

THE INSTITUTIONAL NEWS LETTER FOR AND ABOUT TRANSSEXUAL PRISONERS IN PRISON

TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON



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TRANSSEXUALS IN PRISON POLICY AND STATEMENT

Transsexuals in Prison Inc. is a national & international networking newsletter organization and referral service for the transsexual in prison as well we are an informational service for referrals for those in society that are for and about the transsexual prisoner and the community on a whole. Our purpose is to work with the Gay, Transgender, and the Transsexual Communities in order to provide a better understanding of the incarcerated transsexual as well as to assist those transsexuals in prison and the gay and Transgendered for release back into society. Assist them while they are incarcerated to better educate themselves of the discrimination issues that face them while incarcerated in either State or Federal facilities:

Transsexuals in prison has no political or religion agenda. Our only agenda is to Educate our communities about those of us who are in prison as best as we can from our vantage point. We are a Non Profit Group. The Board Member are Volunteers, They use their own personal funds to publish this newsletter. Donations are accepted through any board member. Some contributions may be tax deductible. Transsexuals in Prison is not a mail forwarding service: If it does not relate to the Organization business it will not be forwarded to you.

Sincerely

The Board members of T. I. P.

Inc..

RONI'S SCRIBBLES A BATHROOM CRISIS!

Shapely, Tall Blonde secretary Roni, was fired for using the office ladies room because co-workers found out that underneath the sexy female clothing Roni was a man.

Out of work the stunning transsexual can't earn the money needed for her surgery to complete the sex change and remains in the tormented limbo of being male and a psychological female.

No one will hire me because they know my story, pouted the Denver Colorado pre-op who is on hormones but lacks reassignment surgery. And now out of work in this bastion of mid-west red necked conservatism. I'd take about any job I could just to make the 7,000.00 I need for my operation. But I have been looking for two solid years and I still can't find work.

Roni's ordeal began in April of 1980 when a co-worker at AT&T in Denver recognized her as a former Guy he had worked with three years before at another firm.

Word of Roni's jumbled gender spread around the office where she had worked as a collections clerk for three years.

Within hours she was called in to see her supervisor and admitted freely she was a transsexual.

He told me, my sexual status didn't matter to him, We had dated a couple times, but the women in the office had complained. Roni recalled. He told me the other women had refused to use the ladies room as long as I was working there.

He said we can't very well let you use the mens room now can we built as you are. So I guess we'll have to let you go.

I'd done a good job there, I'd worked hard.

They could have worked the situation out, but they didn't want to. They were set against finding a solution. I was a victim of pure sex-discrimination. They fired me because I was a Transsexual.

Now the willowy Pretty Transsexual filed in the District Court of the State of Colorado Asking to be able to sue her former employers for sex discrimination and for illegally firing her because of her disability.

I would like to show people that they have to take transsexuals seriously, that they can't treat us like some kind of joke. We're people just like anyone else and need to make a living.

While waiting for the courts decision Roni continued with counseling and hormone therapy. She looked for a job every day and relaxed in her spare time sunbathing on her apartment terrace.

I don't regret that I started my sex change because I'm much more comfortable as a woman Roni told the Rocky Mountain News.

But it gets me down being out of work. Maybe if I can get my job back I can save toward the operation I've dreamed of ever since I was seven.

The Colorado District Court Denied Ms. Soubrette's right to sue her former employers because "The sex discrimination laws applies to males and females but not a combination of the two. Although a transsexuals unable to perform physical tasks of employment. While we do not approve of such discrimination we do not believe that it is prohibited by Colorado Civil Rights Act.

So it is another step back for the Transsexual.

Discrimination against women over the centuries has been primarily, societal yet laws against that discrimination have been passed-and forced down the throats of males-to brings us to a slightly more en-lightened society providing better living, working and social conditions for the female. But alas, discrimination against the transsexual isn't applied against only the MTF. Recently there was a similar case against a FTM working as a fireman.

It seems the primary center of controversy involving the MTF is the use of rest-room facilities. I, for one, would like to know what is so damned sacrosanct about a ladies room! Are the Genetic females screaming about the use of "their room" by a non genetic, non physical, but very psychological female so insecure in their identity that they fear contamination of some kind? Do they believe that in some mysterious way they are going to catch "Male-ism" off the toilet seat? Is some microscopic seed of male-ism going to invade them through their vagina's causing them to turn into a male with a PENIS and ALL the other less desirable, to them male traits? I mean we just go in there and sit down and pee and we both wipe out little pee-pees, Good Grief, if such a seed exists we had better find it so we can transplant a few onto or onto the FTM and save them the expense and pain of Phalloplasty surgery.

