

All other addresses of TAO have been discontinued.

SEIZE THE TIME

Welfare Offed

Welfare assistance to transvestites was cut off recently in Los Angeles. The directive does not effect transsexuals, according to officials as erroneously reported in several publications. A letter campaign in protest has been started. Write to Joseph L. Winkler, 4051 Rio Honda, El Monte, Calif. Winkler was the official who issued the directive.

OFF OUR BACKS

16 male members of the Congress Of Racial Equality picketed the Apollo theater in New York recently, charging that transvestites were offensive to their manhood. The picketing closed the show temporarily. Letter protest: CORE, 200 W. 135 St. NYC NY.

TIJUANA SPECIAL

The National Transsexual Counseling Unit reports that the cost for the second step in the male to female sex conversion operation at the Tijuana clinic has risen to \$3000, for a grand total of \$5000.

USSR CHANGE OPS

A document has been obtained from the Soviet embassy describing nine sex conversion operations performed in the USSR in 67-68. Four of the changelings were true hermaphrodites. Such operations are performed in ordinary town hospitals free under socialized medicine. The USSR also has an Institute of Experimental Endocrinology and Research of Chemistry of Hormones.

AID

The Center for Special Problems at 2107 Van Ness, San Francisco, provides physicals, counseling if desired and hormone treatments free for transsexuals. Very little red tape is involved.

DIVORCE

Women's Liberation legal aid in Los Angeles has granted assistance to a preoperative male to female transsexual seeking a divorce from a woman she was married to and legal change of name. The feminists provide divorce assistance to women requiring it at minimal cost.

MARRIAGE

Divorce proceedings have been initiated by a sailor who married a postoperative transsexual without knowing his wife had previously been a male. The TS is seeking full compensation and if successful will have strengthened TS rights to legally marry and property rights.

V.A.

Ex-GIs seeking sex conversion surgery through Veteran's Administration assistance have reportedly received little cooperation from the V.A. The organization apparently doesn't want to set precedent.

TAO has two informational publications available.

TAO-1 "TRANSEXUALISM AND WOMEN'S LIBERATION"

TAO-2 "M ALE TO FEMALE TRANSEXUAL LESBIANISM"

To obtain either or both send a stamped, large, self-addressed envelope. Free.

TRANSEXUALISM
AND
WOMEN'S LIBERATION

TRO-I

There are a number of conflicts between transsexualism and the tenets of feminism, and during 1970 many transsexuals were charged by both gay liberationists and feminists as being examples of sexism at the extreme and countering the struggle against sexism. Recent information suggests (April 70) that the number of transsexuals in the USA is far greater than previously estimated. 5000 transsexuals (both postoperative and preoperative) are estimated to be in southern California alone, according to several doctors who work with transsexuals.

Males who become females often incorporate stereotype sexist values out of sheer necessity, and in some cases, are encouraged to do so by doctors and psychologists who are steeped in sexist values. A male to female transsexual is expected to meek, docile, submissive, etc. Most clinics in the USA will not perform surgery unless the candidate has been fully accepted in society for at least a year as a female, including working in a socially-defined feminine job, etc.

Many transsexuals spend entire lives dissecting the masculine and feminine aspects of this culture, on all levels, assimilating that which they think is most feminine. Some are highly successful; others are not and are exaggerated caricatures. Many become highly adept at utilizing sexism in order to survive or accomplish goals.

With the changing values and the disintegration of socially defined sex roles apparent to them, many transsexuals have become interested in feminism. A great number of transsexuals do not wish to exist as "oppressed" females, but are caught in a vicious cycle: on one hand, society will only accept a transsexual if she is ~~XXX~~ a "lady" and ultra-feminine, and incorporating socially-defined "masculine" attributes would negate chances to obtain transsexual surgery. On the other, becoming "masculine" can create great inner conflicts and add to personal difficulty, and yet on another, the ending of clearly-defined sex roles is a great advantage to transsexuals, and for many, makes the transformation that much easier.

Many transsexuals are professional strippers, topless and bottomless dancers, quite proud of their new bodies. It is a political act for a transsexual to strip nude on stage, and after the applause has ended, announce herself to be a transsexual and call for an end to ridicule, harassment and ~~xxxxx~~ other forms of oppression against all transsexuals. Although many feminists would consider this to be sexist, in some ways it is an attack upon sexism.

Male chauvinists are extremely threatened by transsexuals, and transvestite males. As an example of the level of oppression, the Congress of Racial Equality recently picketed a show of transvestites in New York, charging that "transvestites were offensive to their manhood." The ridicule directed against Christine Morgan by male chauvinists has been immeasurable; she was voted by Esquire magazine "the number one woman not to marry."

