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NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

Hi Girls:

Another gathering gone down the dust trail and no problems the girls were perfect ladies. I thought we might have a small group as when we got up in the morning we had some snow covering the ground and still falling when we went to the bakery for our fresh bread and rolls. The weather then turned out to be fairly good so that there were 19 of us by the nights end.

I can't figure out why the girls like to tease Kathy so much, it seems that every time Kathy says something the girls jump right on it and twist it around and every body gets a good laugh even Kathy. I would say that Kathy sure has a good sense of humor. Keep it up Kathy, don't let them get you down.

We had two new wives make their first appearance last night. Flo at first was a bit nervous, but by the time all the girls were done talking to her I had the feeling that perhaps we might have helped her to understand at least a little about what Transvestia means to so many of those who have that desire to dress. I know that Flo had made Karen happy just being able to have her their with him for the night. I'm sure it was a pleasure for Dennie and Rosalie to talk with her and answer some of her questions to put her at ease. Do hope we see more of Flo, and we will be glad to ans. her questions if we can.

The other wife was Dot. who seemed to more composed although not quite to sure what she was getting into. I enjoyed talking to her as she told me how her better half told her about his desire to dress and she more or less went through the same shocking experience we all seemed to go through when first learned about our husbands.

The girls who were here last night: Dennie and Michelle Ann from Somerville Mass., Karen and Flo from Clifton Park, N.Y., Alice and Dot from Colonie, N.Y. Priscilla and Rosalie from Scotia, N.Y., Ellen from Endicott, N.Y., Susan from Nassau, N.Y., Joan and Phyllis from Colonie, N.Y., Kathy from Camulos, N.Y., Frances from Henrietta, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Sharon from Hightstown, N.J., Crystal from Menands, N.Y., Wilma and I.

The meal for the girls was: Roast Beef and gravy, creamy mashed potatoes, buttered peas, carrots in butter lemon sauce, tossed salad, pickled beets, rye/white bread, rolls, butter, coffee and tea. for dessert we had fruited jello with whipped cream, and cookies. The dessert was different for a change as the girls were getting tired of cake all the time.

Happy for Frances for finding a job after being out of work for five weeks. Only thing she had to cut her hair a little short and get her toes fixed up and the job was hers. Well Frances needed the job so off came the hair and the toes mended and now she'll start Monday.

Jean called and we talked for a few minutes I thought she said last month that she would be here but we must have misunderstood her. Missed her anyway.

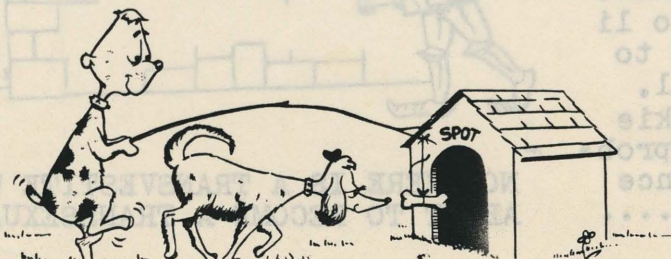
During the week we had a visit from Renee from Ohio who has become the President of the Paradise Club. We had a very pleasant talk and she told us of some of the goings on in her club and then Wilma told her a few of the things we do here. Renee paid our Albany T.V.I.C. club a great compliment as one of the best run clubs. It was good to hear that we run such a good club. Renee was going to meet Sandy and Muriel in Syracuse, but from what I here Sandy was not able to get off from work to meet her, don't know if Muriel was able to meet her.

Elayne W. what has happened we haven't heard from you in some time, I usually look forward to seeing you in the beginning of each year as we know you make your rounds here in Albany about that time every year.

Thanks to the girls for the help in the kitchen, it makes for a quick clean up and we get to bed shortly after the girls are gone, other wise we would be up to the wee hours of the morning. We have three more meetings before the summer comes around when it gets too hot and the makeup starts to run and the clothes seem to stick to the body from the heat. So we do hope to see some or all of you girls at least to one of the meetings before summer.

Untill we meet again stay healthy happy and peace be with you.

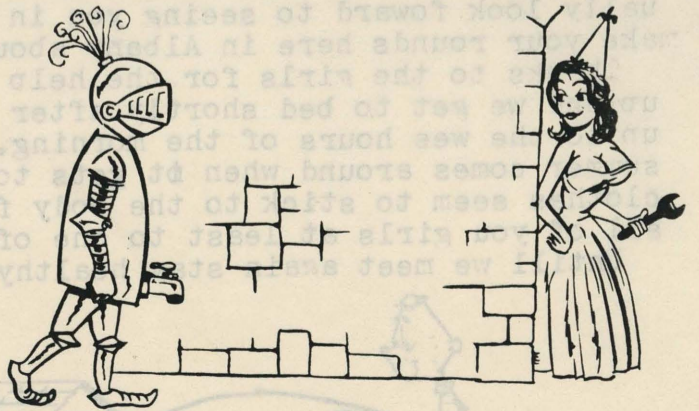
Love to you all
Helen



W I L M A S V I E W S

(This is a letter that I read in The Tapestry from a wife that I believe is good advice for all married TVs.)

