

PRES: William M. Thordsen
1104 Broadway
Albany, New York
PHONE: (518) 434-8806

MEMBERSHIP

\$ 1 5 PER YEAR

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

HI FOLKS:

THE weather was fine for traveling and twenty TVs and four WIVES wound their wheels towards our home for this gathering. IT was a warm welcome for FRANCES L. from FONDA, NY, and FRANCES G. from YARMOUTH, MAIN. The rest of the girls made them feel welcome. Yes -like I said before- they're always a few new ones coming out of the closet and finding out the good times they have been missing. It just takes a few steps and a little courage and you will find you can break down the door to a little happiness with a little push. So come on girls- kick smash, or break down the door between you and your life as a T.V.

The girls who made the meeting were: Dee Dee & Vi from Norwich, Conn, Renee C. from Norwich, Conn., Ruth B. from Montreal, Canada, Frances G. from Yarmouth, Main, Johnnie & Charlotte E. from Castleton, N.Y., Joan & Gail from Granville, N.Y., Franses L. from Fonda, N.Y., Kathy G. from Syracuse, N.Y., Lee S. from Buffalo, N.Y., Sandy E. from Rochester, N. Y., Franses G. from Henriett N.Y., Susan M. from Albany, N.Y., Joan H. from Colonie, N.Y., Winnie B. from Schenectady, N. Y., Chris M. from Kingston, N. Y., Elanda M. from Rome, N.Y., Dennie D. from Peekskill, N.Y., Michelle Ann B. from Somerville, Mass., Paula & Kathy D. from Lanesboro, Mass., Jo Ann R. from Glens Falls, N.Y., Wilma and I.

After these girls ate a meal of: Roast Beef, mashed potatoes, corn, beans ala cheese king, cole slaw, cottage cheese, bread & butter, cake & coffee, the girls cleaned up the table and made room for Dee Dee and Paula to start the music to burn off the calories they ate. Dee Dee played the Guitar and Paula played the organ, they made lovely music together., some jass, some rock and a waltz. Now I know how Sandy, Winnie, and Elanda stay so slim. It seems like a whole new road opened up for these girls since DEE DEE has become a member and brought her Guitar. Dee Dee will play most any song the girls ask for. God Bless you Dee Dee for providing these girls with a new phase of life and happiness, you are great, and it was my pleasure to have met such nice people as Dee Dee and your lovely wife Vi. Our thanks to Cynthia for introducing you to us.

Please read the following notice carefully.

MAY 20th, WEDDING PARTY.

This party is strictly for members only. Due to lack of space, there will be room for only 40 people. Please check the names listed, if you are not on the list and wish to come please let Helen or Wilma know as soon as you read this notice in your paper. If you are on this list and can't make it please let us know so we can make room for another member. If you cannot make it, please don't say you are and then the last minute say no, as you will freeze out a member who would have wanted to come. If you are coming please bring a small wedding gift such as (sheets, pillow cases, towels, toaster, coffee maker, blanket, dish towels,) these are just a few things I could think of. As of last night's meeting we have 31 already on the list. Mr. & Mrs Edwards, Mr. & Mrs Deacon, Cybthia Massey & Sonya Green, Mr. & Mrs Watson, Mr. & Mrs Mc Cormi Rose & Sharon Ruth, Mr. & Mrs Bailey, Helen & Wilma, Dennie & Michelle (the Bride & Groom) Connie Thomas, Kathy Gueren, Frances Glaser, Renee Carroll, Elanda Mertz, Winnie Brant, Joan H., Susan Morrison, Crystal Stewart, Jo Ann Ray, Sandy Eisenbraum, Betty Billings, Dolly Senese.

PLEASE IF YOUR NAME IS ON HERE AND YOU ARE NOT COMING LET US KNOW RIGHT AWAY. IF YOU ARE 'NT ON THIS LIST AND WANT TO COME WRITE OR CALL AS IT WILL BE FIRST IN FIRST CHOICE.

