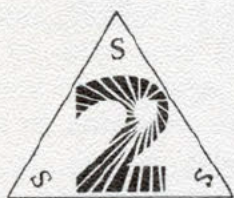


Femme Mirror



Tri-Ess Sorority



Reflecting
The
Feminine

FEMME MIRROR

VOLUME 6, No. 5 1981

Reflecting the Feminine



OCTOBER

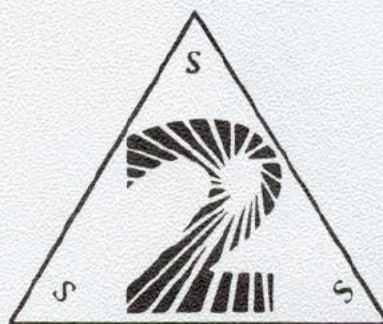
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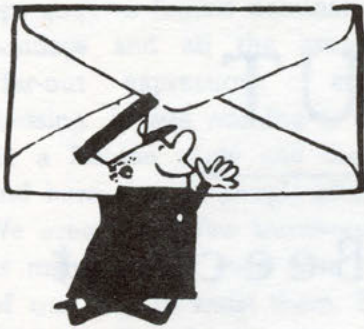
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Tri-Ess Sorority

HERE AND THERE



This section of the Femme Mirror is reserved for all kinds of little bits of news and information. Readers are encouraged to drop your Editor a note from time to time, informing her of interesting news and items of general interest. I will be most happy to print such tidbits - the more the merrier. Let's hear it, girls!

We have a report that a Tucson, Arizona schoolboy was forced to wear a dress in school as punishment for entering the girl's restroom. The youth had a choice of wearing a red dress or taking five swats from a paddle. He wore the dress. (That-s-boy!) I understand that we just received another application from a boy in Arizona.

Lori (Oh-200-K) is looking for a copy of Sex And Gender, by Robert Stoller. She is also interested in locating a sympathetic photography studio near Jeromesville, Ohio so that she can get some professional portraits made. Anybody who can help Lori in either of these matters should write to her via the "contact" service.

Julie (MO-204-E) has written that she is interested in

getting a Tri-Ess chapter started in her area - Kansas City. All sisters who live within driving distance are asked to contact Julia via the "contact" service.

For those Tri-Ess sisters in northern New Jersey who wish to belong to a chapter, please write Patricia (CT-8-G) and those gals who live in southern New York state should contact Mary Jane (NY-206-M) for a chapter in that area.

Joan (IL-6-C) has a complete Delilatron hair-removing unit that she is interested in selling. Contact her via the "contact" service.

Linda (CA-306-P) writes to tell us that she is going to open a thrift shop for Crossdressers in the San Diego area. She will feature entire wardrobes, cosmetics, wigs, lingerie, shoes, purses, etc. She says that she can save you up to 80% on your purchases. She also mentions that she loves to entertain and invites Tri-Ess sisters to attend a buffet dinner at her home. Write Linda via the "contact" service of the sorority.

Michelle (CA-89-L) says that she has had a mix-up with her post office box but that things are straightened out now and she is awaiting letters from her Tri-Ess sisters.

Janet Lee (NY-303-F) asks what could happen to a sister, with a minor child, who was reported, by a relative or neighbor, to the authorities for her crossdressing.

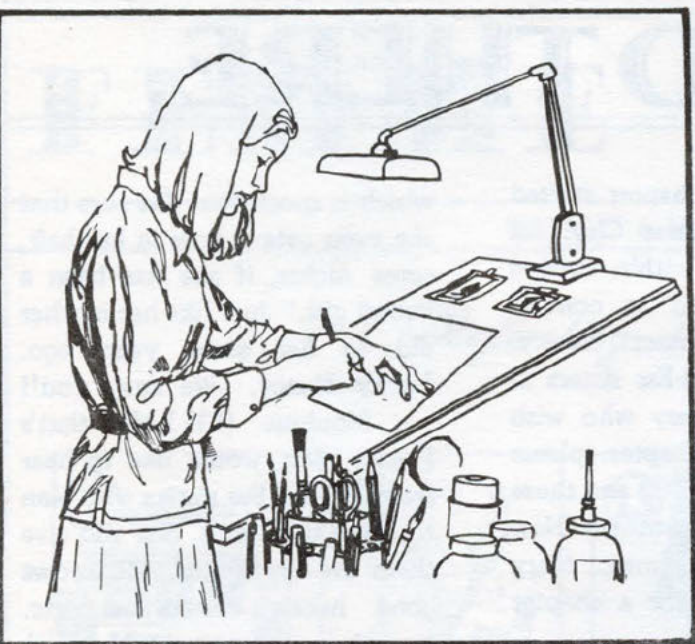
Nancy (CA-80-C) writes to tell us that she and her wife wear matching nighties to bed,

which is much fun! She says that she even gets a bow in her hair some nights, if she has been a "good girl." Just like her mother did to her some years ago. Lucky Nancy. We envy you.

Monique (FF-1-M), from France, gals, would like to hear from her Tri-Ess sisters who plan to come to France. She will show them the royal tour. She knows good hotels, restaurants,

Your Editor and National Leader wants to mention that she now has Beebe (CA-214) helping her in the Tri-Ess office. Beebe now lives in Tulare and helps some evenings and part of the weekend. Beebe is a big help. We had the opportunity to interview a prospective sister from Fresno two nights ago and hope that this sister will join with us is starting a chapter in the San Joaquin Valley. We also have Marlene (CA-221) who lives just a short distance away and who was interviewed by Norma and your Editor on Saturday evening. So it looks like there will be four of us. And Marlene says that she can help in the Tri-Ess office, too. Happy Days!!; And she can type too. How could I be so lucky?