YOUR WIFES RIGHTS: My husband is a transvestite..The reason why he is what he is have little to do with this article I am writing,so I shal not go into them. Suffice is to say that I knew that my husband was a TV before we were married, and I love him enough to accept that portion of his personality with very few reservations...In our years of marriage, nothing in my husbands practice of transvestism has undermined my love for him as a man or my acceptance of this facet of his personality...However, from my experience as a TV wife,and my observations of married TVs,and ~~my~~ their wives, I would like to pass on a few tip: These tips are based more or less on prevalent problems which can throw a marital relationship involving TVism-off-balance...Some of these pointers I will make are drawn from admittedly minor irritations or a nnoyances;others are based on conflicts which can bear the seeds of destruction into a TVs marriage...I call them THE TV WIFES BILL OF RIGHTS...(1) DONT CALL ME ROOMMATE! I have no wish to be your roommate,or your sister,or your girlfriend...I am your wife and want to be treated as your wife,no matter how you happen to be dressed at any given time...(2) NEVER LET ME FORGET YOU ARE MY HUSBAND! Nothing will make me feel more insecure in our marriage and in my own femininity than for you to become carried away by some mystical girl within and gorget you are a man and my husband...(3) DONT COMPETE WITH ME when we are out in public and youre dressed! I dont mind your having a good time with the femininity youve achieved,but I bitterly resent any competitive comparisons you might make between your ersatz femininity and my own appearance...If others at a TV party are so rude as to make these comparisons,I want you to be on my side...(4)DONT ABBERVATE ME or other women in my presence...Whatever nut thought up such abbreviations as RG (real girl) or GG(genetis girl)certainly must have a deep-seated contempt for women...Unless you make me doubt my own femininity by your actions or attitude toward me,I need no abbreviated reminder that I am a real girl...How would you like it if I called you an RB or a GB? (5)DONT TELL ME TVISM IS NORMAL when ever I might express misgivings about your dressing up as a woman...I threw the word normal out of my vocabulary years ago,when I found out that it no longer had any real meaning in a world where no two people are exactly alike...So lets leave such words as normal and abnormal to the psychiatrists,the psycholgists, and the social workers,who spend their lives pigeon-holing human brings...(6) DONT SPEAK TO ME OF HORMONES,either in citing them as an excuse for your being a TV or by talking wistfully of them as a means of making your anatomy more feminine...I like your anatomy the way it is and dont want you sudenly to start sprouting breasts...And,in case you havent kept up with the medical literature, estrogens can greatly reduce your sex drive,which,thank God,still contributes much to our marriage...(7) DONT TELL THE CHILDREN YOURE THEIR AUNTY if they ever happen to see you dressed...They know you pretty well and wont be the least bit fолled...Let me do any explaining which has to be done if such an emergent ever arises...(8) TRY LOUNGING AROUND THE HOUSE IN MALE CLOTHES once in a while...I dont mind you donning a pretty gown or negligee now and then,but a steady diet of it tends to get monotonous...You would raise bloody hell if I wore nothing around the house but mens clothes.(and none of that pettifoggery about my slacks! You should look as good in them!) (9) Dont always expect me to help you dress. Believe it or not,it takes me time to look my feminine best when we go out...I dont mind helping with last minute touch-ups,but I just dont have time to supervise every detail of your transformation...(10) LISTEN TO MY ADVISE, on the other hand, when I make suggestions as to your makeup or hairdo or carriage... I want you to look your best whether youre dressed as a man or as a woman...(11)DONT WEAR MY CLOTHES WITHOUT MY PERMISSION! After all,you have dozens of outfits of your own, and when Im planning on using an outfit of mine, I hate to see it all stretched and messy,..(12) PLAY FAIR WITH ME WHEN IT COMES TO OUR SOCIAL LIFE...I dont object to your TV friends or to going to TV parties so I expect you to accept my straight friends and attend their parties with no complaining about it...(13) STICH TO THE BUDGET when you buy your feminine clothes, just as you expect me to stick to mine...Lets talk it over before you buy something expensive, since I hate reading those nasty letters which come when the bills are unpaid,,,If you absolutely cant resist some choice item, try bringing one home for me sa well...The gesture will go far to help soothe my nerves...(14) TRY PAYING AS MUCH ATTENTION TO YOUR MALE CLOTHES as you do to your feminine attire. Im weary of picking up your suits & slaks out of the corners you dump them in, and I wonder why you seem to treat your feminine things so much better.(15)STOP MAKING EXCUSES FOR BEING A TV. If I manage to li ve with your TVism you should be able to bear under ~~mine~~ up under it quite well. Im glad youre not a drunkard or a junkie or a compulsive gambler,any of whose problems make yours pale into insignificance by comparison.....



