite genetic sex; there has been one case reported in the literature of an XY-female bringing a normal infant to term with the help of hormone therapy.

With so many sex-reversal patients, geneticists were able to study the nature of this phenomenon. They found in the case of XX-males that a crossover in Yp to Xp during paternal meiosis occurs which effectively places the male sex-determining factors on the X-chromosome(s). These segregate into the haploid zygote as a modified X which when combined with the maternal X at conception creates a fetus with an XX-genotype containing the genes crucial for differentiation of gonads into testes instead of ovaries. In the XY-female, the opposite occurs by deletion of the crucial portions of the Y-chromosome. The mutation is heritable and segregates exclusively with the Y-chromosome; in fact, offspring of these females have frequent non-

disjunction and often produce XXY daughters and XYY sons. Genetic analysis of the mutated Y-chromosome shows that there are no gross deletions or rearrangements and no loss of Y-specific gene functions apart from testis determination.

By deletion analysis of XX-males in 1986, the testes determining factor (TDF) was further narrowed to the interval 1 of Yp near the pseudo-autosomal X-Y pairing and exchange region at about the center of Yp. By 1987, an XX-male came along with the only Y-chromosomal regions outside the pseudo-autosomal region comprising intervals 1A1 and 1A2 and an XY-female patient with a translocation between the Y-chromosome and autosomal 22 (X,t(Y;22)) who lacked only 1A2 and 1B regions; hence TDF appeared to be in 1A2, a 140 kilobase long region, which when isolated and cloned was found to be a gene which varied little in other species, indicating its importance in evolution. The new gene was dubbed ZFY for the zinc-finger protein that it expressed on translation; the protein has six amino-acids which have residues which bind a zinc ligand and appear to function as a DNA binding transcription regulator. ZFY looked like a candidate for the putative TDF until three XX-males and one XX-intersex were found in 1989 who lacked the ZFY gene. All three men, however, had segment 1A1, another 140 kilobase segment, and showed abnormal reproductive tracts suggesting that they lacked genes for completely normal sexual development while being unquestionably men. In addition, the ZFY gene in mice (Zfy) proved to be associated with germ cells and not the crucial somatic cell lines responsible for testes determination. Therefore, ZFY was not TDF but TDF was located somewhere in 1A1.

We mentioned above the XY-female with an X,t(Y;22) translocation who had 1A1 but not 1A2 or 1B regions. If we are now saying that the putative TDF lies somewhere in 1A1



and this female had 1A1, then why wasn't she male? The answer is that further study of this XY-female's chromosomes showed a second deletion involving just that part of 1A1 detected in XX-males which was deleted along with a considerable portion of the adjacent pseudo-autosomal pairing and exchange region.

These 140 kilobases in 1A1 were subsequently refined down to a 60 kilobase subsegment of 1A1 using newer DNA markers on the above three men. By 1990, the region containing TDF was narrowed further to the distal 35 kilobases of 1A1, then to a 2.1 kilobase sequence (pY53.3) containing two nested open reading frames, the inner one being a single copy gene less than 250 bases long called the SRY gene or sex-determining region of Y. There is no other open reading frame in the 35-kilobase testes determining region of the human Y-chromosome than this conserved motif; however, small exons apposed to repetitive sequences may have been undetected by researchers.

The 80 amino-acid protein that this SRY gene encodes is highly conserved in evolution (90% identity), being found in mating yeast *S. pombe* (Mc protein) through mammals to man. This conservation in the face of divergent evolution from yeast to man underscores the 237 base pairs as an important functional domain. The protein is homologous with nonhistone nuclear proteins called High Mobility Group proteins which function as DNA-binding transcription factors (HMG1 and HMG2) associated with transcriptionally active chromatin. Furthermore, the protein is homologous with the human Upstream Binding Factor (hUBF), a type-one RNA polymerase, responsible for transcription of sequence-specific DNA regions.

Cloning the DNA sequence Sry in mice corresponding to the SRY gene in humans reveals 80% homology with

the human sequence over 237 bases and when expressed as a protein corresponds to the 80 amino acids from fission yeast. Even more fascinating is the close homology to four genes on autosomal chromosomes (p4.2.2 for example on chromosome 4) which express the same 80 amino acid motif; these autosomal genes are expressed at 8.5 days post conception in the mouse. This motif constitutes a gene family scattered across the murine genome doing many different jobs related to sex differentiation.