No, actually the problem is one of education! People, including gender people, tend to fear things they don't understand. Fear of the unknown.

It is the responsibility of the gender community, be they crossdressers or transsexuals, The behavioral Science community and the news media weather it be printed visual to cooperate in this education. The general public must be sufficiently enlightened to see the transsexual and crossdresser not as a threat to the morals of society bit as a person... another human being, in search of a solution to a difficult but solvable problem which makes them slightly different from the rest of society. Society as a whole, has overcome many insurmountable problems and envisioned threats in the past and they will continue to do so in the future. We can only hope and pray that the cross-genderism issue will be one of the problems and threats overcome in the future so that cross-gendered people will be allowed to live a happy productive life out in the open and not forced to hide in a physical and mental closet of darkness.

Since this article was first released. I while being a erotic dancer at night going to school during the day. Was finally granted the right to Sue AT&T by the Colorado Supreme court. It was drug out for a few years and finally AT&T settled out of court with me for a sum large enough to allow me to fulfill my dreams It can be painful but we can overcome. This issue has gone on to long we are a discriminated minority that must unite as the Gay community did to force people to look at us as human beings just like they are.

We Welcome Back to our Society on the outside: Vanessa Meriwether; Welcome Home Vanessa, Live Long and Stay Free. This TIP Special Credit and Thanks to the following: Court Challenges Program of Winnipeg, Canada; Step Turner of Carson City, MI.; Roni Soubrette and Vanessa and also the Associated Press. Patricia Fisher.

The world's most beautiful MAN!

H EY, DID you happen to see the most beautiful man in the world?

You would if you could travel to Brazil and look up gorgeous Roberta Close.

Roberta, 22, who was born Roberto Moreira, is currently the toast of Rio de Janeiro, where the dazzling 5 ft. 10 in. raven-haired transvestite is an established top model.

He has already appeared in the Brazilian edition of Playboy, and is in constant demand as a cover girl of many publications.

One editor calls him "earthshaking."

He says he has always known he was a female, but refuses to undergo a sex change operation for fear it would destroy his image as a transvestite.

His big break came when he was 17, and a magazine photographer snapped shots of him while he was at the beach.

Now he is a superstar — and nervous.

"This scares me," he says. "I was never ready for success."



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CLASS

Class never runs scared. It is sure-footed and confident, and can handle what ever comes along.

Class has sence of humor. It knows that a good laugh is the best lubricant for oiling the machinery of human relations.

Class never makes excuses. It takes its lumps and learns from past mistakes.

Class knows that good manners are nothing more than a series of small sacrifices and minor inconveniences.

Class bespeaks an aristoctacy unrelated to ancestors or money. Some extremely wealthy people have no class at all. while others who are struggling to make ends meet are loaded with it.

Class is real. You can't fake it.

Class is comfortable in its own skin. It never puts on airs.

Class never tries to build itself up by tearing others down. Class is already up and need not attempt to look better by making others look worse.

Class can "walk with kings and keeps its virtue and talk with crowds and keep the common touch."

Every is comfortable with the person who has class because he or she is comfortable with him or her self

If you have class, you've got it made. If you don't have class, no matter what else you have, it wont make up for it

Ann Landers wrote this years ago:
It is so very true Roni'



Sex-change Bond beauty seeks maximum exposure

SEX-CHANGE model and former James Bond girl Tula is set to bare all by posing naked for a men's magazine. As reported in GLOBE, Tula married a British millionaire, but he dumped her when his mother learned Tula used to be a man. But Tula is trying to put her life back together. "Working is better than therapy," Tula says.

Breast Augmentation

How Plastic Surgeons Can Build Big Breast



For some it is unfortunate that nature does not provide a real set of growing breast for the transexual and the crossdresser that want to have them. So the only ways they can have breast is by taking pills, or going for a set of breast implants. We went into great detail in our first issue about the pill and how they effect you, and how they are used. In this issue we will go into the breast implants a bit, and into the surgery of it.

Sometimes even after many many months of being on the pills, and or taking the shots, a persons breast may not have developed to any great extent. There are many reasons for this; female hormones such as in the shots and pills only do there job when there is excess body fat to be redistribted in the body. On the male, it takes fat from the masculine areas, such as the arms and stomach, and moves it to the more feminine areas of the body, such as the hips, thighs, buttocks, and the pectorals. If the male to female transitional effect is desired, and to little material for the hormones to work with, then the results will not be as you may desire.

This results in many cases of a person on the pills or the shots to gain breast at very slow pace. However, in most cases the skin does become softer, the aureola spreads and becomes darker in color, and the nipples become more pronounced, appearing pointed at most times.