NOW HERE IS A TRANSVESTITE WHO IS ABOUT TO BECOME A TRANSSEXUAL.

PARTY DATES: TVIC holds its parties on the 3rd Saturday of each month. The next 3 dates are April 18th - May 16th and June 20th. The June 20th party will be the last party of the swason, as we do not hold any parties in July and August. Please make your reservation for all parties at least 4 day in advance.

NEW MEMBERS: I am pleased to announce the enrollment of 9 new members this month. They are

- | | |
|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| MICHELL P. NEWTONVILLE..N.Y. | JACKIE F. MIDDLETOWN, N.Y. |
| FRANCIS F. FRANKFORT N.Y. | ARLENE C. SPRINGFIELD, VA. |
| LESLIE W. THUNDER BAY, CANADA | HELEN L. SYRACUSE, N.Y. |
| JANETT F. REXFORD N.Y. | BOB T. CAMBRIDGE, MASS. |
| RENEE K. LAKEWOOD OHIO. | |



Welcome to TVIC and we all hope that you will be able to attend some of our parties and meet some wonderful people in person. For those who find that they are unable to attend any of our parties - you have our mrmbership directory and are able to write to some one near you.

It was a pleasure to meet in person MICHELL P., JANETT F., HELEN L. and RENEE K. in person who were in Albany this month and stoped at our home.

MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY: The 1980 membership #1 direc-tory is still available. Members who have not received one yet, can send 36¢ in stamps or cash for it. New directory for 1981 will be out after the Sept. 1981 party. Don't forget that the U.S. poatage goes up to 18¢ for first class mail MONDAY MARCH "23. This means that it will now cost 35¢ to mail out each TVIC Journal every month. That means 7¢ extra for every one mailed.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO

- | | | | |
|------------|---------|---------|----------|
| H.J. LA FA | APRIL 1 | DAVID F | APRIL 4 |
| SHERRIE AN | APRIL 6 | C,R. K | APRIL 12 |

HAPPY ANVERSERY TOO

Mr. & Mrs. RATCHFORD, 35 years married.



SPECIAL THANKS TOO

ELLEN S. for books sent in for our library.
Paula D., & JANETT F. for the extra \$ sent in for postage.
MICHELL ANN B. for the lovely pictures sent in for the club album.
CONNIE N. for sending in the front of the envelope of a returned letter. If any of you write to a member and your letter is returned as undeiverabl, pleæ send me the front of the envelope so that I can keep the directory up to date.

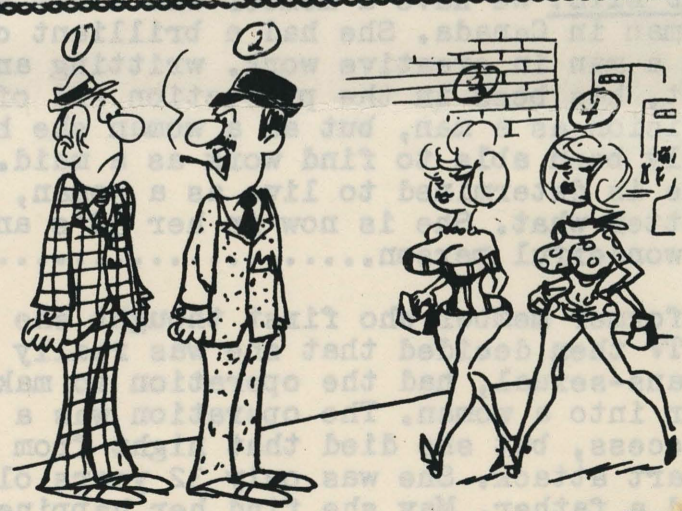
SICK LIST: JANATT NICHOLS, P.O.B. 734, JAMESTOWN, N.Y. 14701 the lovely wife of CONNIE was entered in the hospital March 17th for an oper-ation. Lets all send her a get well card for a quick recovery.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

Maybe I have been too serious in this department. That's the way I am. I'm a deep thinker. Been that way ever since once down in AUSTRALIA a fellow gave me a new boomarang and I tried to figure out a way to throw the old one away. The QUESTION FOR MARCH issue will be "WHAT WAS YOUR MOST MEMORABLE FEM*EXPER* EXPERIENCE?" Make them funny, mak e them exciting, make them anything but make them brief. AND EVERYONE ANSWER!!

CORRESPONDENCE WANTED:

- SUSAN REYNOLDS, P.O.B. 11160, ALEXANDERIA, VA. 22312.
- MIKE PRATT, P.O.B. 232, NEWTONVILLE, N.Y. 12128
- HOWARD WALKER, RD1, WINFIELD, PA. 17889
- DONOLD ADAMS, [REDACTED]



"Stupid! The blind-date you got for me is my brother!"

