

1478 East 27th Avenue,
Vancouver 12, B.C.,
12 December, 1972.

The Editor,
Psychology Today,
317 14th Street,
Del Mar, California 92014
U.S.A.

Dear Sir:

I have a few pointed and angry questions for David Barlow, W. Stewart Agras, and E. Joyce Reynolds who claim to have successfully 'treated' transsexualism by changing gender identity.

How can you 'treat' a condition that is not a disease?

How can your seventeen-year-old 'patient' be considered "too young" to give his consent to surgery, and yet old enough to give his consent to "aversive conditioning" such that "complex role behaviour such as masculinity or femininity can be broken down, precisely defined, changed piece by piece and reassembled"?

You claim 'success' because your patient's behaviour was still "masculine" after you examined him nine months later. What a strange measure of success! What I want to know is, is your 'patient' happy in his new masculine role?

Roedy Green

This refers to a very short article in a column in Psychology Today. (November 1972 [I THINK]) on the "cure" of a 17 year old male T.S. We got a letter back saying they would do their best to get it in, but it didn't get printed.