

PRES: William M. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Albany, New York

M E M B E R S H I P

~~X\$XXI~~ \$ 1 5 P E R Y E A R

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

Helen  
and

Wilma [redacted]

PHONE: [redacted]

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Hi Girls:

This month we are all back down to earth, the wedding over just the pictures to look at. They all came out very good. We had some new sisters show up with some of their wives. A very enjoyable evening. Those who came for the ~~Yds~~ last meeting for the summer were: Julie Ann, Eagle Bridge, N.Y., Elanda, Rome, N.Y., Muriel, Geneso, N.Y., Connie & Jeanette, Jamestown, N.Y., Winnie, Schen., N.Y., Crystal, Menands, N. Y., Pam, Mayfield, N. Y., Colleen & Elaine, Cold Brook, N.Y., Jean Peru, N. Y., Dennie, Peekskill, N.Y., Michelle Ann, Somerville Mass., Joan, Colonie, N.Y., Sue, Albany, N.Y., Francis, Henrietta, N.Y., Jonnie & Charlotte, Castleton-on-Hudson, N.Y., Isabel & Leslie Wilton, Conn., Cynthia & Sonya, Norwalk, Conn., Vi & Dee Dee, Hartford, Conn., Dena & Gloria Pittsfiel Mass., Joyce, Somerville, N.J., Linda Springville, N.J., Wilma and I.

The meal I prepared for these girls was: Baked Ham, Macroni, Cole slaw, cottage cheese salad, cauliflower parmijean, Apple sauce, olives. bread, butter chocolate cake, apple pie, custard pie, & coffee.

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I want to thank all the girls who sent me a birthday card, and Betty and Jean for their gifts.

If anyone is interested in the wedding pictures they are ready and can be had for \$6.00 a set.

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The following note I got in my card from Sandy:

Dear Helen:

Sorry this card is late, but it is jam-packed with love & best wishes for you. I never really expressed my-self as to how much I enjoy knowing you and Bill. I know you have heard this all before- but you both have brought a lot of happiness into my life and Oh- how I appreciate all that work you do-cooking an making every one feel at home. You deserve a big Gold star on your front door. Looking foward to seeing you on June 17th, but meanwhile, my love and very best to you both. Thank you Sandy.

You know I can't help but try my best to make every one feel at home when they come here, because they all respect our rules that we had set up for the group and they abide by them, with these girls being so nice always ready to help in the kitchen, setting the table, cleaning up, makes it hard for me not to treat these girls with heart warming friendliness. They themselves ~~la~~ make their own sisters feel welcome, whether they here for the first time or if they had been coming every month. I have found much happiness for myself and Wilma since we have been having the meetings here knowing we have been able to help so many T.V.'S come out and enjoy their life and bring along their wives so they could see that they all have one thing in common, Just dress and be able to relax and relieve their tensions that seem to build up inside because they are not able to dress at home for one reason or another, and of those who have a wife who will not understand why they have to dress. For these I must say I feel a little more love should go their way to help them over their difficult time. I do sincerely hope that some day you may all march down the street hand and hand without every one looking at you as thou you were a freak. I only hope that I am around to see this happen. I know there are some who are not all just cross dressers, some sre trans-sexuals, but they too have to have a helping hand to see them thru, as you desire to dress as a woman, they desire to be a complete woman, a homo-sexual also has his own life style, If we could all just sit and think , I have what I want, why not let the next person have what they want without criticism. If God meant us all to be the same he would have made us so. Thank you Sandy for helping me say what I should have said a long time ago.

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I hope you all hhave a good summer and come back in September with a nice tan, a slim body so I can fatten youaall up again.

I am looking foward to seeing some of you up at the Island.

Untill we see you all, be good girls and stay out of trouble, keep your powder dry, your eye shadow from running the summer heat can play havoc with makeup.

I rattled on long enough, so I'll say God Bless you all untill we meet again. Will miss you all

Love Helen.

THE proper sexual role of the TV is a question that has generated much confusion in recent years. TYPICAL of the confusion is a recent article by Dr. Leo F. MOONEY, formerly of Harvard who maintains, in effect that there is no such thing as Transvestism or homosexuality, that these habits are defined entirely by the attitude of society, and ends with the question, "Is society perfect?" Dr MOONEY and others have only served to muddy the waters that these questions have churned up. THE only way to get a clear picture of the phenomenon of transvestism is through a statical approach.

