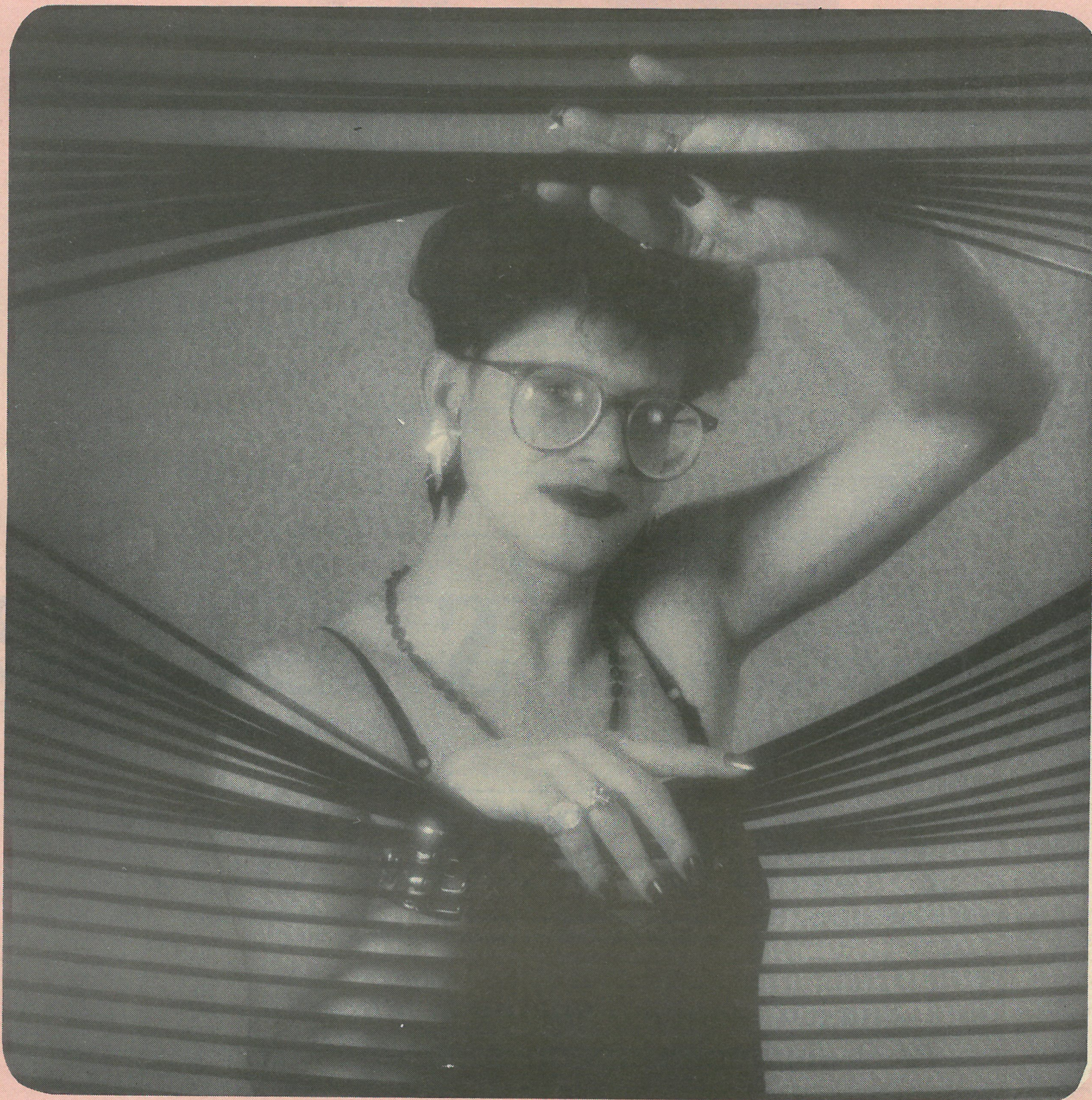


Alicia's *TV Girl Talk*

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TV/TS Community

Direct Contact Ads--Stories--Columnists--Reader's Letters--Alicia's Girl Talk--X Word--TV/TS Events

The T.J. Experience

by Dallas Denny

"Somebody, please. Please, come here." I cried and reached for the button, keeping it in my hand. A peculiar wet feeling was gathering around my legs. At first I was too frightened to peer under the sheets, but as the chill increased, I reached for the chain over my head. With the light on, I lifted the sheets. Then I panicked!

