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PRES: William M. [REDACTED]

MEMBERSHIP

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Albany, New York

\$ 1 5 PER YEAR

Helen
and

PHONE: [REDACTED]

Wilma [REDACTED]

 Merry Xmas and Happy New Year to all.

Nice weather for a nice evening to spend with all the lovely girls who were able to come to the meeting. It was very good to see Sheila and Wendy after a long absence. It is always good to be able to see some of the girls make it back once in awhile. The girls were dressed in their Christmas finery and looked very good. They all brought a grab bag for our fun time. Those who made the meeting were: Michelle Ann and Dennie from Somerville, Mass., Paula and Kathy from Lanesboro, Mass., Gloria and Deana from Pittsfield, Mass Vi and Dee Dee from Hartford, Conn., Peggy Ann from Schenectady, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Renee from Stratford, Conn., Sussane from Alb, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Phyllis from Rockwell, N.J., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Michelle from Oneonta, N.Y., Kathy from Camillus, N.Y., Sheila from Pittsburgh, Pa., Wendy from S.Kent, Conn. Wilma and I. Out of the twenty one we had five wives. The wives lately have been making a good appearance. It makes for a lovely evening knowing we have some wives who enjoy the second life style of their mates.

The meal for the girls was: Meat Loaf, Stuffed shells, Egg plant parmejean Mixed vegetables in creamed chicken cheese sauce, tossed salad, apple sauce, pickles, coffee and cookies. The cookies were brought by Elanda from Germany When coming back from her stay in Germany, her mother gave her some home made cookies, which Elanda put out for the girls to enjoy. The other cookies we had were made by Dennie. So our deep thanks to both Dennie and Elanda for the cookies I'm sure the girls enjoyed them.

We then cleaned up and had our grab bag some of the grabs were perfume, pocketbooks, umbrellas, scarfs, and musical box. we had fun picking and changing boxes.

Now it was time to clean up and make room for the musicians of our group. Dee Dee and Paula played some Christmas carols and then music so the girls could dance to. Sheila got up and danced to see how it felt to dance dressed as a women. I had a couple of dances myself.

Whats this I hear Cynthia had a straight Xmas party for fellow workers and three T.V.'s were at the party in the person of Dee Dee, Cynthia and Jeff. they must have had a good time. How did you do it Cynthia?

Had a talk with Michelle from oneonta, seems she went on a shopping spree with Elaine and Colleen, I'm glad she is coming out of the closet a little more and enjoying her new life style. Michelle has a problem: She would like to show her mother a picture of herself dressed, but is afraid how she might react. Her mother knows about her but has not seen her dressed. Does anyone out there have an idea as to how she can go about telling her? Would like your help if you have been in the spot and what you did about it.

Next month will start us out on our eighth year, and hopeall you members out there can be with us to celebrate the coming out of so many T.V.'s who at one time didn't have a place to go or didn't know that there were so many others like himself. Now they can come and meet one another and talk and let out all the frustrations and closetted feelings built up inside them. Of course we have some more fortunate than others in that they can dress more than the one meeting night, why? because their wives can accept them for the two roles they play. One is their male selfnad then their secret life of a transvestite.

Looking over the past year we have found many new friends and were happy to be able to give of ourselves and our home to make room for some of the lonely T.V.'s to come out of the closet. We found thats not an easy task for some to come out in the open. We are happy to say that Cynthia and Sonya brought a couple from Conn. and since they became members they have made our social end of the night delightful, as Dee Dee has come together with Paula and became our muscians. Paula played the organ for us before, but now with Dee Dee on the Guitar they have become a duo. Cynthia has wipped up a one girl singing act accompanied by our Musicians and entertained the girls on several occasions, Sonya also chimed in with Cynthia and our good girl ~~Crystal~~ Crystal had a few letters from Aunt Harriet which are always enjoyable.

Our biggest event this past year was the Wedding of Michelle Ann and Dennie. It was a great evening for all.

To all the girls who couldn't make the xmas Party we missed you all. Looks like I'm about oft of space so I'll say

Merry Xmas and Happy New Year

Keep smiling and stay in good health, God Bless.

Love

HELEN

Dear Wilma and Helen,

You have said that you wanted to hear from TV's about how they got started--and WHY(?), if possible, so here is my story, my reflections, and my guess---as to the "WHY".