Having a set of full, well developed breast is very important to your average transsexual, and also in some transvestites. Yet most transvestites are content with the results that they can obtain by just taking the pills. Either

way, the breast play that very important roll in the lives of the people that really want them. After all what average male would doubt that a person with a set of 36's or 38's was anything but a real woman?

A lot of people have gone through a lot of pain and despair over the lack of a set of firm breast pertruding from their chest. Fortunately, The field of medicine has as most of the times, come up with a solution to this very old problem that has been on the backs of many a transexual and the crossdresser. Plastic surgeons have worked years on improving techniques of augementation of the breast. Of course they were for sure developed to help the flat chested women. But it applies to the male body just as well. Most surgeons are aware of the transexual- and the crossdresser, and they are sophisticated- enough in these matters on the ever pressing needs of our people, and most of them are willing to help us with such matters. At first having ones breast enlarged was a risky business.- The procedure was to inject liquid silicone directly into the breast and tissue. This served to swell the breast, but with very undesirable side effects.

Often a person would get infections from a needle, and the liquid would occasionally do some shifting and start to move through the body. Although this was serious, a more alarming- side effect often ocured when the physician would hit a vein by mistake, which in turn would poison the blood and cause blockages, both resulting in death much to often. Another undesirable side effect of the liquid silicone

was its tendency to separate into smaller globs, or nodules. This gave a breast a lumpy texture making it very difficult to distinguish the lumps from cancerous growths.

You can see that the bad features far out weigh the good ones, and the FDA soon had it taken off the market. Which only gave way to a thriving buisness for the Black Market to meet the demand for breast enlargement.

With this in mind, and the ever increasing demand for a way to enlarge the breast safely, physicians worked long and hard trying to find new ways to enlarge a womans breast.

Then a dozen or so years ago, medical researchers came up with what they were looking for a method to improve the enlargement procedure. Surgeons now work with a silicone gel, sealed in a thin breast shaped packet. This whole packet is then impanted under the skin behind the breast in a simple surgical procedure.

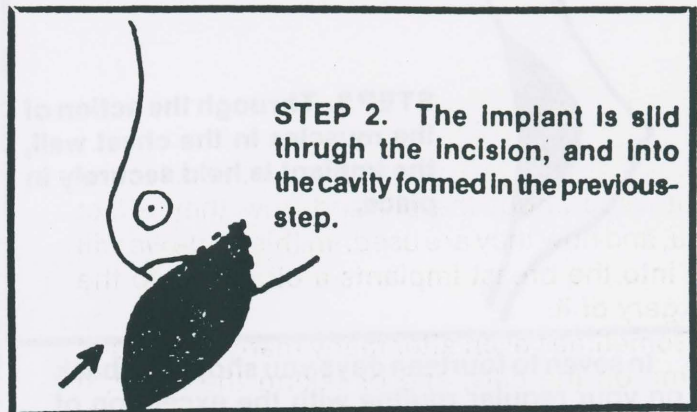
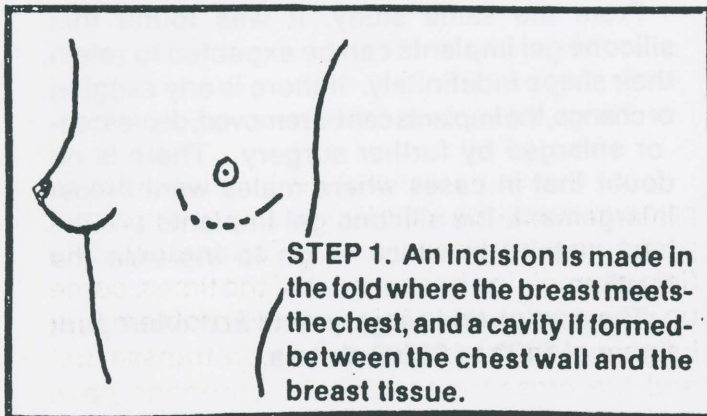
not stretched out far enough for the size that was chosen, then a smaller one will be inserted and then in a few months, you may have the larger size put in once the skin has stretched out to enable you to do so.

The technique for implanting will vary from doctor to doctor, but for the most part the following steps are basically the same.

Usually a day before the surgery you would check into the hospital. The breast area is washed repeatedly with anti-bacterial soap, and any hair remaining in the breast area and under the arms is removed.

The actual surgery requires that some sort of anesthetic be used, some doctors prefer to use a general, while others prefer to use a local on with a heavy sedation.

