

Plus ça sex change

NIGHT LIFE In Paris is not quite what it used to be. The creatures of the night tend no longer to be belles. They are beaux.

The latest police check of prostitutes in the Bois de Boulogne failed to reveal a solitary woman, Brian Moynahan writes from Paris. In a further blow to tradition, none of the 300 or so transvestites plying their trade in the Bois or the streets round Pigalle is French. They are Brazilian.

Some Frenchmen claim that the invasion by Portuguese-speaking transvestites is more remarkable than that by

Japanese cars. The Brazilians come to Paris in order to earn the 12,000 necessary for a sex-change operation in Casablanca.

Prostitution is not illegal in France, and the police have found it difficult to deal with this influx. One local girl, however, reversed the traditional roles to turn the foreign competition to her own advantage—and now she has been charged with living off immoral earnings. She was acting as the “protector” of a group of Brazilians in return for a cut of their takings.

Startled residents feel all this is giving Gay Paris a whole new meaning.

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