



Erickson Educational Foundation

A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION

NEWSLETTER

VOL. 4 NO. 2

SUMMER, 1971

RELIGIOUS CONFERENCES

A discussion on transexualism, chaired by Canon Clinton Jones, Christ Church Cathedral, Hartford, Conn., took place on March 24th at the First National Conference on Religion and the Homosexual at the Interchurch Center, 475 Riverside Drive, New York City.

The Conference was designed for leaders of church instrumentalities, local pastors, clergy and laity working with homosexuals, editors of church publications, seminary faculty, chaplains and pastoral counselors. Rev. John Rash, Union Theological Seminary, presented an informative paper on the subject. Mrs. Zelda Suplee assisted in clarifying points of discussion and distributed relevant printed material.

A similar Conference, as well attended, took place at the General Theological Seminary, New York City, May 30-June 1st. Miss Harriet Slavitz of the New York Office of the Erickson Educational Foundation, was present at the discussion on transexualism. Miss Slavitz, a writer and counselor, is gathering material for an EEF pamphlet on the religious aspect of transexualism.

We deeply appreciate these opportunities to present to the clergy the true facts about this little understood phase of human existence.

RELIGIOUS COUNSEL

"Self-identity is contingent upon one's ability to function individually as a unified, harmoniously operating person. The designation male or female is not an extrinsic or accidental component of the human personality, but an integral, essential part of it. Personality must include a well integrated sexuality. Should physical components need surgical adjustment in order to align them with the total personality, the responsible corrective surgery involved would seem to be morally warranted. Such surgery, together with competent psychotherapy, would free the person involved from a hellish existence, reconciling for them the demands of reality with their personal ability and capacity for creative growth. Those who have responsibly chosen it should remember that God's greatest glory is man fully alive."

Brother William Modlin, C.S.C.
Counselor - Teacher
Bridgeport, Conn.

NEW JERSEY NEXT

"TRANSEXUALISM: A NEW LIFE"

By Bob Nadeau

(April 26, 1971, issue *Tarrevir*, student publication, Fairleigh Dickinson University, Teaneck Campus)

" 'Hell, she is beautiful,' reacted Cece (a female FDU student) when I asked her about Tammy, an attractive blonde in her early twenties, engaged to be married. This pretty girl was a male two months ago. Likewise, Tony, bearded and happily married, once lived a portion of his life as a female. Tammy and Tony are alike. They are transexuals.

"They were part of a symposium on the Transexual Phenomenon, held April 22nd, presented under the auspices of the Psychology Department by the Erickson Educational Foundation. Zelda Suplee, EEF assistant director, opened the program with a film, 'I Am Not This Body.'

"Afterwards, a panel of specialists in the field discussed the transexual in today's society. Transexualism can be explained as the condition of a person who desires or believes himself or herself to be of the opposite sex. Most of the individuals before the operation are asexually orientated and are not homosexual in nature or involved in prostitution as sometimes publicized. They are intelligent, sensitive people who wish to be accepted as worthy individuals by society."

SOME PANELISTS' COMMENTS

Jon Meyer, M.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry and Gender Identity Clinic team member at Johns Hopkins Hospital: "There is the need to deemphasize the sensational aspects of transexualism."

Benito Rish, M.D., New York, Plastic Surgeon: "There is a lack of funds and grants for research in this field and an urgent need for more clinics."

Anke Ehrhardt, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in Psychoendocrinology, Buffalo Children's Hospital: "It (evaluation and the operation) is more complex than an everyday procedure."

(Mr. Nadeau continued the report on the medical aspects presented by the panel, which also included Dr. David Wesser, Diplomate American Board Plastic Surgery, and Mark B. Sulcov, doctoral candidate in sociological research on transexualism. We appreciate permission to quote selected extracts.)

(Continued on next page)

"TRANSEXUALISM: A NEW LIFE" (Continued)

"Tony explained the lack of understanding that arises in the family situation. He said most of the members of his group have very feminine wives and some have adopted children or have children through artificial insemination.

"Tammy showed by her appearance that she was no different than any other engaged girl. She explained her parents still do not understand why she did what she felt within herself necessary to lead a normal happy life.

"In reality, Tammy and Tony made the program; they were the program, for the program was not the detailed explanation and procedure of conversion, it was of two human beings, among others who are male and female like us in mind as well as body."

A FLORIDA FIRST

The May, 1971, graduating class of law enforcement officers of the Metro-Miami-Dade Police Academy participated in a two-hour workshop led by Dr. Marie Mehl, EEF Southern Regional Research Director, on a humanistic approach to sexual differences with emphasis on transsexualism, transvestism, cross-dressing and community problems.

