

# Cross-Port Inner View

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is April 21 at 7.30

## A New View

by Cathy

What a time! We are going to press two weeks early this issue because Linda and I will be at the I.F.G.E. convention in San Francisco the first week of April. Add an almost disastrous hard drive failure two days before the plane takes off and my nerves are practically shot. All I can say is "Praise the Lord and pass the back up tapes!"

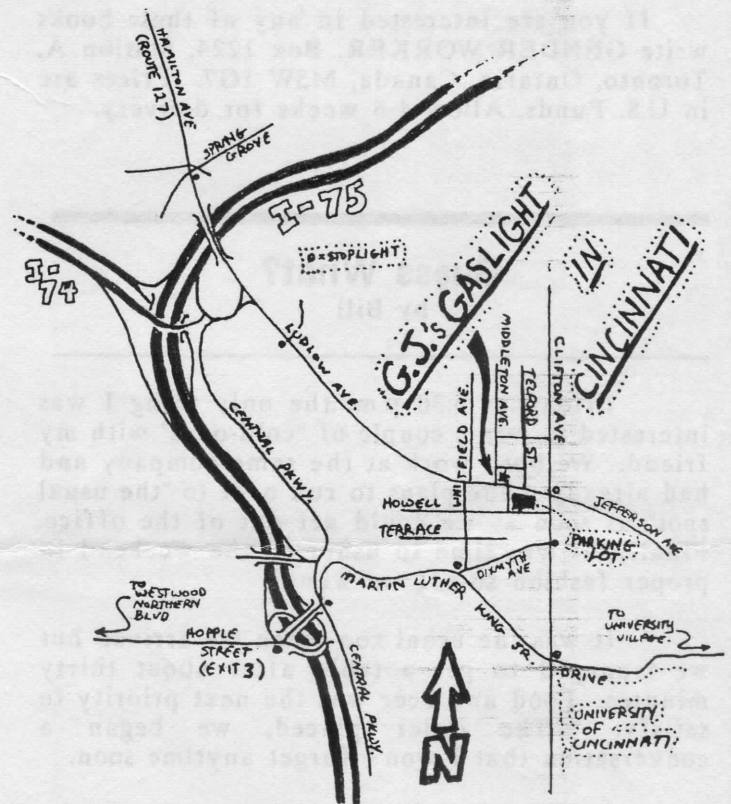
With the trip to San Francisco only two days away, I keep waxing warm and cold on the going. In one way I'm really excited by the prospect of being femme for seven days in a row. Everyone says it will be wonderful. In another way I really dread shaving my body twice, my face fourteen times, and spending twelve to eighteen hours putting on makeup in such a short span of days. I wonder how it will affect my "normal" view of cross-dressing. Unlike some, I will be taking male clothing with me in case I suffer from "panty hose shock" and need to beat a hasty retreat. Well one thing's for sure-- I'm going to find out soon enough.

The meeting in March was attended by two dozen ladies and assorted camp followers. Valerie was back for a visit, she's been working in Alabama for the last several months. People were so glad to see her that she was awarded the title "Miss CD Alabama" by popular acclaim. Not bad for someone with a mustache

We were able to announce a definite place to meet to assemble the May newsletter. Be at G J's Gaslight on May 11th at 8:00. For those of you not familiar with the Clifton area of Cincinnati, we've included a map. G. J's is located on the north side of Ludlow Avenue, between Telford and Middleton. A block away is a public parking lot which has access to Ludlow via steps at the

back of the lot. Most of the time this is easier to use than finding a parking spot on the street. Cars enter the lot from Howell Avenue.

When you are looking for the restaurant, look for a bright red canopy around the building. There is a chili parlor right next to the restaurant and it also has a bright red canopy. If you see one, you've found both. Hope to see you there.



Thanks to JoAnn Roberts we are able to reproduce two pages from her book *Art & Illusion: A Guide to Crossdressing*, second edition. This is the latest update on fashion sizes and how they fit. If you are interested in a copy of the book, write JoAnn Roberts, Creative Design Services, Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406

We've also received a series of book reviews on TS and TV issues from Rupert Raj, who edited the Metamorphosis newsletter when it was in publication. These will be published over the next several issues. He is also offering those interested in building their own resource library a chance to purchase the following books:

*BODYSHOCK: The Truth about Changing Sex* by Liz Hodgkinson - \$18.00

*GENDER NETWORKER* newsletter (two 1988 issues) by Rupert Raj - \$6.66

*In Search of Eve: Transsexual Rites of Passage* by Anne Bolin - \$18.00

*Standards of Care* - Harry Benjamin Int'l Gender Dys. Assoc - \$15.00

*The Uninvited Dilemma: A Question of Gender* by Kim Stuart - \$15.00

*T.U.D. Research Supplement* - \$15.00

If you are interested in any of these books write GENDER WORKER, Box 1224, Station A, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M5W 1G7 Prices are in U.S. Funds. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.

