

A Minority Report on the Recommendations
of the Health Law Committee

One of the recommendations that came from the Health Law committee was a recommendation that gender dysphoria be removed from DSM=III. I have some very serious misgiving about such a course of actions for the following reasons:

- (1) Many jurisdictions do not protect gender dysphoria as a matter of sexual preference. In Ontario a lot of homosexual people of both genders do not want us "piggy backing on their quest for human rights because they do not care for us for a number of gender related political reasons. These include large numbers of extremely violent homosexual prostitutes who are currently working some of the tougher streets in down town Toronto and dress in female clothing as a means of attracting customers. Some of the more militant lesbian groups claim that transvestite and transsexuals actually cause violence against women because their means of dress encourages sexist stereotypes to be maintained.
- (2) Gender dysphoria often "masquerades as a quite number of other mental disorders. These include every type of mental disorder from multiple personality disorder to schizophrenia. Some how there has to be some way of differentiating the true gender dysphorics from the other disorders that may exist in today's society.
- (3) The Human Rights Code in Ontario includes in its shopping list discrimination on the basis of psychiatric and or mental disorder. What this means in effect is that transsexuals and transvestites have some protection under the Ontario Human Rights Code as long as gender dysphorics are listed in DSM=III. If this listing is removed and gender dysphoria is consider to be a sexual preference, it is possible that a gender dysphoric may encounter discrimination on the basis of having gender dysphoria.

I realize that that the reasons for including gender identity disorders as mental disorders are primarily social and cultural but we must be sure that these people have some protection. I realize that there is little to be gained by the inclusion of gender identity disorders in the United States because of the specific exclusions of this disorder evident in American law and court decisions. Unfortunately DSM=III is used as a "psychiatrist's bible of mental disorders" throughout the world. If gender identity disorders are removed from DSM=III discrimination could possibly increase outside the United States. It would for example be relatively easy to dismiss a gender dysphoric from a job for being a cross-dresser if it were not considered by definition a mental disorder. I realize that this is only a short term solution because in many respects the social and legal costs are totally unacceptable. Therefore it is absolutely essential that we have legislation that protects gender dysphorics from discrimination before we try to remove gender dysphoria from DSM=III.