IN other words, if a controlled study finds that a sizable majority of transvestites are homosexual, then one must conclude that these perversions go hand in hand.

IF, counterwise, such a study produced the conclusion that transvestism is no obstacle to otherwise normal, heterosexual practices, then one would have to reject any connection between this practice and homosexuality.

UNFORTUNATELY, no such study has been made, nor is it likely that one can be effectively accomplished in the foreseeable future. THE simple reason for this is that the vast majority of transvestites do not advertise their practice or make themselves readily available to the questions of statisticians and sex-researchers.

LIMITED surveys have produced, at best, inconclusive results. IT would seem that the transvestite scene is equally divided among those who profess straight-arrow heterosexuality, those who declare it to be purely a homosexual practice, and those who indulge in whatever sexual practice happens to appeal to them at moment.

AS I said, these results are inconclusive, largely because of the limited number of persons who could be surveyed. I am inclined to believe that those who permitted themselves to be questioned, considering the current temper of society include a large number of personalities who might be classed as unstable by any standards. IF transvestism were a common practice, such people would have to find another symptom with which to exhibit their neurotic impulses.

I AM not, let me hasten to make perfectly clear, implying that transvestites are neurotic: only those willing to submit to a sexual questionnaire are.

BASED on my admittedly limited researches I have come to the conclusion that TVism has nothing to do with sex.

THE mainspring of TVism is not sexual gratification, but ego-gratification. IN our society, pretty girls attract attention. THIS is verifiable on any street corner, in any page of advertising, in any book or magazine cover. GIRLS dress to enhance their attention-getting potential, with brightly colored clothes, striking make-up, laces and frills and bows.

THEREFORE, if a person craves attention, what better way to attract it than by becoming-or appearing to become-a pretty girl? IT is not a need of the libido but of the ego, that is satisfied by the practice.

AS OUR society grows in population and, by necessity, grows in regimentation and depersonalization of the individual, it is only natural that more and more men starved for attention will seek this method of feeding their egos.

ONE HEARS and reads so much about TVism and transsexualism nowadays that one might think they were a new fad-a part of the sexual revolution and the "now" generative. BUT these practices have been around for a long time. STORIES of men masquerading in women's clothing, or generally getting their kicks that way, are as old as the records of civilization.

HOWEVER, it wasn't until the beginning of modern psychology-which traces its roots to the later part of the 19th Century-that a more scientific and objective appraisal of this aberration appeared in the medical and sexological journals.

THE ABERRATION of tvism involves impersonation, or concealing true sexual identity by assuming the dress and make-up of the opposite sex. FOR instance, not many men to day would wear laces or frills on their clothes-but since clothing has always been a matter of personal taste, as well as prevailing custom, it would be improper to accuse a man of being a transvestite solely on the evidence that his clothing does not conform to the current trends of male attire.

SIMPLE COLORS and plain styles of clothing suit the average man in these days society. MORE often it is the female who is concerned with color, harmony and style. IT is she who is usually in competition with other members of her sex in the matter of attire.

BUT SINCE, looking at it objectively, female clothing is more colorful and more esthetically pleasing, it is not hard to understand why some men would wish to wear what might appear to move feminine clothing.

STUDYING THE vast mass of scientific evidence, and conjecture on the subject, we must come to the conclusion that there is no real, absolute, unchanging standard of sexual behavior. WE simply do not have hard and fast definitions of imprecise terms like "masculine", "feminine", "manly", or "womanly", styles and modes of dress and outward appearance that may at one time have been considered very masculine-like powdered wigs ~~may have been~~ once were, would now be considered feminized if a man were to wear them.

AT ONE time or another, you are sure to come face to face with a transvestite. BUT the odds are you won't know it, for the TV is so much like the rest of us when he's abroad in the world that he and sometimes she, passes unrecognized,

(continued from page 2)

The midget married the circus fat lady, and tried a new wrinkle every night.

unsuspected, and indeed not even dreamed of.

TO THE vast majority, the term transvestism, is so obacure, it might as well have something to do with space travel, or devil-worship. THE reported incidence of male transvestism in the UNITED STATES and EUROPE has increased to suchan extent in recent times that it is described as "enormous".