The sheet under me was a pool of blood, and more was flowing from between my legs. I pressed the button again and again and began to scream for help. Thinking about detaching myself from the bed, I propped myself on one arm, but then fainted and fell back. When I woke up, some ten or fifteen minutes later, the blood had made its way down one side of the bed to the floor. I was weaker, now, and the pain didn't matter. I was bleeding to death. . .

Sobbing, I began to pray aloud, then I screamed again and again until my voice faded into hoarseness. Grabbing a book from the table, I tried to throw it through the window, but it fell from my fingers into the pool of blood. The chills had changed to small convulsions as I tried to calm myself. . .

Bending my head, I looked once more at the side of the bed, half-covered with my life's liquid. It looked pretty somehow, red on white. I couldn't help thinking how ironic it was that I had worked and saved all this time to pay for my own death. I would be my own executioner!

The above paragraphs are from pp. 274-275 of *Canary*, the autobiography of Canary Conn, describing part of her ordeal after gender-reassignment surgery in Tijuana, Mexico, some time in the early seventies. They reinforce the idea that while TJ may be an OK town to take your car for new seat covers, it's not the sort of place where you would want to gamble with your life and genitalia. TJ is famous for the girl and the donkey--not for quality medical care.

Many of the transsexual people who went to Mexico for gender reassignment surgery in the seventies and eighties wound up mutilated, with genitalia looking like they belonged to one of the creatures in the bar scene in *Star Wars*, and not like something likely to be found on a human being of either gender.

Some of these people, expecting vaginoplasties, received simple penectomies, leaving them looking somewhat like a Barbie doll. Others ended up with something which looked like a penis which had been split and sewn to their groin--which is essentially what had been done. Some ended up with vaginas which were lined with hair bearing scrotal skin; these vaginas quickly filled up with pubic hair, becoming inflamed and infected.

Some ended up with peritonitis, some with permanent colostomies. Some ran out of money and were dumped in back alleys and parking lots to live or die. Some died in those parking lots or back in the States, of complications from the surgery.

The man responsible for all of this misery was one-John Ronald Brown, a physician who lost his license to practice medicine in California and retreated to Mexico. His "practice" was interrupted by a visit to the crossbar hotel (he was put in prison for his illicit medical activities), but word is out that he is out and back in Tijuana and once more wielding his rusty scalpel.

At the time of the previous Tijuana debacle, quality surgery was available in the U.S. and Europe, and many transsexual people availed themselves of it, with generally good, or at least, adequate results. They were exhilarated, having found congruity at last. The ones who went to Tijuana got cheated. The ones who will go there

this year and next, and every year, until "Dr." Brown is permanently put out of business will also get cheated, for it is possible to get much better surgery at a cheaper price than Brown could possibly deliver.

Tijuana is one of the least likely places on earth to find quality reassignment surgery, but it's one of the easiest places to find someone who will do something to you down there, for money talks; anyone with the green can get it cut off, no matter how much like a man they may look and act. "I'm a lumberjack and I'm OK, I got a V-A-G-I-N-A, Yes sir, I got it down in old TJ. Who need HBIGDA?"

If you're considering gender reassignment surgery, be smart. **Avoid Mexico!** Those who meet the Benjamin requirements for gender reassignment surgery can obtain a free referral from the American Educational Gender Information Service, Inc. (AEGIS), POB 33724, Decatur, GA, 30033.

The foregoing article was sent to us by Dallas Denny who is the Executive Director of AEGIS, and is copyrighted 1992-First North American Serial Rights- by Ms. Denny. If your organization wishes to reproduce this article, permission may be requested from Ms. Denny at the address shown above.

This article preceeds the article on the next page in which we recount the adventures (?) of a few people we know that have just had their sexual reassignment surgery in good old TJ!

Apparently not much has changed since Ms. Conn wrote her autobiography! As you will see in the companion article, there was still a lot of misery, pain, confusion, and excessive amounts of money spent to achieve what should have been a rather straightforward (albeit complicated) procedure.

Being as we are not M.D.'s we are not in a position to pass on the efficacy of the practitioners involved. However, as the story unfolds--ask yourself if you would be willing to put up with what has happened to these people, or would you rather take a more proven path?

In case you are wondering just what are the "Benjamin Standards of Care" for those seeking sexual reassignment surgery, the next issue of this paper will carry another article by Ms. Denny which outlines it in detail.

We are not including it this time because of space restrictions, and the fact that we wanted to get the up-dated experiences of the people who just had their surgery in TJ less than three months ago in your hands!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Ms. Denny for her graciousness and cooperation in giving us material such as we have run this last few months regarding the right way to do things. As I stated once before, there is altogether too much misinformation floating around in the "T" community. This misinformation usually results in disasters to those who refuse to heed good common sense.

