

MOONSHADOW

the voice of the transsexual action organization: TAO

free

November

Moonshadow

Moonshadow is the official publication of the Transexual Action Organization and is published monthly in Miami Beach, Florida. Moonshadow is distributed free internationally. Permission is not required to reprint anything appearing in Moonshadow, but please credit it to the Transexual Action Organization. Art work, news and items of interest to transexuals welcomed.

Contributors to this issue: Suzun David, cover and art work. Sandy Mesics, Philadelphia; Anne Ritchey, Cleveland; Julia Tonner, England; Michael O., the Continent; Costanza Gabi, verification; Angela Douglas, editing, lay-out and typing.

The Transexual Action Organization is a transexual liberationist effort founded in 1970 by Angela K. Douglas. Membership is restricted to pre-operative transexuals under hormone treatment and post-operatives. A Transvestite Unit is for transvestites, and a Lesbian Unit is for gay women who support the transexual liberation movement. The Mirage Unit is for non-transexuals who support the TAO's efforts.

Membership cards can be obtained from any presidential or regional officer or by mail if proof, such as medical-legal documents are sent. (Copies accepted/returned.) There are no dues, fees or charges.

Officers of the TAO

Angela Keyes Douglas	President/Miami Beach Director
Colette Goudie	Vice-president/defense Director
Sandy Mesics	Philadelphia Director
Leslie St. Clair	San Francisco Director
Wendy Davidson	Los Angeles Director
Julia Tonner	Staffordshire Director

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Ray Rondell	Jacksonville Director
Vinora Hibbard	Orlando Director

Lesbian Unit

Cari Colon	Director
Tender Brown	Assistant Director

Mirage Unit

Costanza Gabi	Intelligence Director
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Charles Right	Commander
Michael Galliano	Commander
Neil Angus	Commander
Tony Burgos	Commander
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Au Revoir et Bienvenue

The Calif. Dept. of Motor Vehicles has informed the TAO that licenses are issued to TSS who have changed sex only after medical verification is presented, including a doctor's signature. Until the verification is presented, a temporary license with the sex designated by the applicant is issued.

A new line of cosmetics priced extremely reasonably is available by direct mail order from Teri Cosmetics, 2940 SW 20 St., Miami, Fla. 33145. We've tried some of them and highly recommend them. A sample of prices: excellent eye shadow crayons only cost \$1.90 as compared to others costing about \$3-4. They'll be glad to send a free brochure.

Crystal Jain of the Transvestite Unit will marry Gary Gresham on Nov. 24 at an invitation only ceremony to be performed by Rev. Davis. After the ceremony in the Roseland room of the Casablanca Hotel, an open reception will be held for friends at 4 p.m.

Linda Tipton has been elected new president of the Salmacis Society in California, and informed the TAO that the hopes of forming an alliance of TSTV groups hasn't received enough support. "Many of the leaders contacted felt the idea is commendable but impractical and of questionable value to their organizations at this time," said Tipton.

Michael Salem's \$10 book "How to Impersonate a Woman" was reviewed by New York's Village Voice, which suggested that TSS might just as well buy a copy of any beauty magazine for 75 cents.

TRANSEXUAL ACTION ORGANIZATION
BOX 1708 - MIAMI BEACH, FLA. 33139

LA BEAUTÉ



EST DANS LA RUE

The TAO received a letter from TV Karen Riggs, head of the TVIC in Lansing, Illinois. Karen tells us TVIC will be glad to assist members of TAO in the Chicago area, and TVIC would like to form chapters in Florida. If any TV would like to help, send a letter to Karen and get filled in on details.

The TAO held a demo on Oct. 31 to protest a feminist demo—a woman who travels around the nation exposing her breasts, claiming the same rights as men. The TAO president was interviewed by the media and told them the TAO had decided to disrupt feminist demonstrations until the women's liberation movement granted public, full support to the TSTV effort.

Rachel Harlow appeared again on the Mike Douglas TV show. Rachel is considering opening a club in the Miami area.



Malcolm Tottle, M.D., head of the division of Information and International Cooperation of the Swedish Committee on National Health Relations, has informed the TAO of the fact that Swedish law on definition of sex is applicable only to Swedish citizens, and that non-citizens can not obtain sex changes in Sweden by law.

our member of the month for November is Suzun David.