- GORBON ALLEN, P.O.B. 421 Schenectady, N.Y.
- NO 1 is Rachell R.,Tocoma, Wash.
- NO 2 is Michell P. Newtonville, N.Y.
- No 3 is Lynda B. West Hill, Canada.
- No 4 is Jackie F., Middletown, N.Y.

These members would like to receive mail. All promise to answer all mail

REPLIES TO QUESTION OF THE MONTH

To many girls who have accepted cross-dressing as a part of their lives, and who express femininity in this way. The question posed a few months ago may have been a stickler. To much femininity can not be expressed in words. It is a feeling an emotion that is simply there. However, it is for this very reason that I ask the difficult questions. By forcing you to think I feel that you will discover the beauty that lies within the mind of the TV, and thus ease your own guilt arrive at a level of greater self acceptance and understanding. Perhaps many of you tried to answer the question but could not find the words. Then see if any of the other girls expressed your viewpoint. The question was, "WHAT DOES FEMININITY MEAN TO YOU." Here is a cross section of the answers I received....

From JOYCE A., ALLENTOWN, PA.. More than anything, femininity means to me the true expression of myself. It has enabled me to assess my character in a manner here before impossible. I have come to the realization that by far the better facet of my life is the feminine one, more agreeable and much more understanding, and too, there is no room for egotism in Joyce. In fact the more I see of Joyee the more I am inclined to prefer her character to that of Rralph. Femininity, too, is like being freed from chains that have kept you bound all of your life... Yes, femininity is beautiful dresses, gowns, perfume, etc., and the opportunity to express ones true self, but it is far more. It is the possibility to be free. Free to live your life in a manner closest to your heart.....

From RUTH B., NEW PALESTINE, IND. "It means to be nice, polite, understanding, kind, motherly, to wear dainty clothes, to look beautiful, to be quiet and somewhat reserved, not bold and brazen.....

From KATHY Z., BALDWIN, N.Y.: To me femininity is a goal for each man to strive for in order to become a complete person. I believe that to bring forth the femininity nature, present in every male, will enable him to have a broader, more understanding view of the world around him. A view which most certainly will help him to really know the people around him... YES, femininity also means beautiful clothes, dainty lingerie, and sweet, heady odor of perfume, but more than that, it means a state of mind. That which lies behind a locked door in the heart of each man. The key to that door need not be femme personation. It may be an understanding attitude developed to a point where peace of mind and acceptance have become a habit. That is acceptance of his fellow man, and more important, of himself.....

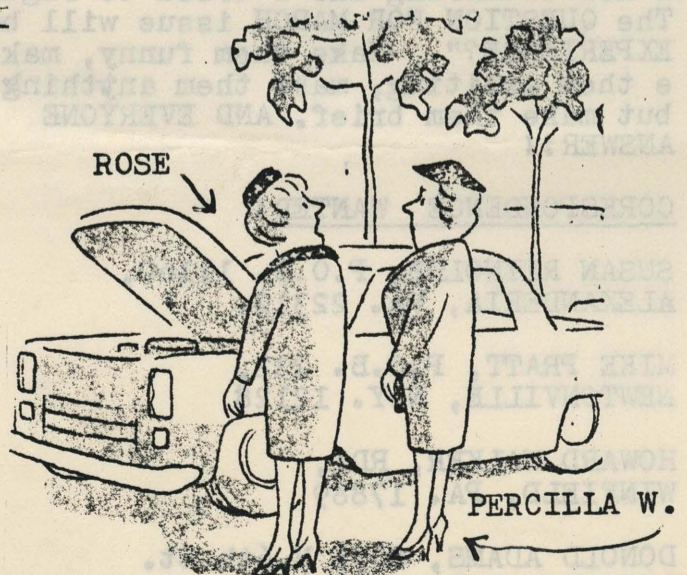
From JENNET K., AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND.: Femininity gives me the opportunity to express a vital part of my character by being dainty. In expressing womanhood through being a TV. I try not to attain the ideal woman but rather let the woman in me express herself. Some people can mould theirs after an ideal, but this is rare. We are each put on this earth to fill a definite place, and I think just being yourself and doing the best that you can is far better than trying to be an ideal type. I find a great deal of enjoyment out of learning about my femese self and trying to understand her. As I learn more about myself as a female whole I find a new peace of mind and happiness in life that I never thought possible. So, femininity to me means a much fuller, more peaceful, and happy life. Now that my lovely wife and children accept my feminine self I am complete. So femininity has given me the opportunity to enjoy life as I would have it with a much eased mental attitude. Some religions talk about being born again, a subject which is not very clear to me, but femininity has given me such a new, wholesome, rich and enjoyable life that I think it would be safe to say I have born again.....

(Now that you have read some answers on the above question and have not sent in one of your own, there is still time to give it a try. I'm sure others would like to read it....)