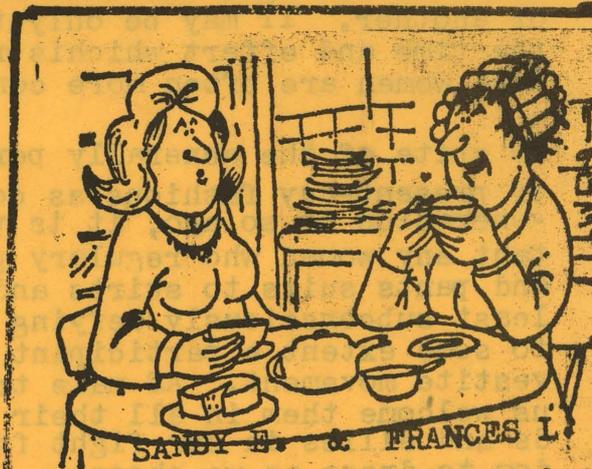
THANK YOU HELEN

Program will be as follows:
Arrival of Guests: 4 P.M. on
Wedding at 6 P.M.
Reception at 8 P.M.
Music by T.V.I.C. Band (Dee Dee and Paula).

Wedding Party

Bride--Michelle Ann Groom-- Dennie
Matren of Honor-- Wilma Best Man--Helen
Mother of bride--Elanda Ushers-- Sonya, Vi, Gail
Bridesmaids, Sharon, Jenny, Kathy.
Photographer: Paula,
Wedding march by Dee Dee.

continued pg. 4



"Sure, we're having fun but we could have lots more if one of us was really a girl."

In the act of love,
The enjoyment is quite temporary,
The cost is quite exorbitant and
The position is simply ridiculous.

"Show me a home
where the buffalo roam,
and I'll show you a
house full of chips!"

W I L M A S V I E W S

TRANVESTISM is usually thought of as the compulsive and erotic wearing of female clothing by the males. THERE are, of course, many types of transvestism varying from the heterosexual, occasional closet queen to the surgically converted transexual who has become as feminine as possible. HOWEVER the basic term, transvestism, can apply to dressing by either sex in the clothing that is normally appropriate to the other sex. SO why do we hear so little of the idea of women dressing up in men's clothing for emotional reasons? ACTUALLY if we investigate the situation, female transvestism is quite common, although usually less obvious than male transvestism. TO understand the difference, it will be helpful to first realize what so-called normal feminine clothing is, and why females wear it. THEN we will be able to understand the facts and feelings back of both types of cross-dressing.

PRESENT-DAY feminine fashions are designed almost exclusively to emphasize and display the female body as a sexual stimulus for males. IT is this attitude, of being only an attractive sexual play thing as the only acceptable role for all women.

BRASSIERS thrust female breasts out into exaggerated prominence, drawing male attention to the strongly sex-linked area. A waist-cinch or tight-waisted girdle emphasizes the youth of the wearer and accentuates by contrast of the breasts and hips. WELL-ROUNDED hips and buttocks advertise a well-developed pelvis. HIGH heels draw attention to long tapering legs, a short skirt teases male attention.

THE actual dressing of feminine garments as well as the fabrics and colors, all follow through on this idea of visually and tactually exciting the male. HOT pants, bikini swim-suits, and all types of lingerie are typically feminine, along with lacy and frilly decorations and accessories. EVEN the popular pants-suits which are now so popular are snug and revealing over the breasts, hips, and crotch.

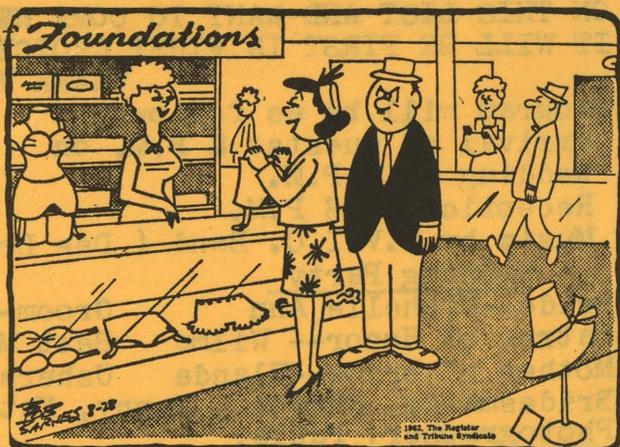
THUS we see that the typical feminine fashion exaggerates, emphasizes and advertises the sexual assets of the wearer. THESE same factors are what the male transvestite attempts to duplicate for and in himself, along with the clinging sensuousness and exotic feelings of fabrics.

