



Tri-Ess Sorority

our Special
JOY



Metro

Vol. III, No. 6

CHAPTER

June, 1983

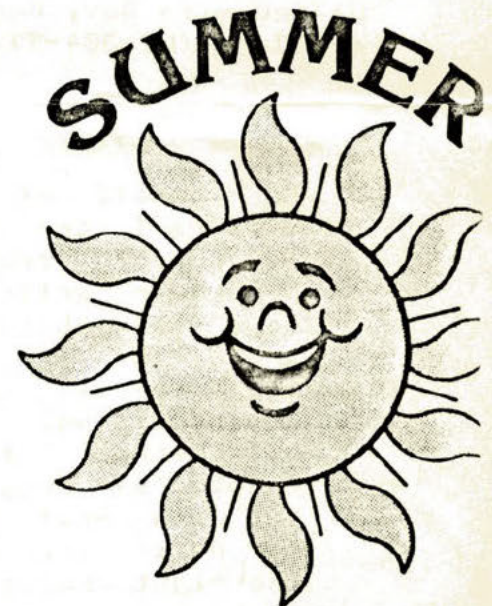
NEWS! NEWS! NEWS!

Meetings

...The membership will be happy to learn that CHI DELTA MU has made contact with a major newspaper to "tell our story". Jana (NJ-304-T), is responsible for this effort and we all, I'm sure, are greatly appreciative of her work.

Jana's recount of the May 14th meeting is as follows:

"As you no doubt heard, it turned out to be quite exciting. The Civil Liberties people to whom I spoke backed off of our May meeting date: they didn't have time to prepare, etc. But the NYCLU indicated they would have a speaker for us in June. This latter item is yet to be confirmed...but I expect them to follow through. And I'll let you know within a week or two. (They have and plan to be at our June meeting, Ed.)



As it was, I'd been talking with the BERGEN RECORD of Hackensack--northern New Jersey's leading newspaper. I had taken them a press packet similar to, but more inclusive than, Julie [redacted]. (For example, it made specific reference to Lord Cornbury, the early NY/NJ governor mentioned a couple of times in the FEMME MIRROR.) My contact at the RECORD thought our story might be worth following up...although I wasn't sure if a reporter would be immediately assigned. But she was! And as you probably know, Elaine D'Aurizio and Amy, a photographer, visited with us on May 14th. (continued on next page)

Elaine and Amy getting ready to meet those who attended our May meeting. Photo: Patricia.

Elaine continued to question and interview us. [REDACTED] at 9 P.M. And then let her own hair down [REDACTED] the Sisters--and wives--present until quite a bit after midnight. As a result, no other business was conducted, or even contemplated.

Since I get the RECORD every day, I'll alert various Sisters as soon as the article about us appears. It would be especially nice if we could get hold of the many dozens of photos shot by the RECORD photographer. (Between Patricia, Dorothy, and the newspaper, I'm sure we had greater photo coverage than any other TRI-ESS meeting in history!)

The Sisters I noted in attendance were: Frances, my co-hostess (NJ 10-B), Patricia (CT-8-G), Renata Lee (CT-102-W), Joan (NY-9-F), Marlene (NY-314-B), Lynda (NJ-307-F) and wife Marilyn, Dorothy (NJ-1 G) and wife Bev, Karen--a friend of Patricia's and new to the area, and Jana (NJ-304-T)."

On behalf of all Chapter Sisters I want to thank Jana for her efforts in the newspaper article (which we hope to publish), and for organizing the meeting for the legal aspects of crossdressing. Jana has volunteered to be the Chapter's Program Planner, and with what she has done for us so far, I know she is the right choice! She is now working on a program for the Fall to be conducted by Muriel Olive, of Femme Fashion Expressions of New York City.



Attending the May meeting of the Chapter were: (front row, left to right) Karen, Renata Lee, and Lynda. (back row, left to right) Frances, Dorothy, Marlene, Patricia, and Jana. Photo: Patricia.



...June meeting. Our June meeting will be the occasion of the Chapter's first Prom, and Renata Lee and Patricia will be co hostessing, with Jana's program on the legal aspects of crossdressing with representative(s) from the New York Civil Liberties Union.