This part, I do not remember, but the after-effect is still there-----

When I was still in the crawling stage of life, I happened to be behind a rocking chair and my Mother attempted to move it out of her way with her foot, not knowing that I had crawled behind it. The uplifted point of the rocker struck me in the right jaw and caused me to have an abcess. The doctor that she had advised an incision, to drain the puss and blood from the infected area. And it was done.

But, during this process, he cut a Leader that controlled the right side of my face. The effect of this is that I do not have any control of the right side of my face, cannot express a smile, when I laugh--my right eye automatically closes---my right eye is smaller that the left one. This has been noticed by my school chums, and their remarks about it caused me----in part---to withdraw from them.

My birth, so my Mother has told me (over and over) was a "Breach-birth", which means that I emerged into this world Butt first, rather than in the conventional "Head-first" position. It did not help my mental condition, in my formative years, to be told---many times---that I had been born "backwards", and have been "Backwards" ever since.

At an early stage of my life, it was discovered that I had an "un-descended" ~~testical~~ testical. The doctor said that it would come down-----in time----, but it was ignored until I had been past the point of repair. This cause me to be rejected from the National Guard, Army, and Navy-----until the Day of Infamy (Dec. 7, 1941)---after that, they only wanted you to have two arms and two legs, and didn't care about your balls.

I, also, had a younger sister. She was the delight of my Father's life. I will not dwell on the times that I heard my parents tell her that they loved her, but never did I hear any such statement.

This, I do remember:

It was said, within my hearing (many times), that Sis should have been the Boy, and J----- SHOULD have been the girl. In the days before bluejeans became acceptable for girls, we swapped clothing. On her, they thought it was "cute", I got my ass beat.

You would not believe the things that my school mates said, or "nick-named" me, when they discovered that I "winked" when I laughed, and when they discovered that I had only one testical. And they did succeed in one thing, they caused me to withdraw to myself. I had no "real" friends at school. I began to feel that "I" was my only friend.

And so, since I had been tagged with the "nick-name" of "Half-boy", I began to think that I MUST be half-girl, and I began to wear my mothers clothing. But, since I had gotten such a licking for it before, I just kept this to myself and did it when I was home alone. But, I did make the mistake, one time, to let one of the neighborhood kids in on it. I became the big joke of all the kids, then.

So, I looked for other things to try to overcome this. I became very proficient in Baseball. In our "Sand-lot" games, I could knock the ball so far, they made rules (doesn't every Sand Lot do this?) that I would have to bat "Left-handed". And I overcame that handicap. But my father would not allow me to go out for sports at school.

I turned to the field of Religion. In time, I decided to try to become a Southern Baptist Preacher. I got in with a group of young, dedicated people and I was really happy with their fellowship, their acceptance of me. I made great strides in the church.

But, then, the thought struck me-----"Am I trying to be a preacher because of the expectations of my Parents? Or has God really called me to do this important work? So, on bended knee, I asked Him to guide my life, ~~steer~~ it in the direction that He wanted. Evidently, He did not want me for a Preacher, but to do His will in other fields, for He put me in the right place, at the right time. And, I have become, thanks to His direction, (and without bragging) one of the best in my field (in this area).

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PARTY TIME

Our next two party dates will be January 20th and February 17th. Please get your reservations in by February 14th.

NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of 2 new members.

Michelle E. Oneonta N.Y. and Veronica B. Indecott N.Y.

SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT :

Doris C. Flushing N.Y. for the extra \$ sent in.
 Frieda H. Silver Lake, Kann. for the extra stamps.
 Louise M., Waterbury, Conn. " " " "

A VERY HAPPY BIRTHDAY GIRLS :

These are the dates of the girls who have birthdays in January;

Jan. 1	Robert F [REDACTED]	Jan. 15	William K [REDACTED]
" 6	Leeland R [REDACTED]	" 18	Eugene M [REDACTED]
" 9	Betty B [REDACTED]	" 21	Allen E [REDACTED]
" 10	Elayne W [REDACTED]	" 22	Gerald H [REDACTED]
" 12	Patti F [REDACTED]	" 25	Connie N [REDACTED]
" 14	Glenn C [REDACTED]		

