

## Join the Others, Like Yourself!





- ELetters to the Editor
- Photos of Men in Female Dress
- E Large Personal Column
- Advice Column for the Offbeat Fashion Enthusiast
- News About the Transvestite Community
- True Transvestite Personal Experience Articles



THE

# TRANSVESTITE

Mailing Address: Empathy Press Box 12466 Seattle, Washington 98111

In Issue #43

Editor/Publisher: 'Cathy' Charles Slavik

## CONTENTS

Letters to Cathy	4
Bi-Centennial Hawaii By: Sally Anne Douglas	7
TV Group Activity By: Sandy	10
Club Chameleon	12
Health Foods and the TV By: Zoe Patterson	14
Gender Services	15
Astrology and You By: Jeff Green	20
Barbara's Powder Box By: Barbara Jo	23 ,
Freaking Out City Hall By: Jessie Collins	24
Coming Out By: Marie Ellen Hargrieves	27

(3)

A Note From Cathy

Dear Girls:

I am pleased to announce that the Transvestite World Directory finally has been published. It is the world's largest TV publication, more pages, more photos and more personal TV/TS listings than all the other publications in the world combined. This issue has 261 photos and more than 500 personal listings. By the time you read this all publications have been mailed to members. You should

(if you are a paid up member) have received your publication by now.

To those of you who are new readers and are not familiar with the publication there is an advertisement for TWD in this issue of the Empathy Forum.

Empathy Forum takes on a whole new look starting with this issue. For the first time it is in magazine form. I hope you like the new size.

Starting with the next issue of Empathy Forum the personals will be in the form of a newsletter. The personals will be sent to members only and will not be a part of this publication. To nonmembers the personals newsletter will cost \$1.50. The newsletter

(Continued on Page 6)



Dear Cathy.

First, let me say how much | enjoy your magazine, "The Transvestite" and the many ways it has helped me.

For years I had to make do with odds and ends I would scronge until I found a copy of "Drag" I could hardly restrain myself; I wanted to rush right over to meet Miss Brewster.

When I did get to her office, I was in ecstasy! Everything |



had dreamed of -- all there, just waiting! Lee's Mardi Gras is truly a celebration. Since then I have really discovered myself

and opened up to my "Sisters". I am enclosing some photos of myself and would like very much to hear your comments on them, (if you won't -- feel free to print them). Please let me hear from you soon, as I do so I want to be more involved.

Love & best wish-

the cover of this issue of The



I Can donate to anyone who will appreciate same, one pantsuit. three dresses. Size 18. Will personally send them to a girl who needs them.

Sincerely

ML-1356 Phila., Pa.





## Dear Cathy:

Enclosed is a photo of me, taken on my first time out dressed. I had a wonderful time. I would like to meet girls in B.C. Canada which is near my home and also in Seattle. Would be willing to share an Apt., in the Burnaby Area. Will answer all letters.

> Love. Barbara ML-1098





## (Continued from page 3)

of personals is sent to members no additional charge as part of membership. There is no Personal Newsletter with this issue of Empathy Forum because all current listings are in the new Transvestite World Directory.

In the next issue of the Empathy Forum I would like to list firms that will assist the TV/TS with her clothing and cosmetic needs. If there is a store or mailorder firm, especially one that has not been advertised in Empathy Press Publications that you buy your Femme-clothing, shoes, make-

up and wigs from. Send in details so that the others can benefit

up and wigs from. Send in details so that your knowledge can benefit other girls.

Attention Groups and organizations who may have a program of assistance for *TV/TS* and their life style; Let *Empathy Forum* publicize your activities. There is no charge to you and our mailing list is in the many thousands, so we can find you the contacts you desire.

I have been asked on a number of occasions if I have or can give telephone numbers of Empathy Club Members out? Almost without exception the answer is NO! Because there has been so much interest shown I am going to start something new. Telephone Refural: Here is how it will work; First there will be an initial fee of \$5.00. Second: After sending in the \$5.00 you will receive a listing form for your interests. A Code Name and Code Number. Third: After receiving your Code Name/Number you may write or call stating your Codes and you will be given the phone numbers of those who are apart of this service at the rate of \$2.00 per phone number. Girls who desire to call in for numbers must send in the \$2.00 Per/Phone Fee in advance.

This is a wonderful service for all who just don't like to write letters. It is also just the answer for you business airls who travel a lot. Just think of all the advantages this service offers you. You travel all over the country. A lot of times your business deals don't take up as much time as you anticipated and have a whole afternoon and evening with nothing to do. So you call Cathy and get some numbers. Just keep a balance in your account of \$10.00 or so and you will always have a ready source of contacts without having to write letters. Send \$5.00 today for your application and listing form to:

> Empathy Club Telephone R/Service Box 12466 Seattle, Washington 98111

Please let me hear how you like the new size of Empathy Fourm.

## LOVE.....Cathy

## 

The Eon Society is a not-forprofit association created by a sex-change surgeon to develop a viable equal rights organization for transsexuals. *Membership* is open to anyone who supports our efforts, and a membership application can be obtained from:

### Eon, c/o Ron Allen 1915 Beverly Blvd., Los Angeles, Ca. 90057

Funding comes from tax-deductible dues and contributions, and should be sent to the *Los Angeles* address. The newsletter is free and is usually published every month by a collective in Berkeley. For a free sample of the *Newsletter* and an application write to the above address.

## 

BACK COVER: San Rafael California Male. 22 years old. She states that she is just getting into the scene. She should go far as you can see she is just beautiful. She is a semi-pro photographer. Would like to hear from females but will answer all. Send her your photo. Mary Ann's Code number is EC-1847.

6

By: Sally Anne Douglas

# Bi-Centennial Hawaii

A PARADISE FOR THE TRAVELING SHE-MALE ??

Deep within the concrete jungles of Waikiki, and downtown Honolulu; and amid the teeming crowds of Japanese and Middle American tourists, it is difficult for the mainland visitor to tap the real personality of this land of "Hawaii Five-O", the hula, and "Seaflite".

The sparkle and gloss of this fabled spot, coupled with the soporific effects of the tropical climate; work to divert the travelers visions from the real Hawaii.

Nevertheless, to the inquisitive person who seeks the real <u>essence</u> of this land, Hawaii yields up a panorama of spectacular contrasts and paradoxes.

Paradoxically, in a lush tropical setting where haole women commonly wear their hair long enough to sit on, and many Kamaaina women offer the spectacle of long hair falling freely to their knees; most caucasian she-males find the climate too sultry for drag, until after dark (when the ever present trade winds, in the absence of the rays from the harsh tropical sun, air condition the climate back to the low 70's.)

In an era resurgent feminism, while the local "guy-will-begirls' review still wows the tourist crowd; the 'girls' at the <u>Glade</u> are still not liberated enough to hold a benefit in support of the local sexual identity movement.

In a State where any sexual act between consenting adults is legal, and the police vice squads keep a very low profile; the legislature recently defeated an equal employment opportunity bill.