FOR the female transvestite, her role demands that she deny all the artificial adjuncts which fashion has decreed for her. HER problem involves negative rather than positive choices. MEN'S clothing does not intentionally limit the wearer's movements or activities the way the feminine garments do. MEN'S clothing make no attempt to modify the enclosed human form as a means of sexual advertising. IN effect the female transvestite is trying to hide her femininity rather than trying to assume masculine contours.

THIS variant from the norm usually wears clothes that deny her basic anatomy in addition to not accentuating it. NO bra, no slimming of the waist, no short or tight skirts, no cosmetics and no fancy coiffure. OFTEN she is grossly overweight, not in imitation of a man but in denial of femininity. LOW-heeled heavy shoes, coarse hose, shirt with tie, and bulky jackets, are all often parts of her non-feminine outfit. THE girls she seeks are often those weak but sexually attractive females who have been already abused and exploited by the aggressive male sexuality. THE butch lesbian can offer protection and sensual rewards for the passive girl who has learned to hate men for what they have done to her.

LESS radical form of female transvestism can be seen daily in the cases of women of all ages who shun the more exotic feminine fashions for one reason or another. IT may be only that they do not wish to be bothered with taking the time and effort which is required if a girl is always to look her best. Such women are often more concerned with attracting male attention.

IN spite of the generally permissive attitude of present-day fashions as compared with a generation or so ago, it is probably true that any woman who regularly prefers slacks and pants suits to skirts and dresses is at least subconsciously defying tradition and is to some extent a participant in the transvestite movement. AS male transvestites, let us welcome them in all their variety as friends and allies in our fight for complete freedom to dress as we choose.



Some girls think it's fun to fight for it . . . others just taking it lying down.

bookkeeper . . . he turned the leaf to make an entry.

FOR some, this mutual swtching of costumes and roles may turn out to be self-defeating. IF all, or even a large proportion of girls decide to dress like men, then maybe we will find that there will be no physical or emotional thrill in our dressing like girls. G O D F O R B I D .

WELL now how about sending in your comments on this letter. GIVE me something I can print. I can't br right all the time. My views are my own and maybe not yours. So lets have yours.

WIVES: THIS is your shance to say your piece. WHY not answer this letter. I will not print your full name, just your first name.

NEXT MEETING

From Our
Presidents
Pen.....



OUR NEXT TWO GATHERINGS :

MAY 20th and JUNE 17th. THE June gathering will be the last till AUGUST 19th. SO put these dates on your calander.

Welcome New Members

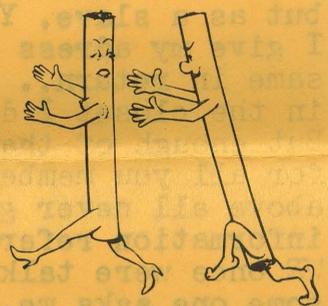
I am pleased to announce the enrollment of six new members this month.

- | | | | | |
|--------------------|------|------------|------------|------|
| JOYCE D. WOODSIDE | N.Y. | ELLEN S. | BINGHAMTON | N.Y. |
| CINDY D. N.Y.C. | N.Y. | FRANCIS L. | FONDA | N.Y. |
| JOHNY D. CASTLETON | N.Y. | MERISSA L. | HAMPTON | N.H. |

WE all here at TVIC hope to see you in the coming months in person at one of our parties.

B O O K S : The cannibal walked into the UN restaurant and ordered the waitress.

WE still have over 200 TV books. THEY can be had 10 for \$11.



"No, no—not without a filter . . ."

Happy Birthday Girls

- MAY 2 ANNES MACK -- MAY 12 JOANE RAY - MAY 26 RENNE CARROL
 MAY 30 CRYSTAL STEWARD - MAY 30 HELEN THORDBSEN.
 WEDDING ANVERSERY MR. & MRS JEAN & GAIL EDWARDS MAY 17th.

S P E C I A L T H A N K S D E P A R T M E N T :

WE want to thank SUSSANE MORRISON and LOUIS MARINO for the books that they have donated to the TVIC library.

