

September 4, 1969

D. C. Birdsell, M.D.  
Department of Surgery  
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Dear Dr. Birdsell:

I should like to thank you for your concern, and that of your colleague, Dr. Laub, of my medical problem and of the particular phenomena that I represent, Transsexualism.

As to your request concerning my opinion as to the proper or suitable subject to undergo corrective surgery, I submit the following:

ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES

Those attuned to a heterosexual mode of life with a distinct desire to lead such a life.

Those capable of appreciating the male gender in a womanly fashion.

Those desirous of leading productive lives in society.

Those who are passive, for the most part, in sexual relations with men as well as in social dealings.

REASONS

Too many potential TS' lead promiscuous lives and are attuned to a sub-culture of a homosexual type and are not capable of adjusting to the predominate cultural pattern of the majority of women.

Many TS' have no appreciation of the male gender. As true women they invariably will get involved with men. Rejection of males - complimentary to most women - leads, of course, to acceptance of females in a relationship characteristic of a sub-culture (Lesbians) not appreciated in our particular society.

Many potential TS' desire to use their post-operative status (as often times they have in their pseudo-womanly status) for the sole purpose of sexual gratification and/or for financial gain.

Many pseudo-women are aggressive in their sexual roles with men, desiring to penetrate. They are not cognizant of the difference in sexual gratification afforded in a female body and, of course, the lack of real sexual aggressive opportunities available.

ACCEPTABLE CANDIDATES

Those who have a realistic attitude toward the role of a woman in our society and who are not overly excited at the thought of being able to wear female attire permanently. Should also not have the view that the female role is a superior role and one that offers an easier mode of life.

Those who truly feel that their interpersonal relationships with both male and female members of society would be better served in a female role.

Those who have a definite psyche or potential feminine nature and as nearly as possible acceptable female form.

REASONS

Some potential TS' are solely concerned and overly fetishistic of wearing female attire - thinking this fetishistic attitude will carry-over post operative. The usual case is that dressing just becomes habitual. Some TS' also like to think that a woman's life is the ultimate in life style devoid of responsibility and problems.

Some TS' are well adjusted in their relationships with both male and female in their male role; that is, they have a good rapport with their male counterpart and a good rapport with their female opposite, as dictated by our culture. Post operative, the rapport would be the same but decidedly awkward in a complete female role.

Many TS' are under the impression that post operative automatically impues them with a female psyche along with female mannerisms. Some TS' are so gross in appearance that no amount of plastic surgery can eliminate gross masculine features. Some TS' psyche and mannerisms are so masculine that it is near impossible for them to adopt a suitable female psyche and female mannerisms. These TS' have no concept of the misery society can inflict upon them which may cancel out the benefits of an operation.

The above are some of my thoughts on the subject in a very sketetal form. I can back up most of my theories with actual case histories, if so desired. Under the heading of Transexualism are included three groups of which I shall give brief definitions:

**TRANSEXUAL:** Unable to adjust in male role and better able to adjust in female role.

**QUEEN:** Sub-group of homosexual who dresses in female attire for sole purpose of attracting men for sexual or emotional reasons.

**TRANVESTITE:** Basically hetersexually oriented but with fetishistic desire to dress as woman. Some are bisexually inclined - others asexually inclined.

Sincerely,

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