...July and August meetings. The membership will decide at the June meeting of July and August meetings. If it is decided that we will have a July and/or August meeting, a flyer will be included with the newsletter to let you know of the details. Please respond if you want to attend.



In Case You Missed It

Dear Ann Landers: This will never reach you personally and if it does you will never print it. I am sick of your obsession with transvestism and your apparent determination to prove that half the male population enjoys dressing up in ladies' clothes. For example: your letter to "popeyes in Jacksonville", who, while working for an ambulance service, discovered two very macho men wearing ladies' underwear. Isn't it possible that the pop-eyed jerk didn't know the difference between women's panties and the ever increasingly popular bikini briefs for men? To the country bumpkins who are accustomed to seeing baggy boxer shorts the skimpy, colorful briefs might have looked like women's panties. I seriously doubt that there is nearly as much male transvestism as you would like your readers to believe. I've yet to encounter a single one, and I've been around as much as you. So there, dammit! Mad in Rochester.

Dear Roch: My knowledge of transvestites is not information gleaned from my social life. What I know I have learned from authorities. I buy the bit about updated shorts for men, but nylon stockings and garter belts? Surely you jest.

(Commentary: to Ann, improve your social life and get to know some Sisters; to Roch: everyone knows that some of the best Sisters who pass live in western New York, right Connie?)

Chapter Library

You will find a partial listing of the Chapter Library's contents on this page and on the next. In addition, we also have some tapes that may be of interest to you. Several Sisters plan to donate additional books and materials to the library, for which we are thankful. You must be a current (dues paid), member of the Chapter to be able to use the library; your only cost is return 1st class postage. Contact Edith Marie (NY - 319 - W), your Chapter Librarian, as follows: Don
[redacted] Draw R,
Valley Cottage, New York 10989.

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- WALDO, Myra. The Prime of Life and How to Make it Last. New York, Macmillan Publishing Co, Inc.
- WALLACH, Janet. Working Wardrobe - Affordable Clothes That Work For You. New York, Warner Books, Inc., 1982.

Shopping

If you frequent the upper mid-West, you may be interested to learn that our Sister, Ruthann [REDACTED] (WI-14-L), has published a CROSSDRESSER'S GUIDE TO THE UPPER MIDWEST. This is a; "...where to go and what to do directory for crossdressers who live in or visit the Wisconsin, Minnesota, Iowa, northern Illinois area". The GUIDE lists friendly places to shop, to dine and to hang out. Friendly cosmetic services and other helping professionals are also listed.

The GUIDE is available from Ruthann [REDACTED] P. O. Box 813, Madison, Wisconsin 53701. Copies are \$4.00 apiece. For an extra \$1.00, purchasers will receive four quarterly updates. (Checks and money orders should be made payable to Howard [REDACTED] Cash is "ok" too.)

If such a guide can be developed for the upper mid-West, imagine what type of GUIDE could be developed for our area! And with all the people who visit the New York area each year, imagine what revenue would accrue our Chapter if we had such a GUIDE. Any volunteers for such a project?

Chapter Promotion & Activities

...Our ad in the VILLAGE VOICE pictured here has thus far generated 19 replies from people wanting to know more about us. They have been sent letters suggesting that they contact Carol in California, and I've asked Nora Helene to send each person a copy of the May newsletter.

CROSSDRESSERS-Hetero Only
TRIASS Chapter exists in NYC Area
Meets monthly. Wives, girlfriends w/cm
Contact POB 287, Bklyn, NY 11214

...Replies by area are as follows: New Jersey (central): 2; Rockland: 1; Westchester: 3; Nassau: 1; Manhattan: 8; Queens: 2; out of area: 1; not known: 1.

...No doubt that when the article appears on us in the RECORD we can expect a great number of inquiries from potential members.

...Jana, Wilma, and I are still working on the Chapter's by-laws. There are only a few items to be resolved, and once we have concluded, the by-laws will be published as part of the newsletter. One item we have agreed upon is that all Chapter members must become members of the National Organization, although the time to do so (3 or 6 months), must still be resolved. Therefore, to be a CHI DELTA MU Sister, you will eventually have to join the Sorority. Dues are \$25/year, and you can contact Carol Beecroft as follows: P. O. Box 194, Tulare, California 93275.