The Sry in mice and SRY in humans is expressed in the adult testis but nowhere in ovary, lung, or kidney. It is expressed for the first time at 11.5 days post conception in the mouse along the urogenital ridge, location of the primitive gonads, at a time and place of testis determination. The gonad is composed of four cell lines: supporting cells, steroid producing cells, connective tissue cells and germ cells. The ovarian pathway can be thought of as the default pathway - Nature makes females.

The consequence of TDF (Tdy in mice) gene expression switches the fate of the supporting cell precursors in the indifferent gonad of the urogenital ridge from that of follicle cells to Sertoli cells thereby changing the sexual fate of the offspring from female to male. Tdy must act in concert with other regulatory molecules responsible for the formation of the urogenital ridge and then for gonad development itself.

Under the influence of Sry, supporting cells differentiate into Sertoli cells, steroid producing cells into Leydig cells, germ cells into mitotic arrest, and supporting cells into the connective tissue and blood vessels which eventually form the mature testis. The characteristics of male development appear in mice at 12.5 days post conception as the Sertoli cells proliferate and form the testicular cords. In the female (default) pathway, in the absence of TDF, germ cells enter into

meiosis, follicle cells differentiate and aggregate around oogonia and steroid producing cells give rise to theca cells. Connective tissue cells do not need to organize to form the early ovary. Germ cells are not required for testis development but are for development of ovaries, suggesting dependence on genetic expression from the germ cells in the phenotypic female. Thus, sex differentiation and sexual dimorphism among mammals is tantamount to testis determination.

At present, SRY (Sry) is the most promising candidate for the TDF (Tdy) gene yet discovered. Further proof will require insertion of an Sry gene spliced into the genome of an XX mouse and observing whether the mouse changes sex into a male. If it does, it will be proof that the Sry is the Tdy gene. If, however, the mouse does not change sex, it would not disprove the hypothesis but rather indicate that there are other genes involved on the Y-chromosome or that the transgene was implanted too late for the critical period of testes differentiation. Similarly, a copy of a Tdy mutant gene knocking out the Sry by genetic recombination in an XY mouse thereby producing a phenotypic female would be hard to dispute.

The implications of this research are immense. Once the TDF gene is cloned, it can be used as a probe to decipher the entire functional and structural biochemistry of sexual dimorphism in all mammals including humans. The TDF gene, by encoding for a DNA-binding protein, may be at the start of a regulatory cascade of gene expression existing across the genome involving autosomal as well as sex chromosomes. Since an ensemble of genes appears to be involved, mutation, deletion or transposition of one of these individual genes may lead to a defective protein or enzyme that would lead to incomplete expression of normal sexual development. As in the case of sex-reversals, we would understand intersexed syndromes as incomplete expression of certain steps

in the cascade. In fact, the incomplete sexual development of the brain of transsexuals may be found to be the absence or presence of certain genes in the cascade responsible for triggering the formation of neural patterns corresponding to gender identity and behavior appropriate to the opposite reproductive tract.

Once the TDF is positively identified, monoclonal antibodies can be formed and tagged with fluorescent dyes that indicate the presence of the genes crucial in the formation of gender identity and thereby a blood test could be created for transsexuals, ending once and for all the problem of independent verification for gender dysphoria. Using recombination of mutant genes or splicing of genes in the cascade, it will be possible to knock out maleness to create females or cause testes to form from ovaries creating males from females; in other words, the sex of your child would be made to order.

Sarah Seton, M.D., is a resident psychiatrist at a major California medical center and works with transsexuals in her practice. Her interests in addition to gender include pediatric psychiatry. Besides her medical training, she holds degrees in philosophy, computer science and electrical engineering.

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## AN OPEN LETTER TO THE PARENTS OF TRANSEXUAL CHILDREN

Sheila Mengert, Esq.

You may be wondering why I am writing a letter to you even though I am a stranger. Probably the last thing that you want is to discuss the confusion, embarrassment and fear with someone you don't know. I understand. You wouldn't be reading this if someone you loved very much hadn't told you something you didn't want to hear, that your child is, was, and has been cross-gendered identified, that what you thought was true was not and never had been, that a silent agony was being played out for years and you just didn't know, maybe you didn't want to know, and now you do, and I'm presuming to talk to you about it.