In a State where drag is legal and the polynesian tradition of MAHU \*\* is still very strong, almost every resident caucasian TV remains deep underground, (on the theory that this island community is too tight and too isolated - and blown cover will surely result in loss of employment, perhaps permanently) leaving the kamaaina queens un-challenged in the social field.

However, for mainland haole queens, the islands offer an onparalleled opportunity to circulate about in the greatest of drags, the muumuu - one of the most classic, practical and becoming feminine costumes ever devised, (especially for those with their own breasts!)

Throughout the islands, the tourist dollar is paramount, and there are few restricts imposed on the She-male. The only requirement is that she spend lavishly for food, tips, and entertainment.

Even at Laurence Rockefeller's spectacular Mauna Kea Beach Hotel, where one can vacation in award winning American-plan luxury for as little as \$140.00 per day; the more affluent queens have been known to be received as people.

Yet, with so many local queens protectively covered, in the past, it has been next to impossible to establish social contacts here.

Fortunately, someone is <u>now</u> doing something to open up the scene, in Honolulu.

That person is Bill Woods, President of Honolulu's Sexual Identity Center (located MAUKA from downtown) who pushes for more openness and understanding from everyone.

The Center's slogan "Love and Peace Together" reflects Bill's point of view to a T - an attitude that gets him involved in helping TV's and TS's understand themselves and their community better.

Assisted by two of Honolulu's less paranoid She-males, representing both the TS and TV philosophies, Bill recently hosted a TS/TV Rap Group, which was attended by she-males who reflect-

ed many of the diverse cultures of this sophisticated and cosmopolitan community.

Represented, at the meeting I attended, were polynesian, chinese, japanese and caucasian cultures - and the mix between TV's and TS's was very even. The variation in ages ranged from 25 to 50.

This TV/TS group, which could be the nucleus of a liberal shemale movement, meets regularly at the Sexual Identity Center, 2457 Kanealii Ave., every Tuesday evening at 7:00 P.M.

For those interest in attending, the Center may be reached by the number 6 line, of Honolulu's metro "The Bus". No 6 contacts the famous "Ala Moana Center" on the hour, and half-hour; and may be boarded at either the Ala Moana Blvd. stop or the Kona Street stop.

Take the Pauoa Valley destination; and get off at the end of the line. The Center is just across the street from the bus stop.

The number 6 bus route and schedule can be obtained from "The Bus's" booth at the Ala Moana Center, during normal business hours.

Honolulu's TS/TV group is now loosely affiliated with the Salmacis Society, and with Gemini for those who wish to avail themselves of reciprocal privileges.

However, the Center welcomes any traveling she-males who find themselves in the islands, and wish to make contact.

Call the Center's Hot-Line at 521-4551 for current information about activities, the bar scene, location of magazine shops, etc.

Another social contact point. that should not be missed, is 1868 Halekoa Dr., (Honolulu, Hi., 96821). My friends, the two Kathys (Morrision & Wilson) are in residence here, and welcome any contact from traveling haole shemales. (Write ahead for telephone contact.)

If you don't have the time to make contact, but still want to see some of the Honolulu drag scene, stop in at "Stewarts P/C" (Pub) which is located at the corner of Hotel Street and Nuuanu Avenue, just down the street from the "Glade". ( No. 1 or No. 2 Bus Line).

At the 10 P.M. show break.the girls walk down from the "Glade" to have a few, and you can see most of the local talent without paying a cover charge.

The author welcomes comments. or controversy, from readers of this column (on subjects of interest to she-males). Send your letters to: Sally Anne Douglas, c/o Gemini Introductions, P.O. Box 617, Milpitas, Ca. 95035

From "Where" Magazine, July 17. 1976. (3M National Adv., Co., 307 Lewers St., 701 Honlulu, Hi. 96815

#### SPEAKING HAWAIIAN

At first, the Hawaiian language appears forbidding. Difficulties' can be conquered, however, with a little practice and by following a few rules.

The Hawaiian alphabet contains just twelve letters - five vowels (a, e, i, o, u) and seven consonants (h, k, l, m, n, p w). Each vowel is sounded separately as it occurs in a word. Pronounce "a" as in father, "e" as in they, "i" as in machine, "o" as in no and "u" as in rude. With the exception of the "w," consonants have the same sound as in English. However, when "w" follows the vowels "e" or "i" it is pronounced as "v". However either the "w" or "v" sound is appropriate if the "w" follows "a", or if the first letter of a word is "w." Every syllable ends with a vowel in the Hawaiian language and the accent is usually on the next to last syllable. For example, the word Hawaii can be pronounced HaWAI ee or HaVAI ee. Ready to practice? Try the name of this island fish - humuhumunukunukuapuaa.



8

# SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER NEWS

\*\* An explanation of the term MAHU. (Re-printed courtesy of the Sexual Identity Center)

Editor & Lavout: David Terrell

## Not Very Intermediate at Dole

are going to classes more often and coping with school life better. They are a stable, tightly knit group of boys who look out for each other. They just about have to. They are part of probably the most discriminated against group of people, especially in the schools. Strong emotions against them are quicker and more violent than the knee-jerk reaction

They call themselves mahus.

The staff was having trouble dealing with them. Most rulebooks do not cover this situation. Most situations are with people who are very covert and feel very guilty.

How do you deal with a male student in a public school-an intermediate school, where the students are 12 and 13 years old-dresses in dresses? At the very least, which bathroom does she use?

Brian Kagihara, the Child and Family Service Center counselor for Dole Intermediate School, called in the

Some students at Dole Intermediate | Sexual Identity Center as the most gualified to help. Bill Woods and Ron Horn set up an in-service training for the staff.

> About fifty people were there, Ron estimated, including instructors, counselors, staff and even the principal. It was Ron's first staff development, and Bill thought he did pretty well.

One result, aside from the kids attending school more regularly and being more accepted for what they are. is that the Sexual Identity Center will be working with Brian Kagihara at Dole as part of an ongoing process.

We are here to help. In-service training and staff development are only some of the programs we have.



## Glossary of Hawaiian Words Used:

HAOLE: (White) or a caucasian visitor.

- KAMAAINA: (Local) or native Hawaiians.
- MAUKA: Toward the mountains (opposite of toward the Sea)

she-males (similar to the tradition of the American Indian.

MUUMUU: Native Costume.

(9)

By: Sandy EC-214



# Tv Group Activity

Our group in Hartford, Conn. has been going strong for nearly five years. One of the things that has made us strong is our combined efforts. There is also a strong friendship between us because we all see a need, and we fulfill that need.

Our last monthly meeting party was lots of fun -- with 18 gals mostly from the surrounding area or about fifty-miles.

We give counseling and a place to dress to nearly all new TVs. Main exclusion ruling is: no narcotics.

