

THE VOICE OF THE TRANSEXUAL ACTION ORGANIZATION TAO



# MOONSHADOW

DECEMBER • 73

FREE

# Moonshadow

is the official publication of the Transexual Action Organization, TAO, a transexual liberationist effort founded in 1970 by Angela Douglas in Los Angeles. Moonshadow is published bi-monthly in Miami Beach, Florida. Contributions of art work, news items, and articles/clippings of interest to transexuals welcomed. No permission is required to reprint items appearing in Moonshadow if full credit is given to the Transexual Action Organization, Moonshadow, and the individual writers and artists.

Membership in the TAO is now divided into three basic units: Transexual-pre-operative transexuals under hormone treatment and post-operatives. Transvestite: Male and female transvestites of any sexual orientation. Mirage Unit: Non-transexuals/non-transvestites of any sexual orientation who support the efforts of the TAO. All offices are appointive, and all TAO command officers must be either pre or post-operative transexuals. Membership cards can be obtained from regional offices or by mail if documented proof, such as legal/medical statements (copies accepted-returned) is sent. There are no dues, fees, or charges for any of TAO's services. please do not send financial donations.

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## Officers of the Transexual Action Organization:

Angela K. Douglas	President/Miami Beach Director
Colette Goudie	Vice-President/Defense Director
Barbara Rosello	Director, post-operatives
Julia Tonner	TAO Europe Director
Wendy Davidson	TAO San Francisco Director
Sandy Mesics	TAO Philadelphia Director
Nancy Davis	TAO Special Director
Ellen Jones	TAO Special Director

## Officers of the TAO Transvestite Unit:

Jennifer Jones	President/Miami Beach Director
Vinora Hibbard	Orlando Director
Ray Rondell	Jacksonville Director

## Officers of the TAO Mirage Unit:

Costanza Gabi	Mirage Intelligence
Tina Jimel	Special projects
Neil Angus	Logistics
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Michael Galliano	

Dansk:

Issue Number Seven      December, 1973  
printed in Miami Beach, Florida

TAO Europa er  
hoved-kvartere  
Staffordshire,  
England.

-Back issues no longer available-sorry!



# Miami Beach

TAO TV Unit member Crystal Jain was married Nov. 24 at the Casablanca Hotel in Miami Beach in a ceremony attended by several hundred people. Crystal, radiant in a white gown, married Gary Gresham. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Davis of the Metropolitan Community Church.



Henrietta Robinson reports she was mugged recently, but the men were arrested and sentenced to 10 to 15 years. Henrietta, a transvestite, showed up in court in feminine attire.

Barbara Rosello, who changed sex in 1969, has been named director for post-operatives within the TAO. She resides in Miami.

## THE MIAMI NEWS

HERB RAU

Editor of Moonshadow, voice of Transsexual Action Organization of Miami Beach, slaps my wrist today after reading here that Rachel Harlow is a transvestite: "Rachel", he or she says, "is a post-operative transsexual, not a transvestite. A big difference!" . . . Moonshadow, I learned, has three divisions: Transvestite Unit, Lesbian Unit and Mirage Unit. Don't you just love the names of some officers of those units? Like Tender Brown, Gari Colon, Misty Manishevitz (honest!) . . . Incidentally, Rachel Harlow (now in Miami planning debut of private club in Coconut Grove) is sponsoring four-city series of drag beauty contests. First prize will be all-expense paid sex-change operation.

**MIAMI CONFIDENTIAL:** Trans-sexuals and transvestites like Miami Beach. It's "more cosmopolitan than Miami or other nearby cities, and problems are far less severe," according to Trans-sexual Action Organization of Miami Beach, known as "TAO." Although, it continues, "Many trans-sexuals and transvestites here find very little help from welfare or other social services, there are a number of doctors who provide hormone and silicone treatments. And it is rumored that very secret operations are performed at Jackson Hospital, and definitely being performed in Jacksonville at \$4,000." . . . Where do trans-sexuals and transvestites hang out? TAO says clubs patronized are Mix II, Ambassadors III, the Stonewall, Inner Circle, Warehouse, Keiths and others. They're "also welcome," it continues, "at most of the clubs-lounges-hotels on the beach, including Dolphins Den and Sonny's Lounge."

