

# the emperor's new clothes

Men write the script, design the costumes, and direct the play. A female role is just as clearly a male creation as is a male role. Unmask Marilyn Monroe and you will find Arthur Miller *in drag*. It's as cliché as two sides of a coin. Charles Atlas was created out of the aggressive feelings and the bathing beauty was created out of the receptive feelings of the same male chauvinist.

Most men project their desires to be receptive on women. Due to the oppressive nature of the female role in this society, a straight man can freely pretend to be Charley Hard-On when he feels assertive, but when he feels receptive, he must project his own desires to have big boobs and a friendly cunt on his female companion. I believe that men live out these desires by using women as their "dolls." Aphrodite sprang out of Zeus' head, Eve was born from Adam's rib, the frog magically became a beautiful princess—man's transsexual fantasies are endless. Only the transsexual man takes the responsibility for his own fantasy and becomes a "woman."

Under stress, some males' desire to be receptive becomes too great to be denied or projected, and they flip. Heads I win, tails you lose, the king becomes a queen. *Only a man can be a woman!* The queen comes from

man's affirmation of his "woman" role, and not, as popularly stated, from his scorn for a real woman. When a man becomes a woman, he feels the total weight of oppression that the male chauvinist dumps on us as women. If you don't believe me, ask a queen out to lunch.

At this time roles are not clearly understood and we need to fully explore the way that we use roles, and the ways that roles use us. Much is said about oppressive roles. But is a role freely chosen the same as a role which is imposed upon us from above? The game of role playing seems to be popular among children. Ask Peanuts. We express our inner personality thru our outer appearance. Look in the mirror. Ain't that so Mr. Revolutionary? Does a hip Venceremos Brigadier look like Che or does he not? The female role is a man's expression or affirmation of another side of his nature. Let the sunshine thru.

Men are more reluctant to discuss roles than women. Perhaps the fact that little girls were able to dress in the costumes of the opposite sex and little boys were not indicates the extent of the pressures which have caused all this male uptightness. I believe all children have a desire to try out every conceivable role around. Anyway I did. Since I wished to try out both sex roles, I'm assum-

ing so did my brother. My sister sometimes was a sailor, sometimes I was a cowboy, but never did I see my brother in a dress! What's it all about Alfie?

How many males could tell you, but won't—or would tell you but can't—that one and only time they put on mother's high heels? Ask Alfie's father. The straight father's scorn and ridicule for women is clearly expressed when a boy tries to be a girl. Jerry Rubin and Abbie Hoffman, hippie and yippie, why did you dress in all those costumes, Indian drag, police drag, Uncle Sam drag, and never once cross the sex role boundary? You came so close to the point, and then you petered out. Just couldn't keep it up, hippie brother.

When a man in our society grows his hair long, puts on a dress, and walks among us, she is in effect giving up his male privilege. She is not oppressing women, she is threatening men! The queen is the lavender menace to the male chauvinist. When every man is able to cross the sex role boundary, then and only then will women cease to be sex objects. The Gay Liberation movement should affirm and not deny the transsexual in us all. Queens are in the vanguard of the sexual revolution. Come out now and avoid the rush!

—pat maxwell (a transsexual) / *come out!*

## TRANVESTITE and TRANSEXUAL LIBERATION

The oppression against transvestites and transsexuals of either sex arises from sexist values and this oppression is manifested by homosexuals and heterosexuals of both sexes, in the form of exploitation, ridicule, harassment, beatings, rapes, murders, use of us as shock troops, sacrificial victims, and others.

We reject all labels of "stereotype", "sick", or "maladjusted" from non-transvestite and non-transsexual sources and defy any attempt to repress our manifestation as transvestites and transsexuals.

Trans lib began in the summer of 1969 when "Queens" formed in New York and began militating for equal rights. The Transvestite-Transsexual Action Organization (TAO) formed in Los Angeles, the Cockettes in San Francisco, Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries (STAR) in New York, Fems Against Sexism, Transvestites and Transsexuals (TATS) also formed in New York, Radical Queens formed in Milwaukee - all in 1970. "Queens" became "Queens Liberation Front".

Transvestism-transsexualism-homosexuality are separate entities. Sexist values incorrectly classify any male who wears feminine attire as a homosexual, and to a lesser degree, any female who wears masculine attire as a homosexual.

### DEMANDS

1. Abolition of all crossdressing laws and restrictions of adornment.
2. An end to exploitation and discrimination within the Gay world.
3. An end to exploitative practices of doctors and psychiatrists who work in the fields of transvestism and transsexualism. Hormone treatment and transsexual surgery should be provided free upon demand by the state.
4. Transsexual assistance centers should be created in all cities of over one

million inhabitants, under the direction of postoperative transsexuals.

5. Transvestites and transsexuals should be granted full and equal rights on all levels of society and a full voice in the struggle for the liberation of all oppressed people.
6. Transvestites who exist as members of the opposite anatomical gender should be able to obtain full identification as members of the opposite gender. Transsexuals should be able to obtain such identification commensurate to their new gender with no difficulty, and not be required to carry special identification as transsexuals. There should be no special licensing requirements of transvestites or transsexuals who work in the entertainment field.
7. Immediate release of all persons in mental hospitals or prisons, being held for transvestism or transsexualism.

WE SHARE IN THE OPPRESSION OF GAYS AND WE SHARE IN THE OPPRESSION OF WOMEN

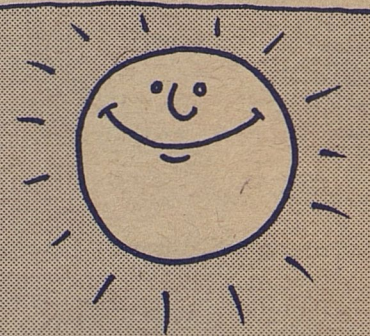
Trans lib includes transvestites, transsexuals and hermaphrodites of any sexual manifestation and of all sexes - heterosexual, homosexual, bisexual, and asexual. It is becoming a separate movement as the great majority of transvestites are heterosexual, and many transsexuals (postoperative) are also heterosexual, and because the oppression directed toward us is due to our transvestism and transsexualism and for no other reason. We unite around our oppression as all oppressed groups unite around their particular oppression. All power to trans liberation.

QLF, Box 538, NY, NY 10009; TAO, Box 261, Coconut Grove, FL; STAR, Box 410, NY, NY 10011; COCKETTES, Box 4089, Berkeley, CA; FAS, Box 410, NY, NY; RADICAL QUEENS, Box 5457, Milwaukee, WI 53211



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