At the May meeting, Elaine and Amy doing their thing with those in attendance. Photo: Patricia.



...I neglected to add under "Meetings" that our Fall schedule is as follows: September 10, October 8, November 12, and December 10. We are planning a repeat of April's Lingerie Shopping Opportunity and as mentioned, a demonstration by Muriel Olive of femme fashions (dates to be determined). Our Chapter meeting fee is \$10.00, which covers food and motel rooms. As always, there is no charge for your wife/girlfriend.

...Test time. As it is now June, we all remember struggling through Regents and other final exams. Well, here's your chance to see how you can do on YOUR favorite subject! Thanks to Jana, we have the following "final" which is on the next page. Answers to be printed in the July issue of OUR SPECIAL JOY. Good luck!

DEDUCTION DILEMMA

Try your hand at this logic puzzle.

One lovely Saturday, five Tv friends dressed in their most stylish outfits and went on a shopping expedition. They visited many shops in a large mall and each purchased one new item for her wardrobe. One of the purchases was a burgundy leather handbag. No two items were the same and all had different price tags.

That evening, at a Tri-Ess function, Ms. Cohen was asked about the afternoon's adventure: Who was in the party, what did each person buy ... and for how much? Being somewhat forgetful, Ms. Cohen could only recall some seemingly unrelated facts. But several astute sisters in the group were able to piece them all together.

Can you do the same ... determining each woman's full name, her expenditure, and the item she purchased?

1. Marie did not buy the suit.
2. Holly spent twice as much as Ms. Esposito, who paid \$10 more than the woman who bought the shoes.
3. Ms. Anderson spent \$15 more than Karen.
4. Penny's last name isn't Esposito.
5. Ms. Donovan spent twice as much as the purchaser of the blazer, who spent \$10 more than Penny.
6. Ms. Berthold isn't Karen.
7. Jennifer spent twice as much as the woman who bought the blouse, which cost \$5 more than Ms. Berthold's purchase.
8. Neither Ms. Donovan or Ms. Berthold bought shoes.
9. Holly did not buy the blouse or the blazer.

<u>ANSWER</u>	<u>Full name</u>	<u>Item purchased</u>	<u>Cost</u>
	Holly _____	_____	_____
	Jennifer _____	_____	_____
	Karen _____	_____	_____
	Marie _____	_____	_____
	Penny _____	_____	_____

Food For Thought

"Sisterhood"

For many years a number of you may have never admitted your femininity to another person. Indeed, you may have tried not even admitting this important part of you to yourself! You may have tried to fight "it". And, as one Sister recently asked me, "...why did God punish me this way?"

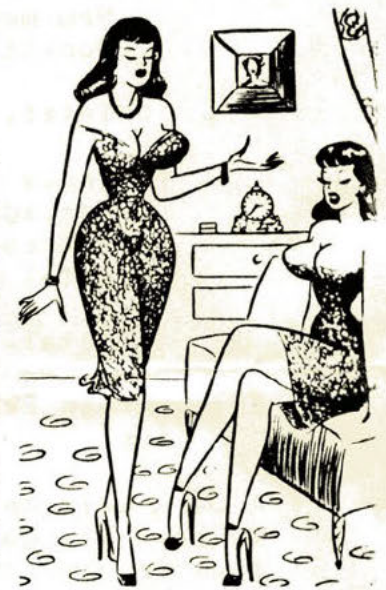
Well, fortunately most of us grow and accept ourselves the way we are. We are males, and we love to wear pretty things to give outward expression of our feminine personality. Growth doesn't come easy, and it certainly is hampered when you are alone. Meeting and knowing others who are just like yourself adds a whole new dimension to your feminine expression.

This is where the Sorority and its Chapters play an important role. They offer you the chance to meet your Sisters and enjoy what we've called, "our special joy". You learn of the experiences of others (both the good and bad), tips on improving your appearance, that you are not the only male in the world who adores having bright red nail polish on your fingernails, and many, many other items which help you to enjoy your femininity. These experiences are shared at Chapter meetings and informal socials which develop from friendships made through the Chapter. Your world begins to take on new meaning for yourself.

