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>I think that RAD's boisterous approach to such a finitely complicated  
>subject is a bit stirring, but it also gives you all a better picture  
>of how hostile our own community members can get, let alone the  
>general public out there where we all live, work and party. My first  
>inclination is to give RAD a chance to calm down and perhaps you all  
>can give her a chance to answer some of her own unsettled questions.

I prefer to no longer respond to most of the posts, because they solely reflect the prejudices of their various authors. However, you appear to be making an attempt to invite intelligent dialogue.

As for this specific post, I agree with most of what you've written. I particularly agree with the comments made about female-to-male (FTM) transsexuals.

The surgery afforded to FTMs is not nearly as effective as what's provided to male-to female (MTF) transsexuals. Their surgery does not result with their acquiring a functional penis, whereas the MTF transsexual acquires a functional vagina.

Earlier, I had asked whether this means that a FTM could never become a man, in the same way that a MTF becomes a woman. My argument, and personal belief, is that he most certainly does become a man. Why? Because gender is not rooted in the effectiveness of a surgical procedure. It is rooted in the heart, mind and soul of the individual.

The FTM *is* a man -- a man before any surgery, as well as after any surgery. His manhood is innate -- neither surgically attached, nor surgically removed. His manhood is not the result of any surgical manipulation of his genitalia. Surgery, at best, is only cosmetic. It might render a more comfortable psychological response from the patient, but it is still a cosmetic procedure, at best a "corrective" procedure.

My point was that by relying so heavily on the physical attributes of an individual to assess their character traits, we leave ourselves open to the kinds of ignorance, prejudices and bigotries so evident within alt.support.srs.

We do need to move beyond the mentality of the physician who lifts a newborn infant, sees a penis, and cries out "It's a boy!" when in fact the infant might be a girl.

Roberta Angela Dee