

by Paul Krassner

Are men automatically better tennis players than women? Why should women have to compete only against other women? Is the road to a better backhand paved with an extra pair of balls snuggling inside a jockstrap-protected scrotum?

The U.S. Tennis Association must now consider the application of a former man who has jumped over the net by having a sex-change operation. Dr. Richard Ras-kind became Dr. Renee Richards, and she has filed to enter as an amateur in the women's singles at the 1976 Open Tennis Championships.

The message of that match between Billie Jean King and Bobby Riggs should have been that gender categories are arbitrary and unnecessary. Instead it merely served as a vehicle to prove that the real purpose of life is to do a TV commercial.

Indeed, the Public Broadcasting System -- which substitutes grants for sponsors -- has scheduled an interview with Simone de Beauvoir, who insisted that the entire film crew be female.

However, a lighting problem occurred, and interviewer Sandra Elkin hired an obviously male electrician in drag. The author of *The Second Sex* went along with this charade. And the electrician got so turned on that he plans to enter the 1980 Transvestite Olympics.

Hopefully it will be a fair contest, and no woman will try to fool the judges by pretending to be a man dressed as a woman.

* * *

RUMPLEFORESKIN

Transvestite Olympics



When the massacre of the SLA took place in Los Angeles, KFWB reporter Jim Mitchell found himself choreographed between the SWAT team and the burning safe-house. He took refuge under a truck and won a prize for broadcast journalism.

Now he finds himself once again looking up at the underbelly of a scandal that ranges from Hollywood to Washington to Costa Rica.

On July 22, L.A. detective Robert Hall was slain -- "gangland style," as the menu describes it -- and Burbank police seized tapes implicating well-known movie stars and executives alike with a drugs, prostitution and blackmail ring.

Hall was a confidant of Robert Vesco. It is more than appropriate to mention that Ed Sanders' investigation of the Manson case -- which was in part a cover-up for a strikingly similar set-up -- also led to Vesco.

A missing link between the murder of Sharon Tate and the murder of Robert Hall will turn out to be the first-hand research being done by Mike Reynolds into the story behind the cattle mutilations. It involves Satanic cults within the military and law enforcement agencies.

The reason we haven't heard much about these secret societies cooperating and competing for control of the earth's population is precisely because they are so secret, with rituals including human sacrifice to help insure that secrecy.

Of course, if the number of poison deaths of American Legionnaires turns out to be the same number of Chowchilla children who were kidnapped, that might just be a coincidence. After all, we must maintain some sense of objectivity. Musn't we?

* * *

Charles Winans is suing *Rolling Stone* and me for 42 counts of libel at five million dollars each. In an article following the alleged assassination attempt on Gerald Ford by Squeaky Fromme, I mentioned my "heaviest lead" concerning the alleged involvement of Winans with both Navy Intelligence and the Manson family.

Recently a deposition hearing was held. Here's an excerpt from the transcript; his lawyers were questioning me about the status of one of my sources, Louise James.

Q: How did she know it was Tex Watson (who actually committed the so-called

Manson murders) that was at the meeting?

A: Either he was identified by name or she recognized him in retrospect from a photo.

Q: Who would have identified him by name?

A: Well, I don't know if it came out in the conversation or whether she just recognized him by appearance.

Q: This would have been after the arrest?

A: Right. . .

Q: Do you know anything about her background?

A: She was an artist and politically active.

Q: Do you know anything about her mental background?

A: No.

Q: Do you know why she's in a mental institution today?

A: She claims she's a political prisoner.

Q: Do you know if, prior to 1972, she had a history of mental illness?

A: I don't know.

Q: Do you know if she's ever been committed?

A: I don't know.

Q: Did it surprise you to learn that she had?

A: Nothing surprises me. . .

* * *

Graffito of the Week, followed by brief literary criticism:

"Aeons lived. Ages Died. Billions of perceptions tried. And left no more than a fingerprint that spoke volumes of futility."

Underneath which someone else finally scrawled, "Take a shower, buddy."