Your Editor just received a phone call about 20 minutes ago from Linda (CA-306-P) concerning the chapter that she, Joan (CA-218-C) and Lorelei (CA-218-G) are working on. It was a coincidence that I had been writing about Linda's Thrift Shop. Anyway they are recruiting other girls and Linda says that all Tri-Ess girls in that area should either contact her or Joy and Lorelei.



SPEAKING OUT

Carol Beecroft
EDITOR

You Can't Ride Two Horses At The Same Time



Sylvia Fc9-1-K

You really can't, you know -- although there are members of the sorority who would like to see Tri-Ess be more liberal in whom we will accept for membership.

From time to time, I hear from members (and even leaders) who believe that the basic slant of the sorority towards heterosexual males is wrong. If they were to have their "druthers," they'd accept just about anyone, including bi-sexuals, homosexuals, transsexuals and the whole range of "complicated" crossdressers. The general feeling of these people is that we are somehow discriminating against these "other types" of crossdressers when we will not allow them into membership. They don't seem to think very far into the "real" reasons for limiting membership to heterosexual crossdressers.

A bit of background to my experience with an "open" type of organization for crossdressers. In the early 70's I was the leader of an "open" organization called Mamselle Sorority.

It was located in southern California where we had three chapters. We did not ask anything about their sexual preferences nor whether they had any hang-ups such as female domination, bondage and all the assorted "far-out" expressions of cross-dressing. It was nothing to put on a fashion show and dinner and have over 50 people attend. We even had a few transsexuals as members and even went out of our way to assist them. The Erickson Foundation even sent us referrals from all over and we tried to help them.

But for all the apparent success of the organization, I realized that the members really never had much of a SPECIAL feeling towards the organization. They had so many divergent viewpoints that it was hard to nail them down to some special aspect that would bring out the LOYALTY in them towards Mamselle Sorority. They'd come to the meetings or special occasions and allow yours truly to do the work, but you could never get enough loyalty from them so as to have them want to do something, in return, for the sorority. It seemed like we had a lot of bodies but practically no loyalty or special feelings to the organization. Something was missing. I guess that it was a case where there was practically no contact among the members between meetings -- they had so little in common and even the commonality of crossdressing didn't seem to help.

And we had problems! If it wasn't the bi-sexual making a pass at a younger member, it was a transsexual slidding up to an already troubled wife and telling this wife all about the upcoming operation and the boy-

friend. Needless to say, we had a number of wives leave early (one in tears) and never return. I can remember breaking up two obviously "gay" members who were teasing each other on the bed in the bedroom of the suite we rented. There seemed to be so many viewpoints that it was hard to overcome certain disadvantages that were "builtin" to our "open" organization. It got to be a pain, trying to keep the organization going, without having the added problems from those who were other than heterosexual.

When Virginia Prince and I discussed a new organization, taking the heterosexuals from one and merging them with the remnants of Virginia's organization (FPE) into a new organization, we both realized that an organization for strictly heterosexual crossdressers would lead to the least complications. Also, we both realized that our wives were so very important to us and in our crossdressing, and we did not want to do anything do hurt those whom we loved. We wanted an organization where people would have much more in common and where our wives could come and not be upset. We wanted something that would bring out loyalty from the membership and one that would attract responsible behavior from potential leaders. The proposed organization was not to be so diversified that it would lose itself due to the many different needs and views of the "other" members. We believed that you just can't be something to everybody. It's been tried before and sooner or later, things fail to go the way you intended. We wanted an organization that would be similar

to a real girl's sorority -- that would bring out the loyalty and commitment towards sorority. In our case we found that by being rather selective in whom we would accept for membership, we had cultivated and developed loyalty and commitment that originally wished to have.

However, from time we do hear from members wish to change the basic section of the sorority so as to eliminate the "closed" feature of the sorority -- in favor of an "open" one that would accept just about anyone. But I believe that Virginia and I knew better when we started the sorority. YOU CAN'T RIDE TWO DIFFERENT HORSES AT THE SAME TIME. Especially when one "horse" is going one way and the other, another. You have to have goals and objectives that fit all the members and to that, you have to "narrow" your interest in the type of crossdresser that you are interested in. That is why we have started with a membership which is restricted to the heterosexual "uncomplicated" male.

But it is important to the national leader, that the organization truly reflects the beliefs of the membership at large. Do the members want a sorority which is restricted to heterosexual males, only. Or is it their desire to change the section in which we are going and "open up" the organization so as to include transsexuals, "gays," and bisexuals as well as those who are into the more "complicated" aspects of crossdressing such as bondage, female domination, and the like? What good is it for the leader to do one thing and the mem-

to want something entirely different?

In that light, I have devised a short questionnaire that is included with this issue of the Femme Mirror. I ask that ALL of you respond. It is no good to say that the respondents want a hereosexual organization when only 25% of the membership replied in the first place. We would like at least 90% response. That will mean that YOU must take the time and effort and complete the questionnaire -- and mail it back to me. Don't sit on your doff and expect others to do the job because they are going to represent their OWN feelings and possibly not yours. This is one of the times when I need all of you to help out. It is not a lot to ask and you know that. So, take a few minutes to complete the questionnaire. OK?

Another matter: I am taking from the Femme Mirror, the section entitled CHAPTER ACTIVITIES and am going - in January, 1982 - to start a special monthly publication that will deal only with chapter activities and which will be sent to all members. This will mean that you will be receiving at least one Tri-Ess publication each month from this office. Of course, we will need lots of material from the chapters (and developing chapters) so that we can have an interesting periodical. It will be called the Tri-Ess CLARION and will be the end result of a periodical that was originally developed to counteract some problems that we had in part of the country, where several leaders, without authority, diverged from accepted practice and ended up with taking an established Tri-Ess periodical for that area and making it into one

that was no longer "ours" but one that included about "gay," transsexual and "mixed" organizations, as well as Tri-Ess activities in that area. Between the phone calls and letters that I received from disturbed members (and wives), it was necessary that something be done and that is why the Tri-Ess CLARION was started. But I felt that there should be something done with that periodical besides reporting activities in only one part of the country. So after many hours of thought, I have decided that the periodical will be expanded and include ALL chapter activities from all over. I think that you will like receiving something each month from this office.