S P E C I A L S : We sure had a wonderful time at our picnic for two in the woods. She was the down-to-earth type.

L I B A R Y C A R D S : PLEASE note that there is a card enclosed with your Journal. IT will be a great help if you can put this card in your Public Library file under Transvestism. IT could help bring in members also help others out of the closet. IF more are needed let me know.

T V P A R T Y S I N N E W Y O R K C I T Y . IF you are interested in drag partys in N.Y.C. contact JOYCE DEWHURST P.O.B. 1105, WOODSIDE, N.Y. 11377

D U E S and P A R T Y S : She was only a real estate salesman's wife, but she gave lots away.

AS of September 1st All dues will be \$15 per year. This is our first raise since 1971. Patty's will be \$6 each and \$11 per couple. This is due to the high cost of food, the food bill has been running over \$100 per party.

D A T E S & L E T T E R S : If she's prone to make mistakes, give up and lie down, man!

AGAIN I would like to ask you if you make a date with someone please keep it or at least let them know you can't make it. A lot of you make a date and your date will go to a lot of work and planning for you and then you don't show. IT is not right. YOU would not like it if it was done to you. THE same goes for your mail. ANSWER your mail promptly, it's only fair, if someone has shown an interest in you by writing you, why cant you write to them even if it is to say I'm not interested.

WELL that is it for this month; Keep your letters coming, thats what makes your journal
W I L M A

THE PHOTOGRAPHER will take all the pictures. HE will be taking still and motion pictures. HE will pick out the best ones and will set them up in sets. AFTER we have the first set any one wishing a set can order them at cost. THESE will be professional pictures. These pictures can be ordered by any member eventhough you may not be able to attend. AS soon as we know the cost of the pictures, you will read it here.

SEE YOU ALL AT THE WEDDING
HELEN.

letters

Dear Wilma & Helen:

AS always I had a wonderful time at the March meeting. DURING the meeting we talkrd about giving of some ones name and adress to a third party. MAY I say one should never give out a persons name and adress without first getting permission. You might ask why so I'll tell you. RECENTLY my telephone number was given to someone however inocently, but I would not have given this individual my number because I don't know them. But since they have gotten my number it seems it has been given to everybody. I have gotten no less than 5 calls from people wanting me to make them clothes. THEY seem to think I am in the dressmaking business. WELL as you know I do make dresses for my friends. And there it lies the KEY word F R I E N D S . I have found I don't appreciate coming home to find a message some TV group in New York has called and will call back Monday and I don't know who or where..Or how they got my TELEPHONE number. IF I were a closet like some so called out of the closet individuals I can name (nobody who is a member od TVIC) who never use there proper name.. I would be climbing the walls over this turn of events.. But I can only feel sorry for the people who call because they have to deal with individuals W H O claim to be leaders of the TV movement but who are so scared of beinh found out they won't even give there names to there friends. (ED. in this case I would say this party has no friends or don't want you as a friend but as a slave. You help ME and the HELL with you.) MAYBE I am wrong but when I give my adress to some one who claims to be out of the closet I expect the same in return.. WHEN I give my adress and telephone # to some one I know is in the closet I don't expect there's because I respect there need for security. But enough of that. (ED: I have to put my 2¢ in here again: NOW this goes for all you members. Never give out a phone number of another member. AND above all never give a none member an address of another member. If they want information refer them back to TVIC.)

WE once were talking about why is a TV a TV.. WHY do I dress.. WELL when some one asks me.. MY answer is simple and I have found it is one that people can accept.. I start out by explaining I an an exhibitionist.. I must stand out in a crowd but how can one stand out in a crowd dressed in D R A B male clothing.. AND when I say I am going to get dressed up.. I mean just that, dressed to the hilt in the fanciest clothes made.. AND who wears the fanciest clothes ? GIRLS.. WHEN so dressed I am the center of attention.. I love the attention, I recieve and must have this attention to thrive.. It gives meahigh that licuor or drugs could never give me because it's a clauen high.. BECAUSE it's being high on life and ones self.. I know if I don't dress I would be one miserable person but I do dress and this keeps everything in balabce.. I hope my even disposition prevails but that is for others to say I only know I feel great..... MAY GOD

BLESS you and yours for helping so many find HAPPINESS.. EVEN for only one night a month. Love Michell Ann Bolis.