President Douglas met Rachel Harlow recently while Harlow was visiting a Miami Beach club and welcomed her to the city on behalf of the TAO. Rau, a Miami News columnist, had described Harlow as a transvestite, but she told Douglas she wasn't offended. Harlow also said she wants to move from Philadelphia.



Jennifer Fox, a post-operative who has become a top burlesque stripper, is currently appearing at a Beach strip club and was featured in a Miami News article last month. Fox says she is divorcing her present husband and may be the first transsexual to seek a divorce. She is romantically linked with Jay Jensen, a drama teacher at Miami Beach Senior High School, and is working in the production of "Gypsy" at the Miami Beach Community Theater.

# NATIONAL

Chicago officials are attempting to restore drag laws, which were declared unconstitutional Sept. 20 by Circuit Court Judge Jack Sperling. City lawyers say that Sperling went beyond his authority by reaching a constitutional area of the case, which involved four transvestites who were arrested when they went to a police station to file charges against employees of the El Jalisciense tavern, 2200 W. 21st place, who allegedly assaulted them. Sperling found the four not guilty and said the law violated state and Federal constitutional guarantees.

Rebe Scarpie, Director of Queens Liberation Front, has become a representative on the National Gay Task Force. In a recent letter to TAO, Scarpie said her relations with gay lib is to defend the rights of TSS and TVS. Scarpie is also in solidarity with the TAO in regards to TAO's stance towards women's liberationists who have attacked TS/TV.

Orlando TV Unit Director Vinora Hibbard reports that there is interest in the TAO in Central Florida and has begun holding meetings.

700 World magazine reports that the New York Dolls have now discarded drag and are vehemently saying they are not gay.

Moonshadow artist Suzun David will hold a showing of her works at the Erotic Art Gallery in New York beginning January 12. Suzun has also been named art editor for 'Mirage', a new TSTV publication by Angela K. Douglas, scheduled to appear in February.

Holly Woodlawn, who starred in Andy Warhol's film 'Trash', has gone on welfare, according to an article in the Miami News. Holly says Warhol only paid \$150 for her work in the film, and all she has left in the world is an \$8000 gorilla coat.

tao

TRANSEXUAL  
ACTION  
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tao

Mirage intelligence reports that the Transvestite Information Service has removed transsexual directors Stephanie Jones and Myrtle Ann Maass, and the TVIS board of directors is now entirely composed of non-TSS and TVS as the board feels "TVS are too stuck on themselves to promote leadership." It appears some group has taken control of TVIS for unknown reasons and TVIS has been placed on our 'caution' list, along with the Transsexual Guidance Clinic, the Erickson Educational Foundation, and the National Organization of Gender Identity Dysphoria.

TAO San Francisco Director Leslie St. Clair has reportedly undergone sex change surgery, and Wendy Davidson has been appointed TAO SF Assistant Director. Wendy is no longer associated with Danny Linden and the Transsexual Guidance Clinic in Hollywood.

Stephanie Jones sent a strongly-worded protest letter to ex-police commissioner Nichols of Detroit regarding the presence of at least eight police officers in drag who showed up at a recent Nichols' fund-raising party. 88 persons were arrested for drag last year in Detroit.

TRANSEXUAL ACTION ORGANIZATION

BOX 1708 - MIAMI BEACH, FLA. 33139

# international

TAO Europe headquarters is being established in Staffordshire, England, under the direction of Julia Tonner. Julia reports that 15 transsexuals have joined the British TAO recently, and branches are now forming in Manchester and London. TAO is also developing contacts in Amsterdam, Paris, Copenhagen and other cities with hopes of organizing more TAO branches in Europe. Tonner says she is also organizing a national conference of British transsexuals to be held early next year, and only TS members will be permitted to attend. The conference would be held in Manchester.