So, if you limit your participation in the Chapter to simply reading the newsletter each month, you are missing a lot of the benefits which the Chapter has to offer, and you are also missing the opportunity to meet some truly lovely people. If you are still fighting "it", perhaps the Chapter and its members can help bring you to the point where, in your cutest dress, you look in a mirror and say, "Thank God for being blessed this way".

--Ed.

FEMME MIRROR,
October, 1981



*"All this practice! And Walki
And Sitting! Remember when
it was just panties, Walt?"*



Support THE organization
which supports YOUR right
to personal expression.

Cross-

The Society for the Second Self

dress

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash Balance (5/1/83).....\$367.64

Receipts

Meeting fees.....90.00
New membership.....10.00
Donations.....25.00

Total.....125.00

Expenses

Postage.....42.53
Refreshments.....38.47
Motel rooms.....131.22

Total.....(212.22)

Ending Cash Balance (5/31/83).....\$280.42



A warm welcome to Andria (NJ-308-M), as a new member of our Chapter. We hope all you gals remember your renewal month, and we will publish that for everyone either next month or very soon. Annual Chapter dues are \$10.00, and you can contact our Treasurer, Lynda, as follows: L. Frank, P. O. Box 9192, Morristown, New Jersey 07960. A special thank you for donations from Joan (NY), Lynda, and Elaine the reporter from the Record.

Helping Out

As you may know, our Group is listed with both the New Jersey and Westchester Self-Help Clearinghouses. Lynda sent in an article about the former group, and as a preface: "It is one of the most beautiful compensations of this life that no man can seriously help another without helping himself". (—Ralph Waldo Emerson)

Promoting a New Human Services Delivery Approach — Services of the New Jersey Self-Help Clearinghouse

Established in January of 1981, the New Jersey Self-Help Clearinghouse is both the first statewide and only computerized operation of its type in the nation. Sponsored by Saint Clare's Hospital Community Mental Health Center, and funded primarily by a grant from the New Jersey State Division of Mental Health and Hospitals, the Clearinghouse was created to promote professional and public awareness, utilization and development of self-help mutual aid groups in New Jersey.



The full potential of utilizing self-help groups remains untapped because by their very nature, self-help groups have a very low degree of visibility. They do not have paid staff, offices, or funds for publicity. Persons seeking a group for themselves, as well as professionals seeking a group for their clients, often find it difficult to determine if there is an existing model group they can start.

(continued on next page)

To meet this need, the Clearinghouse provides information and referral services, readily available through its 800 toll-free telephone number. Since its inception over 5,000 calls have been received on the Clearinghouse line, and in addition to receiving information, over 4,000 of those callers have been provided with referrals to self-help groups. Comprehensive research and "networking" with other information services has helped the Clearinghouse to build a data base that has thus far identified over 3,000 self-help group meetings in New Jersey and several hundred national and model groups outside the state.

Interest in the value and development of self-help groups continues to grow. Recognizing self-help groups as valuable resources for helping people cope with a wide variety of human problems and stresses, the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services report, **Promoting Health/Preventing Disease; the Objectives for the Nation**, recommended as a national goal the doubling of the number of self-help groups throughout the country by 1990. Alvin Toffler in his last book, **Third Wave**, cited the self-help group phenomena as part of a major growing trend in American society, and coined the word "prosumer" to describe the trend and its members. In **Megatrends**, John Naisbitt highlights self-help and several other related "megatrends" that are directly contributing to the growth of self-help groups.

Self-help groups consist of people who come together to help one another overcome or cope with a common problem, situation, illness, handicap or addiction. The groups are member-run, though some are sponsored by, or affiliated with agencies.

Many groups are similar to an extended family, providing a caring community and help that is often available 24 hours a day without forms, fees or appointments. Yet, the groups also emphasize self-reliance, as each member assumes responsibility for helping him or herself while helping others.

New Jersey's 3,000 self-help groups are diverse in terms of the problems they address and the ways they operate. Well-organized national groups like Alcoholics Anonymous or Recovery, Inc. have traditional methods and ideologies. Yet, there are many small local groups that spring up with little structure beyond rap sessions on a common problem.