Let's face it--SRS is desirable for some, only if the price you pay is not out of proportion to what you receive, and by price--I don't necessarily mean money!

T.J. Revisited !

Around March or April of this year one of the T's who frequents Alicia's store walked in, and handed us a pamphlet that was entitled-"THE NEW WOMAN SURGICAL CENTER, BAJA, CA." It was a brochure of six pages in length which explained that the SRS operation is available, who the surgical team is, the actual surgical procedure, patient requirements, follow up care, and last but not least--the price list (their terminology).

Soon, several T's had heard about this, and they all had brochures. The word spread like wildfire. It sounded fantastic, less than 200 miles away (save on air fare), the total price was only \$6000, and they could be back home in time for dinner. On top of that this operation uses part of the colon to make a vagina, so you could have one tailor-made to any size you wanted (within reason)! WOW! It sounded like a dream come true! Faster than you can say "Where do I sign?" four of the people we know had made up their minds.

This story is true, and is about two of the girls who went there. Their stories were related to Alicia and myself, and to the best of our knowledge they are totally true.....!

For obvious reasons we will call one-Girl A., and the other Girl B. Both of these girls went down to Tijuana, Mexico on the same day. They both checked in to the small clinic which is listed in the phone book as a "pediatric hospital."

The day was **May 29, 1992**--on that day both girls were given what is listed in the brochure as "bowel preparation."

On **May 30, 1992** both girls were to have their surgery. Girl B was to go first, and therefore she was **given medication in preparation for the surgery**. Just before she was wheeled into the operating room a Doctor came to visit her. She said later that she knew him as Dr. Brown because she had met him before. At that point she said she was unable to speak clearly to tell them that she didn't want Dr. Brown to do the surgery. Girl B (in the same room) didn't know what Girl A was trying to say.

At any rate, Girl B went through approximately six hours of surgery and was then brought back to the room. Now it's the turn of Girl A. She was wheeled down to the operating room and underwent the same six hours of surgery. Whereupon she was returned to the same room. Bear in mind that the same operating team apparently operated on both girls--twelve continuous hours of surgery with approx. a one hour break in between?

This particular operation is done by using a section of the colon (or intestines) to manufacture a vagina that is supposedly self-lubricating. By its nature it requires an abdominal operation, and another operation for making a vagina. In other words, one has two operations at the same time.

May 31, 1992-- at three A.M. in the morning (approx. four hours after Girl A was finished) Girl B falls out of bed! The side rails were not up on the bed, even though the bed was equipped with them. Naturally this pulls out the IV's. One person was on duty and finally they get her back in bed.-----Later that same day the Doctor who Girl B identified as Dr. Brown came in and injected girl B with silicones into her hips, as she had previously requested. Girl A saw this man again and he was the same Dr. that had been in the previous day and introduced himself as Juan Moreno. This was the same person that Girl B identified as Dr. John Brown. Girl A had seen this same person when she had driven another girl down to TJ for the operation about one month before, and the Dr. had come in and introduced himself as Dr. Juan Moreno. (Don't stop now, it gets more confusing!).

June 1, 1992--Girl A had such excruciating pain in her abdomen, that she was returned to the operating room. At this point she was operated on again, to close the colon (or intestine) where they had taken a piece out to make the vagina. It was leaking! This operation was done by making a vertical incision in addition to the horizontal incision she already had. She now had an upside down T on her abdomen.

June 5, 1992--Girl A and B seem to be recovering. Girl A complains that she has no feeling in her right leg, and it seems to be numb. Girl B says she had the same feeling. However this is the day that Girl B checks out of the hospital, and secures a ride home.

June 8, 1992--Girl A finally has the IV's removed from her, and she goes home the same day.

Bear in mind that both girls paid \$6000 in cash (or travelers checks) as this is the only way they will take money there! They will not take a Cashier's check or a bank check! At this point Girl A is presented an additional bill for \$1450 more. She pays the bill, and away she goes. I might also point out that **neither girl was given any postoperative instructions**, even though the brochure says they may have to dilate for approximately six months, in some cases, and instructions will be given upon leaving!

After getting home--both girls still have problems, Girl A still has abdominal and vaginal pain. She is using a pad up about one every hour (you know what they are, don't you?), and she doesn't have enough energy to move. At the same time she is total pain. Girl B has a discharge from the vagina to equal Girl A, and in addition she has an infection, and no medication.