Because of the additional expense of having a regular monthly periodical dealing with chapter activities (besides our regular publications), we are apt to have a financial crunch before too long unless something is done about the income that comes into this office.

The Femme Mirror's cost, counting the postage, is about \$1200 an issue. It would be a lot more if I did not do the type-setting - this saves a bundle! The Directory (on which I will get after the Femme Mirror goes to the printer) costs well over \$2000 an issue. Expenses are much higher than most of you realize. I have talked this over with Virginia (our treasurer and general secretary) as well as some leaders and members. The general consensus is that everything else has gone up plenty since 1975 with the exception of our dues. Thus I am proposing an increase in the dues from \$20 to \$30 annually. If you think that this is a lot, please

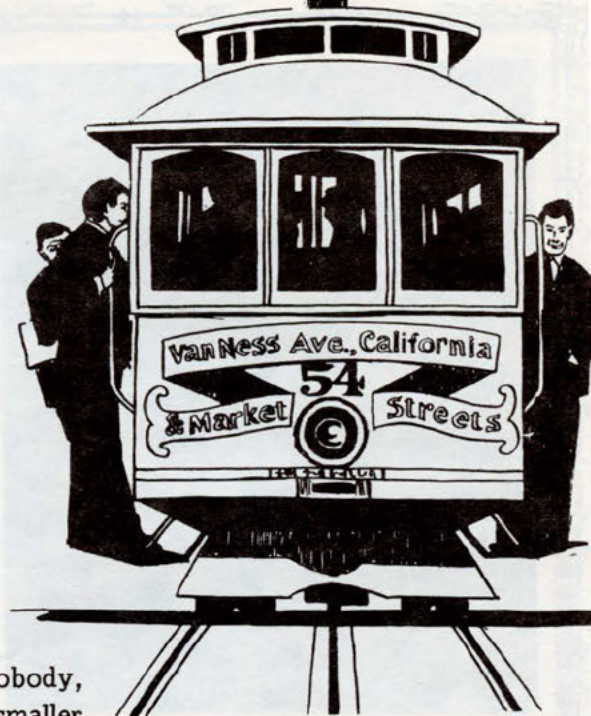
consider all the other costs that you have -- what else has stayed the same since 1975. Well, our costs have gone up too.

If you don't believe that the Femme Mirror, the Directory and all the other services that we provide are not worth \$30.00 a year -- all that I can say is, "shame on you." Your new dues would add up to \$2.50 a month. You probably throw that much away in each two days of the month. Another way to see it is 57 cents a week! I hope that your membership is worth that much to you! The increase in dues, if approved by the general membership, will start in March, 1982, although new people may start paying it sooner. And if you are out of work or have financial problems at renewal time, just say the word and we will allow you to renew now and pay later. No one will be denied membership due to financial inability to pay.

In order to work more closely with the chapters as well as to help new chapters develop, I, after considerable thought, have eliminated all leadership positions above that of chapter leader, such as Regional Coordinators and Division Leaders. (I have contact all such persons and thanked them for the work that they have done). I have appointed Donna [REDACTED], IL-11-S) as Executive Secretary of Tri-Ess with the responsibility of working directly with the chapters. I believe that she will do a good job with the chapters and as a result of eliminating several rungs of the leadership ladder, we will be able to be more efficient in our relationships with the chapters.

OUR SAN FRANCISCO EXPERIENCE

TriEss Conventioneers Live And Play For Six
Full Days As Girls With Nary A Hitch! It Pays
To Go First Class. The City By The Golden Gate
Treated Our Girls As Visiting Princesses!



Well, there weren't a lot of us but the eleven people who attended the San Francisco convention in late September had more fun than they had altogether at the two previous gatherings in New Orleans. All were agreed that there is no place like San Francisco for a gathering of Tri-Ess Sisters.

From the first day to the last, the girls were constantly on the go — and having fabulous success in living full-time as a girl! Nothing really seemed to go wrong. The hotel personnel were nice — they hadn't even been told about who we were. We ate in the of the nicest restaurants in San Francisco. At these restaurants, we were treated as women by the waiters and the people who noticed us didn't pay that much attention. There were a few humorous occasions when people read us while we were eating, but nothing happened to mar the dinners. And we want to emphasize that we ate at the very nicest restaurants. The best may have been a nice French Restaurant, connected to the Hotel Cortez. It was very intimate and

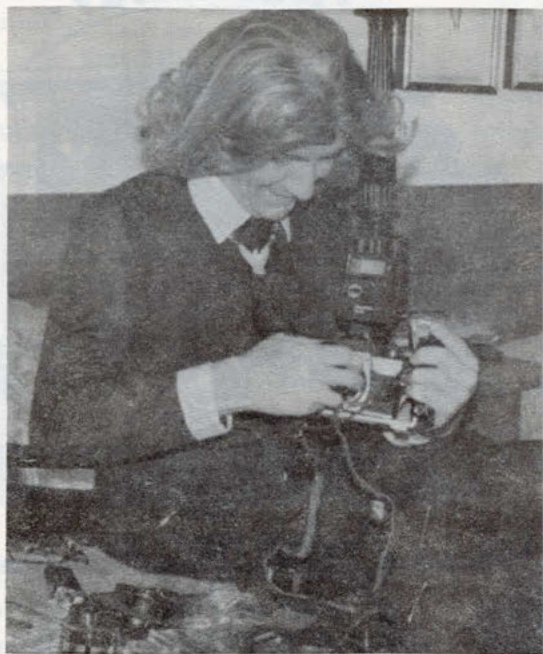
elegant and nobody, but nobody, bothered us. Sometimes a smaller group out on the town blends in better than a larger one.