This is how we plan our parties as to costs timing, place, and attendance. Timing: People start coming around mid-afternoon Those that take longer to dress and makeup start earlier. Usually those arriving dressed come later, between 8:00 and 10:00 PM. At about 8:30 P.M., snacks are put out. At 9:00 to 9:30, I start the salad and take out the meat to be cut - usually a 5 - 6 1bs. roast, and 5 - 6 1bs. ham. This last party we had an 18 lb. turkey and 5 lb. roast beef. There was lots of turkey left over.

Attendance theme is: New people. We try to get closet TVs to come into our world to see us.After a careful interview we offer them a chance to dress where we do. Next we offer personal guidance as to beard cover and leg appearance first, since those two areas have been difficult for many new TVs upon starting out. A dozen or so swipes of the blusher in the right places can make or hurt a gal's face. Tricks with an extra pair of panty hose can also do wonders to enhance a girl's legs.

Months later as time goes by, we can see a TV advance. The interval from her first time in dress to the first time she goes out in public is usually from three to six months - governed by desire.

Legalities: TVIS headed by James Howell wrote the state motor vehicle commissioner and sent us a letter from them stating that it is not illegal to drive in the state of Conn. while cross dressed. He also wrote the city of Hartford, Ct. and received a letter, on "City of Hartford" stationery, stating that it is not prohibited to cross-dress in the city of Hartford. Impersonating a police officer, a fireman, or other person for fraudulent reasons is illegal. And even though sex between consenting adults is legal, soliciting same is not.

So we try to stay in the city to do most of our shopping, movie going, and night-clubing and dancing. I should add now that using the ladies room is also <u>illegal</u> in Hartford. Too many of us risk arrest when we go out days, to comfort ourselves there.

Place: We meet at a private home every month without fail on the second Saturday. There is room to dress for at least six TVs at a time. We fit nearly twenty-people into our parlor with another six or eight in the kitchen. An average party brings twelve to fifteen people. The most was 28, least was six when it snowed and stormed. Naturally when there are fewer people, we get to know each other better, sooner. And we eat more usually too much. We each bring our own bottle, but set-ups are provided. For costs, everyone chips in their share.

We hope to see you all some time, so write and visit us. Best of luck, Sandy EC-214

(11)

# **Club** Chameleon

Since the days of TVIC-SE and its disbanding, several of its members have attempted to establish more localized chapters based upon the convenience of where the membership lived throughout the southeastern United States. O.K., What has happened since then? The resulting situation was essentially the formation of three localized groups in Atlanta, Ga., Montgomery, Ala., and New Orleans, La. The leadership of these groups kept a communications line open to keep each other abreast (no pun intended) of any activities or meetings planned in their particular locales.

The upshot of all of the preliminary spadework so graciously and competently accomplished by Alice Millard eroded for a number of reasons by those of us who were attempting to preserve some kind of organization on a more localized basis. Among the many reason were the lack of time, the degree of interests, the potential number of participants, and the degree of interest as voiced by the leaders. As many of you know, Dianne sent out a feeler of interest to some 40 people within reasonable driving distance of Atlanta earlier in the year. The result was somewhat encouraging. in that about 20 people responded with expressions of interest for an on-going organization. Because of that initial interest, Dianne established a meeting date for a weekend in March to discuss the basis for an organization. Although her opinion may not be totally shared by the others who attended (which numbered about 12), it was a disappointing dialoque. It was disappointing because of the lack of willingness by people to share the workload to keep an organization alive, enjoyable and interesting for its members.

After that meeting. Dianne personally did alot of soulsearching for just plain dropping the idea for any Atlanta-based group. One selfish reason suggested itself to her. It was simply that she personally needed no organization because she had a number of cross-dressing friends who she visited regularly anyway. Another reason was if leadership was required of one person, the responsibilities and time demanded are great and who wants to bear that kind of load. Well, these negatives were given a sharp jolt and Dianne's attitude was shifted by a series of circumstances that bear mentioning. We'll try not to bore you with all the detail, but there's what happened.

Several girls in the Atlanta area were invited to a crossdressing fun weekend near Mobile, Ala. There, they enjoyed the friendships of cross-dressers from Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Tennessee, Alabama, and Florida. The motel manager knew the plans, accepted the public crossdressing; the girls enjoyed straight restaurants for evening dining, visited a local dress shop (while dressed) and just genuinely enjoyed the pleasure of each other's company for the entire weekend. Some wives also participated, and all-told there were about 16-17 people involved. Four girls made a detour to the French Quarter in New Orleans one evening. In any event, through the fine efforts of Connie Conney

and *Alice Millard*, it can be said that the entire weekend was a superb event, well received and enjoyed by everyone there.

This event coupled with the move to Atlanta of Dusty Leigh brought about a change of Dianne's mind and heart. First, it was apparent that a cross-dressing group would get together if there was a reasonably planned set of activities pre-arranged for people to enjoy. Secondly, if there was the convenience of a variety of accommodations for people to enjoy, they would participate with a personal sense of security. Well, we think we now have both in Atlanta, to the extent that people want to become involved. This involvement has brought about Club Chameleon.

Club Chameleon is headquartered in Atlanta. It serves any and all cross-dressers and people interested in the subject of crossdressing throughout the southeastern United States primarily, and those from any other parts of the country who desire membership. Through the courtesy of Dusty Leigh and Dianne Singer, the owners of a lingerie, wig and accessory store. We have the periodic use of the premises for meetings and parties. This shop, known as the Carrouselle Botique, caters to the general public and also to cross-dressers in a varity of products and services by special appointment, thus preserving a person's security. For now, let me just mention that the store is a commercially zones 7 room house. The location has excellent parking, easy access and privacy facilities which each of you can enjoy. The owners have consented

SEND FOR FREE CATALOG

WORLD'S LARGEST SELECTION

OF TV, TS PUBLICATIONS. SEND FOR OUR free CATALOG.

Write to: Empathy Press,

Box 12466, Seattle, Wash.

98111

evening from 6:00 to 8:30 week nights and from noon to 6:00 p.m. on Saturdays. If you want to leave a message or contact *Dianne*, call this number 404/451-1955. For those of you who are out of *Atlanta* and want to visit, call or write to: *Ms. Dianne Singer, P.O. Box 12083, Atlanta, Ga. 30355.* Some of the activities that we (*Club Chameleon*) are anticipating and planning include:

to providing a telephone number

that can be called only in the

- a social get-together at the boutique, perhaps on the order of a garden party, cook-out, barbeque, etc.,
- a weekend of relaxation and fun visiting the impersonation shows in the area.
- [] a Halloween Ball where everyone can enjoy dancing, entertainment and perhaps a costume contest.
- [] a regular schedule of meeting dates where the members can enjoy the company and friendship of one another, guest speakers on the various dimensions of crossdressing, and its place our lives.

Write to the above address for an application for membership and dues information. Do it today. These are great people.



# Health Foods and the TV

Some of us very special girls are depending too completely on commetic tricks to keep us beautiful, forgetting that beauty starts within. to be pretty and and think pretty, you've got to eat pretty!