I am banking on two things in presuming to talk to you: First, I am banking on a common human need for information when something new and confusing has entered their lives. Secondly, I am banking on your courage and on your love for your child which should be present now if it is present at all. If you are still reading then I know that you are who I took you for, people who love and who are ready to listen and to understand an experience that though rare is bone-deep real for those who experience it.

In order to grow through what you now know you must be willing to listen and learn. I'm sorry but there just is no other way. I am certain that the people before Columbus found it dismaying to learn that the world was not flat. I am equally certain that most of our society would like to believe that sexual minorities do not exist. The fact is that the earth is round and that transsexual people do exist. Your child is transsexual, and many things besides, but transsexual and because transsexual in greater pain and confusion that you would ever wish your child to be in.

I am not going to give you all the facts about gender dysphoria, which is the scientific name for transsexualism here. After all, this is a letter and not a treatise. As a letter, it is meant to be friendly and reassuring, but I have to be challenging at the same time. Why? Because what lies ahead for you will require the same courage, effort, commitment, and love that is required when anyone is forced by circumstances to face facts that one would prefer to deny or to ignore. My task is easier because denial and ignorance have a price that is far higher than the choice I hope you will make. Denial of facts does not make them go away and willful ignorance in the face of facts—when knowledge and healing are available—is debilitating, futile, and when it touches the life of a loved one, culpable. I assure you that denial has already been practiced by your transsexual child for years. Your child did not ask or wish to be transsexual. Its costs have been born for years in the silent hope that the feelings would go away, but they haven't and the best research indicates that they never will.

By the time a transsexual child confides, takes the terrible risk of rejection that disclosure entails, the situation which is to say the pain has become undeniable. Your child is reaching out to you now not to hurt you but to show you the love and trust that is the only true sign of a good parent-child relationship, to tell the truth, the core fact of a life. If you haven't seen it that way then just pause and think a minute, would you really want your child to lie to you, would you enjoy living with a shadow of a person never really knowing who that person was? Don't be confused here with the question, "Would you rather that you never had to be told that your child was transsexual?" The answer to that one is obvious, of course, you would rather that the necessity to face transsexualism was not present. The transsexual condition is not easy to face, it is one of nature's true anomalies. It may never be completely understood.

No, the question here is far more simple, "Would you want to live in a relationship with someone you loved and force that person to know in every daily act that you as a parent didn't really know him or her? Can real love exist where knowledge is absent?" You may answer that this aspect of your child's life is private like what they do in bed. The answer to this is that transsexualism is not a minor aspect of life in that it involves how a person views herself or himself in body, social interactions, clothing, voice, gestures, friendship, and in intimacy, in fact in every aspect of life. A lie of this dimension would be a great lie indeed. In any case, the truth has been spoken—your child has admitted you to the care of her life. If you are still with me your next question, "What do I do now that I know my child is transsexual?" will be met with a few suggestions.

One brief personal note. I have asked myself for years how to make my life meaningful in the face of being transsexual. I realize that I am years behind in the normal maturation process, that whole continents of human experience have been denied to me because I am transsexual. I have tried to mourn the lighthearted joys of explorations that might have been mine in high school and college, the simple joy that would have come had the constant pain of exile in a body and social role that did not fit been eased for a moment.

I have so often wished that I might have been able to experience when it was possible what I am now trying to cram into the years that are quickly disappearing before my eyes, a girlhood and adolescence, known only in moments of fantasy and the vicarious experience of books. I have had to surrender much of my life to the brutality and incomprehension of societal ignorance surrounding the phenomenon of transsexualism. That ignorance and prejudice costs lives is no new discovery, it is the bane of every age whether it shows up in war or in civil violence or in silent hatred and misunderstanding. In this case though it was my own life that has been bled away year by year in my efforts to correspond to what body may have indicated but my soul knew to be an alien fabric out of which I could never hope to weave a complete or a happy life. The only comfort I have for those lost days and years during which I was a stranger to myself frantically seeking to garb my soul in the

personalities and expectations of others, is that I might be the last generation to know such point-less suffering. That is why I am writing today, to spare others lost years, lost hopes, lost lives.

No other birth defect or developmental disability is treated with the snide and brutal complacency of transsexualism. People would be ashamed at the thoughtless cruelty seen so often in talk shows when brave people have attempted to tell of their pain and to grope towards a solution both for themselves and for others. We are in many ways a barbaric society in spite of all our technology. It is time that such treatment cease and that compassion that is so rare in society find a home in the families of the oppressed.