TRANSVESTITES have, for the most part, been ferend to be above average intel-lectually and culturally, with perhaps more than a modest share of talent and aptitudes.

TRANSVESTITES differin many ways, as do most human beings, thus they have been classified into still futher destent types, by the handful of pioneering scientests who are belatedly exploring this never-never land where the main insists on wearing, not the pants, but the PANTIES. SOME factors which contri-bute are an extravagantly possessive mother, or the cross-dresser of a small boy to please aparent who wanted a girl. OTHER scientists beleive that Transves-tism is acbassically organic condition. THEY regard it as a form of intersex-uality related to endocrâne functioning or to hereditary factors, and perhaps to both in some cases. I could go on and on on this subject but I better stop before it gets boring.

THIS should bring many pros and cons. IF you have any comment on this do send them in.

W I L M A

Buoyant Bessie says she has nothing against marriage . . . some of her best friends are hus-bands.

### Presidents Pen.....

### NEXT MEETING

**PLEASE NOTE:** In the April TVIC journal there was an era reference to meeting dates. IT was printed as AUGUST 19th. IT should have read SEPTEMBER 16th. SO the next two gathering dates will be SEPTEMBER 16th and OCTOBER 21st. AT this time I am not sure on the OCTOBER 21st date as it is the same weekend of theFANTASIA FAIR. IF most members want it held on the 21st it shall be if not it will be OCTOBER 28th wich by the way is on my BIRTHDAY and I'll be 69 years young.

AND talking of being 69 years old? Have any one of you members thought of keep-ing TVIC going after I have left for the TV Heaven in the sky or down under to HELL as it may be. MAKES no difference I have friends in both places.

R E M B E R : N O J U L Y O R A U G U S T M E E T I N G S .

### Welcome New Members

I AM pleased to announce the enrollment of five new members this month.

- LAURENCE W. CHELSEA MASS. ----- JULIE ANN C. EAGLEBRIDGE, N.Y.
- PAM B. MAYFIELD, N.Y. THE FIFTH MEMBER I CANNOT LIST.
- LESLIE A. WILTON, CONN.

WE all here at TVIV hope to see you new members in the coming months in person at one of our gatherings.

### BOOKS :

\*\*\* You've heard of girls who know the score — well, she invented the game.

WE still have many TV books and magazines at ~~10~~ 10 for \$11.

### Happy Birthday Girls

July 8.	Bob S	--	AUG. 15	Thomas D	--	Sept. 9	J. Malick
22 25	Paul B	--	" 15	Winton B	--	2 21	G. Edwards
Aug. 3	Linda B	--	" 24	Rhonder J	--	" 26	J. Chapman
" 7	J. WAISANER	--	" 24	Wayne m	--	2 30	K. Lynn.
" 10	Hons M	--	2 26	Viola W			

THESE names are all on your membership lists.

Johnny says he doesn't know what you call what he and the neighbor girl did behind the barn, but as far as L's concerned, baseball and tennis have had it from now on.



Doctor...the Estrogen shots that you have been giving me have been very successful, but there is a slight problem we need to discuss.....

Said the sweet young thing: "I give up . . . what is it that every man wants in a woman?"

## letters to the editor

Dear Wilma;

I have been hearing a good many things about your club for the past 6 months and was pleasantly surprised to receive your mailing. SEVERAL of the TVs that I met at Fantasia Fair last fall mentioned TVIC with fondness, and several FF-er appear in your 1/21/78 newsletter ( Winnie, Elanda, Michelle Ann, Jenny, Sharon and Julia.

AT present I am trying to form a Wisconsin chapter of TRI\*SIGME SORORITY. I would be interested in hearing of any TVIC members in my area who might be interested in joining this emerging chapter of ZZZ.

I appreciate your thoughts in "Wilmas Views. Just a few weeks ago I made my first daytime appearance as Ruthann in daylight. I was gripped with fear, and suffered through several instances of being read. I was hyperconscious of my appearance the whole time, but Mitzi ( a veteran public TV) kept telling me composure and self - acceptance - how I carry myself - is far more important. Especially with my voice, which may not be as deep and revealing as yours but is still probably a giveaway. I can expect to be "read" with some regularity. So it becomes most important for me to be able to feel OK about being a man dressed in womens clothing rather than one who must always worry so intensely about "passing". This would also me feel better about being seen in public with TV sisters who have difficulty passing. for I wouldn't fear the reaction of others who might "read" us both as the result of my sister giving us away. I'm still searching for that dignity that we all need.