Vaexjoe, Sweden: post-operative transsexual Mikael Hersegard, a female-to-male, wants to change back to female. Mikael says a car accident shocked him out of his new life, and that he would not advise anyone to change sex. (Drag magazine)

Kidderminster, England: post-op transsexual Carol Crowther, 28, wants to change back to a male again. Carol is calling herself by her old name--Albert--and is wearing male attire. She says "I lost my friends quickly as a woman."

Transsexuals and transvestites in Thailand are called kratooey, which means "neuter". There are many TSS and TWS in Japan, the Phillipines, Southeast Asia and other areas of the Orient. (Mirage Intelligence)

President Douglas has been invited to do an article for an Italian gay liberation paper, FUORI, about the American transsexualist movement. It should appear early next year.

## FUORI!

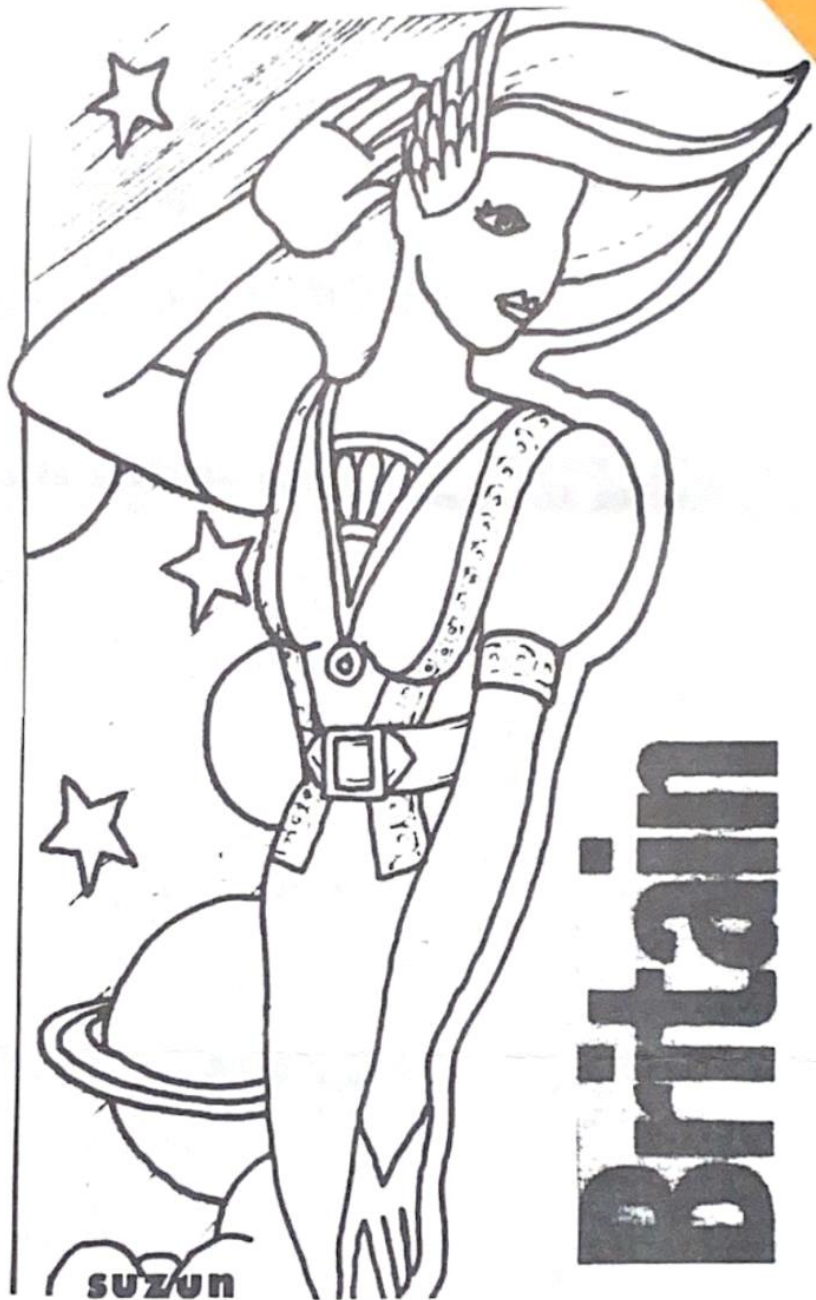
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The Miami Beach headquarters has some translation services available for German, Spanish, Italian, and French, but English or Spanish language articles and correspondence preferred.