Dear Wilma & Helen:

I AM so happy to have attended my first meeting in Albany. It was fun from start to finnish... Ifound all at you home easy to know and felt so much at ease I was surptised...Iespeciall ejoyed my talking with you & Helen and Samantha...I hope that I may be able to attend many more meetings...THANKS for all your efferts towards the TV/TS world and continued success...Ijust wish that Albany was closer to Ontario ..MICHELL STEVENS. CANADA.

She's a pretty little wench
Sitting there upon the bench,
Looking very coy and shy,
At each passing leering guy
Ah, such eyes! Concentric thighs ...
It's too damned bad she's bald.



"Sometimes I think I liked you better when you were a male chauvinist pig!"

Letters to the editor



Dear Helen and Wilma,

First, let me say that you two are doing a wonderful job in bringing so many TV's together in a warm and friendly environment where they can be themselves. It is gratifying to receive your always-prompt newsletter telling about the festivities. All of us who are too far away to attend can enjoy the meetings vicariously. It's a great idea you had to enable TV's to advertise in their local newspapers, using your T.V.I.C. address. If all us members could now follow through and do as you suggest, we could no doubt flush out a bunch of new TV's. This would give us local TV friends and might help the club membership too.

Alice and I have been wondering if you would consider a further idea along these lines: The placement of cards in local libraries throughout the country by members. This has worked in some areas. You get a bunch of 3 x 5 cards printed up with your T.V.I.C. address and a few remarks addressed to the TV. Send one out to members along with the Journal, asking them to insert the card in their local library under "Transvestism." Some members may want to have ten or more cards to distribute to libraries in their areas. One of the best libraries to use for this is the local university or college library. Many new younger TV's can be recruited this way and they are happy to have a contact. The trick is for members to place the cards themselves directly into the card catalogs of each library. If you try to give it to a librarian, or ask permission, it won't work. Simply stuff the card in there when no one is looking. You should go back to the library and check every few months to see if the card is still there, and if not, put another one in! We have put many cards in libraries and had answers from them. This is just an idea you may want to use.

"But Alice—I've got good job now—we don't need the extra money!"

The way to get rid of mice is to stuff cotton in their little holes, only who's gonna hold their little legs?

We went to Mardi Gras in New Orleans over the weekend and saw several TV friends there. Met a new TV who wants to get a sample copy of the Journal, as she may join. Would you send her one? Her name and address:

Thanks!

Our very best wishes to you both. Hope you are not buried under all that snow up there.

Love,

Connie and Alice Millard

Dear Wilma and Helen:-

Thanks so much for your prompt answer to my letter of inquiry about Maxine. Maybe she'll write.

And more thanks for the kind words about my guitar playing and the picture. At first glance I thought the little picture of Wilma was a preview of a new commemorative stamp that Uncle Sam was going to issue!

About sister musicians. I was naturally interested in the size of your home, etc. Big eyes on my first visit. I was disappointed, too, that no one could make it that could play the organ, as guitar and organ make a nice quiet combo. After all, a bastard combination of instruments is worse than nothing. Of course, I'm talking as a professional musician, and the decorum of your home must be of the most importance.

I have not met Gloria Mack in person yet, although she is a friend of Cynthia. I did write her and got a phone call from her yesterday, (Saturday) We had a nice chat, and she expressed regret at not being able to attend the last meeting. I had thought that she was a full time pro musician, but I find out that her main source of income is from being a highway maintenance employee of the town. As such, she was busy getting the streets cleared. A service employee has no life of their own, a condition of that type of employment being that one must be available at all times.

New song: She Was the Village Belle, But She Told on Me.

Another pro musician I write to, Jony from Deep River, Ct., has the problem of most competant musicians, that is, she haas a small combo and works Fri. and Sat, nights plus Sundayvafternoon or evening. She also has expressed regret that her hours interfere with what she'd enjoy doing most. To take a night off to get up to your place would involve trying to find a saïsfactory substitute(hard to do) plus a financial loss.