Any variety of incisions may be made, depending on the individual case, but in general, ine incision is made in the fold of the breast, just below the nipple. a cavity is then formed



Still another variation of the same technique is also in use. The difference being the sack is implanted under the breast empty, and then it is filled with a saline solution. The advantages of this are two fold, the incision will be smaller, and the sack can be filled with varying amounts of the solution to vary the size of the breast as needed. Some people have remarked tha the saline solution breast have a more natural look and feeling than do the silicone filled ones.

Although in the case of the silicone itself is sealed in a seamless and pliable packet, which makes it almost impossible for it to leak out or travel through the body.

The patient chooses the size implant he or she wants in the doctors office with the aid of plastic conformer over their breast, and holds them in place with a bra so that it will give the person a realistic idea of what the implant will look like on them.

A supply of different sizes are on hand in operating room in the event that the skin will



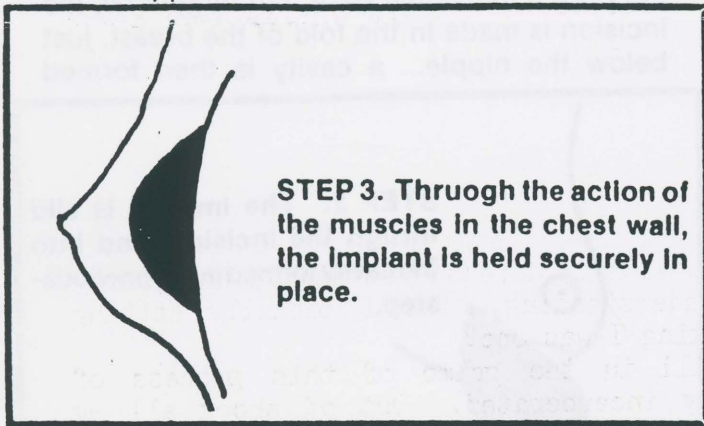
behind the existing breast tissue. The sack is then inderted on the chest wall, and held in place by the natural action of the chet mussels.

Care is taken to make sure that both the breast appear symmetrical and when the surgeon is satisfied, the incisions are sutured up, and you are moved back to your room.

Another two or three days in the hospital are usually require careful attention being giving to stop any bleeding, minimize pain and discomfort,- and guarding against infections. With in a day your are back on a regualare diet and walking around, although your movements will belimited.-

You will be instructed to lie down on your back, and not lift your arms above you head.

You will be fitted with a special bra, no wires for support, to prevent brusing, you will wear this bra for about six weeks, both night and day to insure support.



In seven to fourteen days you should be back on your regular routine with the exception of lifting heavy objects for some time after the surgery.

A couple of weeks later your stiches will be removed, and only a small scar will remain, and this should fade away in several months.

Sometimes a person might develop a sense of firmness around the implan areas after the surgery, usually in a case where a large implant is used. In such cases, the skin is stretched to its limit. Some times this feeling will disappear, and other cases, the implant is removed and a smaller one is substituted.

Most patients report that in appearance, sensation and feeling in the breast are normal and satisfactory. There is no doubt that pyscologically most people are happier after implant surgery.

A study of thousands of people years after the implant, no evidence had been found that implants increase the chance of breast cancer. Patients who had received the implants had the same incidence of breast cancer than those who did not.

From the same study, it was found that silicone gel implants can be expected to retain their shape indefinitely. If there is any sagging or change, theimplants can be removed, decreased- or enlarged by further surgery. There is no doubt that in cases where males want breast inlargement, the silicone gel implants are the best method in which to go to increase the bustline.

The cost os this surgery runs in the ball park figure of \$800 to \$1200 dollars.



QUOTES to QUELL our QUESTIONS

by Steph

If I respect myself and require that others deal with me respectfully, I send out signals and behave in ways that increase the likelihood that others will respond appropriately. When they do, I am reinforced and confirmed in my initial belief. If I lack self-respect and consequently accept discourtesy, abuse, or exploitation from others as natural, I unconsciously transmit this, and some people will treat me at my self-estimate. When this happens, and I submit to it, my self-respect deteriorates still more.

-THE SIX PILLARS OF SELF-ESTEEM, Nathaniel Branden, Bantam Books, 1994, p. 5.

Until about five years ago I failed to respect myself in a big way. I failed to appreciate my specialness, I failed to respect my feminine side. Discovering a whole community of those much like myself, rich with educational literature, did much to catch me up to speed on my true "self" worth.