The strengths of these richly varied groups become especially important when we see how they can help people in ways traditional social services cannot—by providing needed peer support, positive role models, and the relief in knowing "you are not alone". In these ways, self-help groups not only supplement professional services to the "underserved" but also reach out to "unserved" portions of the population. Contact with others who face similar problems provides relief, support and practical information.

SALLY FORTH



By Greg Howard



Thanks, Jana!



On behalf of all the membership I want to thank Marlene, Jana, Renata Lee Patricia, Nora Helene, and all other Chapter Sisters who are demonstrating that our Sisterhood is solid, does work, and is succeeding!

 OUR SPECIAL JOY *
 Mary Jane (NY-206-M), Editor *
 Nora Helene (NJ-202-C), *
 Production/Distribution *
 Dorothy (NJ-1-G), *
 Photo Reproduction *

ADDRESS:
 M. J. Moran
 P. O. Box 4988
 Poughkeepsie,
 New York
 12602

*Best Regards
 Mary Jane.*

As a male crossdresser have you ever had a fantasy similar to this one?

As you lay in bed on Sunday morning you think about your plans for the day. You are looking forward to a family outing to New York City. After a few moments of stretching you arise, shower and approach your closet. For a moment you debate between wearing your jeans or plaid, pleated skirt. The decision is made, the pleated skirt. You put on pantyhose, slip, blouse, knee socks and loafers. Then after breakfast you're off to New York City, husband, wife and children. Well, this has been one of my fantasies for many years and on Sunday, May 15th 1983 my dream came true.

We had planned on going to Central Park to see the Scottish games. Considering it was the Scottish games We decided I might as well wear a skirt. I chose my greenish-blue pleated skirt which is styled like a kilt with knee socks and blue shirt. As I looked in the mirror I was pleased with my appearance but knew I would never be mistaken for a Black Watch man. The kilt looked more like a woman's skirt than a Scottish kilt. It hooked on the left not the right and was below the knee in length. Even a layman on the street would know the difference let alone the Scottishmen attending the games. Even so we decided to venture forth.

Upon arriving in the city we parked our car in a garage, walked to a friend's apartment and on to the park a few blocks away. We passed dozens of people of which only a few looked twice and smiled but did nothing else. At the park anyone who knew the slightest about kilts or was the least bit observant could tell I was wearing a women's skirt. Yet the afternoon passed as if I was wearing jeans. Around 4 P.M. we returned to our friend's apartment and then back to the car. On the way home we stopped to eat at the Restaurant in the Park along the Saw Mill Parkway and again no one was overly concerned by my appearance.

When we returned home we all discussed the day's events. My wife said she felt much more comfortable with me dressed as I was rather than trying to pass as a woman and would like to do it again in the near future. My children said they didn't mind at all. They said it was nice calling me Daddy when I was wearing a skirt in public. As for myself, I was floating on cloud nine. It was great to be yourself in public while wearing a skirt and be accepted as if nothing was unusual. As for now I agree with my family. I too am looking forward to the next time.

Eileen [REDACTED]

Letter to Vogue Magazine

May 10, 1983

Dear Ms. Mirabella,

One day last Fall my wife, daughter, son and I walked into an Italian restaurant on 6th Ave. As we waited for a table we removed our coats drawing no attention to this mundane task. Then when we were about to be seated my daughter insisted in a rather loud voice "But Daddy, I want to sit next to Mommy." At first the people seated around us took little notice, then reality struck with an eruption of human expression. Surrounding faces showed astonishment, humor and confusion. What they had observed with little thought was two women dressed in skirts and turtlenecks being seated with a young boy and girl. This reality was shattered upon the realization that they were observing a young couple and their children being seated for supper. A rather commonplace occurrence, except that Dad was dressed as a woman. After a few moments filled with murmured comments and gestures the restaurant's environment returned to normal. I sighed with relief thinking it seems they accepted me this time because my family is accepting. Often this is not the case.

While reading "Men - the Anxious Sex Object" and "Why a Woman Likes to Dress Like a Man" in your April issue a hundred other incidents like the one I described flashed through my mind. My thoughts lead to a sense of frustration that is shared by all who dream of true independence of dress and freedom of gender role playing. As the article indicates it is far more difficult for men to challenge gender role playing in our society today than it is for women. It appears that women who emulate men are judged by society as raising themselves to a man's level. However, it also appears that men who emulate women are judged by society as lowering themselves to a woman's level. The question that remains is when will society accept man and women as humans first, independent and equal individuals?