My case is a little bit different. I don't have a steady playing job, and I don't want one. The last one lasted for fourteen years. Now, I'm like a whore, I'll play for anyone that can pay me. Like Wilma, I'm out of the rat-race of making a living by working and, I'm a little bit fussy about who I play for, that is, unless I can work with good musicians I won't play, and in all truth I don't need it. The money I earn as a musician goes to support Dee Dee. (She needsit)

I thought the ideal third instrument would be either a bull fiddle or an elecric bass. A full set of drums would take up an awful lot of space. Just as a s ggestion,perhaps a little notice in The Journal asking if any of the girls played bass might get a response, like:-

WE NEED A BASS PLAYER WHO CAN REALLY THUMP IT!

I'm going to make a trip to Gloria's before the next meeting and try to get her to commit herself to attend the next meeting. Anyway, my poor efforts are at your disposal at all times. My playing schedule up until July leaves the Sat. night meetings open.

* * * * *
Quickie . . . no sooner spread than done.
* * * * *
Said the two old maids to the magician, "Cut out the hokus and pokus!"

I would like to comment on my debut at your home...Never before have I played while cross-dressed before an audience of more than six... IN all my profess - ional life I have never been more comfortable or more at ease than that night... IT seemed to me to be a dream come true, and an occasion that I hope to enjoy many more times before I join that big jass band in the sky...MORE important than anything else was the effect it had on my wife...You and Helen are well aware of the understanding between man and wife once the barriers are broken down... I venture to say that you have brought more happiness and understand - ing to the wives of tv's than the tv's themselves...MY home life is now like the difference between night and day... FROM living inwardly we are now turning outwardly and enjoying it tremendously. AMOUR.

DEE DEE....NORWICH....CONN.

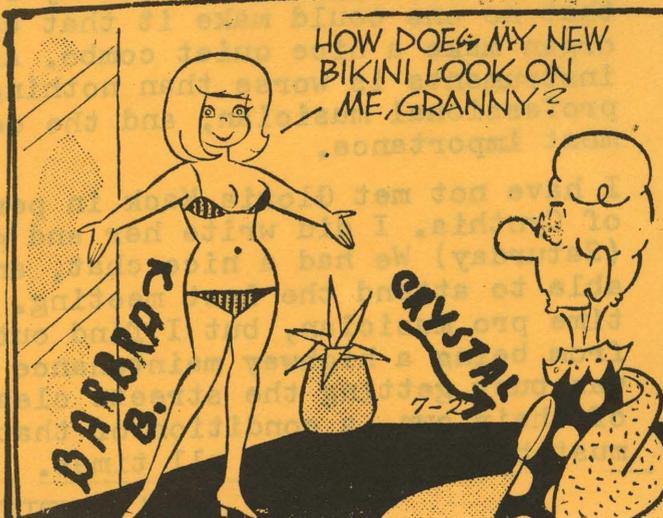
Dear Wilma:

OUR second meeting was held on Feb. 4, 78...Bad weather and lack of proper notice held attendance down...WE had an excellent program on skin care and glamor make-up...I have made to radio appearances in femme here in Flint, Mich...OUR club welcomes all you TVIC members when you are out are way. (ED..Sorry this letter was so late getting into the Journal...OK you gals around Michiagan way.. HERE'S your chance to meet some nice girls. Drop Grace a line for more information.) Write to.....CROSSROADS CHAPTER...P.O.B. 3031.... FLINT,MICH. 48502.

Dear Wilma:

IN responce to an appeal by a TVIC member regarding removing makeup...I have discovered a method which is most effective, uses a minimum of facial tissues, is very gentle to sensative skin and only takes 5 or 10 minutes...(1) Apply masscara remover to eyelashes...(2) Massage a small quantity of POND'S VASELINE INTENSIVE CARE LOTION thoroughly over make-up.(teaspoon full)...(3) Take a warm damp Polyurethane foam pad (2"x4"x1") and wipe exceas make-up and lotion from the face...(3) Remove make-up from foam with soap...(4) With a warm soapy foam pad remove remaining make-up...Rinse using foam pad...(6) To insure that every trace of make-up is removed apply a good skin cleanser and remove with facial tissue or sponge...(7) Gently pat a small amount of astringent over the face to close the pores...(8) A good moisturizing cream should be used at this point to prevent dryness...(9) A film of make-up will be left in the sink which can be easily removed using a second piece of foam along with soap & cleanser...THE polyurethane foam pad is much softer than a wash cloth or hands and you will experince a minimum of skin irration with this method...Especially if you plan to have another close shave within the next eight to twelve hours.