On Oct. 15, a group called Fags for Nichols held a press conference in Detroit to endorse John Nichols for Mayor, in reply to a Nichols fundraising party earlier in the month. At the party, the former police chief welcomed a contingent of officers dressed in feminine attire. The chief is anti-gay, so he drew the ire of the gay libbers. The gay libs said that 88 persons were arrested last year in Detroit for violating drag laws, yet the cops in drag weren't busted. (from the Gay Liberator newspaper.)

The Empathy Club newsletter reports that a non-profit public service called the National Organization of Gender Identity Dysphoria is now in operation. It provides data on surgeons, shops, etc.

A popular new rock group to see is the New York Polls, who are currently touring the country. The band is composed of a lead singer, two guitarists and a drummer, and works in drag. At a recent Polls concert in Philadelphia, a good deal of the audience was made up of drag queens, TSS and TYS, which was as interesting to watch as the band itself. In Memphis recently, Polls singer Dave Johansen was arrested when a young man ran onstage and kissed him. But they had no trouble when the band played at Palm Beach recently, however.

Dr. Robert Granato, a sex change surgeon at Columbia University, told a news conference at the clinical congress of the American College of Surgeons that he hopes to have such surgery soon covered by Medicaid for indigent transexuals. "The patients who undergo sex change operations are just as much in need of the surgery as those who have appendicitis," he said. Granato has performed 118 of the operations and suggests there have only been 500 done in the US in the past ten years. Granato also said that some insurance companies now cover hospitalization as transexualism has become such a well-known and accepted condition.

Wayne County, singer for the Queen Elizabeth Glitter Band, has been described by Melody Maker magazine as the last "truly underground phenomenon."

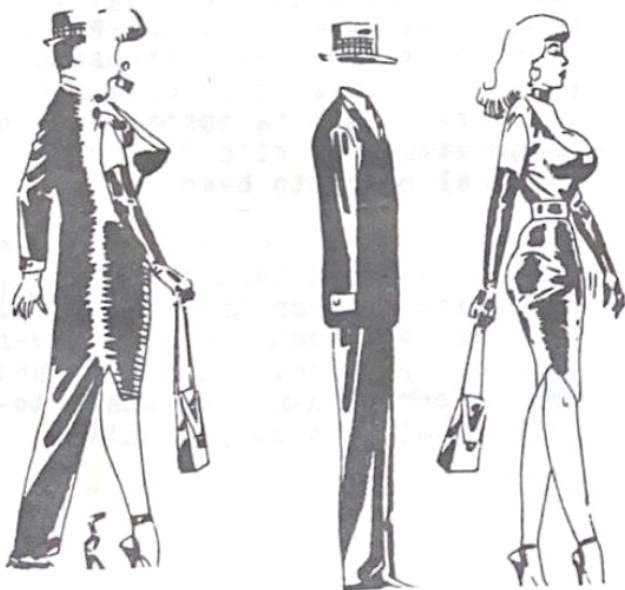
WAYNE COUNTY



OF

QUEEN ELIZABETH

A county criminal court at law jury upheld a municipal court conviction of Toni Rochelle Mayers, formerly Richard Anthony Mayers, a transexual who has accused police of harassment. Mayers, 26, was found guilty of appearing on a public street Sept. 21 disguised as a member of the opposite sex and was assessed the same \$50 fine levied at a 1/11/71 city court hearing. The defendant charged after the arrest that police were bent on harassment since only moments before a municipal judge had dismissed an earlier, similar charge on a technicality. Vice-officers testified that they had arrested the TS outside the police station as the accused was violating the city ordinance again. Mayers dressed in a feminine pants suit and wore facial make up, with a sign displayed on the clothing saying "my body is male." The defendant, who also appeared in feminine attire Tuesday, testified the sign was evidence of an intention to pretend to be a woman. Mayers said that in an effort to change sex "I began living totally as a female Dec. 1, 71. Living as a woman has been a necessary part of the process." (Reported from the Houston post by TWIC Albany. The transexual's name was given as Mayers, Myers, and Mayes. and the case is probably the one appealed to the US supreme court by attorney Marilyn Haft of the ACLU.)



New York's Queen Liberation Front Director, Bebe Scarpie, sent a protest letter to the Gay Liberator paper in Detroit, objecting to the statements against TSs/TVs by gay activists. "The only answer I have is tough. It is too bad for the anti drag male and it is too bad for the anti-drag female. It is too bad for anyone who limits their life, and role, and personality, by their genitalia," said Bebe. The TAO is in agreement, but we have also urged QLF to completely separate itself from the gay movement.