But this wonderful awakening didn't automatically undo the many years of self-neglect I had habituated. I still had the habit of anticipating rejection from others simply for being myself—with all those gender blending traits leaking out. I came to understand that this was a kind of defense mechanism: If I prepare myself for "inevitable" ostracism then it shouldn't hurt as much when it finally comes. But with my defenses so high I apparently did little to invite acceptance and understanding. Was I actually setting myself up as a scapegoat simply by thinking I was one?

Four years ago, while I was still in the prime of this process of self-discovery, I found myself abruptly incarcerated. Out of shock all my old coping mechanisms kicked in. Soon, I was ill-treated by other inmates, if only for what they perceived of me. Sure, I was "different," but perhaps I was projecting to them the message that I was too different to be kindly befriended by them.

The situation wasn't helped by the fact that throughout my childhood I never grasped male bantering. As a child I took all that put-down language personally. With greater wisdom I could learn now not to take such verbal attacks to heart. But all those old coping habits came back and haunted me. I was sure there was this invisible "kick me" sign on my back.

As the shock of my predicament wore off I came to realize an important truism of this life: Once I show to others that I respect myself enough to defend my personal boundaries, then others will be less inclined to try and cross those sacred borders. As I show others that I truly respect myself, gender gifted and all, I will increase the likelihood that I will be respected. I then have the door open for others to appreciate and even accept me for **who** I am.

Those who continue to disrespect me are typically those who fail to fully respect themselves, those too afraid to face their own femininity. And I am an obvious reminder of a side they dislike in themselves. It does me no service, nor to them, to agitate their discomfort by any indignant confrontations. As long as I demonstrate through my self-respect that I am okay, what discontented people think of me fades into obscurity.

It continues to be important for me to find others with enough self-respect to faithfully encourage the same in me. It was the loss of such support four years ago that left me in so much shock. It is out of the ashes of that experience I write this to support you. Take care... "Q"



Supreme Court of Canada decides favorably in women's rights case

On February 27, 1997, the highest court in the land held that certain provisions of the *1977 Citizenship Act* violated section 15 (equality rights) of the *Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms*.

The appellant in this case, Mark Donald Benner, was born in 1962, to a Canadian mother and an American father.

The *1977 Citizenship Act* granted automatic citizenship to children born abroad of Canadian fathers. Children born abroad of Canadian mothers and non-Canadian fathers had to apply for citizenship, which involved, among other things, passing a criminal clearance check.

Mr. Benner applied for citizenship and was rejected when he did not pass the criminal clearance check. He subsequently appealed this decision with funding from the Court Challenges Program.

In a unanimous decision, the Supreme Court stated "This legislation continues to suggest that, at least in some cases, men and women are not equally capable of passing on whatever it takes to be a good Canadian citizen. In fact, it suggests that children of Canadian mothers may be more dangerous than those of Canadian fathers, since only the latter are required to undergo an oath and security check."

The Court found that the appropriate remedy would be to grant access to citizenship to the children born abroad of Canadian mothers.

Crown alleges bias on part of African Canadian judge

On March 10, 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada heard arguments concerning a case of alleged bias on the part of Judge Corrine Sparks in Nova Scotia, the only African Canadian judge in the province.

The case involved an African Canadian youth accused of assaulting a white police officer. Judge Sparks acquitted the youth on the basis that the Crown did not put forward sufficient evidence to meet the burden of proof. During her oral judgment, she commented that police officers sometimes have a tendency to overreact when dealing with persons of colour. The Crown appealed the decision on the basis that Judge Sparks' comments demonstrated a reasonable perception of bias.

The Court Challenges Program funded the youth in this case, R.D.S., and the following intervenors: a coalition consisting of the African Canadian Caucus of Nova Scotia and the Congress of Black Women, represented by the African Canadian Legal Clinic; and a coalition of the National Organization of Immigrant and Visible Minority Women of Canada and the Women's Legal Education and Action Fund.

A decision from the Supreme Court of Canada has not yet been released.

Special Update: On July 25, 1997 I resigned from my outside job in Canada to Receive my U.S.A. Social Security because I could not work in Canada more then 45 hours a month and receive it. I can work unlimited hours on a job in the U.S.A. and receive it. I have just turned 65 years of age on August 2, 1997. I place all my faith in God, and I will do my best to live on it. I do care about all of you. I first started doing this TIP Voluntary Work in approximately 1985. We had about 350 Inmates on our mailing list at that time. Since then about 227 of these people have been successfully parolled or released from the prisons and have successfully proven themselves to be good Citizens on the Outside. It is my hope that we in TIP can continue to work together and with all of you. This is respectfully submitted: Patricia G. Fisher, Distribution, and Canada Director. I do hope to work and study in a School God'Willing.