LYNDA ...BAMBER...ONTARIO...CANADA.



Man who fishes in other man's pond may catch crabs.

She makes love cafeteria style . . . you just help yourself.

Cruising down the river
Amid the weeds and fern . . .
I couldn't kiss her in the bow,
So I kissed her in the stern . . .

Dear Wilma:

In your last issue, you invited comments relative to your "Do's and Don't's" in dressing and appearance. I have a few and would like to share them with others through the Newsletter.

Every last one of us must at one time or another asked herself: "Why do I dress?" And I'll bet that almost every one of us will come up with a slightly different answer, which makes us each her own individual. It is terribly difficult to generalize, even more so if you are not aware of catalytic forces that send us severally to the makeup box.

Your advice is obviously directed at those whose prime concern is that of "passing" in public places, but for many of us, this is not necessarily the ultimate goal, any more than "The Operation" is. Difficult though it may be to generalize, I think few people will argue against two basic suppositions, namely (1) We all started in the closet, and (2) A very large proportion of us are the "wrong" side of 40. We are thus faced with two major inhibiting factors - the fear of discovery, and the presence of tell-tale lines and wrinkles.

Almost all closet TVs dress to satisfy fantasy and/or fetish - whether they admit to it or not - and when and if the time comes in which one of us feels the urge to venture forth, there has to be a trade-off between what she wants to wear and what commonsense dictates she ought to wear. This has happened to me more than once so I know whereof I speak. I have "passed" and know it to be a heady - and scary - experience. However passing does not rank excessively high on my list of priorities. I am aware that with other girls, nothing else really matters.

What is passing? I suggest that it is the excitement of having successfully made the trade-off between bravado and prudence to the extent that others have supposed us to be women. But at what expense to our individual styles and standards? It doesn't take much guts to dress-up as a frump and shuffle round the supermarket un-read. But it is also a queen-sized cop-out. So may I make the following suggestion to each one of our readers? Each of you is a highly individual female person, fashioned and molded through trial and error into the unique image you see in the mirror. The influences and sub-conscious forces that brought that image to fruition are many and complex, but there you are in all your glory. If you want to show yourself to the world and can get away with it, do so by all means and love it! But don't cheat yourself or whitewash that carefully cultivated image just for the sake of passing, because if you do pass, it'll be a very hollow victory...and only you will know!

Sincerely

A man who makes love in the morning is an idiot. After all, you never know what may turn up later in the day.

Paula D.

A lusty young soldier from Kildare
Was fondling his girl in a chair . . .
On the sixty-third stroke
The furniture broke,
And his rifle went off in the air.

QUESTION of the month sent in by a member.

HOW DID YOU PICK OUT YOUR FEMME NAME.

THERE it is...NOW lets see how many letters I can get on this question for the Journal.

IF you have a Question that you would liked answered...SEND it in and I will print it...

OR if you can write something other members would like to read send it along and it will be in the Journal...IT is these letters that make this paper. Helen & I use only 2 pages... these is your paper so send something & let me be the judge.....

SEE YOU ALL AT THE WEDDING.

W I L M A

Know what they call a woman who doesn't practice birth control? A Mother!

Virtue is just vice at rest.



"Pop won't come out unless he can wear his nightie."

Amazing Tale Of The FBI Agent Who Led Four Lives!

By ART BENTLEY

Eleanor Lorraine Schuler was once a double agent for the FBI... But she also was once a man and a scientist.

Now she's not the man she used to be, when she was known as John Huminik Jr. A sex-change operation made John, the father of four, into Eleanor, the woman.

"Leaving a family that you're attached to for 20 years was the hardest part," Eleanor, who lives in Washington, D.C., told GLOBE. "I cried a few hours every day for 90 days. But to me it was a choice of leaving the family and making the change or committing suicide."

As Huminik, a scientist with a genius I.Q. of 160, he fed the Soviet Union for six years with selected items of misinformation about rockets, supplied by the FBI. He packed a gun. His life was constantly in danger.

To Huminik, however, this death-defying life was the only way he could think of to prove to himself he was a man and not the woman he secretly longed to be.