Perhaps I'll even be able to make a meeting sometime, maybe in the Fall around Fantasia Fair 78 time. For now thanks for seeking me out.  
RUTHANN M [REDACTED], P.O.B. 813, MADISON, WIS. 53701

Derr Helen and Wilma;

To begin with I want to thank you both and all the girls who made me feel so welcomed.

As you very well know. It was my first visit to your home and I must admit I was very nervous when I arrived, however in a very short time I overcome my nervousness which I accredit to some very beautiful and understanding people.

Thanks again very much. I have high hopes of coming down many more times. I really enjoyed myself, the best ever. DOLLY, ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Dear Wilma.

You asked how I picked my Femme Name. I jumped around with names since I was 10 years of age, never settled on any one. Then I met Diana [REDACTED] here in Buffalo. She was a professional Stripper. She was not satisfied with that life. She had a gorgeous body which I envied. She kept in perfect shape with strenuous exercises. She also was super intellegent. We lived together for about 10 months before she moved to New York City. She would come back to Buffalo on occasions to just get away for a while. She then became a radio anouncer which is her life to day I gather. I loved her dearly but not in a romantic way but as a sister relationship. I asked her if I could use her name and she said she would be honored. Her coming and going from Buffalo to New York went on a couple of years. Finally she dissappeared and I haven't heard from her since.

I have one picture of her in her stage dress and her name which are my memories reminding me of her. I hope to never forget her. I will never change my Femme name again. For one I am satisfied with it and two Diana Lee is known to friends all over the country.

And that is how I picked my FEMME name. DIANA LEE, BUFFALO, N.Y.

### Sex-change aborts masseuse m/f ban

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP) — When is a masseuse not a woman? Apparently when she used to be a man.

Charlotte has a law against persons of one sex massaging those of the opposite. But a masseuse who had a male-to-female operation escaped charges twice in recent weeks because court officials couldn't figure out whether the defendant was a man or a woman.

District Attorney Peter S. Gilchrist said he thinks the problem will work itself out. "I think if the word gets out that people giving massages have had sex change operations," he said, "the average male won't show up."

Dear Ann Landers: I have been married for 13 years to a transvestite and it's not all peaches and cream. I understand his problem and accept it because he has been a faithful husband and a good father to our children. It has been a comfort, too, that he does not look for other men to dress up with because I have been non critical and let him dress up for me.

It's a strange thing. He has the problem, but I'm the one who needs the counseling so I can handle the situation. Ain't Life Mysterious?

Dear Life: It sure is, honey. Obviously your husband is comfortable with his "peculiarity" and you are not. The one who needs the help should get it.



"It's all right with me if women stop wearing bras—but if they stop massaging me, what about us transvestites?"



Sounds in the night:  
 "Daddy, if you'll get me  
 a drink of water, I'll  
 shake the bed for  
 Mama."

Los Angeles, Ca. 90025  
 1 Dec. 1978



Dear Wilma,

Your little piece on going out of the closet reminded me so much of the first time I left the security blanket of my apartment. I was then 55 years old, and had been dressing about 3 years, all quite in private. Somehow, I heard about a group called Salmacis over in Glendale, and after a couple of phone chats with the head of the group, I decided to screw up my courage and go to a meeting. Mind you, I'd never seen another TV at that time! What to wear? As I've done ever since, when it comes time to go out to a meeting, I fuss and fume for days over what to wear. Isn't this a typical female trait? I ended up wearing just what you say I should not have worn! A two-piece lilac suit over a purple blouse; the skirt not over 19" long, and with illy applied make-up, and 5" spike heels. I made the 20 miles on the freeways in the slow lane, with the windows rolled up tightly, altho it was an exceedingly hot night, and I just knew every other driver was ogling this strange creature. Remember, I'm 5'10½", and weigh about 185 lbs. I managed to get to the house in Glendale in one piece, and there I saw my first other TV. In fact, about 25 of them! I sat very quietly in a corner, trying hard to keep my legs together, and my skirt pulled down as far as possible! No air-conditioning in the place, and I swear I lost about 10 lbs in sweat alone! No body bothered to introduce me to anybody else, but at least I was accepted, and I anxiously scanned the others to see if I was being ogled. Which I wasn't, apparently. Later that night, I was asked if I'd like to go to a meeting of another group the following ~~XX~~ Saturday night, and now being an old pro, I accepted. It was then I saw another dozen or so TVs. I did join both groups, eagerly, but I'll say this that I've never since worn a mini skirt to a meeting! As time went by, I went out to a TV meeting almost every Saturday night. Ultimately, I became regional director of one of the groups, but after about 6 months of this, I decided one night a ~~week~~ <sup>month</sup> out was quite enough for me, and resigned from the other one.