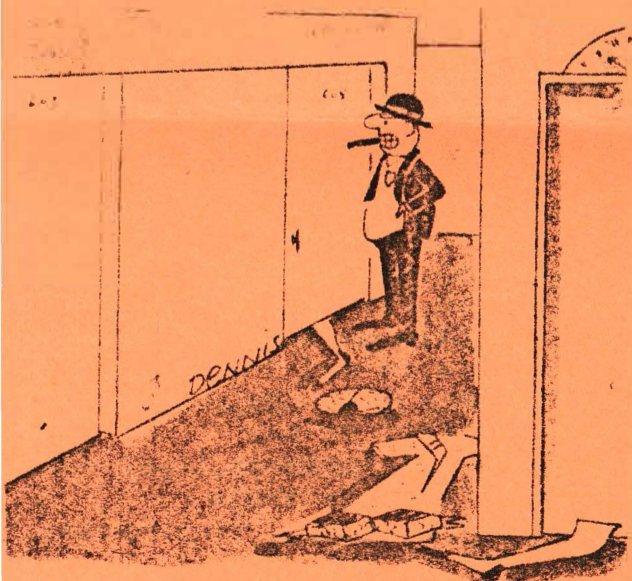
If I have left out any one for January its because I dont have your Birthday on record.

DUES and MEMBERSHIP :

I believe that we have one of the best TV Clubs in thev United States and Canada. But after checking back on the membership from Jan. 1 1978 to Dec. 15 1978 I find that 40 members have failed to ~~renew~~ renew their membership. I have been fortunate to have been able to bring in 37 new members this year. If any member has any ideas to correct this loss of membership I'd be happy to listen. Also if you know of other TVs who are not members why not try to talk them into joining as members, or better yet bring them along to one of our party's as a guest and let them see for themselves the fun we all have. It will be your help that will keep this club going.

I think we should change the Clubs name to the Outer State TV Club. As you can see by the attendents of this months party we had more outer state members present. Nice to see all you girls come from across the borders of New York State. Again we most have somthing to have all you girs travel so far.

Thank you all for sending in them nice letters for our members to read. I had so many good letters that I did not write Wilma's Views. I'm sure that you would like the extra letters then Wilma's Views.



"I've got you this time, Mr. Hornsby!"

"I'm Joe from the 7 to 3 shift at No. 17."

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I have discovered that my story is a little different from others, but not too much. With my many friends, it has been with them for years, some have just discovered it. I know that the FATAL THING is for any person to don the Feminine wear, for any reason, and they will be addicted to it. One of my friends became a TV because he had been talked into being in a "Woman-less Wedding" (of all things) at a church sponsored fund-raising affair.

So, you might ask, what has all of this done to my family and my family life???

Well, we went through the Hellish experience of my telling her of my desires, her rejecting them, my disposing of the ward-robe, my buying new stuff, and repeat, repeat. And when it became apparent that I was NOT going to give this phase of my life up, she accepted---in part. Then, we happened to meet another couple, troubled the same way. Thank Goodness, we all liked the same things. We made furniture, tiled tops of "end-tables", worked puzzles, interested in sewing and macrame. And we had a real friendship in the "Normal" area of life.

What has my TVism brought me, may you ask????? Well, it has brought me one life of Hell, and complete enjoyment. It has brought me the wonder of just WHO I am, what I am, and what I want to be. It has brought me friends that I would not have known, otherwise. It has brought me a closeness to my family that I did not think possible. I have told all the children, despite what Ann Landers said, and they have said that can understand it.

I want to express my undying thanks to Virginia Prince, for I believe that she was MOST instrumental in getting the TV's in a group, rather than in our individual closets, and----most of all-----I want to thank Wilma and Helen for picking up the splintered groups of TV's, welding them together, and making us a real FAMILY.

Here, in the South, where there are very few that I can contact, or visit, the meetings at Albany are described so vividly, I feel that I am in the group. I just KNOW that I am there, in spirit. Some day-----

I want to be there, in person.

(Or is this a dream of mine????)

Love to ALL,

Anon.

Dear Helen

Thank you for printing my last letter. Well, in my never-ending quest to make my thoughts and feelings understood, I have another letter. Ready?