Your diet is in great part the cause of how you feel and think and behave. The right foods can make you more feminine. by keeping your face and skin young and soft, your nails strong, and your figure trim and girlish. The wrong foods can adversely effect the state of your nerves and rob you of beauty and even shorten your eventual life span.

You can improve your diet right now an immeasurable amount by avoiding sugar and sweets. Don't even keep them in the house. Americans eat as much sugar in a single day as the body needs in a whole year! We could get all the sugar we needed by eating fresh ripe fruits, but pure sugar added to 75% of everything we eat and drink has made us a nation of pot-bellied, pimple-faced, rottentoothed, hyper-sensive neurotics. Try eating pure natural honey on a sliver of whole wheat bread to satisfy your sweet tooth, and stop wasting your money on soda pops, cakes and chocolate bars. You'll see and feel the difference in your appearance and attitude within a single month if you follow that simple advice.

Also, balance your diet daily with meat, fish or poultry, milk and eggs, green vegetables and fresh fruit. Avoid foods with additives. Shopping in health food stores is not necessarily the best way of getting the healthiest foods, but using common (or uncommon) sense of buying the foods that you would have eaten before the age of instant, artificial everything will indirectly make you a more convincing and beautiful woman.

Following is a list of specific problems encountered because of improper diet, along with the best foods to minimize or correct such trouble.

### DULL HAIR

Among the foods that restore lustre to dull, dry, weak-rooted hair are: oatmeal, onions, garlic, unpeeled apples, yeast, figs, lettuce, rye crisp, cod liver oil, wheat germ, cabbage and spinach. Supplement this dietary program with proper hair care.

### UNDER WEIGHT

Develop the hearty-breakfeast habit and don't skip lunches, and and problem with under-weight will soon be rectified. Eat often, chew thoroughly, snack on fresh fruit, like apples. Don't expect over eating or the intake of bulky fattening foods to solve your problem; that will only creat new problems. Improve your eating habits, and if that does not work, see your doctor about vitamin supplements. Recommended foods are: honey, cream, oatmeal, grated nuts and fruit.

### OVER WEIGHT

(14)

Avoid starches, sweets, salt and alcolol. Eat sensibly, don't snack between meals, drink lots of water. If your problem is more than a matter of a few pounds, have your doctor prepare a healthful diet plan for you. Eat small portions of lean meat, skim milk, fish and fowl.

(Continued on Page 19)

## Let your dreams come alive

# at GENDER SERVICES



## WHAT IS GENDER SERVICES OF CHICAGO?

Gender Services of Chicago is a social service agency "for the transvestism, transexual, female impersonator, and the drag queen community", with Don Disier, a professional psychotherapist, Tiffany is a rap group leader for the transvestites, and Susan for the transexuals. Meetings are held every other Wednesday at 2745 North Clark Street, Suite 210. These rap sessions are opened to anyone interested in joining the program, cross-dressing, transexualism, or transvestism. We also have a closed session for those who are interested in one, but not the others.

Every first Friday of the month, we have a cocktail party, \$5.00 per person, which includes food and mix.

We are also going to start having picnics and having all the girls together for a night on the town, going to a show, dinners, or both. THE MEN GET THEIR NIGHT OUT, SO WHY SHOULDN'T THE GIRLS!

We still need help to get this program going strong. We need moral support and financial help being a (non profit) organization. Mail information and donations to the following address (Checks may be made payable to same).

> GENDER SERVICES OF CHICAGO 2745 North Clark Street, Suite 210 Chicago, Illinois 60614

HELP US TO HELP YOU BETTER!!!

## BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE TRANSEXUAL/TRANSVESTISM PROGRAM

1.	COUNSELING SERVICES
	<ul> <li>A. Evaluation and Referal Counseling</li> <li>B. Individual Peer Counseling</li> <li>C. Rap Groups</li> <li>D. Family Counseling</li> <li>E. Misc. Counseling Services <ol> <li>Spiritual Counseling</li> <li>Legal Counseling</li> <li>Drug and Alcohol Counseling</li> <li>Welfare Rights Counseling</li> </ol> </li> </ul>
2.	CIVIL RIGHTS AND THE LAW
	<ul> <li>A. Utilization of Attorneys and Officers of The Courts</li> <li>B. Laison with The Criminal Justice System</li> <li>C. Laison with The Illinois Bar Association</li> <li>D. Laison with The State Prison and Parole Program</li> </ul>
3.	TRAINING AND TRANSITIONAL SERVICES
	<ul> <li>A. Regularly Scheduled Sessions Dealing with Behavior, Mannerisms, Voice Patterns, Diction, and Posture</li> <li>B. On Going Sessions Dealing with Dress, Cosmology, and Hairstyling</li> <li>C. Micro-Level, Cross-Encounter Experiences with Approperate Follow-Up Discussions</li> <li>D. Changes in Legal Documentation</li> </ul>
4.	<ul> <li>DEVELOPMENT OF RESOURSES</li> <li>A. File System Dealing with Attorneys, Doctors, Clinics</li> <li>B. File on Organizations Helping and Dealing with The TV/TS Community</li> <li>C. File and Cross-Reference on Books, Magazines, and</li> </ul>
	<ul> <li>Articles Dealing with Transexuals and Transvestism</li> <li>D. Files on Personal Services such as Shoe Stores, Clothing and Wig Shops, etc. for The Community.</li> </ul>
5.	EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH/SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS.
6.	EMPLOYMENT COORDINATION

7. VOCATIONAL AND HOUSING COORDINATION.....

. BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF GENDER SERVICES.....

PRESIDENT	. Mr. JOHN PROWETT
VICE PRESIDENT	. Mr.DONALD DISIER
SECRETARYT	IFFANY LAWERENCE
TREASURER	SUSAN SNISKO

**GENDER SERVICES OF CHICAGO** 2745 North Clark Street, Suite 210 Chicago, Illinois 60614 (312) 281-0686

The effects of "fad" diets are usually temporary, so, again. correcting your eating habits is the only way to get to the weight you want and stay there.

### POOR TEETH

Calcium and phosphorous build strong teeth. The best source of calcium is milk. Other sources are yellow cheeses, meat, poultry, eggs and some health drinks call for the blending of whole eggs, including the shell which is almost pure calcium, with other things.

### BLEMISHED SKIN

In addition to medicated treatment and scrupulous cleanliness, your food intake can help clear up a blemished skin. Eat plenty of salads, onions and raw cabbage. Unsweetened lemon drink is also good. As already pointed out, many problems such as over weight, poor teeth, blemished skin and general poor health can be remedied by staving away from chocolates, sweets, and pastries.

#### OILY SKIN

Fats and fried food can contribute to oily skin. Raw fruits and vegetables help nulify the problem. Particularly good are celery, carrots, cucumbers, cabbage and onions.