In recent years men dressing as women has been given increasingly more publicity. However, not all men dress as women for the same reasons. Currently drag queens and transsexuals are being given attention however I am one of thousands of heterosexual men in our society who are happily married and raising a family while at the same time enjoys wearing the clothing of the female gender. In society's opinion we are typically masculine in action and deeds. Most of us are actively involved in community service groups such as scouting, Rotary, Lions, and volunteer fire companies. However, we are considered abnormal because we also desire to express more feminine characteristics such as emotion and freedom of dress. In reality the majority of men who wish to dress as women are like myself and still remain a mystery to society.

The problem is, as your article states, when a man puts on a skirt this act is considered feminine and is forbidden by society for the average man. It frustrates us that women have achieved total freedom of dress while men desiring the same freedom are

publically ridiculed in spite of no laws against such actions. It seems men who wear dresses and skirts are seen as deviant, abnormal and less of a man. We feel we are actually better men because we have a better understanding of women.

I belong to several organizations of men whose members live secret lives and attend secret meetings so that they can wear skirts. They live in fear that society will turn against them or that they will loose their jobs if society learns they like wearing skirts. I assure you this fear is real. We know from experience that as soon as society hears that a man enjoys wearing skirts they label him a homosexual or transsexual. This could not be further from the truth. Last Halloween I attended some parties dressed as a woman and when asked by my employer if I enjoyed wearing skirts I said yes. Based on that response my job was threatened. If you wish I could show you proof of this.

My employer gave me a reprimand that said if they ever caught me dressed in female attire again they would relieve me of my job. After two months of confrontation my employer realized I was willing to fight for my rights and tabled the attack. If you wish the details of this confrontation I will be willing to share them with you as an example of the problems we face.

A myth that disturbs us is that men would look awful in dresses. In fact most women's styles today are copies of styles formally worn by men throughout history. For example Louis XIV first made high heeled shoes fashionable and for men not women. I know many men who look very good in dresses. What society really needs is to be educated about the existence of heterosexual males who wish to wear skirts. Then perhaps they would accept them. If clothes designers were only more open minded they could find an unbelievable new market in men's fashions. This could also further the cause of women's rights by weakening the myth of women rising to men's heights of achievement and stature. How about a common ground for role playing and compromise?

This topic is far too complex to do justice to in this letter. Therefore, I would be more than willing to come to New York to meet with you or a staff member and share conclusive evidence of what I have described in this letter. Please accept my request with an open mind and allow me to meet with you for a few minutes before you dismiss this topic as insignificant. I am sure you would find this topic intriguing enough to share it with your readers. When we first contacted ABC Talk Radio the program manager dismissed this subject as a topic for Dr. Kuriansky's program in December. He said that it was too controversial and unimportant. However, after I spoke with him we were scheduled for mid-December and were aired for 2 hours with an outstanding public response. I am sure Dr. Kuriansky will verify this.

It is possible for me to be in New York any time after 3 P.M. the day of your choice. If you wish to contact me by phone please call after 3:30 at 914- [REDACTED]. I am eagerly awaiting your response.

Sincerely, [REDACTED]

David W. [REDACTED]

David W. [REDACTED]

To
 From the Publicity Committee of Chi Delta Mu

I am sorry I haven't been able to contact each and everyone of you lately regarding our publicity campaign, however I feel we have accomplished quite alot. I was glad to learn that Jana was able to contact a New Jersey newspaper and have a reporter attend the last meeting. Good work!! I wrote a letter Vogue magazine in response to their May issue articles on crossdressing and hope that it is enclosed in this issue of our newsletter. I haven't heard from them yet.

I hope some of us can work on making contacts with various forms of news media for next Fall. We have come a long way since last June and continue to grow. If any of you make contact with someone who would like to do an interview or article and you need some help please I will be more than willing to do what I can. Feel free to call at any time. I wish you all a pleasant summer and look forward to seeing you this Fall.

Sincerely,

Eileen NY 11 - J