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## Guess What?

by Bill

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Friday at 5:30 p.m. the only thing I was interested in was a couple of "cold-ones" with my friend. We both work at the same company and had already made plans to run over to "the usual spot" as soon as we could get out of the office. Finally, it was time to usher in the weekend in proper fashion so off we went.

It was the usual zoo when we arrived but we managed to get a table after about thirty minutes. Food and beer was the next priority to satisfy. The order placed, we began a conversation that I won't forget anytime soon.

My friend and I have discovered over the last three years that we have a lot in common. Besides being born on the same day, in the same year, we share a lot of the same interests. Our wives sometimes are equally amazed at how close the similarities are. Well, I was to learn this evening of one acute difference in our lives. A difference that could "test the metal" of any friendship, and in all probability end most. It

turns out that being in a minority sometimes isn't all that bad.

"I have something I'd like to tell you" he said. "I'll need your word that you will not mention this to anyone. It could very likely end my career if it ever got back to the office."

Well, this was an unusual opening for a conversation! I began to wonder who the hell he had killed. "O.K. You have my word. I won't even tell my wife if you don't want me to", I replied. "Do you remember the last Halloween party? The costume I wore?" I remembered that he had come in "drag" to that party. I could tell that he was getting rather tense. "Yes, I don't think I could forget that. You were pretty convincing!"

"Well," he said, "that's not the only time I've dressed like that." "Yeah," I said, "I heard that you came like that to a party a couple of years earlier. Everyone was so amused I wondered if you'd ever do it again." (Here's where I went to the ozone layer for a minute or two) "Well, that's not exactly what I mean. I dress like that more often than Halloween. Actually, I dress like that as often as I can. I enjoy it."

As I sat there wondering if I had somehow consumed more beer than I was able to remember, I glanced up at his face. He was serious. Now, what do I say? I decided to see where this conversation was going to lead.

"How long have you been dressing like a woman?" I asked. "Who else knows? Does your wife know? Why?" I have to admit that curiosity began to overtake the initial shock. "You know how whenever you notice a pretty girl at a bar," he began, "that more often than not there are people falling over themselves to pay extra attention to her." "Of course!" I replied. "So?" "Well, when I'm dressed up I get that kind of attention, and I really get off on it!" he said.

"Well, who do you tell people you are?" I asked. "I use the name Cathy." he said with a grin. "Does the wife know?", I asked again. "When I first told her" he started, "she didn't handle it very well. She was upset. Now, she even goes to my monthly meetings with me. By the way, I belong to a group of other cross-dressers that meet once a month."

About this time, my wife entered the bar. We motioned for her to come over to the table. When she sat down the conversation did not change. She was brought up to date on "current events". She reacted much the way I had expected her to. Disbelief, followed by curiosity, then

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gradual acceptance. We talked for a few more hours. As he talked, in the back of my mind I kept going over things about my life that I couldn't tell just anyone. Things that would put me "at risk", just as my friend was when he confided in me and my wife. He had put more than a friendship on the line that night. He had enough trust in us to share a very private part of his life. That in itself means a lot! My wife Sue and I met a new friend in the bar that night. Her name is Cathy.

Since then, one of the best times I have had in a long time was going Christmas shopping with my wife, Cathy, and "her" wife. We played "hookey" from work and spent the day shopping downtown, talking, and just plain having a good time. I have to admit, she's "quite a gal". And he's quite a friend

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## Visiting Friends

by Jennifer Marquette

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I have seen two monuments dedicated primarily to young men. The first was on a foggy early morning in our nation's capitol. I looked for the name of a cousin who was more an older brother to me. He stepped on a mine one day in Southeast Asia. At his funeral his photograph and bronze star decorated the sealed coffin which contained his shredded body parts. I never cried at his ceremony. It never occurred to this ten year old that he could possibly be gone; out of my life forever.