#### DRY SKIN

Dry skin can cause premature wrinkling. Vitamins A, B, and C are best for fighting this common beauty problem. Vitamin A is found in eggs, milk and cheese. Vitamin B foods include whole wheat, yeast and calf's liver. Vitamin C is abundant in green leaves, oranges, grapefruits and other citrus. In addition to dietary improvement, use a face moisturizer nightly, such as

#### Transvestite World Directory

Transvetile World Directory is your direct line to transvetile. trans-result World Directory is your direct line to transvetile, trans-result and female impersonator publications, organizations and world world social contacts. This publication has nearly 500 personal listings and 200 photos, many a full page in size. In the personal columns of Transvetile World Directory you will find listed transvetiles, trans-sexuals of all ages and interests with fabulous photos showing the cloth-ing they enjoy wearing. Also listed in this directory is an advice column for TVS, TSS and their problems, information on TV parties you can go to in most cities coast to coast, a list of firms that sell clothing and make-up desgned especially for the TVS and TSS, plus a list of all the firms that Send to Empethy Press. P.O. Box 12468, Sentite. Washington 98111. Mailed in Plain, sealed envelope. Adults Only.

(19

Johnson's Baby Oil.

## PROBLEM NAILS

Brittle, ragged nails respond to stepped-up intake of milk. cheese, butter, yeast, cottage cheese, liver and wheat germ. Many experts recommend gelatin to improve nail growth.

Note: If you have found a special technique to help you improve your feminine appearance please send in details so that the other 'girls', your sisters can learn by your experience. Send To: Empathy Press, Dept. FS, Box 12466. Seattle, Washington 98111

"A New Must 'Read' Book" By. Charles Slavik

"A STUDY OF MEN WHO ENJOY WEARING WOMEN'S CLOTHING"

## THE TRANSVESTITE

This book relates to a phenomena that has been a part of society since there was a society - transvestism. But unfortunately society (even today) has been slow to learn about transvestism because it has invariably. due to prejudice and lack of understanding, confused it with other behavioral patterns. Many people have therefore suffered greatly and unnecessarily.

The author has tried to be as unobtrusive as possible presenting facts, figures and opinions about transvestism gathered from numerous sources so that you the reader will have a better understanding and increased awareness as to the complexities of human nature. It is hoped that this book will sooner or later come into the hands of someone who has to contend with this phenomena either as a concerned bystander such as a parent or a wife or possibly a practicing transvestite. If this book can help any of these people achieve any degree of understanding and consideration it will have served its purpose.

Stop wondering, read the facts. Order your copy of 'The Transvestite,' today. Only \$2.00 - Send today. You will also receive with your book complete information about the Empathy Club.

EMPATHY PRE Box 12466 Seettle, Wash. S	
Dear Sirs: Please Transvestite.'	e send me your book entitled: 'The have enclosed \$2.00. Please rush.
	Please Print
Name	
Address	
City	

By: Jeff Green

V

# Astrology and You

This is a brand new feature article in The Transvestite that will become hopefully, a continuing discourse between you and us. What is the purpose for this column? Astrology is one of the oldest philosophies that Man has developed in his attempt to understand himself, the universe, and his relation to the universe. In the past decade many, many new developments and insights has lead to a reformulation of many old taken for granted astrological truths. Much pioneering work has been done in the area of sexuality and the emotional orientation of individual beings. As with Man as a whole, astrology is also attempting to come out of the closet in relation to sexual understandings. Much work has been accomplished but much, much more is needed, especially in the area of transsexuality and TV. A good astrologer is a person who can help other persons understand and accept who they are as individuals. Every person has their own unique and individual nature and potentials with relation to that nature. Astrology is a symbolic language that attempts to equate the energy of our solar system to specific physiological and therefore psychological functions within the human organism. The distribution and the unique way in which that energy manifests in every person is described by the planetary relationships within the solar system at an individual's birth. In terms of sexuality the key area of insight into a persons sexual orientation lies in their emotional response to not only themselves but also as the outer environment impacts upon them. Very often a person's emotional nature is at odds with what a person has learned and been taught to accept as "normal". This in turn create

psychological conflicts and confusion. These conflicts and confusions can reach the point to where people do not know who or what they are. The real person is put into the closet, and a charade of false identity is lived out for others to see and nod in approval, thus creating a sense of false emotional/sexual identity and security. In terms of transsexuals and TVs this can amount to a deep and sad tragedy. It is sad because there is no such thing as right or wrong, correct or incorrect, normal or abnormal in any area of the personality in so far as there is no violence done to another person who does not share the same orientation. This is especially true with a person's sexual orientation. Again the role of the astrologer is to help people understand and accept who they are as unique individuals. That is the purpose of this column: to establish an open dialogue between ourselves as people. As an astrologer I am attempting to bring astrology out of its closet in relation to sexual understanding first, and secondly to develop and understanding of the sexual minorities in our world. To do this I will need your help. One of the ways I will be approaching this understanding is to intensive research through the analysis of as many birth charts as I can get my hands on. Therefore if you wish to contribute to this research I would appreciate it greatly if you could send me your birth time (day, year, time, and place). Along with this you could, if you wish, enclose a biography of yourself telling me what you want to tell me. Obviously things you could include would be what you feel is your true sexual orientation, how you feel about it, how you feel

others feel about it, family background, and the early conditions with your childhood environment, etc. If you wish to remain anonymous far out. I think it is important that this one approach be taken in conjunction with others. The reason for this is because it is just as important to establish the why's or reasons for which a particular sexual orientation functions as it is to know that it functions a certain way, and to just live with it. In other words a data base is needed to establish the knowledge of why it works the way it does. Astrology offers a unique way in attempting this understanding because the physiological/psychological functions of the human being are represented by the planetary relationships in the solar system. Contemporary psychologists and psychiatrists. I feel, in general do not attempt to understand the individual for who they are. Instead they attempt to categorize people into neat little boxes and theories and then to make that person change to fit their standards of present "normalcy". The kind of astrology | practice deals with discovering who a person is inherently and then to discover what a person's potential is in relation to that nature. In other words to get a person to understand who they are, to accept who they are, and then to live it out in relation hidden or many times unknown potentials within themselves through a creative release Ultimately this research will be presented in book form and offered out to all who are interested, especially the practicing astrologers of the world. Like I said it is time for this part of astrology to come out of the closet! Your cooperation is needed not only by me but by your fellow human beings who are hidding in their closets of frustration.Tell your friends about it too. Let's help each other to understand!