I've met a lot of TVs since then, but, by golly, my most pleasant times are when I can invite another TV or two or three over for dinner, or a photo session, or just a long chat and discussion on things of mutual interest. By far, I've enjoyed the associations I've made thru TVIC most of all. Somebody once said that writing maketh a full man, and I certainly have relished the TVIC friendships via correspondance. Only wish I could get to share one of Helen's delectable-sounding menus with you one of these days! I went to school in Schenectady, but that was long before the need to cross-dress surfaced.

The best of continued success to you, and let me know if there's ever any thing I can do for you from out here.

Sincerely,

*Velvet*

Velvet



**DEAR ABBY:** Three months ago I finally accepted my yearnings to become a male and I began the necessary treatment in anticipation of having a sex change operation.

First I ended my affair with my boyfriend, and then I started the hormone treatments. Shortly afterward I felt that something was amiss; I was examined and learned that I was pregnant!

Determined to go ahead with the sex change surgery, I continued the hormone treatments, but being a devout Catholic I cannot consider an abortion. Yet I don't want a child.

My former boyfriend is begging me to have the child, marry him, and forget about the sex change operation.

Abby, I was looking both physically and emotionally to a new life as a transsexual. What course should I take? -- D.

**DEAR D.:** Since abortion is out, give birth to the child, then reconsider having a sex change operation.

If you still feel like a male emotionally and want a body that corresponds to your feelings, resume your original plan. If the motherhood experience tips

the scale in favor of living as a woman, follow that inclination. But do not marry a male unless you feel totally female.

The job application form said "SEX?——" and Sinful Sandra wrote, "Twice a week."

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In Hawaii the girls wear nothing but grass skirts . . . what a place to hit the hay!

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"I've got nothing against Harvey coming out of the closet, but did he have to wear the same dress as me?"

Dear Wilma:

Well, I'm afraid the endocrinologist, Dr. P. was right, and I was just a little bit too smart! No, I have not gone back into the slim, shapless Madame Sardine, but oh dear! I have gone back into Jackanorra, the Bearded girl of the Circus! My mustache has started to grow again, silky and black! My "brother-sister" tells me I am disgusting because I wont shave, or have electrolysis again, and my skin is just like a babys, as I used to tell them in the side-show and depiltaræes break it out some thing awful. I told DR. P., the TV doctor, I guessed now at the end of my life I'de have to go back to Freak Shows. I always got good money from them. Riseing from "her" chair she opened her office door and said, "Your visit is up!" I bowed low as I left, but as I started for the elevator she called after me, not to forget to call up for another adernal test in a month. As far as I am concerned, the experiment is over. Probably a wild idea on mine in the first place. However, I went to another, male endocrinologist. After a full exam, he brought in another lovely looking tall blonde, made her walk up close to me, told me to carefully examine her skin, then her blonde bristling mustache, and said she was a sever case of female androgen, while I was a mild case of a female androgen. Because I had taken big doses of estrogen for so many years, my mustache, though black, would probably always remain silky, so not to worry about it yet,- he then gave me a whole lesson in female and male androgens. Many were TVs who never knew they are androgens. Next, I found myself feeling a thrill of hope, as I sat in the waiting room of a Dermatologist, still dressed like the pretty little lady, I was supposed to be! Another exam by this skin specialist, who told me with my delicate, fine, lady skin, the only thing I could do, was to take a half cupfull of peroxide, add a drop of amonia, and gently dab my mustache with it on a piëse of sterilr cotton He helped me the most. I shall never again get after my male TVs for having a late "afternoon shadow!"