I cannot tell you now to try and understand what is in its very nature an incomprehensible condition, nor can I tell you what specific measures to take to ease your child through the transition to her true life. Your own love, courage, and imagination must be your guides along this path. I can tell you this, that no act of love will be a cause of regret, that no one profits when lives burn on in futility and frustration simply to sustain society's bland comfort in illusion. You may be the means of deliverance to more than your transsexual child. In realizing the truth of her life, you may gain the courage to embrace your own with all of its sorrow, disappointment, and fleeing dreams. The path of love and acceptance is not trod alone, transsexual people, so familiar with pain, may love and aid you in return as you pursue your own journey. Their happiness is your laurel wreath, their completeness your crown. Having given them birth will you now give them life? Will you aid in their restoration to the human community? Will you welcome them home?

SOURCE: J2CP Information Services



## Transsexual runs race as woman

PITTSBURGH—A male-to-female transsexual will be allowed to compete in a running competition as a woman after a decision by the Three Rivers Athletic Congress Dec. 22, the *San Francisco Sentinel* reported. Despite complaints from other athletes, April Capwill will be allowed to compete as a woman unless the national or international governing bodies of the athletic organization rule otherwise.

Capwill, who underwent transgender surgery 14 years ago, finished fifth last fall in the women's masters division of the Great Race in Pittsburgh. Other women who ran in the race subsequently filed complaints against Capwill's entry as a woman, saying her physiological make-up gave her an unfair advantage.

—Dawn Schmitz

## Transsexual fuss

Dear GCN:

The fuss about "transsexual women" exists because our society has no role for eunuchs—castrated, feminized men. Many other societies have had such a role, for instance China and Persia. (Other societies, such as those of the American Southwest, had a social role for men who were feminine but not castrated.) I can understand how American eunuchs would think of themselves as women; one has to think of oneself in the terms available. Being a person with no identity is impossible.

Nevertheless, surgery doesn't make a eunuch a woman, anymore than melanin implants and a wish for African ancestors would make me Black. Transgendered people are part of the queer community, and ought to be able to make friends on the same basis as anyone else, as individuals, valued for their individuality. However, women as a group have no obligation to take care of eunuchs as a group. The organizers of the Michigan Womyn's Music Festival understand this. I'm glad they do.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Ripley  
Menlo Park, Calif.

## Filipino man very pregnant

CAGAYAN DE ORO, Philippines — A 32-year-old government employee has got doctors in a spin — he's six months pregnant.

The male nurse has been examined by several doctors who have confirmed the pregnancy. The man, who has been given the nickname "Carlo," is a hermaphrodite with both male and female sexual organs.

Carlo, of Malaybalay in Bukidnon province, 500 miles south of Manila, wants to take maternity leave, but he can't under local government rules because he's a man. He also wants to marry his lover, but the church will not allow him to marry a man.

## Panel rules transsexual ex-jailer has handicap

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. (AP)

The Florida Commission on Human Rights has ruled that a male jail guard fired for dressing like a woman was discriminated against because of a disability — transsexualism.

The board ruled 8-1 Thursday that Belinda Smith, formerly Lt. William Smith, was the victim of handicap discrimination and shouldn't have been fired by the Jacksonville sheriff's office in 1985.

"Transsexualism is a recognized disorder and, in my opinion ... we have to find it's a handicap," said commissioner Judith Kavanaugh.

Smith's lawyer, Sam Jacobson, said the ruling will amplify Florida's Human Rights Act of 1977 which prohibits discrimination based on sex, race, religion or handicap but has never addressed transsexualism. Transsexuals also have been granted protections in Washington state.

The 43-year-old Smith was a 14 year department veteran. He was fired after being seen off the job in women's clothing and outlining plans to undergo a sex-change operation, with the prerequisite of dressing as a woman for two years before surgery.

Since then, Smith has had the operation. "This is excellent. This is as strong a ruling as we could have gotten in our favor," Smith said.

Jacobson said the case will make the world a "more comfortable place for people with this trait."



■ A disgruntled Israeli transsexual shot and wounded a plastic surgeon she accused of botching her sex change operation in 1985, police said Wednesday. The attacker alleged the operation to make her a woman deprived her of sexual feeling.