This column will be a continuing feature so in the articles to come I will be able to share with you the progress made in this understanding. Also we will be sharing in the lives of people

(21)

who have written to me and learning together the why and reasons of the transsexual and TV lifestyle. I will be offering comments to questions posed by those who choose to share in this adventure. I have been doing extensive work in astrology for a long period of time, and have worked with many people concerning many problems that they could not resolve. Bisexuality and homosexuality has been and is an on-going area of concern and research for me. Many exciting developments in astrology have been made already in the area of sexuality in general. Therefore if you are interested you can submit to me your birth time, and a place of birth plus whatever pressing questions you may have and I will do my best in helping you understand and resolve them. Of course being a fulltime astrologer I do need some cash income to keep going. Thus if you do want me to personally help you understand yourself through astrology then I will need some money. The rates for the various charts that I will do will follow this article. Also if you do want me to do a chart on you then also mention in your letter if you mind me sharing it with others through this article. From time to time, charts and problems with all of you out there so we can learn together. Please don't confuse this fee thing with just sending in your birth data and short biographies for the research project. There is no charge for that. In fact when the book is ready for publication you will get a free copy if you desire it.

We have run out of space so let me remind you in closing this first article that astrology is an exciting tool to use in conjunction with discovering who we are as people, as individuals with unique personalities and potentials. It is our right to demand that we be who we are, and not to be somebody else's idea of who you ought to be.

I hope in the succeeding articles that we can help each o-

(Continued on Page 22)

(20)

ther know that this is so and to walk in the sunlight of our true beings. LUCKY STARS TO YOU.....

HERE ARE THE RATES FOR THE SER-VICES I CAN PROVIDE TO YOU:

(1) A complete "natal" chart that is an in depth analysis of your inherent personality, and the potential of that personality in relation to creative releases. The chart is drawn up for you and the actual interpretation is presented on casette tape. The cost is \$35.00.

(2) If you have specific questions or problems that you need advise on or help with I can do your chart and answer those questions without the full interpretation of the natal chart. Of course the answers will be in relation to your own personality. The cost is \$20.00.

(3) If you are wondering about directions for yourself in the future, etc., this can also be looked at in relation to your own chart. The cost is \$20.00.

you interested in seeing how you and another persons energy interact? Areas of mutual interests

NOO

ESTITE

and harmony, areas of stress? Highly interesting results can be seen by this! The cost is \$35.00

(5) Interested in past life incarnations and the lessons they bring to your soul this time around? Your chart can be analyzed in the past with reference to the present personality. Highly revealing. The cost is \$35.00

(6) If you would just like your chart drawn up so that you know where your planets are, what your rising sign is without interpretation then it is only \$5.00.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED PLEASE SEND A CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:

ASTROLOGY ET-ALL P. O. Box Seattle, Wash. 98105 If FOREIGN send an international

money order!

P.S. Remember the Research Proiect is an on-going thing and there is no cost to you for sending me your birth data, and short biography.



(22)

## **Barbara's**

## Powder Box

By: Barbara Jo



One of the most prominent things I have noticed while looking at other TVs and impressionists is that they seem to have an all over, same color, face. With all of todays new make-up and blushers you can create a face that will stand out in a crowd but not give you away. Here's how I do it.

First, apply a good foundation all over the facial and neck area. Don't put it on lavishly but do put it on sparingly because as the painters say, "Several light coats are better than one heavy coat" and that's the case with make-up. If you have a heavy beard or blemishes and need to use clown white use it first before you apply the foundation and don't forget to wipe off the excess. Clown white has a tendency to dry out anything put over it. The foundation will cover adequately and you will be putting on more later.

Second, apply whatever shadow mascara and liner you wish. We do this now rather than later because mistakes are easier to correct now (spills, bloches, etc.).

Third. if you use a dark blusher try putting it on the top of the cheek bone starting about an inch from the nose and run it all the way up to the temple and then up over the eye in a "V" shape, rub the blusher into the foundation but not too much. If

your eyes are the center of attraction for you then apply a little more on the forehead above the nose and rub that real good.

Fourth, now apply a good brand of the everyday variety make-up. A semi-transparent is best. Once again apply all over lightly and then powder the whole area using a patting motion rather than rubbing. Rubbing will just spoil the work you have just done. If you need some eye touch-up go ahead and do it but now you must be careful not to smear it.

Last, but not least, the lips are going to get their's. Try using a dark lipstick as a base then use a lighter color in the center and inside the lip. This give the image of fullness and takes the other people's eyes off anything that you might have missed. Always pick a shade that will go with the make-up and the clothing you have selected. Pinks look yeechy with dark clothes and make-up and darks look even worse with light make-up and clothes.

Don't get all flustered if the above make-up tips do not work for you. You may have to try again and again using different combinations to achieve the desired look. After all the girls had a lot of practice.

Barbara Jo

## Bu: Jessie Collins

# Freaking Out City Hall

Being in no situation to pay the fine on a traffic citation incurred within the city of Seattle, I was given the option of participating in some community service, either in Seattle or my own suburban community. I decided to do this volunteer service in my own community rather than suffer the expense of transporting myself to the Big City to work off the fine.

Clad in purple flared slacks and nearly matching blouse with a Star of David necklace and wide leather belt with brass buckle, I scurried down to City Hall to inform them the City of Seattle had volunteered my services to this fair town.

The Information Lady on the first floor sent me to the court clerk on the second floor. I repeated my plight on the second floor, explaining the ticket, and the number of hours I had to donate in some community service. The court clerk sent me to the Parks and Recreation Department on the third floor, and the various employees passed me back and forth until | zigzagged my way to the top of that department and sat before the Main Man of the parks department.

Of the various people I'd talked to before getting to this guy, only one girl looked at me kind of cock-eved when she heard my voice, which registers a bit lower than a girl's voice really ought to. My whole body and stature just oozes femininity, so most people just think I'm a regular girl with a deeper-thanaverage voice. But I could tell that that one girl was torn between believing her eyes or believing her ears.

But the moment of truth came when the head of the Parks and Recreation department asked my name. My name had been legally changed to Jessica, but at the time of the ticket, my name had not yet been changed on my driver's license. So, to make sure I got the credit for the hours I worked, to have that fine erased, I gave both names. This obviously dumbfounded the guy asking the questions, but for some reason, perhaps shock, he didn't ask why the double name.

As it happens, the Parks department had no openings for volunteer work that week. So they sent me yet to another department where I eventually ended up working on a jobline helping to place youths in temporary and after school jobs. I started the very next day, wearing a short skirt and matching sweater that hugged my hormone-induced figure.

It was a trippy experience. I dug everyone there, everyone dug me. There was Mike, exactly my age and we were in high school together though we hadn't known each other. Small world, as the saying goes. There was Alicia, a militant feminist with a figure like Wow, who was the most intelligent person I met and the nicest to talk to. There was Tim, the maintenance manager who kept "passing through" flirting and making suggestive passes at me, which may have been partly in jest, but were good for my ego anyway, and he was nice. And the boss was John, with a fondness for literature. I could relate with everyone, everyone could relate to me. This was especially wonderful because these were all Super Straight people who proba-

bly knew relatively little or nothing about transsexualism and yet did not treat me in any way as a curiosity of life or an oddity in their midst.