Entertainer for the month for Nov. is Ray Rondell. Ray will give a dramatic reading and concert Dec. 13 at the B.T. Club in Jacksonville.

Inactive or relocated: Tara Carn, Cynthia Platt, Melanie Montes, Nick Reigh, Gwendolyn Von Kamps, Nancy Pamey, Gigi Elliott.

Transexuals in prison; Barely any consideration is being given to the hundreds of pre-ops now imprisoned. Regardless of physical advancement, unless fully complete surgery has been performed a TS is considered being of the sex as born and is placed with inmates of the same birth sex. Rape, beatings, poor legal representation and sadistic treatment by guards is the daily life of the transexual who has fallen victim to the most insidious form of persecution ever known on this planet. The media is refusing to publicize the situation and only the TVTS group in Los Angeles and STAR in New York have really tried to do anything about it. It is our hope that all TS/W organizations will give the situation more attention.

Virgin Lib movement started

Wendy Robin, New York actress, spreads the gospel for the "virgin libbers" movement while in Roanoke, Va. for a theater engagement. She's the founder of the American Virgin Liberation Front which formed as an alternative to the sexual revolution.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania: A 4-city series of drag beauty contests will begin in Philadelphia in Dec., according to Mr. Henri David, who sponsors local drag balls. The unusual first prize will be an all-expense paid sex change operation. Also sponsoring the event will be Rachel Harlow, star of the film "The Queen." The contests are scheduled for Philadelphia, New York, Washington and Atlanta. The finals will be held in Philadelphia.

Cleveland, Ohio: There appears to be only slight legal bias against TSS and TVS in Cleveland. In nearby cities, drag laws are severely enforced and the relative innocence of TSS makes them quite susceptible. There are several doctors who provide hormone treatment and psychological counseling, and a sex change surgeon in the area who performs the basic surgery for around \$900 plus Blue Cross. It has been reported that underground ops have been performed also at private clinics in Cleveland at the very low cost of \$700, including lab work-up, hormone and psych therapy and the actual surgery. Clubs frequented by TSS and TVS include Miss Twiggy's, Silver Spur and Joanne's Lounge.

Michigan: The TVIS Counseling Division in Whitmore Lake, Michigan, is attempting to knock drag laws off the books. Stephanie Jones, the TVIS head in the area, is working also with the Detroit Free Press on a series of articles about TS and TV--and has called for assistance from TSS and TVS within a 100 mile radius.

Chicago, Illinois: A cross-dressing law was declared unconstitutional by Judge Jack Sperling, but it is only binding in his own court and not on other judges. He said the law violates guarantees of the US Constitution. The case concerned four TVS who had gone to a police station to file charges against men who had assaulted them, but the police arrested the TVS.

Miami, Florida: Drag laws were declared unconstitutional on both local and Federal levels in 1972, and there is little harassment. Miami Beach is more cosmopolitan than Miami or other nearby cities and problems are far less severe. Many TSS and TVS 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 Miami Jackson hospital, definitely being performed in Jacksonville at 4000. Clubs patronized by TSS and TVS--the Mix II, Ambassadors III, the Stonewall, Inner Circle, Warehouse, Keith's, and others. TSS and TVS are also welcome at most of the clubs/lounges/hotels in the Beach, including the Dolphin's Den and Sonny's Lounge.

ACLU
ACLU 373-2052
EOP Legal Services 379-0822
Dade County Jail 377-7691

MEDICAL
Switchboard 634-1511
VD 377-0341
PCC Suicide 379-2611
Neurotics Anonymous 754-4624
Scoreboard Crisis Line 274-1271

Penthouse Forum magazine's November issue includes a TS article written by Diana Davenport. Mostly an interview with post-op Paula Grossman, it includes excerpts from Dr. Benjamin's book and quotes a N.V. psychiatrist, Robert Faidlaw, who says: "people assume that a transexual is psychotic or severely disturbed, at the very least." Davenport replies to these attitudes with "there is no physical proof to back up such an assumption. Since no transexual has been cured by psychiatry to date, it must be assumed that this is a physiological rather than a psychological problem." Much space is given to possible physical causative factors, and information on the female-to-male transexual is also presented.

international

OUR FOREIGN FRIENDS

ARE HERE

our new director for Staffordshire, England, which is about 150 kilometers from London, has reported the following information to us: since my last letter I have again been beaten up, this time, one of the local papers helped me but the police again declined to take action. I did get the paper to ask questions of the police and got a short piece printed, so if it happens again hopefully the police will be forced to take action. Although I did not retaliate against my assailant, he came off worse, as when he hit my head he broke two fingers (must be a moral somewhere). He also got a very good telling-off from my ex-in-laws.