Len Richmond's book "The Gay Liberation Book" has been banned by Great Britain as being obscene, and the TAO says right on. Richmond detests transsexuals and transvestites, and deliberately purged any mention of the contributions made to gay lib in its formative years by TSS and TWS. As a censor and repressor himself, Richmond should be understanding of the British censors' feelings.

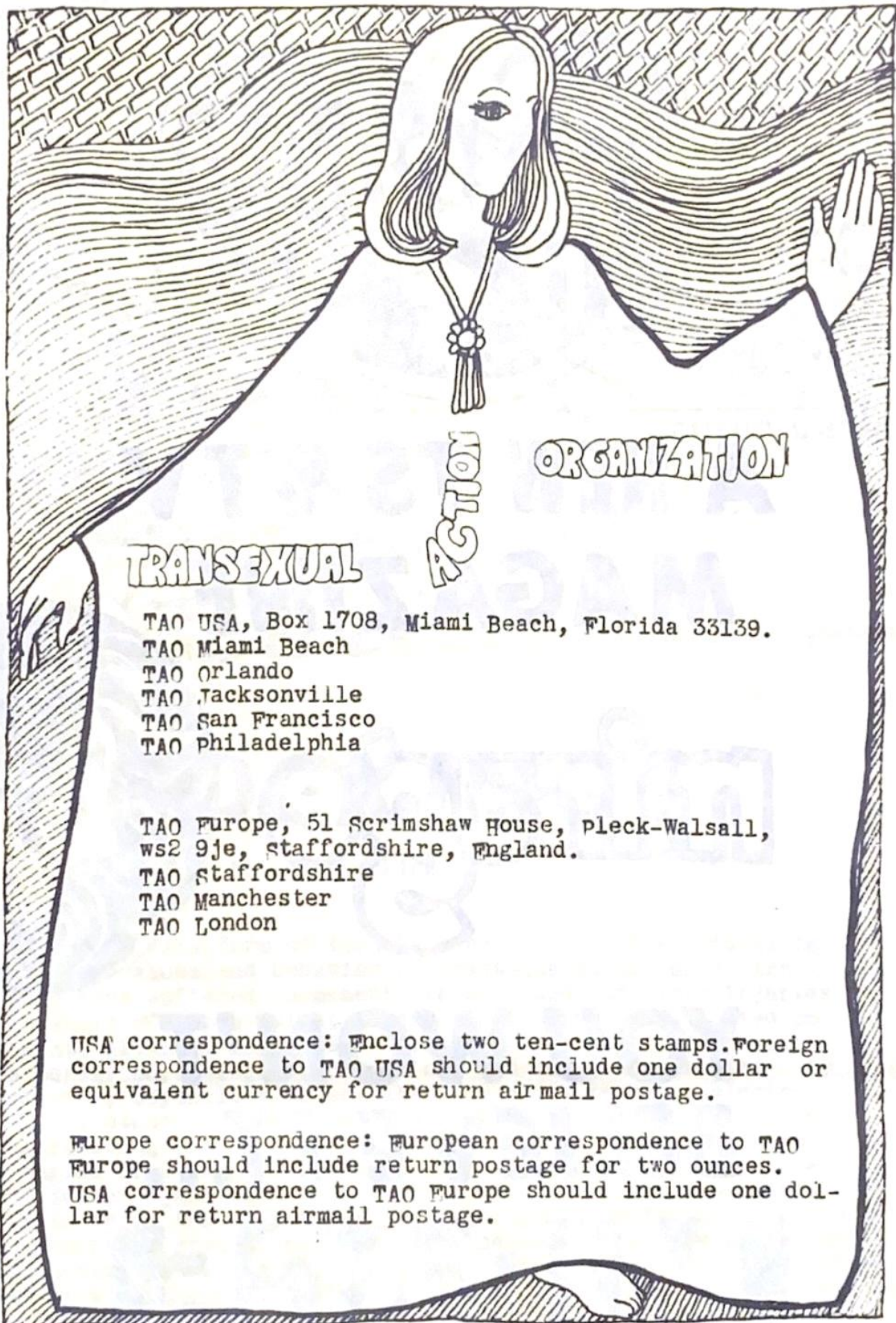
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**STAFFORDSHIRE ENGLAND**