We shopped at the nicest downtown stores and even when people read us, they didn't let on. They liked our money! Your Editor walked into a store which specializes in blouses and carried on a conversation with the saleslady and another one who came onto the scene and all the time I was treated as a women. And I know darn well that they could read me. As much as I'd like to be perfect looking — as a women — I know that there are things that give me away and although my voice is fairly high, I still do not have the resonance of a women's voice. But, with all this, I had no problem there or in the store where I selected some nice walking shoes and the gentlemen, who waited on me, once again treated me as a lady.

I suppose that the main reason that we were so successful in getting by was that we dressed and acted like ladies and thus people treated us like

ladies. The bus driver of our own private bus was certainly congenial and did not put us down. It was great to be driven around the town, sight-seeing with an occasional stop for picture-taking. I truly believe that this was one of the most successful outings of a group of crossdressers that has ever occurred. We're sorry that YOU didn't make it. But maybe in 1982 you'll do better. Although we are going back to New Orleans in March (living first class all the way), we are planning a return to San Francisco in the fall. Maybe!

Rather than go on with a lot of words, I thought it better to show you a bunch of pictures — sort of a visual essay of our experience in San Francisco — so here goes —:



Rbonda (CA-309-S)

"Let's see, if I hold this button down, this thing will screw on here, then I think you clip the bracket on below that little lever, and the filter slips -- uh -- oh, phooey! I just don't understand these mechanical things at all."



"Oh, I JUST love this one," said Carol Beecroft, trying on a vivid purple wig, "but I wouldn't dare wear it in public." "And you aren't going to wear that thing at home, either," chimed in Norma.



Some of the girls dining at one of their favorites, the Rosebud English Pub, which is elegantly decorated in the style of an English country estate. There were many such restaurants near our hotel, near Union Sq.



It seemed that nothing could get Janice (TX-10-M) up early, but when Janna (IL-28-P) went to the kitchen in her apartment -- to prepare breakfast and offered free orange juice, bacon and eggs, toast, jelly and milk to Janice, well -- THAT DID IT!! She was up, dressed, and eating by 9:00 -- but just that ONE time!



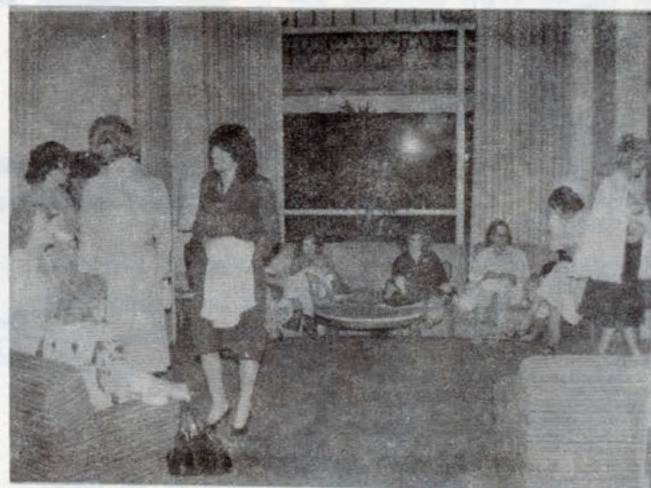
"Whatcha mean, I'm not so sexy? If I was any sexier, I'd have to have a bodyguard," exclaimed Dorothy (TX-15-H), as roommate, Janice, persisted in teasing her while shooting one of some 400 photos these two girls took.



Janice (TX-10-M) and Carol, your Editor, spend a few minutes at a little cafe by San Francisco bay. It was nice just being two girls out for the afternoon.



Your Editor, with her new Gibson Girl bairdo, greets herself in the mirror as she gets ready for an evening on the town.

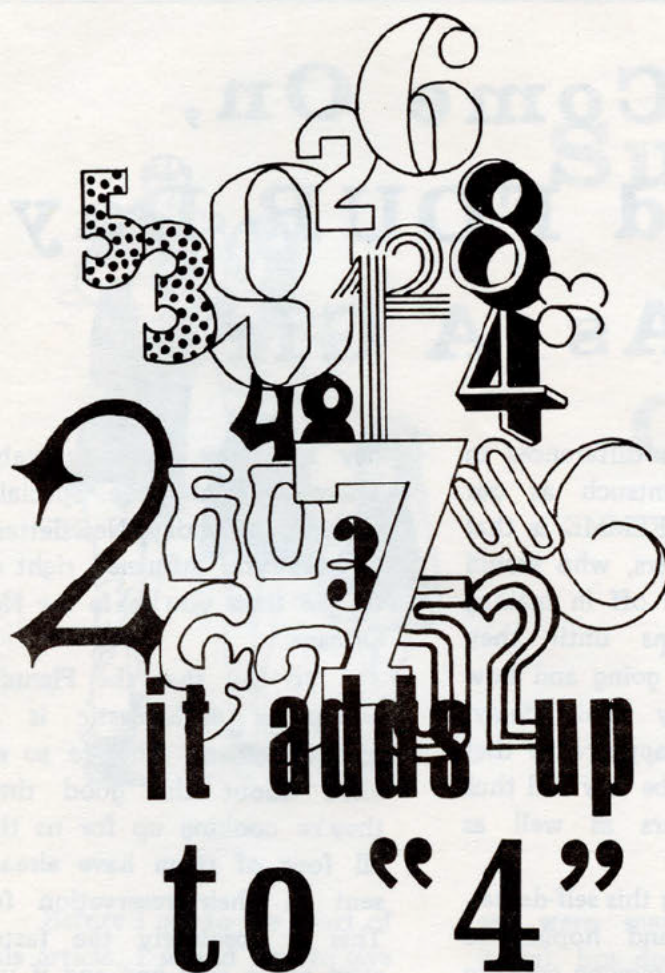


A number of the Tri-Ess girls gather together in the foyer of the Hotel Cortez, prior to their taxi trip downtown to Finnochos's Female Impersonator Show Club. It was great fun and we attracted more attention than did the Impersonators.