There seem to be a few people who think crossdressing is unnatural. That's true, it is unnatural, but then there is virtually nothing natural about being human. Our ability to think and talk in abstract terms has all but obliterated naturalness. We transcended real naturalness when we first made a gender distinction between pink and blue and placed human values on good and bad. In its place we have created our own artificial reality. More simply stated, humans are the most artificial of all creatures; therefore it is perfectly natural for humans to be unnatural. So if anyone says crossdressing is unnatural, the response is "Of course it is. But so is hitting helpless little balls with clubs and racquets and killing living creatures for fun. Personally I would rather cross-dress."

I am a crossdresser by inclination, and choose to express myself accordingly. I accept and appreciate myself, and because of this I find myself in a happy vicious circle, one that I could wish for all people. The more I dress the more I like me - The more I like me the more I like others - The more I like others, the more I like me and the more I want to dress - the more I dress, the more I like me - etc. My crossdressing and my attitude towards myself has a super effect on how I perceive and react to external things and other people. For instance, whenever I see an attractive woman, I feel a warm sensual flush permeate my soul. The flush is a powerful combination of sexual attraction, aesthetic appreciation, and blatant envy. The person I see is art, she is poetry, a queen, an absolutely beautiful human being. I long to take her into my soul, to feel her, to be her if only for just a while. Although that sense of longing and envy at times leaves me shaken, it is a sensually good feeling, a rewarding affirmation of being human and alive.

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You think I shake when I see a beautiful woman, you should see me when I am that poetry, when I am a queen, when I am feeling like that beautiful human being I so much admire. When I am expressing myself as a woman I feel the same combination of attraction, appreciation and envy, except it is coming from and directed towards myself; from me while feeling attracted to me while feeling attractive. My God what a sensation that is. It's a downright spiritual sensation. Sometimes I get to feeling so good that I start to cry, or I break into an uncontrollable happy, perhaps silly, giggle. To be able to experience this magnificent sense of ecstasy has got to be a gift, one bestowed upon a very lucky few. Thank God I a one.

If you are a wife or girlfriend of such a person, you also are lucky. You may not be able to actually experience his feelings, but if you have the communicating media of love and understanding you can share and enjoy or at least appreciate the expression of this wonderful feeling. It is worth the effort. Fear, guilt, hate and divorce are poor substitutes. Who knows, you may find some happy and rewarding feelings that are uniquely your own.

On behalf of all of us that have it within us to crossdress, please, remember that crossdressing is an expression of the soul. That expression may be repressed, but never erased.

My love to you all,

Merissa Sherrill Lynn

FEMALE CROSS-DRESSERS

An interesting phenomenon that is currently happening in the women's movement is the justification of transvestite practices by women in history. Two outstanding examples of this are Deborah Sampson, currently being sold to children as "Our first woman soldier," and Doctor Mary Walker, an Assistant Surgeon for the Union Army in the Civil War. Both are justified in their cross-dressing practices by ascribing patriotic motives to them that transcend their flouting of conventional appearance. Neither of them are termed "transvestites," by apologists, although this is indeed what they were. Both women present rich opportunities for further psychological introspection, but lets take a closer look.

Deborah Sampson was born in Massachusetts in 1760. Her first recorded instance of cross-dressing was motivated by nothing more than "a craving of adventure," when she was 20 years old. She made "forays" into distant towns dressed as a male, and was curtailed only by a meagre income. For her efforts, she was excommunicated by the local Baptist Church on the strong suspicion of "dressing in men's clothes." She could have cared less, for by this time, she had enlisted in the Continental Army as a male. When, after 3 years of military service, her female gender was confirmed, the army simply provided her with garments of either sex, leaving her free to choose. She chose to continue to wear her uniform. Discharged, she continued to wear male garb and worked as a farmhand, until her marriage, when she suddenly

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took to wearing skirts. At this time in society, the issue was not one of complicated sexual speculation, but of simple decency in conforming to one's gender appearance. It is also a fact that women of this period often resorted to wearing men's clothes to participate in some military way or acts of banditry against their fellow citizens.