TID BITS: We have a member who lives as a woman in Canada. She had a brilliant career as a man in creative work. writing and art, has been in the production end of television as a man, but as a woman she has only been able to find work as a maid. She is determined to live as a woman, no matter what. She is now in her 50's and a wonderful person.....

A former member who first thought she was a TV then decided that she was really a trans-sexual, had the operation to make her into a woman. The operation was a success, but she died that night from a heart attack. She was only 32 years old, and a father. May she find her happiness in another, better world.....

Come to think of it we dont have any bartenders in our club. Maybe thats because they live such stirring lives. ha ha



WELL, PERCILLA GO PUT ON YOUR BOY clothes and fix it or we will be late for the TVIC party. NO ROSE lets wait for some man to come by.

DEAR WILMA:

My experience in cross-dressing came out at a very early age. Possibly at 8 Or 9, time goes by so quickly and my mind at age 50 is not so keen as it was, so I must estimate. Anyhow, I along with my brothers were being raised by my mother and a couple of her sisters due to the death of my father. I remember how soft their panties felt and consequently I would put them on when I could. Of course they were to large but that didn't detract from how nice they felt. This sort of pleasure deminished for a few years, however it appeared again almost in a flash. I was sailing in the merchant marine and my ship was in New York City. I remember walking the street and thinking how nice it would be to have on a pair of panties. Without hesitation, I went to a store and bought 2 pair, went to a mens room and put both pair on. Why not, if one pair would feel good, would n't 2 feel better? Naturally when I returned to the ship I had to dispose of them as I could not be caught with them on board ship. My next recollection in visiting my best friend in maine, then after some drinking, he asked me if I could keep a real secret. I assured him I could, so he asked his wife to bring out some pictures. The pictures were of a real lovely girl and of course they were of him. I was astounded and extremely interested so he showed me the wardrobe he had collected with the loving assistance of his wife. They asked me if I would like to get dressed and without hesitation I assured them that there was nothing I would like better. So they dressed me and even had a wig for me which was the first time I ever really felt all the loveliness of a woman..... My visits, were infrequent, however when I was able to visit, we would dress up. Eventually, I married and quit the service and settled down to raise a family. I pushed my feminine side completly in the back of my mind. After some 15-18 years of marriage it did surface to stay. I started buying some feminine things again, like panties, bra, slip, dress, shoes, stockings, wig and a little jewelry and kept them hidden. My wife caught me once with them and accused me of having an affair. When I convinced her that the clothes belonged to me she wanted me examined by a psychiatrist. Of course I refused however, I had to dispose of my nice things and behave. This did not last long before I replaced them, however since then I have had to be terribly secretive about it. Divorce is the last thing I wanted... My thought do run on and following the question of the month they might be. My marriage would be much better if my wife was more understanding and tolerant of my behavior. I would not expect her to take part in my fantasies, just not be critical of them. My marriage would be even better then that if I had more time or even some time to express my feminine side. I don't mean to say that I want to completly come out of the closet. There are a lot of people that I would first as soon not know the real me. That could be the topic of another article again some time... LEE A... TOGUS... MAINE.....

DEAR WILMA:

My progress into more advanced TVism is progressing very nicely. In short my wife found out!! A traumatic experience to say the least. Its one of those its funny now, but not when it happened stories. To my utter astonishment, after the initial shock wore off, she has turned out to be marvelously helpful and supportive. Our marriage improvrd 1000%. We get along better now than we ever did before. Its sort of amazing when I think about it. We were married almost 10 yrs. before we really and truly started to communicate with each other. In all areas, not just in my TVism. Needless to say I'm a much happier person. It was as if a gigantic weight was lifted off my shoulders. It is really great to be free of that guilt trip I laid on myself for so long. Its to bad Albany is so far away. But maybe someday I'll be able to meet you & Helen personally and attend one of your parties.... DONNA C.... HARISBURG.... PA.....

DEAR WILMA: Now you have asked me two Questions I should answer. First; how do I dress? Let me put it this way. I dress in fleeting clouds and fields of scented flowers, in the cool softness of green seas and the soft collness of forest glens. I dress in pink smoke and whipped cream, and a myriad of softer things. I dress in the shimmer of dancing brooks and the glint of silver moonbeams. I dress in the petals of a young rose and the softness of new snow. But most of all I dress in joy, and good spirits, in a free heart and a freer mind... Second: DOES MY WIFE UNDERSTAND? Now this depends pretty much on an interpretation. To understand what I myself do not, and that covers a large segment. More to the point, she recognizes my interests, appreciates the significant part it plays in my personality, feels I should feel free to enjoy satisfaction of the impluse, within bounds. This means essentially that I should avoid any action which might reflect adversely on her and the children; that loss of employment through exposure, public denunciation.. VERONICA B.. ONT... CANADA.....



WHAT'S WRONG WITH HIRING YOUR BROTHER IN-LAW? I'M PRITEIER THEN THOES OTHER GIRLS YOU HAVE IN YOUR OFFICE.