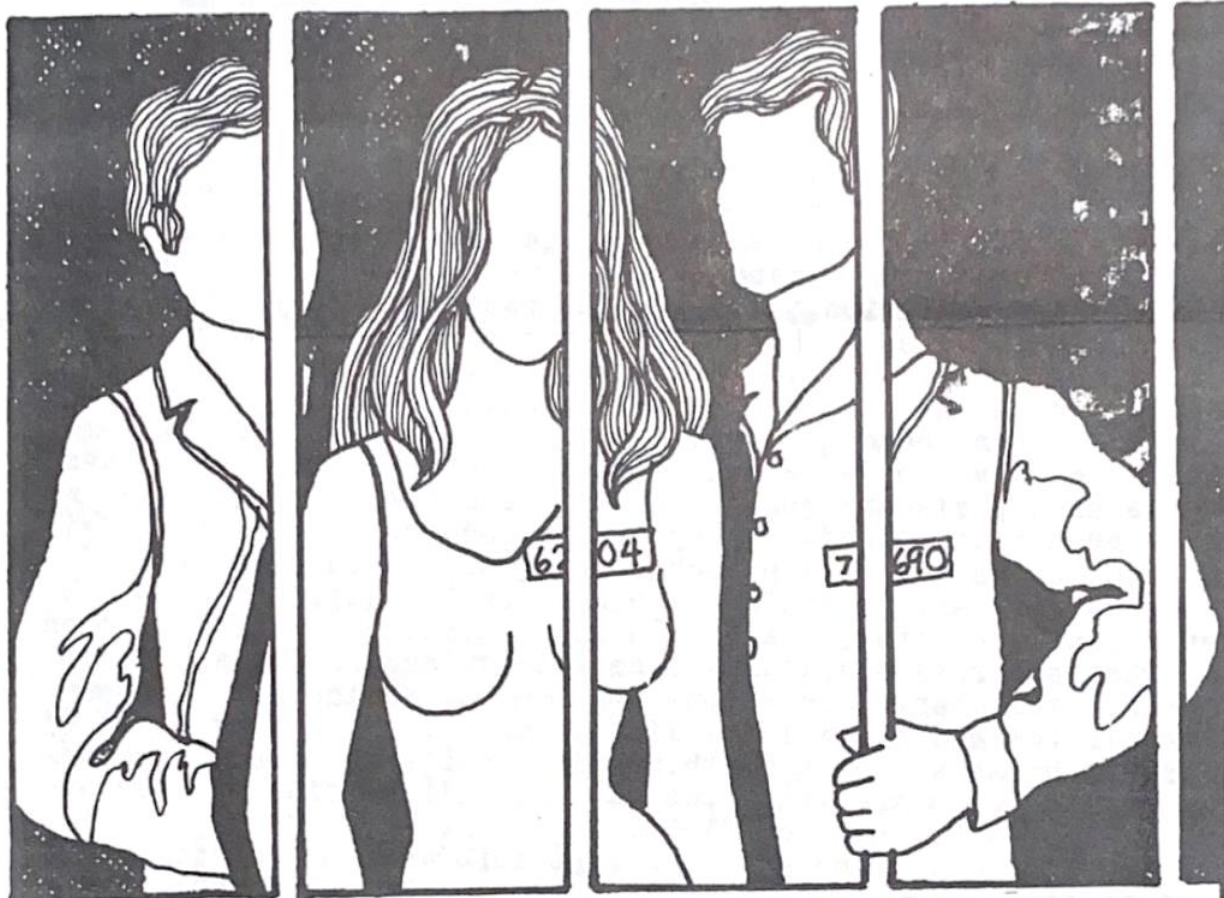
For the most part many TSS in Britain are apathetic because we have been conditioned by many of the doctors over here who will not put us in touch with each other—I should imagine it's as they do not want to confuse the different treatments prescribed by various doctors. There is a Gender Identity Clinic in London at Charing Cross Hospital, Fulham Road, Fulham, run by a Dr. J.B. Randell. Sex change operations are free under the National Health Service and the waiting list is very long. At present it offers to be about one a month. Hospital costs can also be paid on a private basis and this does cut the waiting time greatly, and runs about 450 pounds or \$1000.