This was the first workshop of this nature in this Police Academy and undoubtedly any other Police Academy graduating class. The same workshop and discussion group are now included as a regular part of the curriculum of each class going through the Academy.

The discussion centered around legal and law enforcement problems, psychological aspects of sexual differences, and humanitarian philosophy in general.

This was just one item on Dr. Mehl's Spring Calendar of workshops, meetings, TV, radio instruction, consultations, etc., as part of an EEF-sponsored pilot research study "to design and conduct a mental health education project . . . toward increasing the community limits of tolerance for such forms of sexual differences as transsexualism, transvestism and homosexuality."

Dr. Mehl will present a professional paper on the complete project at the Second International Symposium on Gender Identity in Copenhagen in September.

EEF WORKSHOPS AT ESTES PARK, COLO.

To be invited to present a workshop on transsexualism at the National Council on Family Relations Conference in August, 1971, was gratifying. However, we have been informed that interest in the topic-presentation has built up to the point where we have been requested to give four workshops in two days—up to three hours each, August 26th and 27th.

Shall we say this is overwhelming? But it is rewarding as a forward step in our effort to enlighten the professional field on this subject.

FOUNDATION EXPANSION

Increase in the activities of the Erickson Educational Foundation has led to enlargement of our administrative personnel. We are pleased to announce that Mr. P. Lachlan Peck, Vice-President for Development, Fairleigh Dickinson University, with campuses in Rutherford, Madison and Teaneck, N. J., has agreed to serve on our Board of Directors and also to function as East Coast Regional Research Director.

Mr. Peck served Syracuse University for ten years as Director of Deferred Giving, and as vice-president and a member of the Chaplain's Council. His work on the Council involved the establishment of a drug assistance program and all types of individual counseling including gender identity problems.

We are also happy to announce that appointment to our Advisory Board has been accepted by Marie Mehl, Ph.D., behavioral consultant and criminologist, specialist in deviant behavior, Miami, Fla. Dr. Mehl will also serve as Southern Regional Research Director for the Foundation.

PSYCHO-SOCIAL REPORT READ TWICE

"An Exploratory Survey of the Psycho-social Aspects of 100 Male and 30 Female Transsexuals" was read at the 48th Annual Meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science, April 24, 1971, and at the South Eastern Psychological Conference in Miami, May 1, 1971.

A Master's thesis, researched and written by Richard Browne, recently a teaching fellow at West Georgia College, the study is based on case histories obtained from the in-treatment patients of Harry Benjamin, M.D., pioneer researcher and author of *THE TRANSEXUAL PHENOMENON*.

The investigation covered the following items: ethnic background, age range, transsexualist syndrome, home background, marital status, religious background, social group, level of education, service record, occupation, criminal record, psychological health, sexual propensity, transvestism and motives for sex reassignment surgery.

Mr. Browne's conclusion states: "As transsexualist behavior cuts across fundamental tenets of society, it is surprising not to find a higher incidence of mental disorders, abnormal social behavior and social maladjustments in this group. However, the need for recognition, attention and acceptance, coupled with inner feelings of being rejected and ignored, is prominent in all transsexuals. There is no way of estimating the number of suicides committed because of the inability to procure surgical help for the sex change. Attempted suicide is not an uncommon happening among this group—who knows how many have succeeded?"

The research was initiated by Dr. Stanley Krippner, who is directing a survey of the total Benjamin case history record now in final stage of computer processing.

2ND INTERNATIONAL SYMPOSIUM

Momentum is increasing rapidly in the program for the Second International Symposium on Gender Identity to be held at the Hotel Marienlyst, seaside resort in Elsinore, near Copenhagen, Denmark, September 12-14, 1971. Response is in process from a wide range of foreign countries as well as the United States, including Norway, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, the United Kingdom, South Africa, New Zealand, Japan, the Soviet Union, etc.

Professionals who wish to attend this meeting may write for further information to the Baton Rouge office of the Erickson Educational Foundation, which is sponsoring the Symposium.

The theme of the Conference will concern research on the transexual condition and the problems encountered in the physical and legal aspects of the problem. Papers presented at the Symposium will be published.

REPORT FROM "DOWN UNDER"

For the past year Ira B. Pauly, M.D., Associate Professor of Psychiatry, University of Oregon Medical School, noted research specialist and writer in the field of transexualism, has been on sabbatical in Australia and New Zealand. His activity—in his own words, "to further the cause of sex education within the medical profession"—has been prodigious. Assisted in part by an EEF grant, Dr. Pauly's work began with participation in a seminar sponsored by the Victoria University of Wellington in conjunction with the Wellington Post-Graduate Medical Society. A medical conference following at Christchurch Hospital resulted in establishment of an inter-disciplinary team and the sex-reassignment operation procedure.