An hundred years later, Dr. Mary Walker, born 1832, in Oswego Town, New York, gained fame as an Assistant Surgeon for the Union Army. She also wore men's clothes during her time of service, and continued wearing them after her discharge. Walker began her cross-dressing at age 16, the reason being given that "she scorned confining female clothing." Like Sampson, she went on the lecture circuit to justify her actions, however, here takes place a curious departure of comparative behavior. Presuming that after her marriage, Sampson wore skirts during the day, and donned her military uniform to lecture in the evening. Walker wore men's clothes during the day, and full evening dress (female) for her lectures.

At a time when society was given to a simpler setting, Deborah Sampson's masquerade was given a plain interpretation, and she was accepted for what she was, a person who simply preferred the clothing of the opposite sex. Although social disapproval was registered by her ex-communication, she was not actively reviled or punished for her choice of appearance. An hundred years later, Dr. Walker was rotten-egged, publicly insulted and arrested many times for "masquerading in men's clothes." Both women openly declared their preference. More-over, it must be noted that Walker's involvement in other affairs caused great resentment towards her, apart from her cross-dressing.

The point of this essay is to demonstrate that the basic motivation to cross-dress is present in both men and women, in spite of whatever altruistic motives are attributed to them. One must note that Sampson began to cross-dress because of "a craving for adventure," long before she became a soldier, while Walker was "scorning female clothing" at age 16. From this we may conclude that cross-dressing is not peculiarly gender-motivated, being a signally male disorder as we think of it today, nor does it appear to be a matter of social turbulence, as has been theorized. Perhaps by taking a closer look

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at those who cross-dressed in history, we will conclude only that individuals of both sexes see in their opposites, opportunities for experience that are desirable. Perhaps, after all is said and done, the basic motive to cross-dress is simply this and nothing more. When our present day society sees this as the reason for a person cross-dressing, without the embroidery of needless psychological complication or underlying deceit, we will all be totally free to appear as we wish. It is that simple.

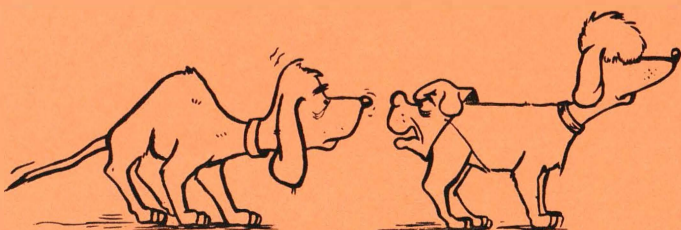
Germaine H [REDACTED]

Dear Editor: In the last issue of your newsletter there appeared a letter to the editor which was most slanted and inaccurate. In that letter the writer attempted to describe various organizations dealing with Tvs. Since one of the organizations she described (Tri-Sigma) is one that I belong to, I paid particular attention to what was written. Unfortunately for your readers the information dealing with Tri-Sigma was most inaccurate and distorted and I wish to point out some of those inaccuracies now.

In her description of Tri-Sigma the writer pictures the organization as "small" in comparison to others whereas Tri-Sigma is the largest organization dealing with the heterosexual TV. Reference is also made to Tri-Sigma's catering to the needs of a "select few." Since the largest group of tvs in the world are heterosexual males and Tri-Sigma caters to THIS group, it can be hardly said that Tri-Sigma caters to a "select few". And in regards to being "small", no Tv organization has ever achieved the numbers that Tri-Sigma now has. The writer also wrote that the Alliance had three times the membership of Tri-Sigma, but as a former member of that organization I can say that this has never been the case. I have had access to the Directory of names of the Alliance and my count always showed fewer members than Tri-Sigma. I am speaking of male members.

There were several other glaring errors, such as Tri-Sigma being [unable to get people to work.] However, on a national scale, there is no organization which has the cooperation and loyalty from its members than has Tri-Sigma. That organization has a very extensive leadership structure including Division Leaders, Regional Coordinators and a number of chapter leaders. There is even a Director of Advertising and Publicity. There never has been a Tv organization with such a well developed leadership structure.