About a year later I went to dinner at my cousin's. It seemed a somber dinner. There was a marine sergeant at the head of the table. He was my dead cousin's best friend in combat. After dinner the two of us ended up on the back porch. I pressed him for details: "I glanced down at the trail and felt the rush of air before I heard the explosion. I looked up and he was gone." Eventually I asked him if he cried. "We were the closest friends. But no, I didn't. You don't cry while you're in battle. You have to fight. I cried today when I visited his grave." This all happened before Vietnam became a very unpopular war.

When I found his name on the black polished surface of the memorial I swelled with feeling. I still miss him after all these years. I turned away from my companion in tears. I don't cry often and I am never ashamed when I do, but it is my grief and I don't wish to share it.

On Easter Sunday I visited the second of these monuments. The Names Project Quilt of the AIDS Victims was on display at the Cincinnati Convention Center. It filled the great hall of the second floor and the northeast ballroom. And this was only 15% of the entire Quilt. I saw names of young men born the same year as I, and younger. There were many poetic verses wrapped around these buried names but the epitaphs that hit me hardest were spartan farewells: "Rick, I forgive you, I miss you. Love, Judy." That square yard of material contained her pain and reconciliation. But not just men, a dead mother's hand broke the border of her fabric and reached for the palm of her dead newborn who resided in the cloth next to her.

I was looking for the name of a fellow high school graduate. He died last year. He wrote several guest editorials for the Cincinnati Enquirer about the current events of his life and his life's losing battle.

I came across the quilt of Leonard Matlovich, the Air Force Sergeant who made the cover of Time when he proclaimed himself a homosexual. His quilt said, "I was given a medal for killing two men and was discharged for loving one." Sgt. Matlovich lived through Vietnam and was killed in another very unpopular war.

Many Americans are fighting and dying against another unseen enemy. They haven't the support of most other Americans either.

We are not a community apart from this disease. In other parts of the country, AIDS has made significant inroads to the heterosexual population. Soon, that will happen in our area and those of us who have not been on the front line - will.

I did not cry while I viewed the Quilt, you don't cry while you're in battle. But it frightens me to think which of my friends I will inevitably cry over. I don't want that to happen. Please take care, Jennifer

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## Book Review

by Rupert Raj

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*TRANVESTITES AND TRANSSEXUALS.*  
*Toward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior* by  
 Richard F. Doctor, Ph.D., Plenum Press, New  
 York/London, 1988, 251 pps

Tenth in the series of *Perspectives In Sexuality: Behavior, research and Therapy*, Richard Docter's book is an important successor to Steiner et al's 1985 study on the development, research and management of gender dysphoria (eighth in the series). Not only because his "national gender project" carries on the research endeavor and builds on the clinical results presented in the 1985 report -- and also those of its predecessors -- but, for the further reason that he employs a research perspective that is unique to the study of crossgender identity -- that is, a social psychology approach that incorporates a **developmental/learning model** of behavior.

This **psychological/cognitive model** -- in contrast to the biological/medical model and the intrapsychic/psychodynamic model -- attempts to explain transvestism and transsexualism in terms of social learning processes, such as classical and operant conditioning, modeling and imitation. Docter believes that such cognitive and developmental factors have been historically understated in terms of crossgender research. Yet, he urges us not to ignore the rich and vital contributions inherent in the other two paradigms, and he includes them in his review of the literature.

Docter's work also merits significance because of his treatment of transvestism as a **changing process** rather than a stable behavior pattern. He presents a multistage theory of heterosexual transvestism which relies heavily on the lifespan or developmental view of this phenomena and he attempts to account for secondary transsexualism (which he believes has a much higher incidence than primary transsexualism) as "the product of the developmental struggles of some transvestites." (p. vi).

*Transvestites and Transsexuals* focusses mainly on the former group (comprising predominantly heterosexual men), and also features data on 35 wives of the 110 transvestites studied, including a look at marital adjustment, choice of marital partner, problems as seen by wives and their comments to prospective wives of transvestites. Docter's presentation of the crossdressing continuum includes discussion on a number of gender-discordant variations: fetishism, fetishistic transvestism, marginal transvestism, transgenderism, primary and secondary transsexualism, and also, to a very limited extent, drag queens and female impersonators.