British transexuals have been pretty busy, according to an article which appeared June 4 in a British newspaper: "Four females will take over BBC 2 tomorrow, and present the BBC with its severest test yet in giving the freedom of the air in the open door programme, for the women-Laura, Rachel, Jan, Della--were born biologically male. When Della Aleksander read that the BBC was prepared to give air time to any responsible organisation, she and her friends called themselves the Transex Liberation Group, and applied. Rowan Ayers, the liaison editor who recommends which of the 250 who have applied should be given the opportunity, was impressed with their sincerity, cogency and unusual pleas for changes in the law and in social attitudes. Laura, formerly an actor in tv gangster roles, says she got married to a man in a registrar office without the registrar realising that she had been born male. She adds: "I know I will be treading on dangerous ground when I confess in public but I feel we must do so now that we have this unique opportunity. I want to plead



**Britain**

that transexuals should be allowed to get married just as any other two people can. My husband, Barry, will be watching and encouraging me Rachel says that as a boy she fought against her inclinations, married a girl and fathered a child. After the marriage broke up, she began wearing women's clothing. "A few months ago I reverted to male attire temporarily and won the custody of the child, plus an adopted one, and another child my wife had by another man. I then started medical treatment to become a female. Now they all live with me as their mother." My plea is that the law should allow transexuals to have their birth certificates changed from male to female or the other way around." Della, who had been an officer in the south African Army Reserve, had a sex change operation three years ago in Casablanca. She is asking for a more understanding National Health service policy and for full legal rights to marry as women, as they have in France. Jan is pleading that electrolysis should be given on the National Health service. "We have been ostracized so long we can't believe this is really happening," says Laura. "The time is ripe for the changes in the law that we hope will follow when the public has had a chance to judge us without prejudice. People have recently come to accept drag and lesbians. It's time they accepted people who change their sex, too: we are not freaks or zombies, we are human beings with feelings."



