

# Lady Inspectors

By Jefferson Fuck Poland

There's a curious sidelight in the Village Voice (July 3) account of Gay Power disturbances in Greenwich Village, provided by police explaining their policy on raiding gay bars:

"According to the police, they are not picking on homosexuals. On these raids they almost never arrest customers, only people working there . . . It was explained to me (VV's reporter) that generally men dressed as men, even if wearing extensive makeup, are always released; men dressed as women are sometimes arrested; and 'men' fully dressed as women, but who upon inspection by a policewoman prove to have undergone the sex-change operation, are always let go."

Does it embarrass a trans-sex-

ual to have these women always inspecting his/her crotch, looking for a telltale testicle or carefully measuring the clit to see if it's really an eensy prick? How do ladies get the job of crotch watcher, anyway?

The situation resembles those times and countries when circumcision clearly distinguished Jew from Gentile. In ancient Rome, the Emperor Domitian's "first measure against the Jews was to make sure that neither they nor proselytes to Judaism evaded payment of the Jewish Tax. Suetonius recalls that in his youth he had seen an old man forced to expose his genitals in a crowded courtroom in order that it should be confirmed whether or not he was circumcised." ( -- Dr. Hugh J. Schonfield, *Those Incredible Christians*, p. 178.)

Within the past two generations, American women have won the right to wear clothes of either sex (with the exception of male business suits). Indeed, a woman wearing blue jeans, riding boots and a man's shirt is not generally thought of as "wearing men's clothes." Almost any garment can be considered "women's wear" when a woman is actually wearing it.

Males and trans-sexuals deserve the same freedom of attire. Furthermore, all persons should have the right to impersonate whatever sex(es) they wish. When a stranger passes you on the street, it's really none of your business to know the shape of the stranger's genitals -- you don't have the right to demand, as society now does, that the stranger wear certain cultural signals ("male" or "female" clothes) describing his/her crotch

formation. If the stranger wants you to know, let him/her tell you voluntarily. Most folks will.

Of course there are limits to deception. If a transvestite prostitute takes your money but delivers the wrong brand of goods, you're entitled to a refund. If a foolish bridegroom weds a blushing virgin, he may be shocked to find his bride has balls; certainly the groom is entitled to a prompt annulment. But how often does complete deception actually occur? When a sailor lets a transvestite blow him, doesn't he suspect that "she" might really be a boy -- but he'd rather not actually know? Most people who deal sexually with transvestites (in this context, either homo, hetero, or bi) probably know who they're getting into. If not, let them learn by experience. No sailor ever died from

getting blown by a queer. There may be a few problems here, but nothing that justifies society in forbidding sexual impersonation.

Laws forbidding transvestism should be attacked directly, in the streets in front of gay bars in bohemian areas. Gays and straights -- perhaps organized jointly by Sexual Freedom League and Committee for Homosexual Freedom -- should hold a Switch In. A large group of males and females, of all sexual orientations, should appear in clothing unmistakably of the opposite sex. Daring the cops to bust.

As in our public marijuana smoke-ins, the cops would have a choice between tolerating illegal activity or starting a test case which we would win.