On the first day, everyone left early to go to a meeting that didn't involve me since I was only there temporarily, and I staved to take phone messages and see to the needs of any new applicants that happened in. The phones were not very busy, only a couple applicants happened by in person, so it was sort of boring, except Tim who continued to drop by with a bright smile and a kind flirtatious word.

Then, when everything was quiet, the Main Man from the Parks department sort of sauntered in with a pencil and a piece of scratch paper, ostensively because he wanted some additional information. such as my address. The information had been given. It was redundant. It was, of course, an excuse to come over and talk to me, to weedle out an explanation for the two quite different names I'd given.

After a couple of minutes of requesting idle employment information, he asked point blank, "What is your sex?"

"Hermaphrodite." | said, teasing him.

"Huh?" (Or was it."Duh!") "Transsexual," I amended. This guy's got guts, I was thinking.

He obviously had never heard either word before. In a blunderbust sort of way, he told me I had. "all City Hall buzzing,"trying to guess my sex. He wanted me to be more specific, obviously since the words hermaphrodite and transsexual were meaningless to him. But I only said, "It would be nice if I didn't have to talk about it.

He did tell me I was beautiful, and this put me somewhat in a better mood, because he wasn't through drilling me yet. Eventually, to my relief, he left, leaving me indifferent toward him. The next day, telling all this to Alicia, she said he was a "known turkey" who cared little about the feelings of others.

John had earlier that day

talked to me about school. my writing, his interest in literature. He asked me if I was happy with my life. I said no, but did not explain further. Mike talked to me about the snakes he killed. I told him he shouldn't kill snakes and that I once belonged to a herpetological society because | like snakes so much. Another guy, also named Mike, the printer in the room next to the iobline offices, was half cool toward me, but we did talk about printing and what it entailed, and he told me about the equipment he wished the city hall would get for him.

Of course, off and on I was doing a little work too, but mostly I was just filling up time because it was a slack day with few applicants and few phone calls.

The next day I did a lot of typing, but was done earlier than anyone expected and there was, once again, mostly nothing to do. Tim bought me a Coke, which was nice of him, because I was starving and thirsting to death but didn't want to admit to anyone I didn't have a single dime in my purse. (Had I said that, surely someone would have bought me something, and I didn't want to impose.) She was telling me about some police sergeant who was always making fun of her feminist activities. Police headquarters was part of City Hall, and later that day, the very sergeant she'd been rapping about dropped in. Beats me if he knew I was transsexual or not. I guess that guy from the parks department was ham ving a dandy time spreading the neat gossip, but I don't know if the word got to the police side of the building or not. Probably it did, but the sergeant never showed it if he knew.

He talked about the Big Bust he'd made the night before, it was quite a story complete with shoot out and exploding car, and obviously being a big tough cop was his sexual hangup. He also made a couple ho-ho funny-funny remarks about feminists, which Alicia for the most part ignored. The sergeant seemed nice even if not overly brilliant.

The volunteer days went smoothly, with nothing more exciting than I've described happening. With all the bigotry in the world, I'm sort of proud of these basically small town people for their accepting attitudes. Surely, in the southern republican states for instance, there are many places where a she-male would not be welcomed and accepted into City Hall. From slightly forward Tim, to the intelligent and beautiful Alicia, to the gutsy questioner at the head of the Parks department.... I really must say they were all great people and fun to work with and be around. They even want me to keep in touch. If i ever get stopped for another speeding violation, maybe I'll do some more volunteer work!

Here's a little luv for City Hall.

\*\*\* Jessie Collins

## **Your Guide to Quality Pleasure**

TELEPHONE REFURAL: I would like to clarify some aspects of this service that I did not explain well in my 'Note from Cathy'.

This example should do the trick: Let us say you are in *Portland*, *Oregon*. You really don't have the time to call one of the *Telephone Refural* (T/R) *Members* but would like a few names of Book Stores and Bars in the area that cater to special interests. Do you have to pay \$2.00 for each name and number of the stores and bars? NO!

As a member of (T/R) you may for the \$2.00 fee have any information for the city you are in for this One Low Cost; \$2.00. <u>MEMBER</u> <u>NUMBERS\_ONLY</u> are \$2.00 each.

Now you can really find out where the action is no matter where you are. JOIN TODAY!!

## ASTOUNDING transvestite tales

JUST PUBLISHED: Astounding TV Tales number 12. New photos, New letters to the Editor and true TV personal experiences, plus the usual specially selected TV stories that has made ATT the world's best liked TV Fiction Magazine. Order today.

#### Dear Girls:

Please send me ATT #12. I have enclosed \$3.00 plus 50¢ for postage and handling.

Your Name	print	Age	
Address			
City	State		
Z1p	Your EC #		
Send To: Empat	hy, Box 12466, Se	eattle,	

(26)

Send To: Empathy, Box 12466, Seattle Washington 98111 USA

## ASTOUNDING transvestite tales



## By: Marie Ellen Hargrieves Coming Out ... The Reactions of Others

So many TVs live in fear of discovery. Some are paranoid to the point of fearing blackmail. Others desperately want to come out of hiding, but fear the reactions of friends and relatives. In some ways "coming out" is easier for a homosexual than a transvestite. More and more intelligent members of society are recognizing homosexuality as a viable alternate lifestyle. But the heterosexual transvestite is often scoffed by both gays and straight society.

My own experiences are as a transsexual. Before achieving surgery, it was necessary to prove | could successfully live as a woman for at least one year, and face social and family pressures in so doing. Today I am a woman and suffer no social inconvenience, but that early transition period must have been exactly like being a transvestite, at least as far as people could tell. Jan Morris pointed out that the longer you live in a gender, the more you fit it, the better you are at being "you".But it doesn't come instantly, and for many months I was constantly embarrassed, teased, run through the mill and brought to tears.

It just isn't possible to jump from "male" to "female" instantly, and before I began the complete transition, I kept every thing a secret and dressed in private, never testing and perfecting my skills publicly. For some TVs, the need to pass in public is just as strong as in a TS though the ultimate goal of a transvestite might not be so radical.

The initial guilt and secrecy and fear of discovery may serve a purpose. It is like an apprenticeship, let's say, until we learn at least the fundametals of becoming (either permanently or temporarily) female. There comes a time for many when the decision must be made: continued frustration or coming out.

By way of helping you belay your fear of possible bad reactions, the following is provided. It is a sort of "list" of important people in my life and how each reacted to the early stages of my change. Today, everybody accepts me in my new gender. But at first, it was very hard for certain members of my family.

I've changed the names of course, but the people are real.

Great Aunt Louise. One of my great aunts was the first person I told --- showed, rather. After initial compliments on my appearance, she wanted to know a little about TS and TV. Like many, she asked if I was (her word was) queer. Since then, we have become closer than ever. We now shop together and she accepts me as her neice rather than her nephew, though occassionally she still slips and calls me a "he". She's known me since I was very small, so it is to be expected. Her husband's reaction was one of contained humor and indifference.