In addition to giving a large number of lectures and clinical demonstrations at university medical schools, as well as setting up teaching and counseling programs in human sexuality among medical groups, Dr. Pauly's assistance to colleagues already involved in the field of gender identity problems has stimulated marked progress in their work.

Dr. Pauly, who is completing the spring semester as Visiting Professor of Psychological Medicine at the University of Otago Medical School, N. Z., is the author of many articles in medical journals including two papers in *TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT*. His latest article, "What Are Your Feelings Toward Sex Change Surgery," appearing in *MEDICAL ASPECTS OF HUMAN SEXUALITY*, is compassionate and thought-provoking.

IMPORTANT

If you change your name and/or address please notify our Baton Rouge office so that you may continue to receive the Newsletter and pamphlets.

Please be sure to include your zip code number.

GRANT IN ACTION

... Data has been obtained from 82 subjects in the EEF-project study conducted by Irvin D. Yalom, M.D., and Norman Fisk, M.D., of Stanford School of Medicine investigating the effects of an abnormal prenatal hormonal environment on subsequent sexual behavior and identification of young male offspring of diabetic women. These pregnant women had been given large doses of estrogen at the Joslin Clinic in Boston. The analysis of the data is underway now and will require some time before findings can be reported.

NEW GRANT

Yoshimasa Hayase, M.D., who recently fulfilled a research grant at Mayo Clinic, has been granted a post-doctoral fellowship by the Erickson Educational Foundation to train with Dr. John Money at the Johns Hopkins Hospital Dept. of Psychohormonal Research and Gender Identity Clinic.

A lecture by Dr. Money at Mayo Clinic made Dr. Hayase more keenly aware of the great need in Japan for research and clinical work to handle cases of sexual differences.

PAMPHLETS AVAILABLE

A new pamphlet, *Information for the Family of the Transexual and Children with Gender Identity Disturbances*, has just been prepared by the Erickson Educational Foundation and is available for distribution.

The revised edition of *Legal Aspects of Transexualism* is also available.

Reprints of relevant articles are in supply from time to time. Requests for pamphlets or reprints should be addressed to our Baton Rouge office and enclose \$1.00 to cover handling and postage.

RECOMMENDED READING

THE TRANSSEXUAL PHENOMENON, by Harry Benjamin, M.D. (Julian Press, New York 10016. 1966. \$8.50)

TRANSSEXUALISM AND SEX REASSIGNMENT, edited by Richard Green and John Money. (The Johns Hopkins Press, Baltimore, Md. 21218. 1969. \$15.00)

SEX ERRORS OF THE BODY: Dilemmas, Education and Counseling, by John Money. (The Johns Hopkins Press, 1968. \$4.95)

SEX REASSIGNMENT, by John Money and Ronald J. Gaskin, reprint from *International Journal of Psychiatry*, 9:249-282, 1970-1971. A copy of this 34-page reprint is available from Erickson Educational Foundation on request. (\$1.00)

THE TRANSSEXUALS: MALE OR FEMALE? by Roland H. Berg. *LOOK Magazine*, January 27, 1970. (Reprints available from EEF Baton Rouge office)

(Professionals seeking further references in addition to the bibliographies in the above materials are invited to contact EEF Baton Rouge office.)

VIDEOTAPE STUDENT PROJECT

Transexualism was one of the topics selected by the Global Village electronic studio in New York City, through which the New School for Social Research spring course in videotape technique was taught. Through EEF cooperation, transexual individuals were willing to appear before the video camera and be interviewed, discussing their problems. Professional and random public interviewing added to the interest and impact of the tape.

The first public presentation of the videotape took place at the New School before a large audience. Copies are available for educational purposes at a cost of \$20.00. Information available through our New York office.

ASCID SWINGS INTO PRINT

. . . A report on the ASCID (Altered States of Consciousness Induction Device) in research use at the Foundation for Mind Research, New York City, appeared in the May 17, 1971, issue of *Behavior Today*. According to Research Director Robert E. L. Masters, "People often feel they're traveling through time and space into different dimensions." The device is part of research originally sponsored by the Erickson Educational Foundation. Blindfolded subjects are strapped onto a dangling platform and involuntary body motions set it swinging. "Altered states—including eidetic imagery and fantasy dreams—come within two to 20 minutes, get progressively deeper with each experience."

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VOL. 4 NO. 2

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