There was also reference made to a ".....limited potential" for Tri-Sigma but actually it is Tri-Sig which is doing all the growing. In part this is because of the national advertising the organization is engaged with and also because of the many successful programs developed by Tri-Sigma. After reading the letter a number of times it seemed apparent to me that the writer really did not know what she was writing about and probably made just as many errors in reference to the other Tv organizations. For those who want to know more about Tri-Sigma without slanting and distortions, they can write to The Society For The Second Self, 256 S. Robertson, Beverly Hills, CA 90211. Lastly, the writer spoke of the Alliance's Journal as being the most complete, informative and interesting publication but all one has to do is read Tri-Sig's FEMME MIRROR and note that it contains original materials mostly supplied by the readers whereas the Journal (when it was published) was full of reprints from other magazines. And, professionally speaking, the Femme Mirror has better quality material and a more professional appearance than does the Journal. The writer really shouldn't have written about things that she knew little about.



Sincerely Yours,
Sally Ann L [REDACTED]
Sally Ann L [REDACTED]

"I've just discovered the difference between boys and girls," said little Walter as he unbuttoned his pants, "Look, Mama, no cavities!"



"No, Millard, no, no, no . . . the zipper's on the other side . . ."

Flirted With Ladies Was a Woman in Disguise

By WEBB GARRISON

Dr. James Barry rose to the rank of senior inspector-general in the British Army, fought duels, flirted with the ladies and belonged to men's clubs — yet, incredibly, was discovered to be a woman after she died in 1865.

All England was flabbergasted, and the Army was mortified by the stunning masquerade, which Barry had managed to pull off successfully for about 60 years — ever since she was 10 years old!

Born about 1799, Barry, whose real name is not known, was believed to have been the illegitimate daughter of a nobleman.

According to biographers, she borrowed "James Barry" from an uncle.

At about 10 she "shed her petticoats forever" and enrolled as a "literary and medical student" at Edinburgh University. At the tender age of 12, she was graduated as a surgeon's apprentice.

Recognizing the army as the

road to opportunity, the youngster, described as "almost girlish," slightly built, with red hair and a prominent nose, put on a uniform in 1813 and began a steady rise through the ranks — eventually becoming senior inspector-general of the British Army.

An official report described the little doctor in high-heeled boots as "the most skilful (sic) of physicians," but also as "the most wayward of men."

Sent to Cape Town, South Africa, Dr. Barry, who had already earned a reputation as quarrelsome and temperamental, squelched teasing from a fellow officer by challenging him to a duel — and putting a bullet through his lungs.

She later reportedly took a flesh wound in another duel.

It was at Cape Town that the youthful officer became known as a "lady killer." According to author Kenneth Young, "she began to BE a man: she enjoyed a racy story, liked a glass of wine, hunted and shot

with gentlemen, and danced and flirted with young females."

But Dr. Barry (who sometimes carried an umbrella and frequently had a little poodle trailing behind her) was also devoted to duty.

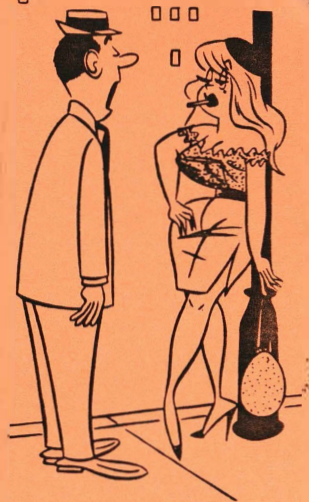
She served as administrator of eight hospitals in Jamaica and later led a battle to control a malaria epidemic on Malta that led to official thanks from the Duke of Wellington. She always insisted on hygiene, and in 1855 in Corfu, Greece, she was credited with saving the lives of 455 of 472 British soldiers wounded in the Crimean War.

She was sent to Canada in 1857 and became a member of Montreal's exclusive gentlemen's club, the St. James.

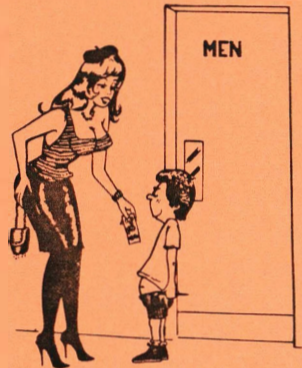
Returning to London, she fell fatally ill, refused medical attention and asked to be buried without examination. But her wish was never granted, and after her death on July 25, 1865, Dr. Barry's lifelong secret was finally revealed.