It's impossible to find hard and fast information on legislation and it depends mainly upon the police in the individual region as well as on the susceptibility of the TSS involved. It's very hard to get birth certificates changed. Many TSS are greatly put off by very heavy police persecution but if you are living as a woman full-time and have no male clothing there is not much they can really do. It is not necessary to register with the police or carry special identification cards, and I would personally abhor such a thing. You have my sympathy in the states as I believe that is necessary over there. However, some new TSS might appreciate the TAO cards as it would be some sense of security if they are stopped by chance by the police. In Walsall, the police now turn their backs when I walk by as they know I will make a written complaint at the slightest provocation, but at the same time I will demand their fullest help if it is necessary—and although it is given a little half-heartedly, it is given.

Reported by Julia Tonner.

Paris: Club Elle and Lui, 23-27 Rue Vavin, a combination drag and lesbian club, is one of the more popular. In Amsterdam, at least two clubs are popular—the Eldorado on Amstelstrasse, and the Madame Artur's Club. Most European drag clubs are high-drag only, and you won't be permitted entrance unless in full drag.

Reported by Michael O.



The days and nights pass not only do the bars and walls and hundreds of men and screaming guards, harsh moments let you know you are in prison...your heart-soul tells you, your eyes...what am I, a woman, in a man's jail doing in a man's body...I have breasts but they told me I am a man and they can lock me here in this hellhole.. I'll have the scars fixed when I get out...if I ever do get out, alive...my mother hasn't answered my letter... I don't like Nick and Harry but they sold me to them... four packs of Marlboros, they said it was high...I wish I could tell the world about this scene but no one will believe it...and even if they did, I wonder if they'd give a damn about it...only eight more months to go.... maybe some of the scars will be gone by then...some TS went through the block yesterday and she told me there are a lot of TS and TW groups now and some of them are really together and doing things...maybe they will help us, but they're probably too busy going to balls....its just not like they explained it in the Christine Jorgensen story at all, they left so much out.....

ORGANIZATIONS

Some of these organizations primarily serve the transvestite, but all relate to transexuals as well. Services range from social activities, personal referrals, instruction, publications, protest actions, housing, employment, counseling, information, social events, telephone help-lines, etc. Most groups charge fees or dues, some are on a donation-only basis, some are free. "x" means the group issues a publication.

1. Empathy Club, Box 12466, Seattle, Washington, 9811. x
2. Erickson Educational Foundation, 4047 Hundred Oaks Avenue, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, 70808. x
3. Foundation for Personality Expression, Box 36901, Los Angeles, California, 90036. x
4. Manicure, 465-38th Street, Oakland, California, 94705.
5. National Organization of Gender Identity Dysphoria, Project Push, 739 South Ramparts Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90057. x
6. Queens Liberation Front, Box 1271, New York, New York, 10009. x
7. Salmacis Society, Box 2441, Menlo Park, California, 94205. x
8. Simi Valley Group, 1725 Deodora Street, Simi Valley, California, 93605.
9. Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries, Greenwich Village, New York.
10. Transexual Action Organization, Box 1708, Miami Beach, Florida, 33139. x
11. TAO Jacksonville, 120 North 4th Avenue, Jacksonville, Florida.
12. TAO Los Angeles-c/o the Transexual Guidance Clinic.
13. TAO Orlando, 4211 Lake Lawne Avenue, Orlando, Florida, 32808.
14. TAO Philadelphia, 2126 Walnut Street, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 19103.
15. TAO San Francisco-c/o Transexual Counseling Service.
16. TAO Staffordshire, 51 Scrimshaw House, Pleck-Walsall, WS2 9JE, Staffordshire, England.
17. Transexual Counseling Service, 121 Levenworth Street, San Francisco, California, 94102.
18. Transexual Guidance Clinic, 6922 Hollywood Boulevard, Suite 211, Los Angeles, California, 90028.
19. Transvestites Independent Chapter, Box 45, Lansing, Illinois, 60438. x
20. TVIC, Box 2036, Canoga Park, California, 91306.
21. TVIC, 1104 Broadway, Albany, New York, 12204. x
22. Transvestite Information Service, Box 276, Spencer, North Carolina, 28159. x
23. TVIS, 11870 Heidelberg Lane, #15, Whitmore Lake, Michigan, 48189.
24. Transvestites-Transexuals, Gay Community Services Center, 1614 Wilshire Boulevard, Los Angeles, California, 90017.

The TAO would appreciate information on groups not listed.

SALMACIS

EMPATHY CLUB

TVIC

TVIS

tao

Transexual Counseling Service