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TV CONNECTION is an educational, support and contact magazine for TV's and TS's and those who would like to meet them. One year ago publisher Deena Moore aspired to blend the wide spectrum of interests of the U.S. and Canadian transgender community into one publication.

"I wanted to publish a magazine that would be educational and offer support and yet at the same time could be a non-judgmental meeting place for people who want to meet others with similar interests, be it for support and friendship or for something more intimate," said Deena.

What was borne out of Deena's vision was TV CONNECTION, a bimonthly magazine that includes a TVC Beauty Tips column, Deena's Bits and Pieces (a variety of tidbits from humour to political issues), advice from professionals in the transgender community, important national news items, humorous articles, cartoons, hot, erotic fantasies, poetry, and features that help educate the readers about personal and health issues.

In the course of its first year TV CONNECTION was able to increase from 48 to 56 pages. "Overwhelming magazine sales in retail outlets, an expanding base of subscription sales, and strong advertiser support plus increased customer loyalty are a few of the primary reasons for our very successful first year. We have increased our retail outlets by over ten times the original number and we now span throughout most of North America," explained Deena.

The most important aspect of TVC's growth is that it now reaches more people who can benefit from reading the magazine. One example is Glenda who writes, "Your articles are informative and have assisted me in my personal growth within the CD/TV community. I have become much more at ease with myself knowing that there is nothing wrong with my innermost thoughts and desires." The staff at TV CONNECTION is very proud that the magazine is helping others to grow and to begin to feel that it is OK to express their inner self.

TV CONNECTION is also a good place to meet others and offers free personal ads (the first five lines). Anyone interested is encouraged to take advantage of this offer and to include photos with each ad. Security and discretion are practiced diligently.

Two exciting things can happen when you submit photos to the magazine: you can appear on one of the covers or become a TV CONNECTION "Girl of the Month." The "Girl of the Month" is chosen from the photos within the personal ad section. Annually the readers of TV CONNECTION select which of the six girls will be crowned "Miss TVC" for the year.

For those out there with an artistic eye and/or a golden pen you are encouraged to submit photos, articles, personal experiences, poems, cartoons, graphics, and any interesting bits and pieces you deem appropriate for the magazine. The editorial input comes from people within the community and it is the hope of the editorial staff that TV CONNECTION will truly reflect on *all those involved* in the TV/TS community.

For more information please contact:

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# MS. AMERICA PAGEANT MUST ALLOW TRANSVESTITES TO ENTER AND COMPETE!

**April 1, 1992, New York API:** In a surprise move today, the United States Twelfth Circuit Court of Appeals (New York) overturned a lower court decision from the US District Court for the Central District of New York, and ruled that the Miss America Pageant could no longer discriminate against transsexuals (or transvestites for that matter) who could otherwise meet all other criteria for inclusion in their contests.

The ruling came down today, April 1, 1992, following oral argument several weeks ago in the case of IFGE, et.al.-v-Miss America Beauty and Talent Pageants, Inc. 92 CIV 18694, a nationwide class action instigated by numerous groups representing transgendered persons. The case is expected to have far reaching implications.

The suit started several years ago when an upstate New York contestant, Mai Petersoff, was barred from participation in the Miss New York Pageant, because she was a transsexual. Petersoff, felt that her

status as a transsexual was none of the Pageant's business and their intrusion into her gender conversion invaded her civil rights and legal status as a woman. The long flaxen haired, high cheek-boned Petersoff, who had been successfully working as a model and flash-dancer while studying for her Masters degree in nuclear physics (her career goal is to be a rocket scientist) felt some of the "GG's" as she calls them, were also, in a word "jealous" of her fine features, and stunning measurements (38-24-36).

Word of Petersoff's plight rapidly spread around what is termed by "insiders" as the "gender community" through a network of local newsletters published by various TV & TS support groups. Within months, other transgendered contestants who had been rebuffed, contacted Petersoff. Before long the law suit had expanded into a nationwide class action.

Attorneys Naomi Owen of Chicago, Jennifer Merrill of Los Angeles, and Victoria Stone of New York re-

presented the plaintiffs. All three are, themselves, transvestites and they argued the case "in drag" before a rapt Twelfth Circuit Panel of three judges.