In other ways I've changed since stopping the hormones, and these are, I am intensely more psychic, as I used to be before taking them, much more of a real Dynamo, more strongly sexy, and creative, and younger acting. My high blood pressure gone without pills, - but have put on more weight again, 124# and I am only 5/4 tall. I'll give the hormones one credit - they did give me a real woman figure a full breast and curves - no more do I have to wear padding. My whole metabolism has changed. Now, though I had "side effects" from both animal hormones and synthetic hormones, I find that I am changing some, both emotionally and psychologically, I have to watch this I'm more sparkly and excitable, mischievous too, and I want to be a truly lady, am as hetrosexual as it's possible for anandrogen to be. Still love my TV-friends.

Talking about TVs I have known some pretty wonderful TVs. Some, are your own TV members Wilma. They not only have more talents and abilities like Michelle Ann, but they are more psychic, Esp, and intuitine, and have mighty fine strong characters, They are a great insperation for all, of course some take a Toboggan slide down hill, but so does every body, who have noexcuse at all'.

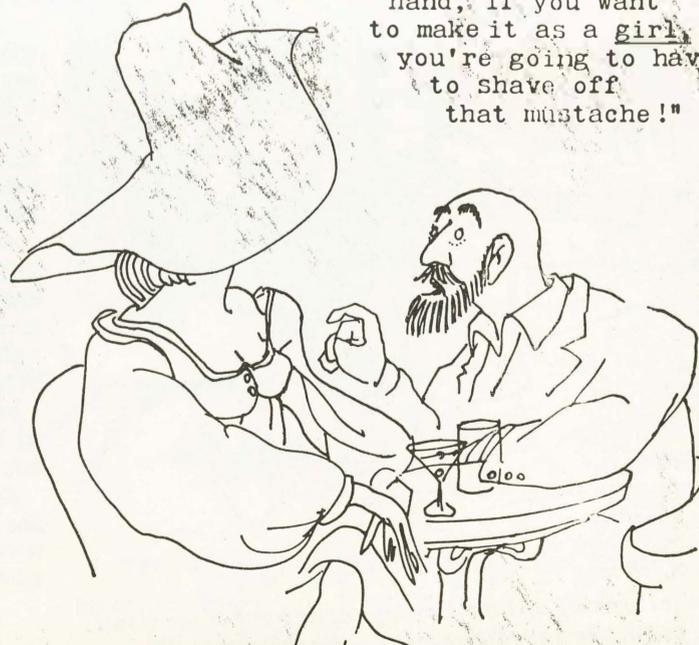
DR. P. almost cried when she saw my mustache growing in. " It cant be cured it cant be cured! no matter how many hormones one takes., because there's nothing to cure!" of course not, because there are many varieties and forms of life in the world of flowers, birds, fish, and animals, - why not in the human world too? It's nature, and it's a soul thing to accept us some day! I wish you doctors knew, and accepted the soul

With that, once again I left her offic e, bowing myself out, Love to you boyh. Leslie.

P.S. If anyone would care to write, or ask any questions, I would be happy to answer all. Write to LESLIE Q [redacted]

BOSTON, MASS. 02115

"Look, Charlie, I'm no psychiatrist, but it seems to me that if you want to function as a man, you're going to have to stop wearing women's clothes, and walking and talking funny, and dating guys.... On the other hand, if you want to make it as a girl, you're going to have to shave off that mustache!"



There is a difference

"Ha! I thought so! Every time your sister goes out I find you here in her room, dressed in her clothes! Johnny, I don't think you're a normal boy."

A VERY UNLIKELY STORY (by dee dee)

Transvestites all have a very interesting story of the when, how and why of their realization of being more female than male.

I dress in women's clothes all the time, but I am not a transvestite and I hate the clothes. Let me tell you my story.

I was walking down the street one day and suddenly I felt a gun in my back. I was ordered to get into a car and was blindfolded without ever seeing my captors.

After a short ride I was ordered out of the car and led into a house. I was pushed into a room and told to take off all my clothes. Laying on a bed was a complete outfit of women's clothing, which I was ordered to put on. Then, somebody put a wig on my head and someone started to apply cosmetics.

Then I was told to go into another room. I heard the door close and the lights were turned on, and there in a full length mirror I saw this beautiful girl. I realized that this was me and I got very sick to my stomach.