Examination of transsexuals, a minor theme throughout the book, is limited to genetic males and the existence of female transvestites is virtually discounted, with the exception of a referral to Stoller (1982, 1985c) Transsexual

topics treated in this work include: historical and etiological aspects, primary versus secondary transsexualism, outcomes of transvestite and transsexual "careers" and studies differentiating the two, the relationship to gender identity, and follow-up studies of sex reassignment.

The inclusion of **transgenderism** -- which the author regards as "a behaviorally definable landmark or plateau intermediate between very intense transvestism and secondary transsexualism" (p. viii) -- is especially noteworthy considering that the term is conspicuously absent from the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM-III-R), even though it has been perceived as a subgroup in its own right for many years, and Docter urges its inclusion as part of the gender spectrum.

Docter defines transgenderism as: "full-time living in the cross-gender role in the absence of sexual reassignment surgery, with oscillation, however rare, back and forth from one gender role to another... These individuals may represent cases in transition to secondary transsexualism... The transgenderist usually seeks female hormone prescriptions and such cosmetic and dental treatment as may be considered helpful. This category has some major similarities and some important differences to Benjamin's Type 4, or nonsurgical transsexual (1966). Marked individual differences in life-style are seen among transgenderists. We know of individuals who reverse gender roles daily, working as men and functioning entirely in a feminine gender role each evening and usually on weekends. For others, the duration of time in each role is measured by weeks or months, and less commonly, some function in a cross-gender role for years with very rare reversion back to the male role." (pps. 21-22).

**Self theory** is the overall theoretical framework used in this study. This conceptualizes the constructs of identity, gender identity, and crossgender identity as subsystems of the self. Docter examines the concept of a "feminine self" or "second self", arguing that this temporary reversal of gender identity in transvestism occurs after extensive fetishistic crossdressing has been learned and practiced. How the self system manages the crossgender identity his argument goes, is what determines the stability, or alternately, the "progression" of transvestism into some other behavior pattern, such as transgenderism or transsexualism. Docter formulates his five-stage theory on transvestism utilizing four major thematic constructs: sexual arousal and sexual excitement, feelings of pleasure, sexual scripts and crossgender identity.

A final point of interest should be noted. Docter states in preface, that although he relates his work to the definitions given in DSM-III-R (published in 1987 by the American Psychiatric Association) -- because this is the internationally accepted standard for describing and categorizing psychiatric disorders -- he does not "assume that either transvestism or transsexualism ought to be conceptualized as disorders." He believes that such a view "stems from a medical mode of illness which does not clarify the understanding of these behaviors." Docter therefore reminds us that he sees "both good and harm" in using this medical model terminology. (p. viii).

This reviewer can say with confidence that *Transvestites and Transsexuals* contributes significantly to the ever-growing accumulation of scientific knowledge that may, hopefully someday, piece together the puzzle of crossgender behavior

*Rupert Raj, B.A. (Psych.), P.R., Director of GENDER WORKER, has reviewed a number of books, tapes and films on "Gender Dysphoria Syndrome".*

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## Transexual Issues: Yin and Yang

by Heather Peerson

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Masculine and Feminine are words which define characteristics or qualities of a personality. While either gender may display either of these characteristics, the sad fact is that those two words have almost become synonymous with male and female, man and woman

Whether we use the terms yin and yang or soft and hard or even just A and B to replace masculine and feminine as class definitions, the truth is that neither class is better than the other. In fact, a well developed personality should be able to draw the best characteristics from both classes and use them when appropriate.

In the gender community however, we sometimes use them to judge our behavior and the behavior of others as to whether we are acting like a "man" or a "woman". For instance:

The ability to cry, to nurture, to care for others, to express one's feelings and openly deal with one's problems is generally considered feminine while suppression of tears, not discussing one's feelings and ignoring one's problems and other people in favor of work is considered masculine. Many times, a person who

displays the more feminine feelings is considered to be "a baby" by the more "Macho" people.

In the above considerations, the feminine feelings are felt to be the "good" qualities while the lack of these qualities is "bad". The same is true going the other way.

The ability to be logical, businesslike, strong, and aggressive are considered masculine and "good", while the feminine person is considered to be air-headed, not good in business, weak and passive.

These A and B characteristics are further defined by our outer view of a person. A woman who wears make-up is considered feminine (and good) while a man who wears it would be a sissy (and bad). A woman who swings her hips when she walks is sexy (and good) yet a man doing the same is labeled effeminate (and gay and bad).