MARCH 17th THROUGH MARCH 21st

Holiday
En
Femme





**Yes,
Four
Great
Days!**

NEW ORLEANS! The great Crescent City on the Mississippi embodies more than 250 years of French, Spanish and American cultures. A city as old as the Vieux Carre, yet as fresh and vital as the Super-dome, is obviously very special. That's why we're chosen to return to this wonderful city for our fourth Reunion – The HOLIDAY EN FEMME. We couldn't possibly find a city more hospitable and tolerant of crossdressers than New Orleans.

And, of course, we're staying in the Vieux Carre – the historic French Quarters, with its narrow streets, lined with balconies of lace iron work, and beautiful flowered court yards, hiding behind the walls, possibly harboring some romantic or mysterious activity. Perhaps behind one of them you will find some Tri-Ess sisters, fully 'en femme,' and taking a rest in this quiet haven, from their far-ranging activities. Needless to say, the city provides a multiplicity of varied and interesting activities for all who visit this historic city.

A full schedule of activities is planned –

from breakfast in the morning to late-night room parties. This schedule will be called the GROUP ITINERARY, and will include shopping expeditions, parties, dining, sight-seeing, shows and night life. And all such activities giving you an unforgettable experience in feminine living.

The schedule is designed so that those who like to take off on their own can do so at any time and then rejoin the group later at designated times and places. You'll meet your sisters from all over the country as well as making new friends and fondly renewing old acquaintances.

The Holiday In Femme is designed to bring us as close as we will ever come to realizing that dream of the "girl within us" having a life of her own. Can you live happily without this?

Excellent "how to do it" programs and seminars are the forte of some "special" annual gatherings, but the Tri-Ess emphasis is on the "Living Experience." It could be said that it is the "get out and do it" concept.

The Planning Group of our HOLIDAY EN FEMME is composed of Nichol (TX-303-W, Dorothy TX-15-H, Janice TX-10-M. and Linda TX-21-B.

Nichol has the primary responsibility for the selection of a lodging place. At this writing she is in New Orleans, carefully evaluating each hotel so as to ensure out complete satisfaction and happiness. Dorothy is planning the dining schedule. Janice is serving as coordinator and working with Linda in planning programs and parties.

With her own list plus suggestions from others who know their way around New Orleans, Dorothy's problem is not one of finding good restaurants for us, but of deciding which ones we're going to have to pass up on this trip. For those who like to go out on their own, sometimes, the registration "kit" will contain a list of recommended places which could not be included in the group itinerary.

"Nightie Parties" are a favorite at all Tv gatherings and Janice says she's got to work at least one into the schedule of late-night room parties. The "Too Late For Mardi Gras" party is too wildly outrageous to describe in a nice magazine like the Femme Mirror," she says.

A program on grooming and makeup with special emphasis on cover-up techniques for face, arms, and legs is one of the programs Linda is putting together. She's also planning our visit to a well-stocked wig shop where you can try on anything you'd like - just for fun or to purchase - and you will receive professional help in fit and style. Try doing THAT in your home-town!

Come On, Spend FOUR Days As A Girl!

One of the differences in holding an event such as our HOLIDAY EN FEMME is that so many members, who would like to go, hold off in making their reservations until they see who else is going and how many. But, by their delay, they cause the appearance that attendance will be low and thus discourage others as well as themselves.

Recognizing this self-defeating tendency and hoping to counter it by removing concern over cancellation costs, we are offering to those who make their Reservation Payments by January 6th, 1982: (1) a full refund guarantee until February 6th; (2) Lower cancellation charges after February 6th; and (3) a 50% reduction in Registration Fees. See the Reservation Form for details.

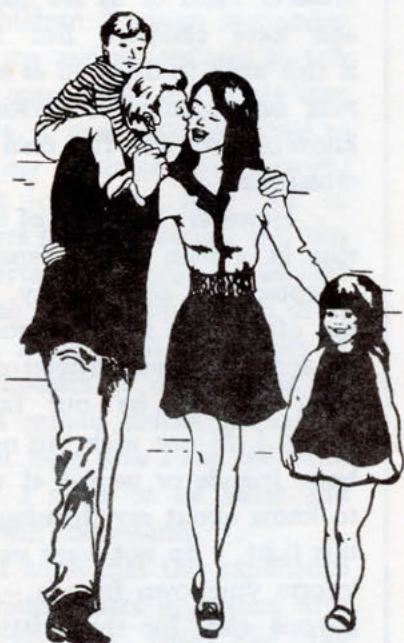
A survey to select our hotel is now underway and the next Femme Mirror will contain the name of the hotel and it's rates (anywhere from \$40.00 per day per person to \$50.00 a day per person - approximately). There will also be more information on the plans and scheduling of exciting activities.

After making your reservation, you will receive a pre-registration kit including maps, brochures, lists, and other material to help make your journey

and stay more enjoyable. There will also be special, periodic "Holiday Newsletters" to keep you informed right up to the time you leave for New Orleans.

To say that the Planning Group is enthusiastic is an understatement. They're so excited about the good times they're cooking up for us that all four of them have already sent in their reservation fee. This is absolutely the fastest start we've ever had and if you will give these girls support and encouragement by getting YOUR Reservation Payment in RIGHT NOW, they are going to give you the most fabulous HOLIDAY you've ever had!