Valerie G. [REDACTED]

NEED COMMENT!

1/10/81

For The Benifit of the TS
Community #1

To Whom It May Concern,

I am a transsexual who has been one of those who has not had a real stable life. What I mean is that I have gone through drug addiction and alcohol abuse and had many other problems compounded by peer pressure.

Well, I'm sure that alot of us have had bad times becuae of our feelings of being the other sex even to the point of not acknowledging that anything was "wrong". And many of us have committed suicide or tried one way or another. I suppose that all this trouble stems from the feeling of not belonging and being excluded from our own kind and their activities. I guess after awhile, I became "crippled inside" and was totally unable to function.

Well, to my surprise, right after my treatment was making me feel better,, I discovered that I was very upset and depressed about one of my experiences with certain groups of people. I'm talking about gays, lesbians, and feminists. The only people who ever hassle me physically or harrass me are gays. I thought that if I went to the gay community center, that I would be more openly accepted there. Quite the contrary, my friends. When a gay male goes out with someone, its for sex only, and vagina or not, the person who goes out with that person usually gets treated as a male. You may be able to go to a gay community center or bar and not be hassled by jerks, but if you were born a male, then be prepared to be one. As far as lesbians are concerned, if they ever find out that you were formerly a male, then they get the feeling that you are a male invading their territory, however, those who are well adjusted and accept being a woman in a man's world, will upon explanation, accept you as a female and your female "self". Feminists, generally, are the same way, but, I have walked into the Women's Center here in Albany and have had people turn their backs on me. They dont realize that this has sent a few of us to the nut house. Also, I have met several who are psychotic and (or) neurotic and this confuses people on the issue of feminism. Some transsexuals have become lesbians and feminists.

As I went through life, I had put down males and the macho trip they were trying to impose on me. For this, I was called a "fag" I dont care, because I'm going to stick to my "guns" And by the way, since the word guns has come up, I want to point out that the best shooters in the world are female.

A big issue on transvestism came up awhile back that I want to comment on. I dont care how low a transvestite feels. I think that it is good for these people to crossdress to relieve their anxiety. I realize that much of the male world is a plastic scene with so much peer pressure that some of the bull has to stop. There is no one on this earth that has more God given human rights than the rest of us.

Finally, I have to say that I am more openly accepted in the heterosexual community than in any other and that they are the only ones who really understand our dilemma. My only choice is to remain anonymous so that I can have a normal life without people cuasing me trouble. Also, I know that we dont need the stigma of being gay. I would tend to think that we are very much alone in our efforts to become whole people. Every thing I have put in this story is just a generalization, but I just want to make one thing clear, I think we should stay clear of the gay community becuae everything evolves around sexual preference, which is not the "norm" for us. Their logistics are not the same as the heterosexual world.

And as for the lesbian and feminist society, I dont think that they will ever understand that a transsexual's gender identity is anti-somatic.

Many people in the gay community are acceptant of our situation, but many are not. It's like finding out that you have cancer and cannot accept it, or a heterosexual person finding out that a friend is gay and says, " Gee, you look normal." " Why can't you act normal?", or hearing another person say something about someone who is different, that is nasty. Here are people who have nasty things said and done to them, and their talking about us!

Well, my name is Valerie, and all of what may be me is phsycolgical. You know.....up there in my cerebral hemisphere. It moves my arms and legs, it makes me talk, it makes me feel other people's feelings, it makes me laugh and cry, it gives my body life. It needs its life support system no matter what shape it's in.

Sexual drive is not instinctive in human beings like in other animals. So, when I hear some one refer to other people as bodiies, things, objects and so on, That's lower than gutter level. I wonder how these types can have a meaningful relationship with anyone, let alone a lasting one.