Following the argument, one of the judges, Adam Fule, when pressed for his impressions on the oral arguments, commented that he found the attorneys to be quite persuasive but thought that perhaps Stone and Owens could give some serious consideration to dropping a few excess pounds. The judge did comment favorably on their make up, wardrobe and demeanor however. "They were perfect ladies, and good advocates...I think this impressed us ...that these folks are people like everyone else and there was no rational basis to discriminate against them...or treat them as anything other than like the fine ladies they were....how could we not extend this rationale to the matter before us."

Attorney Phyllis Randolph Frye, a transsexual, of Texas, also assisted the plaintiffs and wrote the main part of the brief that

CREDITS AND APPRECIATION EXPRESSED TO I.F.G.E., and LIFELINES  
and THE PRESS.

# COURT RULES MS AMERICA PAGEANT MUST PERMIT MALES TO ENTER ....ENDS DISCRIMINATION AGAINST TRANSVESTITES AND TRANSEXUALS

earlier had been submitted to the Court. Judge Fule commented "...Attorney Frye herself makes a compelling case to permit plaintiff's to proceed, she is considered a pillar of the profession, and her status as a transexual has not affected or hindered her ability as an effective advocate in any way."

Representing the Miss America Pageant, Attorney Don B. Leavit of New York's Dewey, Cheatem and Howe lamented the decision, stating that it opened up a pandora's box. He commented that "With the number of tremendous technological advances in transgender medical technology, with the beauty secrets that are available at the corner drugstore, and electrolysis and hair extensions and hormone pills available like M & M's, in a society where you can't meet a lady in a nightclub and know for sure that she's a she....it's unlikely that there will ever again be a real female Miss America!

Pageant C.E.O., I.M. Lying, obviously disappointed with the ruling, announced to reporters: "I suppose now we'll have to call it the Near-Miss America Pageant!

The court extended its ruling to affect each of the fifty state pageants which are run under the auspices of the Miss America Pageant, and serve as precursors to entry into the National Pageant. The court held: "...this decision would have a hollow ring were we to rule that the exclusion of transgendered persons at the level of the national pageant constitutes illegal discrimination ....and, yet, we were to condone such discrimination at the local level, in deference to the states' constitutions. Such a ruling would be self defeating, for if transgendered persons could not enter the local contests, there would be no transgendered persons available to participate in the national pageant. Therefore, federal law preempts state law. We find that discrimination against transgendered persons in pageants of this type constitutes illegal discrimination wherever practiced and is violative of federal law."

Focusing on transexuals, the court held "...the law in all fifty states considers them to be women for all intents and purposes, physically, psychologically, legally and for all other intents and purposes. They

are free to marry and to adopt children. They re-join the workforce as women. Their birth certificates, social security records, drivers' licenses, credit cards, voting records all show them as female. Their outer appearance is clearly identifiable as female, and nothing but that. And the evidence adduced at trial shows their inner psychology to be inexorably feminine. Since they are, within the eyes of the law, "females" in every sense of the word, it would be presumptuous and disingenuous to allow the Pageant to privately discriminate against them....as to the transvestites, the dividing line between them and the transexuals is a small little thing at best. To discriminate against a beautiful and talented and intelligent young lady, who indeed has all of the attributes necessary to successfully compete against other contestant in every category, including swimsuit, poise, charm, etc., is simply discrimination without a reasonable basis in fact and can not withstand scrutiny under federal civil rights laws. The evidence adduced at trial conclusively and uncontrovertedly demonstrates that some of the most beautiful ladies in the United States did not have the good fortune to be born "female." Yet, despite some hidden and private indicia of residual maleness, they are no less feminine and ladylike than any other girl in these pageants."

## COURT ALLOWS TRANVESTITES TO COMPETE IN MISS AMERICA PAGEANTS

The briefs filed by plaintiffs' attorneys cited extensively to the emerging body of "gender" literature, and in extending the right of privacy under the federal civil rights laws to transvestites as well as transexuals, the majority opinion, following plaintiff's reasoning, at one point applied the oft repeated maxim from transvestite pioneer, Dr. Virginia Prince: "If it looks like a duck, quacks like a duck, acts like a duck and waddles like a duck...it's probably a duck...by analogy this court finds that if it looks like a girl, smells like a girl, walks like a girl, sounds like a girl, shops like a girl...it's a girl. The court agrees with plaintiff that gender is within the person's mind...provided society also accepts that persons view of his or her gender. Thus we do not hold that a burley, hairy, muscular truck driver in six inch heels, Lee Presson's, and a leather mini skirt necessarily may not be excluded, for clearly such an individual would not otherwise meet the