There is some possibility that a small hotel with one of those pretty, private garden-courtyards will be the choice. If so, only 25 can be accommodated in the main building and it will be "first Reservations in, first served!" After the main house fills up, late-comers will have to stay in the old slave quarters out back. Out there, you can't smoke, drink, talk, DRESS, or even mix with the members in the front building after the 9:00 P.M. curfew. Now, you don't want that, do you? OK, then, send in your Reservation Payment before it's too late.



Susan Tells Her Children

Susan (CA-88-T) Works Hard In
Preparation For That Fateful Moment

Before I get to the heart of this article, I would like to give you some background.

I have been a crossdresser for at least forty years. I have received extensive psychotherapy directed towards this condition, and also more recently for alcoholism. I have been most successful in dealing with my alcoholism and I have not drunk alcohol for over a year. I now see a therapist only for "maintenance" and for whatever stresses might develop in my life.

My wife and I, as well as my therapist, have talked extensively about my crossdressing and it was decided that it would alleviate stress if I told my children and came out of the closet. I was encouraged by my therapist to do this.

I dress at home when alone or when visiting other crossdressers. My wife has known about my dressing since before

we were married (almost 25 years), but doesn't want to see me dressed or participate in any way. However, she has been more receptive to my discussions of late.

Some eighteen years ago and before our daughter was born, I attended a meeting of Virginia's old organization, FPE, in the Los Angeles area. I was interested in how other crossdressers handle the "children issue." Most of those present said that they did not tell their children and I actually received little help at that time. So in all these years I have kept my dressing a secret from my children - Ann, who is seventeen, and Alan, who is thirteen.

Both of these children have had some psychotherapy for various problems and Alan is currently seeing a very excellent therapist whose name is Marcia.

with whom we worked towards the best way to inform the children about my dressing.

A few months ago, Alan was angry with me and accused me of being "gay." He said he could prove it because he had overheard me saying that I wanted to cut off my beard so that I could dress as a woman. I was most surprised at this accusation and assured him that I certainly was not that way. But I did not go into the aspect of crossdressing at that time since I really wasn't prepared and, anyway, he was too angry.

However, I knew that I would have to face the issue with him soon and also knew that it would take much courage on my part and that such a discussion might risk my relationship with my son.

I brought this need to Marcia, my therapist and she made an appointment for the

whole family to meet with her so that she could help and guide the discussion.

I had several weeks to prepare myself. I wrote out a long, detailed discussion of how I wanted to tell them. In the "discussion" I also wrote about my "second life" as a cross-dresser. Through the *Femme Mirror* I also received additional help in my preparations. I was especially grateful to Ellen in Oregon and I also received a helpful letter from Carol. I even had help from several crossdressing friends. Marcia, and Sara, my wife, also helped. In the beginning I wanted to go to a lot of detail but the consensus was that I should keep it simple and direct. My preparation went through four drafts.

Well, the appointment finally arrived and I was quite nervous about it all, but I had confidence that I could pull it off. Marcia, my therapist, was most skillful in directing our conversation towards the theme that we should be open with our thoughts and feelings. Eventually she suggested that perhaps some of the family might want to talk about something. When I had my turn, I said :

"There is a family secret that you may be aware of and old enough, now, to understand. A few months ago Alan accused me of being homosexual and said that he could prove this since he had overheard me saying that I wanted to shave off my beard so that I could dress as a woman. I told Alan that I was not "gay" and that I loved women, not men. But this was probably not an adequate response and I would like to discuss this further.

As an aside, I want to point out that there are many "gay" people -- authors, artists, judges, attorneys, doctors, etc. "Gay" men like to make love to other men, not women. Very few of them dress up as women or act as women to attract other men.

BUT, there is another group of men who are heterosexual and love women, not men. However they also enjoy dressing as women and are called cross-dressers, or transvestites.

Now, I do like to occasionally dress up as a woman. This is my secret and I generally dress-up when I am alone. I do want to emphasize that I am not "gay" and that I love women -- and I'm successful as a man.

Why do I tell you all this? Because you are old enough to understand, for one thing, and also because you might already have some reason to think that I do crossdress. Another reason for telling you about my cross-dressing is that I will feel better, emotionally. I really do not want to keep my dressing a secret from you and want to be open and honest about it with my family.

I have been crossdressing, off and on, for a long time. I have had help from Marcia about this behavior, although I actually do not want to stop doing it. I enjoy crossdressing. You see, I have this basic need to dress-up on occasion, usually when I am alone. I do not consider it a "bad" thing and I wish to point out that the doctors at the Alcoholic Clinic agree with me. They say it's far better than drinking to relax me and help relieve stress. As far as I am concerned, it is a release from the

rather rigid macho-demands of being a male. I am a successful man and so are most cross-dressers. Most of us are married and have children. But there is this need to dress up as a woman on occasions. I personally know of some very fine men who crossdress.

However, this kind of behavior in a man is not generally accepted in our society. Far too often such men are laughed at and harrassed. Therefore, I want this to be our family secret. I do not wish our neighbors, friends or people at work to know about my dressing. In this light, I do not want you to inform your own friends -- or anyone else, for that matter -- such people might laugh at you and harass and perhaps ostrcize all of us.

But I do want all of you to understand my need to cross-dress and to accept me as I am. I need your love just as I have tried to give you my understanding, acceptance and love."

Marcia then allowed the discussion to open up. Ann said that she had not had any suspicion about my dressing but was not especially shocked since she knew so many unusual people among her friends in high school. Alan was rather unsettled about my disclosure and was rather quiet. Finally he said that he could understand and accept what I was doing. My wife added that I certainly was a lot better person than other husbands who have extramarital affairs. She affectionally said that I was really a "pretty good egg."

Generally, I was quite satisfied with the family meeting. Later, Sara said that I appeared quite calm in my relating all

or this. Although I do not yet know what the long-term effects will be, I have sensed, in the last week or so, a new closeness with my children. They are more open with me and we are able to talk a lot more easily and freely than before. I now have no need to hide my feminine clothes in the closet -- they're now out in drawers in the bedroom and this is certainly more convenient for me. I will continue to dress when alone or at the homes of crossdressers. I don't want to flaunt myself before the family but at least now I can tell them when I want to be alone and they will understand.