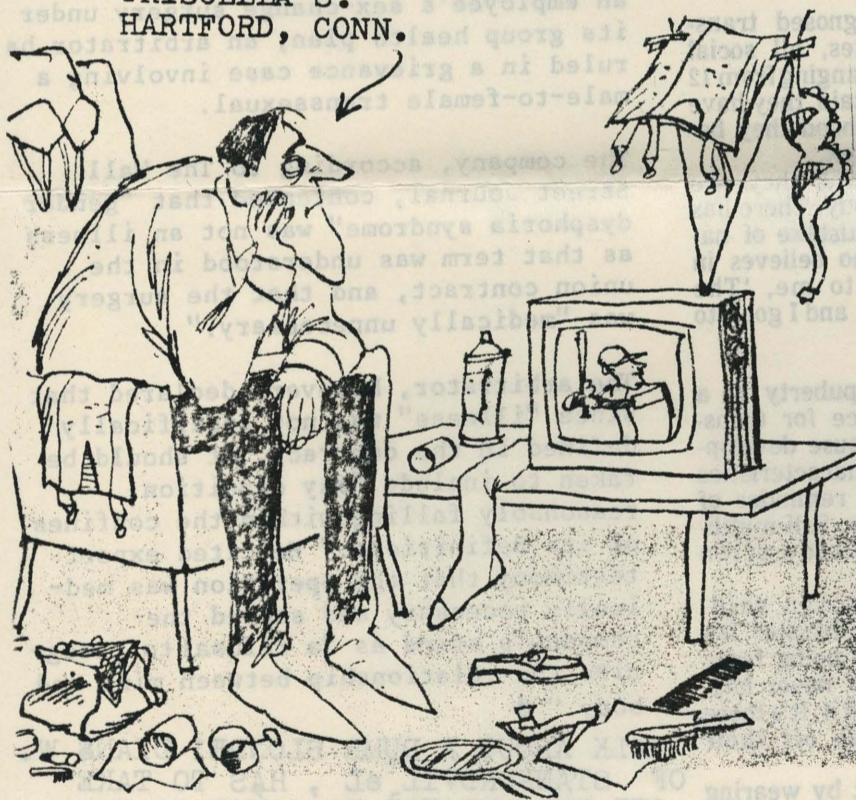
They can't becuse they dont even exist. From their point of view I guess Valerie does not exist. Thep none of us exist. From a gay person's point of view. I guess we are just bodies just walking around @ for people to get off on. I dont like the idea of people wanting to get their frustrations off on me, sexually or otherwise.

Ever see a movie where they throw some one into a rubber room dressed in a striaght jacket? They bounce and roll around screaming and making awful sounds. Is that proof that people are just bodies and dont @ have feelings?

Well, we ARE, real people. All of us who are women are one thousand times that, becuse we have to fight eveyone and everything from all sides.

Yeah, I'm a real left wing femïnist, and I'm angry and grew up that way becuse I was denied my "self." Why, one female who has a position at the Albany gay community center even denied my feminism. I guess she never heard of the feminist Salmacis Society. Of course, I'm raelly not anything to them. Just a body. I feel that our problem is physical. We all know that. It's a medical problem. I think that I would have done better if I had remained anonymous and kept my mouth shut. I find it is a good policy.

PRISCILLA S.
HARTFORD, CONN.



*Happy to Be Heterosexual,
Valerie*

"Another typical TV weekend."

DEAR WILMA: You said you would like to know more about how I got started in TVing. That is difficult. I have felt like dressing as a girl for as long as I can remember...When I was 5 or 6 yrs. old my mother used to punish me by dressing me in bloomers. However, I never become fond of bloomers.. I always prefer girdles to other undergarments. I felt the urge between 10 & 12 yrs. of age and began to put on my sisters undies when I was alone in the house. At 14 I started work and began to buy my own femattire and hide it in my room. While in the army I would often buy a pair of panties to wear on leave. After going through the Pacific Campaign and returning home to my parents I felt anyone who had gone through what I did had some rights to enjoy himself, and I become bolder at

home. I wore girdles and panties and slept in pretty silk nighties. My whole family knew this and accepted it. Later I married a very nice girl. Of course I told her all about myself before marriage. She was very understanding. She has bought me many garments. It sure would be wonderful if I could do my work in female clothing and not have to change...We have two children ages 7 and 11 When I buy a new dress or skirt they both watch me for quite a while and admire it. I don't care for this and feel that I may be doing the children some psychological harm...LYNDA B...SCHENECTADY..NEW YORK.....

(Dear Linda, in TV-land you can get an argument for either side of the picture. Some parents revral all...some would die first. In general the policy of TVIC is ti discourage telling children, at least untill after puberty. If this hasn't, or can't be done, then we say to make a game of it..and not stress the importance of it. So far as we know we do not have a single past or present member who was raised in a home where the father was a TV...WILMA.....

If a few wives could see the reports we have of ulcer, heart attacks, colitis, & even suicide from repression of cro&dressing they might be a little more understanding.....

Transsexuals Get Help Via Project

By DALE SINGER

ST. LOUIS (UPI) — As a little girl, Joan always had a quick answer for anyone asking what she wanted to be when she grew up — a boy.

Now, at 45, Joan is getting her wish after a lifetime struggle between the way she felt and the way she looked.

WITH THE HELP of doctors in Washington University's transsexual research project, Joan has taken male hormones for several months and looks forward to surgery making her a legal man. Her voice is high pitched but not distinctively feminine, and she shows the beginnings of a goatee and sideburns.

The decision by Joan and scores of others to change their sex is not one made lightly.

She leaves behind an 11-year-old daughter who must adjust to having two fathers and no mother. And at her age, Joan knows it will not be easy to start life again.

CUT OFF FROM both her past and future, Joan feels she cannot allow her real name or photograph to be used in accounts of her experience. Yet her decision to become physically the way she has always felt emotionally has left her feeling free and happy.

"I got so I didn't care whether I woke up or not," she said in an interview, recalling early years of her marriage. "The new day and the sunshine didn't mean anything to me because I was living such a lie."