Revolution

"I had no fear of dying," Eleanor says. "Because if I got killed, O.K. It would stop the inner voice, the voice that had been telling me since I was two that I was a female trapped in the body of a male."

Huminik courted death ardently. He was responsible for the expulsion from this country of a Russian embassy official charged with being a spy. His former wife, Alice, says the Russians could have killed him at any time and made his death look like an accident.

Huminik also played a part in a Communist revolution in Santo Domingo in 1965, a subject that Eleanor now refuses to discuss for reasons of national security.

His ex-wife says she saw "Eleanor" coming for 10 years.

At first, her husband would go into the bedroom, discreetly close the door behind him and then change into women's garments from a special wardrobe which he maintained for himself.

Finally, he told her he wanted to become a woman and had to leave.

"I have mixed feelings," Alice Huminik says. "It's not jealousy and not exactly bitterness. Perhaps after being married for 20 years it's that I resent his deception. But my true feeling is more one of sympathy."

The Russians got in contact with Huminik in 1960, when he was 24. They pried him with free lunches and small gifts in their efforts to persuade him to tell them all he knew about American rocketry.

He was then a "whiz kid" scientist with an engineering firm in Alexandria, Virginia, where he worked on high temperature coatings used on rockets.

"So I went to the FBI and they decided I should play along and act as a double agent," Eleanor said. "It was one of those volunteer things that they'll disown you if anything happened."



ELEANOR has left the excitement of her previous life behind.

Slowly

For six years, John Huminik "played." He made what spies call "dead drops," information left in tree stumps, behind bushes or in an empty well. He sent and received coded messages. He met other agents in dim bars and restaurants.

"Again, this was in keeping with my femininity," Eleanor Schuler said. "I wanted to become super macho."

He was in constant danger of exposure — and death — until his

Russian chief, because of evidence largely gathered by Huminik, was finally expelled from the country in 1966.

But when his double life ended, so did the promise of manliness that Huminik needed so desperately. And slowly, John Huminik began to become Eleanor Schuler.

Before the sex-change operation — one of 10,000 estimated to have been performed in this country — Huminik lived as a woman for a year, taking hormones which caused his breasts to grow.

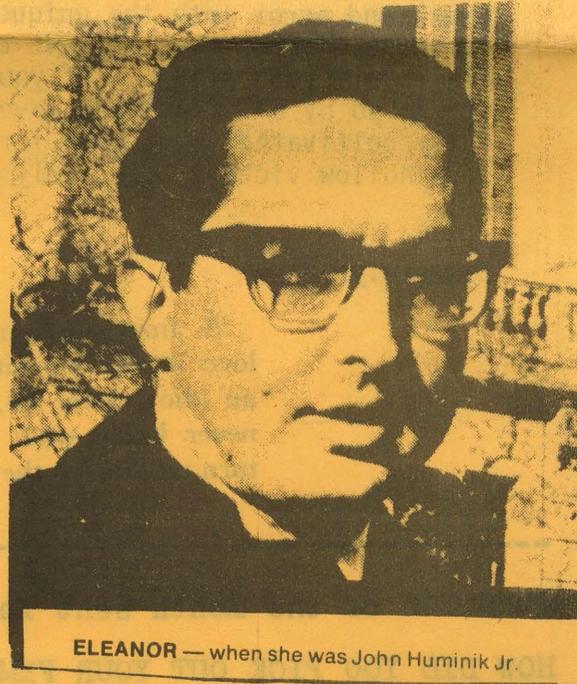
Next came the operation, and next, perhaps the biggest moment of all — Eleanor's first date. With an Army major. A real ladies' man.

"That was a big step, knowing that I was totally acceptable as a woman, because he never knew," she said.

Reminders

Not that there are many clues. The surgery left no scars. Her skin has always been soft. Her measurements are 36-28-37. Her beard, never heavy, was eliminated by electrolysis.

The only giveaways, if any, are the hands. They're large and masculine.



ELEANOR — when she was John Huminik Jr.

But Eleanor Schuler doesn't try to hide them. To her, they are reminders of what was, and what might still be if she had lacked the courage she spent most of her manhood trying to prove.



"Ok, who was it?"