I hope that this experience will help others in dealing with their children. There has been practically nothing printed in the crossdressing literature and, thus in a sense, I feel like a pioneer. Telling my children was not easy but I do feel that it was a valuable step in alleviating my stress and opening up a more honest relationship with those who mean the most to me.



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

Tatoos Anyone?

Anonymous

If you are at all like me you did something very stupid that could last the remainder of your life. I got a tattoo. And because of that I have lived with the knowledge that I could not go sleeveless or wear a dress that had sheer material on the arms.

But if you are in this predicament, I believe that I can help you. You see, there are several ways to get rid of your tatoos -- or at least cover them.

One way is to have your tatoos removed by skin-graft which is quite expensive.

Another way is dermabrasion. That is if the tatoos aren't too deep (or if they are old). The method is not that expensive and can be done in a doctor's office. This method involves a type of wire brush which wears away the tattoo.

And still you could cover the pesky things. For years I have tried various methods to cover my tatoos, including makeup, a real mess, and gets on your clothing. I've even tried flesh-colored tape which lumps up and allows a person to see it through the dress sleeve.

I gave up for awhile until I hit on a brand new, or should I say an old idea. Bodypainting!

I went to all the local art shops but the problem was that they didn't make a paint that works on skin or that is flesh-colored. So I finally ended up



in my favorite hobby shop.

I looked through all the different kinds of paints and all were toxic except Pactra, which is not toxic when dry. It is fast drying and only costs 59 cents a jar!

I purchased this paint and an inexpensive brush and started to experiment with it. I started with a flesh color which is OK for most people. Then I tried some earth-tones. I made a bowl out of some tin-foil to mix my colors. I only used a drop of the darker color at first and mixed it well.

I painted right over the tatoos, although I did it very lightly at first. I made sure that I eliminated the outlines of the tatoos. This proved to be rather successful. I do want to point out that it is necessary that you do some experimenting to start but if you perservere you will get the desired results.

SHOES:

WHERE TO FIND 'EM



For lucky Cinderellas, sizes 5 to 9, it's a pleasant seasonal ritual. For their unfortunate step-sisters -- the size 4 who must often settle for Mary Janes, the 7AAAA who must layer her heels with Dr Scholl's corduroy wings, the 9½ who squeezes into a 9 -- and the male crossdresser who never seems to find the "right" size 13D -- shopping for shoes is often a depressing and painful ordeal.

Is the dearth of unusual sizes evidence of discrimination afoot? Could it be a matter of esthetics? (A buyer for an elegant midtown department store says; "You have to consider what a shoe would LOOK like in a 12.") Or is it simply a lack of awareness of the plight of the ill-shod by the shoe business?

There are several reasons why the selection of odd-sized shoes has continued to shrink in the last few years -- the

decline in domestic shoe manufacturing and simple economics, to cite two -- but insensitivity on the part of the trade is not among them.

Christine Wallach, V.P. of the National Shoe Retailers Association gets frequent calls and letters from women who are desperately looking for referrals to stores that can fit them. So she IS aware of the problem -- one she feels is exacerbated primarily by the shrinkage of the American shoe industry in the face of tough competition from overseas and an increase in imports from Italy, Spain and France, to name a few.

Officials of the shoe trade agree. The Vice President of Erica Shoes in New York City,

one of the few remaining high fashion shoe manufacturers in the United States, contends that at least half the shoes now sold in this country are imported. A more limited selection of sizes occurs because Europeans work, with a limited number of 'lasts' -- the size-width forms on which shoes are made -- and with virtually no combination lasts, which provide for a heel width two degrees narrower than the ball width, assuring a better fit.

Buyers do have more flexibility when ordering from American companies. Both Erica Shoes and the Fox Shoe Manufacturing Co., also in Manhattan, which make store-labeled shoes for Saks Fifth Avenue, Berg-

dorf Goodman, I. Miller, Lord and Taylor and Bloomingdale's, offer lasts ranging from widths AAAAA to C and sizes 3½ to 11.

The shortage of odd-size stock in client stores occurs in part, says Howard Fox, President of Fox Shoe Manufacturing, because buyers can't afford to have slow moving sizes taking up shelf space. Mr. Litvack of Erica Shoes, though also acknowledging the buyer's dilemma, admits to taking about 15 to 20 special make-up orders per month from client stores.

How to fashion-hungry misfits cope? Some haunt the sale racks. Some have shoes made to order. Others rely on a quiet relationship with an accommodating salon, as is the case with Jackie Onassis, whose 9½AA or 10AAA is discreetly shod at I. Miller and Charles Jourdan; and Mrs Edsel Ford, whose diminutive model 3½B is serviced at Saks.

The following shopping guide includes those department store salons and shoe stores that carry a better than average size range and/or offer better than average service, meaning a willingness to procure, from house, supplier or factory, a craved purple stiletto in a size 10AAAA. Also listed are stores that specialize in odd sizes, some of which sell in part or wholly through the mail, with money-back guarantees. These stores, although located in the New York City area, often have branch stores in large cities throughout the US.

NARROW (4, 9½, 10)

Saks Fifth Avenue stocks narrower widths and smaller sizes, many under the Saks

label. They will order the latter from factory, if feasible. Sizes 4 to 10AAAA, AAA, AA, B, and 6 to 9C; \$24 to \$175; boots, \$175 to \$300. Shop third week of August for fall and in mid-February for spring.

NARROW/MEDIUM

(4, 9½ to 11)

Most popular sizes at I. Miller are 9½AA and 11B. Many top labels. Will occasionally order own label from factory. Sizes: 7 to 11AAA; 5½ to 11AA; 4 to 11B; 5 to 9C; \$70 to \$165. Boots 4 to 11, N and M; \$200 to \$400. Shop Mid-June for the fall and in January for spring.