## TRANSEXUAL

## ACTION

## ORGANIZATION

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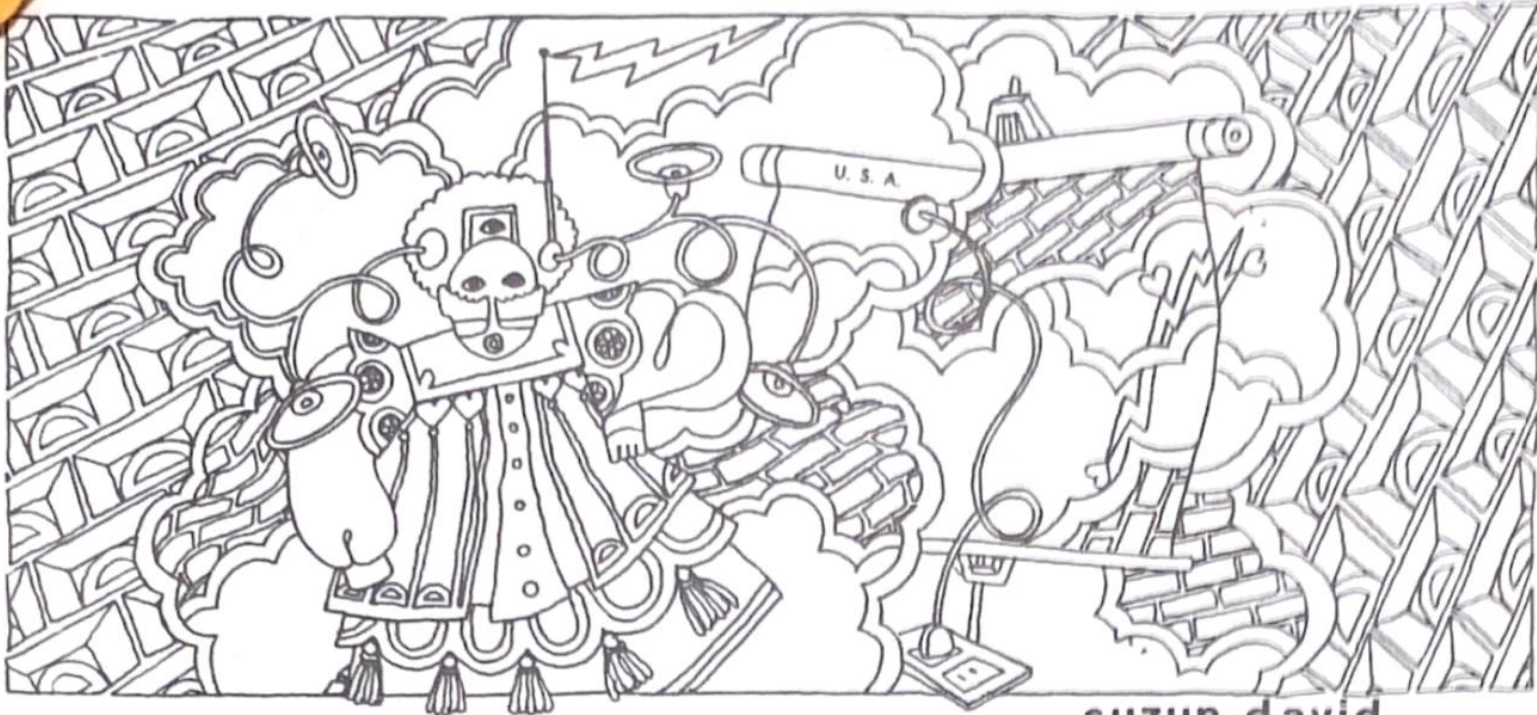
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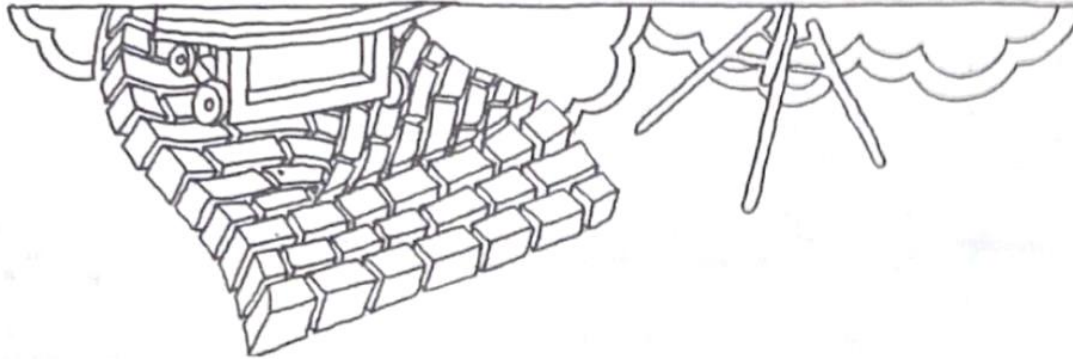
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# SHOCKING!

Rather shocking...

Electroshock is a form of torture used in the United States to modify the values and behavior of transsexuals, and many transsexuals have suffered permanent brain damage and other injuries as a result of these valueless experiments in sophisticated punishment. Although all experts flatly state that transsexualism is a purely physiological condition, and cannot be treated by psychiatry, psychology or so-called aversion therapy, electroshock and other similar forms of behavior control and modification are being widely used. It can be likened to someone kicking the engine of a car while the car is simply out of gas, or a witch doctor jabbing a patient with sharp sticks and burning coals to drive the devils out. We call upon Amnesty International, a London-based group concerned with the use of torture by various governments, to review the situation in the United States and consider listing the United States as among those nations where torture is used against certain minorities by majorities. We remind all American transsexuals that the American Civil Liberties Union supports your right to change sex if you so desire and any attempt to "cure" you or punish you for it, on behalf of the state, is a possible violation of your civil rights as an American citizen.

by ANGELA K. DOUGLAS  
President, Transsexual Action  
Organization

MIAMI BEACH—The third aspect of sociosexual liberation movements, that of the transsexuals and transvestites, has begun to rapidly develop in the past year.