June 17, 1992--Girl A returns to the hospital. She is informed that they will have to re-do the abdominal operation (#3), and she must go on antibiotics in order to cure the infection. **She is then informed that if she hadn't come back, and the vagina ruptured (being as the body was rejecting it, according to the hospital) she would have been dead in two days.** So now the program is to re-do the abdominal surgery and let the antibiotics take effect. Back to the IV's and the tube in the throat!

June 20, 1992--Girl A has recovered to the point where the Dr.'s decide to re-do the vagina on that day (2nd time). Apparently the vagina has fused together to the point where it has to be opened surgically as well as make the repairs that they knew they were going to have to make anyway. Guess who shows up on the same day? You're right, Girl B. Her vagina has to be reopened, and she needs antibiotics to defeat the infection she has had all the time she has been out of the hospital. She gets herself re-opened, is given a supply of antibiotics, and she is on her way. She also mentioned that it "hurt like hell."

June 26, 1992--Girl A finally has the tube taken out of her throat, and the drain tube that has been in her abdomen since she returned. I have to give her a lot of credit for fortitude-- five operations! As she said, "What are you going to do once you are in that position?" "You have to go through with it!"

June 30, 1992--Girl A is finally released from the hospital, and she is given a little present from the staff! A bill for \$5000 more! Being as she did not have the cash with her, she wrote them a check.

Now that both girls are home, and recovering, you would think that maybe all is OK! Of course Girl A wound up paying \$12450, and girl B wound up with a bill of \$7500.

cont. Pg. 28

T.J. Revisited--Continued

July 11, 1992--Girl A goes back to the hospital to have her stitches taken out. She also finds out that her vagina is closing again, and so the hospital dilates her to open her up. Also as of this date, Girl B confesses she is closed up again, and every time she inserts her finger in the opening she involuntarily urinates. She also has what appears to be two grapes hanging down between her thighs from her vagina. She has to have these removed, as their appearance is offensive (accounts for \$1500 additional).

July 18, 1992--both girls seem to be recovering (at last) and problems are at a minimum. Girl A still has numbness in her leg although it is diminishing. The doctors said she should exercise it, and all will be fine. Let's hope so! Girl B still has a problem with the vagina closing up, and is scheduled to go back into the hospital as this is being written. As if all of this weren't enough, there are many items I will cover yet that lends an air of a horror story!

The brochure states that the individual must have lived and worked as a female for at least six months, must have been taking female hormones for that length of time, must be in good health, no contraindications for surgery, and must have one or more letters from a licensed professional attesting that the individual is a good candidate for surgery.

You will notice that no HIV test was required according to the brochure. The hospital did charge \$80 additional to each girl for the blood work. Add that on to the bills I previously outlined.

Girl B didn't have any letter from anyone. As a matter of fact she didn't even have an appointment on the day she went down there with Girl A! What she did have, however, was \$6000 in cash!

As to the identity of the Doctors--You remember Girl A had met the person who introduced himself as Dr. Moreno about a month previously when she took a friend down there for her surgery? Bear in mind that this was the same person she saw when Girl B was ready for the operation. Remember, Girl B wasn't able to say "Stop" because she was so sedated? Also please bear in mind that this was the same person that came in the following day to inject silicones in Girl B's hips! This is the person that Girl B identified as John Brown!

According to the hospital staff, John Brown does not operate in that hospital and the work is done by one Rafael Michel, one Ralph Molina, one Elsa Flores Fernandez, and last but not least--Juan Moreno.

When Girl A finally became well enough, she brought over a telephone message tape that had been recorded when she was gone! **Let me give you the actual wording of the messages--**

Message one (the first)--"Hello- This is Doctor Moreno whom you also know by another name--just calling to see how you were doin'. I thought you were out of the hospital by now. I'll check with you again in two or three days." This voice was definitely an English speaking person, as he had no trace of accent at all.

Message two (the second)--"Oh Girl A this is Doctor Moreno from Tijuana. I came here in Pomona for to see you. At what time can I talk to you leave your house? Thank You." This voice was absolutely a Spanish speaking person who had a little bit of trouble with the English language. The differences were so apparent as to be striking! Now the question arises--Is Dr. Moreno really Dr. Brown? The hospital stated that Dr. Brown was only down there to borrow a room to inject some silicones in a patient he met down in good old TJ (not girl B by the way). It doesn't seem logical that he

would travel from his home all the way to Mexico just to borrow a room! He could have found one of those almost anywhere!

If it isn't Dr. Brown on the first message on the tape--then who was it? It certainly wasn't the second voice on the tape, as they bore no resemblance to each other. The caller said that Girl A knew him by a different name other than Dr. Moreno.

Interestingly, girl A had never met the doctor that operated on her. So it wasn't necessary for the first caller to identify himself in that fashion.