Many male to female transsexuals become lesbians. During the process of changing sex, many males become totally feminine-identified to a degree that they completely separate themselves from all things generally considered to be masculine, including males. In some cases, transsexuals who are not or are not able to become exceptionally feminine in the stereotype sense find more rapport and acceptance in the company of Lesbians. In general, transsexuals are quite rejected by males and find it difficult to obtain partners, etc. Male to female transsexuals are much more readily accepted by females, and although many Lesbians also reject transsexuals completely, others do not and some develop long-lasting relationships. A few transsexuals are active in gay women's liberationist groups and in women's liberation, but there has been some rejection by these groups also.

In essence, Lesbianism is the most "feminine" aspect of existence to many transsexuals, and by becoming Lesbians become more secure in their feminine identity.

There is also the possibility that some transsexuals who become Lesbians have been unable to successfully adjust to roles as heterosexual females.

The pre-operative male transsexual who has become essentially a combination of both sexes physically—with breasts, a general feminine appearance but retains male genitalia may often find a relationship with another female more gratifying than with a male. More "equality" is possible; in general, males tend to accent stereotype concepts of feminine behavior towards transsexuals, assuming all transsexuals are masochistic, submissive, weak, and generally wishing to be treated "like a woman."

But many transsexuals do not accept these socially imposed oppressions, and this conflict can often be resolved by becoming Lesbian. Few transsexuals return to their former selves.

As an example, a male to female transsexual wearing pants, short hair and a minimal amount of make-up was recently told by a feminist that she looked far more "feminine" than she did a year earlier in mini-skirt and high heels.

The stereotype impression that a male who becomes female would "normally" become a heterosexual female is due to anti-Lesbian prejudices. Transsexuals are often "programmed" into such role behavior by psychologists; to become Lesbian would be "abnormal". Of course, the transsexual experience itself is a liberating one, and many transsexuals find Lesbianism to be a creative and valid lifestyle.

Transsexuals are rare, probably less than 10,000 post-operative in existence. Many thousands more are in various stages of transformation. There is some confusion as to the differences between transsexuals, hermaphrodites and transvestites; a transsexual is a psychic hermaphrodite, a male or female who was born anatomically "normal", but feels that he or she is trapped in the wrong body, that nature erred and usually desires to change sex physically. A true hermaphrodite is a person born with the sex organs of both sexes. A transvestite is a male or female who wears the clothing of the opposite gender.

A pseudo-transsexual is a female or male homosexual who attempts to change sex in order to escape from anti-homosexual prejudices.

The rights of transsexuals to change sex, to marry, to obtain divorce are not firmly established although some precedents have been set. April Ashley was married to a male for several years, but a judge ruled that "sex was fixed at birth" and annulled the postoperative male to female transsexual's marriage. April is appealing the decision. Some transsexuals wish to adopt children. Legal records must be changed. If arrested for any reason and jailed, many pre-operative transsexuals are incarcerated with members of the "opposite" sex. Transsexuals are also subject to arbitrary decisions as to their gender by unqualified groups or individuals acting out of prejudice.

The 1970 Peace and Freedom Party platform included "As part of the sanctity of the individual, the right to determine the use of one's body as in sex change operations and others." Third World Gay Revolution issued demands in 1970 including "the right to free physiological change of sex provided upon demand by the state." Militant transsexuals also issued demands in 1970 calling for "hormone treatments and sex change surgery provided upon demand by the state."

In the late 1960's a number of transsexuals became involved in groups organized to combat discrimination against them on all levels. Most efforts were expended informing the general public about transsexualism, but several transsexuals participated in street protests.

According to a doctor involved in transsexual research, there is a growing "pool of medically indigent transsexuals in the USA." Many are forced into prostitution, subject to blackmail, or coercion by police to be spies or rape decoys. Employment is quite difficult to obtain. Welfare provides some assistance on an individual basis.

The male to female conversion consists of hormone treatments which develop breasts, sparsen beards and in general feminize the physical body. Sex conversion surgery usually consists of restructuring the male genitalia into a vagina. In the USA, the cost is about \$5000.

The female to male sex conversion consists of hormone treatments which develop beards, recede the hairline and in general masculinize the body. Breasts are removed surgically. Artificial male genitalia is added. The cost is around \$10,000 in the USA.

The USSR, Great Britain, Denmark, the Netherlands and Sweden provide free sex conversions to citizens unable to afford them.