A voice informed me that, upon pain of death I was never again to appear in male clothing and, that I would be watched constantly and would be shot if I ever disobeyed the instructions. That was five years ago and now I have a problem.

All the labels on the clothing were taken off and the size of the high heeled shoes was erased. Now, the clothes are in rags and the shoes are falling apart and I don't know what to do. To make matters worse, I was not given a handbag and for five years I've had to carry my billfold in one hand and my loose change in the other.

Will those who kidnapped me please get in touch with me and tell me what sizes I wear, or pick me up and dress me again. I don't want to be killed and I don't want to walk around looking like a ragbag. Kids call me 'that crazy woman' and most people when they see me cross over to the other side of the street.

Please help me!

Phoebe B. [REDACTED]

Dear Helen and Wilm:-

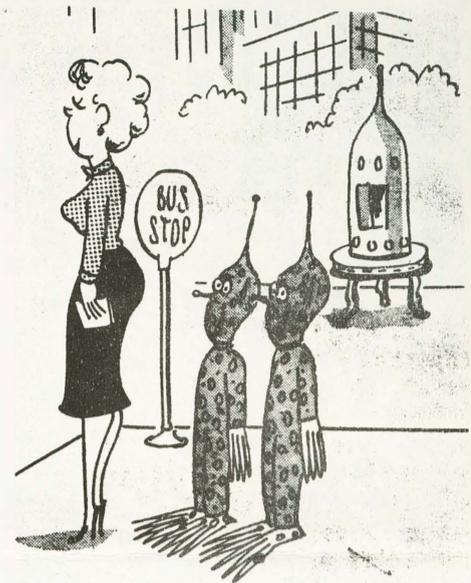
Words just can't begin to describe the wonderful time we had at your house, and to compliment you both on the way it all went.

The good thing about your group is that we can spend the next two weeks talking about a get-together, and the next two weeks looking forward to the next meeting. See, your affairs last a whole month!

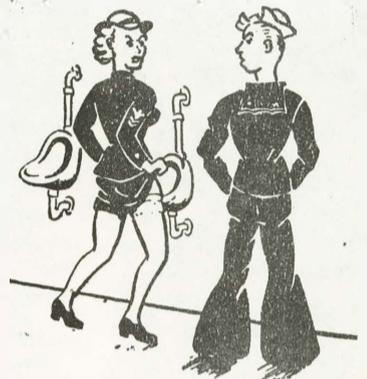
Here's a little story I wrote. Hope you like it.

Mucho love from

*dee dee & vi*



"Earth man not built bad. He just wears ridiculous looking clothes."



"That's a mighty handy little gadget you have there, sailor."



I'M FINALLY GETTING INTO YOUR PANTS!



I TOLD YOU I WAS A "QUEEN!"



# A Transsexual's Anguish: Alone, Assaulted And Harassed

By LOUISE LEIKER  
Courier-Express Staff Reporter

IT'LL BE FOUR years this fall that a six-foot-tall man from Clarence left the hospital operating table a six-foot-tall woman.

Peggie Ames still pays for that sex change operation — surgery which almost rivals the concept of reincarnation.

"THE REAL COST is the pain and anguish resulting from the loss of family and friends," says the transsexual who lived 32 years as a man before seeking permanent gender transformation.

Peggie, who has eight grandchildren, fathered four children in 32 years of marriage as David.

She never anticipated the full extent of social reconstruction that would follow her physical reconstruction.

"I MISS MY FAMILY, you can't imagine how much it

hurts to have your family taken away from you."

Peggie, meticulously attired and accessorized right down to the glossy nail polish on her toes, speaks of her life changes in her historic, 157-year-old home, located in the heart of Clarence. The voice of this articulate woman breaks when she talks about her children and grandchildren. She weeps softly when she tells of how she's been ostracized.

THERE'S ALSO been a price exacted in terms of harassment and vandalism within the past four years.

The windows in her house and car were smashed. The liner in her pool, slashed. Paint was splattered on her porch. Peggie herself has been beaten.

"The harassment has continued right up to this month, but the worst is over," she says. "I guess I wasn't the threat I was supposed to be."

PEGGIE WAS determined to stay at the home she has lived in for the past 25 years.

"You can't escape, you're going to get this abuse anywhere else."

Her experiences have been also a sort of sexual "Black Like Me."