Dr. JAMES BARRY



"I'm warning you, Madge — one day you'll have to choose between our marriage and your career."



"That's right, sonny boy . . . just go in and write on the walls, ROMP WITH ROSIE Phone PR 7-7777."



"I'm afraid I can't make it today . . . I'm up to my ears in work."

DEAR ANN LANDERS: Will you give space to just one more letter initiated by the importance of wearing "nice" underwear in case of an emergency trip to a hospital?



Ann Landers

I drive an ambulance. Our service makes an average of 4,000 runs a month. I won't go into detail about the gore and drama we see. The condition of a person's underwear is the least of our worries.

Anyone who thinks you make up letters doesn't know a thing about human behavior. Since I have been in this line of work I've learned that the sanest-looking, straightest-appearing people can be the looniest. For example:

RECENTLY WE PICKED UP a man who had to be rushed to the hospital. He was unclothed when we arrived. This highly respectable gentleman had a vulgar tattoo around his belly button.

I can't count the number of times we've pulled people out of wrecked cars who were dressed like women and they turned out to be men.

Come ride with us sometime, Ann. You'll get an eyeful. It might be a welcome change from the earful you've been getting for so many years. — J.C., An R.N. In Louisville, Ky.

DEAR J.C.: Eyeful? Earful? What's the difference? Nothing I read, see or hear surprises me anymore. I'm positively shockproof. But thanks for a look from another vantage point.

★

Gay GI Receives Honorable Discharge

FORT CARSON, Colo. (AP) — A 25-year-old Army sergeant, a professed homosexual who recently wore a black evening gown, high heels and wig to his battalion mess hall, has received an honorable discharge from the military.

A spokesman at the base near Colorado Springs confirmed Friday that Staff Sgt. Little E. "Bill" Douglas received his honorable discharge last week.

Ode To The Closet Transvestite

By Dee Dee W., 2-CT-06781

As a closet transvestite, one must work like a dog, Get married, have children, live high off the hog. Move to the suburbs to get away from the smog. Be content in life's wheel as a functioning cog.

As a closet transvestite, one must not expose Any interest at all in sheer panty hose. Must protect his male image as he all too well knows Of the slings and the arrows that reward 'one of those.'

As a closet transvestite, cross-dressing forsooth, Is like strawberry shortcake to a very sweet tooth. Like taking a drink from the fountain of youth, Equates like a bullfighter's moment of truth.

As a closet transvestite, one never talks About dreams of dressing, taking walks In high heeled shoes. Where no one mocks The femmiphiles in fashion's frocks.

As a closet transvestite, one waits until night, Pulls down the curtains, locks ev'ry door tight. Then it's lipstick and lashes, a dress that's just right, And exist for the moment in utter delight.

*As a closet transvestite, alack and alas, My only companion is my looking glass! How often I think, as I mow the grass, Being a male is a pain in the ***!*

DEAR ANN LANDERS: I was married four years ago to a man I thought I knew very well. We went together for three years. He is 32 and I am 28.

Rob never showed any signs of not being normal. He is a terrific lover, adores tennis, sailing and is a champion bowler. Our life together was great until last week when I discovered a suitcase filled with women's clothes, wigs, high heels, makeup — the works. When I questioned Rob, he said they were costumes and junk left over from his college drama days. Then one night I returned from Toledo unexpectedly on an earlier plane. I caught him dressed up in a sequin gown, platform heels, a blonde wig looking just beautiful.

He confessed he had been dressing up for some time — but swore he had never gone out in public that way. He says he gets a big kick out of it and hopes I will understand.

Well — I DON'T understand. We have two lovely children. Rob is a wonderful father and husband. Our sex life is fine. He is an attorney and does very well.

Is he a closet homosexual? Do you think he has a boyfriend on the side? What should I do? — Zonked

DEAR Z.: Your husband is a transvestite. I have read a great deal about transvestism these last few months and have come to the conclusion, belatedly, I'm sorry to say, that very few are homosexuals. These men get their jollies dressing up. They are very much aware of their maleness and have no wish to be females, nor do they want to experience sex with other men.

Most transvestites are married and have families. Their wives say they are wonderful husbands and fathers. I suggest that you get some counseling so you can adjust to and cope with the situation.