Seeking full independence from the feminist and gay liberation movements, transsexuals and transvestites have organized dozens of groups specializing in meeting the needs of those associated with them. These range from groups geared only towards persons who change sex to such groups as the Foundation for Personality Expression, which is concerned with heterosexual transvestites.

A noticeable feeling of animosity towards homosexuality exists in some groups, and not in others; others relate to lesbians and women who like transsexuals and transvestites, others focus attention on the "drag queen," or homosexual male transvestite.

These groups had their genesis in the mid-1960s, when such efforts as Correct Our Gender, composed of transsexuals, formed in San Francisco. Social clubs such as the FPF and several others had been around for some time, also.

#### National Organizing Planned

Numbering roughly 20 groups in the United States, some of them claiming thousands of members, TS/TV organizations will soon attempt to form national and international alliances, with the leaders of the various groups meeting to work out platforms and positions on various issues.

It appears to be happening almost too fast to observe effectively.

In 1969, a group called Queens Liberation Front organized in New York, and the tone of transsexual and transvestite liberation turned from that of simple education and pleading to one of militance and demand. Founded by transvestite Lee Greer Brewster, QLF took to the streets in protest, and still does on occasion, although the group now publishes an excellent magazine devoted to transsexualism and transvestism, *Drag Magazine*, and holds social events.

During the 1973 Gay Pride Parade in New York, QLF leaders responded bitterly to attacks on transsexualism and transvestism made by lesbian feminist leaders, such as Jean O'Leary, who demanded that transvestites should be barred from all kinds of employment.

In 1970, the Transsexual Action Organization formed in Los Angeles. Members picketed the film *Myra Breckinridge* and took part in other actions with gay and feminist

militant organizations, then relocated to Miami Beach in 1972 and began publishing a free news magazine, *Moonshadow*.

#### Most Militant

Shortly after the TAO formed, transvestites in New York organized Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries, led by Sylvia Rivera. Considered the most militant of all, STAR fought in the streets with American Communist Party members when STAR members tried to join a picket line in support of Communist Angela Davis. In 1973, Rivera and another STAR member fought with homosexuals who tried to prevent them from speaking at a rally following the Gay Pride Parade.

Although the gay pride parades are held each year to commemorate the rebellion of Gays in 1969, when police raided the Stonewall Inn, Gays have conveniently forgotten that most of the people involved in the actual fighting were transsexuals and transvestites. Many of the gay pride parades have attempted to bar transsexuals and transvestites from participation, particularly in New York.

QLF, STAR and TAO's development was followed by an increase of development of already existing groups, such as the National Transsexual Counseling Unit in San Francisco, now known as the Transsexual Counseling Service. (The word "transsexual" is now spelled with only one "s" by some transsexuals and organizations.)

Groups such as Cathy Slavik's Empathy Club for transsexuals and transvestites, one of the oldest and largest groups, also increased in size and service. A TS/TV division started within the confines of the Gay Community Services Center in Los Angeles, and others formed and developed, generally less militant in tone.

#### Information Service

In 1972, the Transvestite Information Service formed in South Carolina, sometimes getting confused with a larger group called the Transvestites Independent Chapter, which has chapters in most states and four foreign nations. TVIS claims to have spent over \$15,000 since it formed, has around 1500 members, and is run by a transvestite, John Howell, and his wife, Carolyn.

Problems with women and the feminist movement began surfacing around 1971. A number of transsexuals had become active in various feminist organizations, some became officers. By 1972 the women's movement began to polarize around the issue, and most barred transsexuals from joining, particularly the lesbian organizations such as the San Francisco

chapter of the Daughters of Bilitis. The DOB kicked out a pre-operative male-to-female transsexual, Beth Elliott.

But TS/TV groups such as the Salmacis Society in the San Francisco area formed for women who like transsexuals and transvestites. Salmacis, basically a social organization, is headed by Sally Ann Douglas, a transsexual.