"IN A MAN'S role, I never realized the extent that society discriminates against women — how dirty and how potent it is."

Now a feminist, Peggie is busy these days writing a pair of books on transsexualism. She's become the local Christine Jorgensen. Peggie estimates she's lectured to almost 12,000 people including college students, media professionals in Western New York, Pennsylvania, and Ohio.

With a craft shop in her barn, Peggie plans to expand her business of furniture repair and antique restoration. She also counsels, particularly in the field of transsexualism. She estimates there are about 100 transsexuals living in Western New York.

transsexuals is a staggering 30 percent, she notes.

Rejection by immediate family, Peggie says, is one of several reasons for the high statistic.

"God has been a part of my internal support system," she says.

"Despite everything, God has provided a certain emotional tranquility. I'm happier than I was before.

"MY BIG REGRET is that I didn't do this 40 years ago. That way I wouldn't have married, procreated and hurt other people. Of course in those days society wasn't ready for 'Peggie.' I didn't know of any facilities to turn to. There wasn't even a vocabulary for the sort of thing I was going through."

Raised in Kenmore, Peggie comes from a middle-income home.

"MY MOTHER was a typical homemaker, conservative and devout. My father was lucky enough to work steadily through the depression. I have a younger brother.

"Even though I never had a sister to emulate, from age 12 on I felt I was a girl. That's when I secretly took the name Peggie.

"I was scared and confused. I had two genders in violent conflict. I tried desperately to act like a boy. My Dad bought me a glove and a ball and I'd go down to the corner lot to play baseball. But then I'd spend money I earned from shoveling snow on lipstick. I'd borrow my mother's jewelry.

"ALWAYS THERE was the dread, 'How horrible if I'm discovered.'" There was just no way I could sit down with my mother over a glass of milk and chocolate covered graham crackers and tell her that she had a little girl on her hands not a little boy."

David secretly built a woman's wardrobe. And in the 40 year tug-of-war between his male and female identities, he built and destroyed five such wardrobes.

AT COLLEGE, David was one of the most popular men on the campus. He was a drummer in a dance band and managed the swim team.

"I deliberately tried to discipline myself, I forced myself into fraternity life, even though I hated the rough tough competitive masculine world. I tried to tell myself that the female tendencies I had were crazy and I could get over

them.

"MARRIAGE WAS the 'in' thing to do. I met a beautiful woman, fell in love and married her. It seemed right and natural."

David served in the Air Force and was honorably discharged. He earned a dual degree in psychology and business management from the University of Buffalo and did post-graduate study.

DAVID WAS ACTIVE in community work and strived for business success in several fields. But nothing could curb his obsession about being fe-

His wife eventually discovered his secret and confronted him.

"Except for the day I meet God, that will have to be the most traumatic day of my life. I cried out of shame, relief and happiness."

AFTER THE DIVORCE, David was freed to pursue surgery. He chose the same doctor who transformed Dr. Richard Rasking to Dr. Renee Richards, the controversial tennis player.

The sex-change operation was preceded by psychiatric examination, hormone therapy and electrolysis. A portion of the male organs were removed. Female genitalia were created from what remained. The cost for the transformation was about \$8,000.

"We transsexuals jokingly say we were born with the wrong plumbing and we simply had the plumbing corrected."

"ACTUALLY I DON'T feel that I am a transsexual because I've already crossed over. That was done four years ago."

Peggie's relationship with her family bottomed out after a son committed suicide. A family member contacted her, saying she was dead to the family implying she was to blame for her son's suicide. Her family has since apologized. Peggie hopes for an upswing in their relationship.

"I've left out the welcome mat. Sometimes I think the grandchildren could handle it better than the children did. Other transsexuals have been reintroduced into the family, as let's say, 'Aunt Peggie.'"

She was with child . . . Oh my. It could have been a blessing, But to her it was a sin. You see, it was a hindrance To the business she was in.



Courier-Express/Paul Paq

Peggie Ames in her Clarence craft shop, where she restores furniture

\*\*\*  
If you deal in stocks, United Fruit is a good buy. They've just developed a banana that throbs.

\*\*\*  
This little shaver was born with a moustache and it sure tickled his mother.

\*\*\*  
Have you heard about the dehydrated Frenchman — Pierre?

\*\*\*  
The talkative bull — every time he saw a cow he wanted to jabber.

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