Now that she is in the process of a divorce and living on her own as a man, "the depression has miraculously lifted. I'm lonely because I live alone, but it's a free-spirit feeling, without depression all the time. I don't have to mince any words. I can act as a free person."

MORE THAN 90 patients have come to Dr. Paul M. Packman since Washington University began the research project four years ago. The project has had a low profile despite being a major Midwestern center for sexual reassignment.

Accurate statistics on transsexualism are hard to come by, Packman said, with estimates ranging from 1 in 100,000 Americans to 1 in 20,000.

Patients switching from male to female outnumber persons moving in the opposite direction by about 3 to 1. But Packman, a psychiatrist who makes the initial evaluation of the patients, said the number of each sex wishing to have the reassignment surgery probably is the same.

THE MALE-TO-female surgery is merely more visible, he said, perhaps because of highly publicized cases such as Renee Richards and Christine Jorgensen.

Packman sees so many patients who cross-dress in both directions that he makes it a point to ask them what sex they were born.

"I saw a patient once who worked in construction for several years and no one knew she was female," he said. "She had a medium muscular build, and she did nothing to present a feminine image."

Dr. Harry Benjamin, a pioneer researcher in transsexual behavior, devised this explanation to differentiate among homosexuals, transvestites and transsexuals:

- Homosexuality is a sexual problem, the desire to have intercourse with the same sex.
- Transvestism is a social problem, the desire to dress in society as the opposite sex.
- Transsexualism is a gender problem, the desire to live and function as the opposite sex.

Packman said transsexuals who have not had reassignment surgery view intercourse with someone who is the opposite biological sex as the equivalent of a homosexual affair.

Transsexual men, he said, "often have sex with homosexual males, because that's the best they can do, given their anatomy. But in any sexual encounter, they visualize and fantasize themselves as being female. They see sex with females as a homosexual act."

"TRANSSEXUAL MEN don't want to switch sex just so they can have intercourse with guys. It's the totality of being female that they're after."

Packman has diagnosed transsexuals of both sexes, all social classes and all ages, ranging from 12 to 58. In all cases, he said, they have felt since early childhood they belong to the opposite sex.

"They feel and think they are really in the wrong body. There has been some bizarre mistake of nature. One patient who believes in reincarnation said to me, 'The karma got messed up, and I got into the wrong body.'"

THE ONSET OF puberty is a devastating experience for transsexuals, he said, because development of adult sexual characteristics is an all too graphic reminder of their biological destiny. Self-mutilitation and even suicide often occur.

For women, Packman said, "breast growth is just a disaster. It's the physical aspect of being feminine they hoped would never happen, but they can't avoid it. It's there every time they take off their shirt."

"They try to hide it by wearing floppy clothing. They may try to bind their breasts with bandages or walk stoopshouldered."

WINNIE B. DROVE HER CAR UP TO A SLIGHTLY DEAF FARMER. "WHERE'S THE COURT HOUSE?" ASKED WINNE. "WE AINT GOT NONE," SAID THE FARMER, "YOU JUST HAVE TO PICK UP YOUR OWN WOMEN OFF THE STREET!"

MICHELL ANN SAID TO DENNI "ALL THE WORLDS A CHESSBOARD AND BABY YOU'RE MY FAVORITE PIECE"



No, this is not a blushing bride left waiting at the church. It's a rugged male, dressed up as a bride for shenanigans in an American Legion parade. Tired, he stopped on church steps to rest.

A FRINGE BENEFIT, TS SURGERY

An Ohio steel-tube company must pay for an employee's sex-change surgery under its group health plan, an arbitrator has ruled in a grievance case involving a male-to-female transsexual.

The company, according to The Wall Street Journal, contended that "gender dysphoria syndrome" was not an illness as that term was understood in the union contract, and that the surgery was "medically unnecessary."

The arbitrator, however, declared that since "illness" was not specifically defined in the contract, it should be taken to include "any condition reasonably falling within the confines of its definitions." He cited expert testimony that the operation was medically necessary and scored the company's stand as "a refusal to recognize the relationship between mind and body." Ø

TALK ABOUT A DUMB BLONDE! DIANE W. OF STANFORDVILLE, HAS TO TAKE OFF HER SWEATER TO COUNT TO TWO. ITS A QUEER TERMITE THAT GOES FOR A WOODPECKER.....

DOCS CLAIM SEX SWITCH OPERATIONS ARE PAYING OFF *Reported by Gender Review*

People who have a sex change are happier now than before, say psychiatrists attending a large Toronto convention. "Sex change operations are now very successful" said Dr. Povl Toussieng of the University of Oklahoma, disputing a study by Dr. Jon Meyer who said transsexuals are a depressed bunch. "The problem was that initially we didn't know how to select applicants very well" he said, adding that today, transsexuals are expected to live a full year in their new role and job before undergoing the final sex change operation.