While in Boston, I was introduced to a new line of thinking. Instead of thinking in terms of "Gender Issues" we should be thinking about "Total Personality Development". What this means is that we strive to include and develop both the "masculine and the feminine" characteristics of our personality, making each a positive attribute and dropping the negative concept. Once this is accomplished, we can allow ourself and others to display themselves in their more comfortable form.

As an example, one person I know always kept the A and B sides apart. He struggled with his crossdressing for many years. Once he was able to really get in touch with his "feminine side" he stopped crossdressing. In his own words, "I won't say I stopped, I just don't feel the need to do it now." He is able to express himself and his feeling without feeling a threat to his "manhood", and he feels more comfortable as a man.

Another friend once used a woman's name and presented himself as a woman when crossdressed. Now this person still wears skirts and blouses but uses their man's name and presents himself as a man.

This is truly what each of us should be striving to achieve: a personality, fully developed and filled with the best of the YIN and the YANG. When that day comes the only "Gender Issue" will be whether someone can give birth or not.

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Linda's Corner

I don't know how many of you have ever read the "Transvestian", but if you haven't, I can tell you that many people do. It is a paper tabloid, usually 32 pages long, with letters, stories, pictures and an ad section on the last 9 pages. It comes out about every 40-50 days, and can be found in dirty bookstores or you may subscribe by mail. Some people call it trash because some of the stories are quite bold, and many of the people in the personal ad section come right out and say they want sex.

Since Tania, (the owner) has had so many complaints from the straight crossdressers, she has come out with a new paper on the same format as the "Transvestian". It's called "Femarine". If you would like to see a copy, she will send you one for free. Just send \$1.00 (for postage) to:

Tania Volen, Inc.
200 Main Street
Tennent, N.J. 07763-0200

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If you have trouble finding the larger size shoes, I must tell you that I just received a new mailing from Lee's Mardi Gras. Included, was two pages of hard to find shoes. They show 25 different styles in many different colors. Almost all range in size between 9-13, with some 14's. Widths are C,D,W,WW. (These are male sizes, not womens) Prices range from \$39 on up.

You may write to:
Lee's Mardi Gras Ent., Inc.
P.O. Box 843
New York, N.Y. 10108

They do not sell or rent their mailing list

and I have never had any problem with anything I have ever bought from them.

Also, I stopped in Payless Shoes in downtown Cincinnati on Race St., and noticed they still carry a very, very large selection of sizes 11 & 12. In fact, I have no doubt, they probably carry more in this store, than all the others combined.

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If you need the larger size in clothing, I might suggest you look in the new Kenwood Towne Mall in Cincinnati. My wife and I went shopping there a couple of months ago, and found two or three stores that sell really nice larger clothes. They were a bit expensive, but we picked up on some sale items and were very pleased.

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As I write this, I am starting to get ready for my week in San Francisco at the IFGE convention. By the time you read this, I will already be back. (maybe)

I plan to fly out as a girl, and I will not bring any male clothing with me. I am a bit apprehensive at this time, but expect to get over it once I get going. (I always do) I do plan to take plenty of pictures while there, and of course I will write about my escapades in future issues. I wish you could all join me, but perhaps you can at another time. See you later. - Linda

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ATTENTION!!
A new group is attempting to form in the Columbus area. If interested, write to:
Forming Group
P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg, OH 43068-0287
Include a way for them to contact you.
They plan to meet in a motel conference room on April 29 in Columbus.
This will be an 'open' group for TV & TS.

Publication Notice
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Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of cross-dressers, trans-sexuals and their family and friends.

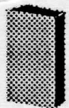
**8 Figure-eight (average figure):** This is the classic female form. Upper and lower torsos are equal in length and there is a visible indentation at the waistline. If you already look like this, you don't need any help!



**Barrel (full figured):** The barrel shape is characterized by the upper torso being shorter but broader than the lower torso. In other words, broad shouldered and short-waisted. You probably don't have a waistline, but that can be dealt with later. You will also most likely wear a larger size up top and a smaller sized bottom.



**Pear (thin or full figured):** The pear is the opposite of the barrel. Your waist and hips are bigger than your chest. This is common with natural females but should be relatively uncommon in males.



**Box (thin or full figured):** This is where a lot of you will be classified. The box figure is just about equal in all directions. Your goal will be to create an artificial waistline.