## Grandmother, mother's side.

My great aunt had promised secrecy in those early stages of my change, but being very close to her sister, who is my grandmother it was just too big a secret to keep from her. My grandmother was my legal guardian through much of my childhood and, since she had really been a very poor parent, I think she felt a little responsible. She did not have me when I was at the very young age that gender is established, however, and this may have given her

a needed excuse not to blame herself. She accepted the unalterable conditions of my sexuality a little reluctantly, and was also hurt not having been the first person I told. On the bad side, though; even when I was young and very much the hippy in the 60's my guardian had always seemed ashamed of me, for no reason except that she didn't like long hair and rock and roll and other things a younger parent might have recognized as a part of a child's adolescence. So I could hardly expect her to take pride in having a new granddaughter she'd always thought of as her grandson. Her acceptance of me, then, verges more nearly to tolerance. Hers, then, was the worst reaction, and even hers was quite mild.

<u>Uncle Wilbur</u>. My mother's brother and I never did get along. If anything, he has grown more tolerant of me since my change.

Uncle Bill. My father's youngest brother didn't recognize me for a whole hour after I was introduced to him by my new name. When his mother, my other grandmother, couldn't stand it any longer, she prodded him to try to remember where he'd met that girl before. At last he made a flabberghasted recognition and. laughing, said that I missed my calling and he'd been thinking what a good looking chick I was. His wife, from South America, pushed on my padded bra without embarrassment, and asked what was in there.

<u>Another Uncle</u> reacted basically indifferently. In no case, please note, did anybody treat me less respectfully than before. It may have been harder if I'd been going "back and forth" the way transvestites do, but in these early stages of my change, I do not think I was much more skilled or perfect or attractive as a lot of transvestites who might expect the same range of reactions from others.

<u>Teenage Cousins</u> have without exception been supportive. I think the older generation is becoming more tolerant and understanding of things because they are emulating their open-minded sons and daughters.

Aunt Ellen asked very snidely, "When are you going to get out of that dress and start acting like a man?" Oh well, Not everyone is going to go along with things. Only one other woman, related, has ever had a similar reaction. In both cases, the women had low IQs and had spent time in mental institutions. No one of average intelligence has seen the value in hurting my feelings, so the few bad apples are easier to overlook.

My Mother received a studio portrait in the mail. Later she wrote to ask if I were homosexual or just goofing off. She added that it wouldn't make any difference. She didn't raise me, does not know me, and I haven't seen her since my "change". She says in her letters, that she supports me. But she is too far away to have a chance to really understand.

Grandmother, father's side.My dad's mom has accepted me for myself without the tiniest qualm. I can't express her understanding enough. She thinks I'm "cute as a bug's ear" and she likes to pinch my butt the way she does all the young women in the family.

My oldest sister digs me but is jealous of my wardrobe, saying things like, "When you're tired of that dress, I'd like to have it". So we trade clothing sometimes.

<u>My father</u> has reacted the best by far. He has given me jewelry from his trips in the orient, and so does my step-mom. They take me dining and encourage me socially, personally, intellectually and in every way they can.

My father's side of the family all apparently had a loving and reasonably healthy unbringing People from an excellent environment are bound to be open minded and understanding. My mother's side, however, were mostly from very poor and unhealthy backgrounds. Families were too large houses ill kept, property littered. This side of my family was mostly "tolerant" while my father's side was "accepting". But both sides reacted more often positively than not, so all kinds of people from radically varied backgrounds are apt to display compassion to a TV or TS in the family.

But what of friends outside the family? Are "allowances" made for someone who is not a relative?

Without exception, those that I truly considered close friends were no less close when I "came out". A very few acquaintances who never were counted as close friends were eventually to cease being acquaintances, but many others took their place.

Joanne was my first lover, long before my change. We had long before ceased to sleep together, but remained fast friends. She was entirely sympathetic throughout my change.

Katen was an Amazon who kept me as her "wife" after my change. We loved each other, but we were opposites in everything and fought constantly. It may be that she eventually became selfconscious about me, but I think there were other reasons for our eventually breaking up. We remain close friends.

James was my first male lover whom I met during the hard part of my change. He always tried to be helpful and seemed to love me, but I think he was mostly homosexual, and the more female I became month by month, the less interested he became.

Foreman at work. Yes! My boss at a job in a factory knew.1 went through my change while maintaining the same job. My boss' main reaction was to laugh good naturedly and say, "You son of a bitch!" not in a derogatory manner.

Fellow employees. Because of some fantastically beautiful women friends in my life, there was a false rumor at work that I was some kind of stud even though I looked kind of like a faggot.Gossip in factories is always as heated as in an old lady's quilting bee. Considering their previous rumors, they were vastly amazed to find me turning into a woman before their very eyes. I became an instant celebrity and liked it at first, but later I felt like a freak in a show, and I quit the job not because of the pressures they put on me, but simply because I wanted to find an environment where everyone did not know about me. I wanted to be accepted as a woman first, not a transsexual.

I don't suggest you tell your employers of course, but if it were necessary, it does NOT go without saying that you'll FOR SURE be fired. But still, my experience might be somewhat relaxing.

Where I live there are no laws against cross-dressing, so I was not bothered by the law during that period when it was possible for me to be "read" as different from other women. When stopped by a policeman for a traffic violation, and he ended up asking all about TS and TV instead of about the traffic violation, and he let me go without the ticket. In other states, the laws might be different, or the police more red-neck.

Perhaps I had good luck so often because I was at least minimally attractive from the start and I became more attractive as I learned more about my own womanhood. Some TVs or TSs might have harder times than me. But from my experiences, I find that it is easy to be accepted, and to become more accepted as time goes on. If you're quilt ridden and ashamed, though, don't expect others to overcome your guilt for you. Your feelings about yourself will be reflected by the people around you. So feel good about yourself, and others will feel good about you too.

I did not pick and choose only the people who reacted kindly. This article reflects the full range of the attitudes I generally felt from everyone, and usually those attitudes were on the favorable side.

For those of you considering telling all and coming out, this article should show you that it can be a rewarding thing to do.



Rose-Lee Apparel in Chicago is the answer to your dreams. Cathy has received 100s of letters all asking where a guy can go buy his girl clothes and not feel embarrassed.

For those in Chicago(or by mail order anywhere) you can go into the store and receive personal attention. Personal attention at Rose-Lee means Miss Rose-Lee knows how you feel when your boy-self goes into a ladies store to buy something. More than 95% of all TVs are still in the closet. When they do venture out and go shopping they end up just window brousing. Those who do go into a store don't buy anything or usually get the wrong size. If there was even a

If there was ever a fairy godmother for TVs it is Rose-Lee Apparel. When you go into the store they know that you are buying the clothing for yourself. They help you choose what is just right for you. They go out of their way to make you feel at ease.

Style and Selecting?The best. All the latest fashions in lingerie, casual and evening wear. Low Prices too.

When you go into the store, just say Cathy told me to stop by. From that moment on you can stop dream ing and start wearing the things you love.