To sum this whole situation up---If you are planning SRS wouldn't it make sense to contact someone who has had the surgery before you by the person you are considering, and ask them about it? I suggest that you contact at least five persons that have been "done" by whomever you are considering. If the Dr. wont give you the names, ask him to contact his patients and see if they will contact you?

I might also suggest that you contact AEGIS, as they are very willing to give you referrals to persons they have contact with. I have spoken with Dallas Denny, and as I mentioned before she does not take compensation for what she is doing in AEGIS. Even if she did I believe that they have every intention of doing things for the betterment of those of us who are looking for SRS.

Both Girl A and Girl B have definitely stated that if they had it to do over again, they would not! Both girls said that they went through hell, both physically and emotionally! Both girls felt that the quality of the care they received was poor, and that the majority of the time, they have been in pain and ill. They also felt that the operation was one of gross overcharging, and a lot of what happened was the responsibility of the hospital and the doctors.

We interviewed one Doctor here in the U.S., and he stated that under no circumstances should abdominal operations be undertaken except in a fully staffed hospital ready for such procedures. He stated that under no circumstances should such an operation be undertaken in a "clinic."

From the foregoing---draw your own conclusions! We're not telling you what to do. We can only tell you the story as it was told to us! We are not making any accusations against anyone--but some of the circumstances do seem very mysterious.

An Update-----July 26, 1992 --both girls went to TJ today. The reason? Both of them needed additional dilation! Being as neither one of them had the necessary equipment there was no alternative except to go to TJ. This time, however, they did receive a "soft" dildo to take home. I questioned both girls as to the amount of instructions they received. Neither of them received any.

Additionally, a third girl, called Girl C is now undergoing abdominal cramps. She had her operation about a week after Girl A, and Girl B.

Also, Girl A is going to TJ to have the vertical scar removed in about three weeks. Surprisingly enough, there won't be any charge! Sounds like they are worried!

See page 29 for an UPDATE on the UPDATE!

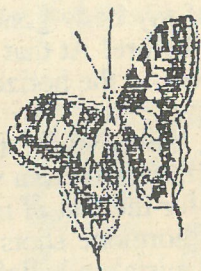
AN UPDATE TO THE UPDATE!

Shown below is a letter that we received just recently as shown by the date on same. The writer is the coordinator (now-EX.), and she is shedding some light on the changes. Please note that the new coordinator is now a person by the name of Soraya. It is my understanding that Susan Howard lives on the East coast someplace. Curiously enough, the letter was sent from Kent, Washington. I have been told (I don't know) that is also the town of residence of John Brown.

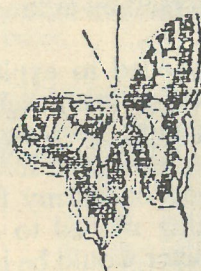
The letter that we received has the P.S. written in ink. I presume that Suzi decided to add this after the original letter was written. I wonder if the original letter typist knew that the P.S. would be added? The letter we received is a photocopy of an original and the signature is also part of the photocopy. The P.S. is obviously an afterthought, and is in blue ink! Sounds like all is not well in Camelot! Based on what we have seen, nothing is going well in Camelot! Who knows, maybe it isn't Camelot at all?

Refer back to my listing of the Dr's involved--Dr. Flores Hernandez is not listed on the new brochure, and wonder of wonders, Juan Moreno is now Jorge Moreno! There is no mention as to where the new clinic (?) is located, but you can bet your last dollar it is in Mexico!

An update to the update update! Girl B decides a few days ago to try out her new equipment! She bled all the way home and had to be taken to an emergency hospital! I don't know the outcome, and I probably won't be told--but you draw your own conclusions! Besides, we are getting updates to the point that we are going to have to number them!



NEW WOMAN SURGICAL CENTER



325 S. WASHINGTON AVE.
NO. 168
KENT, WASHINGTON 98032

31 July 92

Dear Sisters:

During the past year I've had the pleasure of meeting and talking with many women like me. Some of you have become good friends. It has been 14 months since my own operation and since then I've helped many of you to realize the need to become fully a woman in every way. Now it's time for me to find my own way somewhere out there.

New Woman Surgical Center is becoming known for compassionate and quality surgical work. I'm proud of my part in forming the team and helping many of you through surgery. A brand new clinic devoted only to the needs of the gender dysphoric will be a reality in the near future.

Please ask for Soraya in the future. She will help you in every way.

Goodbye.

Love,

Suzi

Susan Katherine Howard

PS

Dr. Flores and the Flores clinic are no longer associated with NWSC. Results from that clinic were poor!

Suzi