**Clothing Sizes**

Lucky us! Clothing manufacturers and retailers have finally realized that all women do not wear sizes 6 to 10. As a matter of fact, the average woman wears a size 12. This means that 50% of the women wear a larger size. That is real bonus for us "big-boned" girls. Many up to date styles are now available for the fuller figure. So, you don't have to look dowdy or go on a starvation diet to look nice. However, you must know what size and styles are best for you. You are going to discover a fact that women have known for quite some time, no two dresses, skirts, tops, etc., fit the same, even from the same manufacturer. Because of my broad shoulders, I usually need a size 18, but there are 16's and 14's and even a 13 in my closet that fit just fine. You will learn only by trial and error what styles and what sizes work for you.

Don't despair! I will try to save you a lot of time and money. Given below are the current body measurements related to dress sizes. In 1986 the garment industry adopted new designations for women's and half sizes. Womens sizes are now noted with a "W" and half sizes with a "WP", for Womens Petite.

MISSES SIZES ( in inches)								
SIZE	10	12	14	16	18	20	22	24
Bust	32½	34	36	38	40	42	44	46
Waist	25	26½	28	30	32	34	36	38
Hips	34½	36	38	40	42	44	46	48
Back Length	16	16¼	16½	16¾	17	17¼	17½	17¾
N.B. petite sizes are about 1" shorter in back length								
WOMEN'S SIZES								
OLD SIZE	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	
NEW SIZE	16W	18W	20W	22W	24W	26W	28W	
Bust	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	
Waist	32	34	36	38	41	43	46	
Hips	39	41	43	45	47	49	51	
Back Length	17¼	17¾	17½	17⅝	17¾	17⅞	18	

HALF SIZES							
OLD SIZE	12 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	14 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	18 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	20 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	22 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	24 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
NEW SIZE	12WP	14WP	16WP	18WP	20WP	22WP	24WP
Bust	35	37	39	41	43	45	47
Waist	29	31	33	35	37	39	41
Hips	37	37	41	43	45 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	48	50 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
Back Length	15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	15 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>	15 <sup>3</sup> / <sub>4</sub>	15 <sup>7</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	16	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>8</sub>	16 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>

Notice that there are a lot of overlaps in bust waist and hip measurements, especially between Misses and Womens. Now look at the measurement called Back Length, that is where the real difference will be found. This is the distance from the base of the neck to the center of the waist. Compare the Back Length measurements for similar sizes in all three charts. Note that while a 16WP has more generous measurements than a Misses 16, it is fully three quarters of an inch shorter in the torso! Take your own measurements and select the size that matches most closely. If you are like me, you may find that you fall within two sizes. The answer is alterations, either by my your hand or done professionally by a tailor.

Different styles in the same size will fit differently. A pull-on dress with elasticized waist will fit easier than one with a back zipper and fitted waist. You may be able to wear a size smaller than usual in a simple chemise, while a slinky dinner dress in the right size won't fit. Also, in general, the cheaper the price the tighter the fit. This is due to something dress designers call "ease." Ease is the extra material added to a pattern to allow for slight variations in the size of the wearer. One way to reduce costs is to cut more patterns from a given piece of cloth, therefore the amount of ease is reduced along with smaller seam allowances.

When buying clothes look at the quality of workmanship in the garment. Are the edges trimmed and basted? Is the garment lined? Are hems and seams straight and tight?

These are all signs of quality. Even though you may not dress very often, when you do, you should look the best that you can.

### Some Do's & Don'ts

You are trying to create an illusion, so use illusion to your advantage. Some general rules apply to different body frame types.

Tall Frame ( 5'8" and up)	
<u>DO WEAR</u>	<u>DON'T WEAR</u>
Long jackets	Cover whole body
Low waistlines	Tight clothes
2pc dresses	Short skirts
Flared/pleated skirts	Short waisted dresses
Wide collars	Bolero jackets
Horizontal lines	Vertical stripes
Wide belts	
Moderate heels	
Large Frame ( Size 16 and up)	
<u>DO WEAR</u>	<u>DON'T WEAR</u>
Princess style jackets	Front pleated skirts
Dirndl skirts	Heavy wools
V-neck sweaters	Shiny fabrics
Solid colors	Sleeveless dress
Small prints	
Diagonal lines at bust	Stiff fabrics
Full or 3/4 sleeves	Bold fabrics
Narrow belts or none	Plaids
Vertical lines	Square neckline