contest criteria. However the test must be applied in good faith, and the Pageant administrators are compelled to act in good faith. It would be inappropriate to check inside a contestant's panties to determine what type of hardware resides therein and then to exclude the contestant from participation solely on the basis of the equipment provided by nature, or the equipment altered by the contestant's own choice, medically approved and decided upon under color of law. The constitutional right of privacy extends to what is between a person's legs. Common sense dictates that these are called the "private parts" for a reason, they are "private." The court holds that one's biological sex may in some cases, be distinct, {i.e. in the class of transgenderists typified by plaintiffs}, from one's gender, which is a state of mind, and a matter of free choice guaranteed by the Constitution. How an individual uses a toilet stall in the privacy of that stall is no one's business but their own."

The court further found that the A.D.A. (Americans With Disabilities Act) precluded physical examination of contestants, as a manner of invidious discrimination. "Since contestants can not be excluded on the basis of any physical disability, under the ADA, assuming they meet all other criteria of the contest...there is no rational purpose for a

physical examination ... obviously the only purpose of such an exam would be to exclude transgendered individuals from participation. Since the objective is illegal and discriminatory...so is the physical examination." The Court did permit the pageant to ascertain height, weight, eye color and measurements, as these were found to be rational criteria, going to the merits of the applicant's fitness to participate.

The court refused, however, to grant compensatory or punitive damages or attorneys fees to the prevailing plaintiffs on the grounds that this was a case of first impression, and there was no precedent for the defendant or plaintiff to rely on. "We do not find defendant's conduct to be purposeful, malicious, or calculated to damage plaintiffs. Defendant's confusion here is not unreasonable. Accordingly there will be no monetary damages or counsel fees payable, however defendant is permanently enjoined from discriminating against transgendered persons in its Pageants."

Notwithstanding the lack of a monetary award the plaintiff's considered the decision a major victory. Attorney Stone was quoted as saying: "Hell, if we'd a' won the money we just have gone out and spent the whole kit'n kaboodle on new dresses, wigs and shoes anyway..."

# Lack of state policy for transsexual inmates angers federal magistrate

A federal magistrate in California has refused to order state prison officials to provide female hormones to a pre-op transsexual inmate. But in a move that may provide hope to transsexuals behind bars in all California prisons, he ordered the Department of Corrections to develop formal policies for treating transsexual prisoners.

U.S. Magistrate John Moulds said that providing hormones to Georgette Rebecca Belcher, 49, was a medical decision that he could not make. But he sharply criticized the state for having no formal policy for

treating transsexual inmates.

"If you want to drive someone crazy, tell them that they don't qualify for treatment under a policy you don't have," Moulds told prison officials in July. "That is Kafkaesque, to put it mildly."

He ordered state corrections department authorities to develop medical and psychological policies to deal with transsexual inmates so cases like Belcher's can be handled as a matter of course within the state's prison medical facilities.

Belcher, who is serving a life sentence for kidnapping with special circumstances, had been undergoing hormone treatments before she was sentenced in 1989. She also had received breast implants. Officials at the Vacaville prison, northeast of San Francisco, refused to continue

her hormone treatments, Belcher charged, because transsexuals "don't fit in their macho society."

Belcher had filed a complaint against the officials, claiming that the lack of female hormones was causing her extreme anxiety and bouts of depression.

Physicians in the prison medical facility said they were reluctant to prescribe hormones because of their concern over long-term health problems, possibly including cancer.

Moulds did order a complete medical and psychiatric evaluation for Belcher.

NEWSPAPER ITEM CREDITS  
TO ASSOCIATED PRESS &  
REV. JOHN PROWETT: ON  
PAGE 10 AND PAGE 15..

I am transsexual.

I am not a  
transsexual:

I AM A PERSON.



to privacy, and Article 3, which guarantees freedom from inhuman and degrading treatment, in refusing to officially recognize the 1972 sex change of a transsexual, identified in court papers as "Norbert B." It also ordered the French government to pay the plaintiff 100,000 francs (about \$17,800) in damages. Nevertheless, the ruling stated that "not all uncertainty about the basic nature of transsexuality has disappeared." (*Gai Pied hebdo*, France)

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