Many other groups exist, but the ones mentioned are the major ones which have survived the first few years of the movement in the face of very strong opposition in Gay Liberation and some elements of Women's Liberation. Both charge that transsexuals and transvestites affirm and encourage sexism and sex roles; a charge replied to by a sneer by most of the TS and TV groups who refer to their attackers as "ignorant" and "lacking full sexual perspective."

#### Abolishing Laws

As the alliances form, some of the points in platforms will include goals of abolishing all cross-dressing and impersonation laws. Although some of these have been declared unconstitutional, many still exist, and a case of this type has recently been appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by American Civil Liberties attorney Marilyn G. Haft of the ACLU's Sexual Privacy Project.

Another goal will be to end all special identification requirements concerning transsexuals, as now exist in the State of Alabama and the Province of Ontario in Canada, where transsexuals are identified as such on driver's license renewal applications. In Alabama, the Senate passed a bill several months ago

#### Correction--

TVIS is in  
North Carolina,  
and is headed  
by James Howell.

creating a "separate status" for post-operative transsexuals, claiming transsexuals "meant nothing to the state" prior.

Problems of transsexuals in prison (unless the person has completed the transformation, they are placed with male inmates) and a relaxation of requirements for surgery will also be important aspects of any TS/TV alliance's platform. But the most important problem of all—tens of thousands of transsexuals seeking surgery and unable to afford the \$4000 cost—can only be presented to the public. It is highly unlikely that anything can really be done about the "growing pool of medically indigent transsexuals," as described by one surgeon.

This problem was brought into public sight in 1972, when John Wojtowicz attempted to rob a Brooklyn bank to obtain the money to pay for a sex change operation for his lover, Ernest Aron. The lover, now known as Liz Eden, eventually obtained surgery with part of \$7500 paid to Wojtowicz by film producers who plan to make a movie about the robbery. Liz marched in the women's contingent in this year's

New York Gay Pride Parade. John and an accomplice, Robert Westenberg, went to prison. Another accomplice, Salvatore Naturile, was shot and killed during the robbery attempt.

Whether to support gay and women's liberation will also be an aspect of any alliance's platform, and as many TS/TV groups have had bitter experiences with gay liberation, such support is only possible, not probable.

Perhaps the surprising thing to most people will be the fact that there are so many transsexuals and transvestites now and so many public organizations.

"Maybe we're arriving on the scene a little late," said one transsexual. "Perhaps we had to wait until our numbers were large enough."

With the increase in development of such groups, an increase in angry conflicts must necessarily follow. But it is encouraging to find so many transsexuals and transvestites willing to tear down the crosses which were used to burn and crucify Joan of Arc and Christine Jorgensen, among countless others, and beat their oppressors over the heads with them.

#### THE ADVOCATE

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# ANGELA KEYES DOUGLAS

Since the TAO first formed in 1970, our effort has gone through as many changes as have some of the transexuals active in it. We had to temporarily disband several times for various reasons; in June of this year a few of us reorganized it in Miami Beach, and I feel we have begun to provide a valuable and somewhat more effective TSTV effort. By sheer miracle, we have managed to publish and distribute thousands of Moonshadows each month seven times, without charging dues, fees or charges of any kind. TAO has also held several public actions and made other efforts to ensure our equality, and branches are now developing in a number of cities. As we enter 1974, I would like to sincerely give my appreciation to everyone who has assisted the TAO in 1973—we have truly made impressive advances. Our non-commercial policy will continue in 1974, and our growing expenses will be covered by the sale of photos of TAO officers, etc. We hope to expand in many areas of effort next year, and I imagine we will. May all of you enjoy a most successful and very happy new year.

Contributors to this issue: Cover and art work, Suzun David. News articles, Costanza Gabi, Angela Douglas, Ellen Jones, Wendy Davidson, Vinora Hibbard, Julia Tonner. Lay-out and editing, Angela Douglas.

Moonshadow will be published six times in 1974. If you want the next six issues, send 12 ten-cent stamps to cover postage with the form below to: Moonshadow, c/o TAO, Box 1708, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139. There is no other charge.

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