NARROW/MEDIUM

(4½, 9½, 10)

Delman Shoes at Bergdorf Goodman has some 4½ M's; 9½'s and 10's in Givenchy, Halston, Anne Klein, Maude Frizon. Special orders on rare occasion. Sizes 5 to 10N; 4½ to 10M. Also 6½ to 8C in Bruno Magli and Ferragamo. Shoes are \$100 to \$160; boots are \$200 to \$350. Shop early July for the fall and in early February for spring buys.

NARROW/MEDIUM

(3½, 9½, 10, a few 10½'s, 11's).

At Gucci, more than the facade is being renovated. New management promises a big smile and a fit, or will cheerfully order. Sizes 6 to 10AA; 3½ to 10B, with a few 10½'s and 11's in the loafer. Shoes \$69 to \$175; boots, \$300 to \$400. In New York City - 689 Fifth Avenue.

NARROW/WIDE (9½)

In Bloomingdale's salon, 9½ and 10's may phone call alert when the styles arrive. Get your name in the customer's book. Sizes: 10AA; 5 to 10B; Shoes \$200; Boots \$120 to \$200. Shop August for fall season and in February for spring.

An expanded special sizes center will appear soon on the second floor with styles selected from Red Cross, C. C. Mushrooms and Femolar. Sizes: 7 to 9AAA; 7 to 10AA; 10B; and 5 to 9C. Shoes \$75 to \$50; boots \$35 to \$50.

The wearer of 9½ who is a charge customer may order casual shoes upon request of Bloomingdale's regular catalogues; buyer stocks extra on the occasion.

NARROW/EXTRA WIDE

(9½, 10)

Macy's has a well-stocked special sizes section. Sizes: 10AA; 5 to 10B through 11's. Shoes: \$30 to \$100. Boots \$60 to \$100. Shop early September for fall and in early February for Spring buys.

NARROW (4½, 9½,

Bally of Switzerland order from warehouse. Sizes: 6 to 10S and N; 4½ to 10C in casual styles. Shoes \$175. Boots 6 to 10M; \$225 to \$280. In New York City - Madison Ave, and for more information write to Bally of Switzerland, 444 Fifth Avenue, New York 10021.

NARROW

(4½, 9½, 10, some 10½'s to 12's)

Famolare will order from warehouse. Sizes: 6 to 10AA; 4½ to 10B; 10½ to 12B in some styles. For a catalogue, write to Famolare Inc., 4 East 54th Street, New York 10022.

NARROW/WIDE (9½, 10)

Florsheim often has late season selection of 9½ to 10 classics. Sizes: 6½AA; 5 to 10B; 6 to 9C; and 6 to 8½D; Shoes, \$35 to \$110. Boots, mostly 6 to 10M; some AS's; \$70 to \$150. Shop August for fall and in January for spring.

EXTRA NARROW AND EXTRA WIDE (4 to 11)

Selby Fifth Avenue has a nice assortment of sandals and plain pumps. Sizes: 7 to and 6½ to 10A; 4 to 11B; 6 to 11C,D and E. Shoes \$25 to \$55; \$2 extra for sizes over 10. Boot sizes: 6 to 11N; 5 to 11M; and 6 to 10W; \$60 to \$80. For a catalog, write to Selby Fifth Avenue, 417 5th Avenue, New York 10016.

Naturalizer carries western boots and moccasins. Sizes: 7½ to 11AAAA, 7 to 11AAA; 6 to 11AA and A; 4 to 11B; 5 to 11C and D; 5½ to 9E; \$26 to \$50. \$2 extra for sizes over 10. Boot sizes: 6 to 11N; 5 to 11M and 6 to 10W; \$35 to \$70. For a catalog, write to Naturalizer, 417 Fifth Ave, New York 10016.

Red Cross has pumps and sandals: 7 to 10AAA; 6 to 11AA; 6 to 10A; 4 to 12B; 5 to 11C and D; 5 to 10E and EE;

\$20 to \$45. Boots \$40 to \$80. For a catalog call or write to Red Cross Shoes, 403 Fifth Ave., New York 10016.

EXTRA NARROW AND EXTRA WIDE (3 to 12)

Don't be put off by the orthopedic iron maidens in the window; Footsaver has 5 floors. Sizes: 7 to 12AAA; 6 to 12AA; 3 to 12B; 5 to 12C; 5 to 11D and EE; \$30 to \$50; \$2 extra for sizes over 10. Boots are \$50 to \$80. Located at 38 West 34th Street in New York City. For a color catalogue, write to Footsaver, 38 West 38th Street, New York City 10001

EXTRA NARROW AND EXTRA WIDE (4 to 12)

Milton Bodner will take shoes back for a refund anytime, worn or not; he CARES, he says. Sizes: 6½ to 12AAAA; 6 to 12AAA; 5 to 12AA; 6 to 12A; 4 to 12B; 5½ to 12C and D. Shoes \$35 to \$100. Boots (Up to EEE width), \$40 to \$80. Write to Milton Bodner, 38 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, N.J. 07055.

NARROW/MEDIUM (10 to 13)

Styles at Tall Gals, long the mecca of lofty women, are getting livelier. Good quality; brusque service. Sizes: 10 to 13N and M. Tall size panty hose available. Shoes \$40 to \$85; Boots: \$24 to \$100. 603 Fifth Ave, New York City. For a catalogue, write to Tall Gals Shoecraft, 603 Fifth Avenue, New York City 10017

EXTRA NARROW AND EXTRA WIDE (9½ to 15)

Tall Size Shoes is a more modestly priced Tall Gals; more synthetics. Sizes: 9½ to and 9½ to 15AA; 10 to 12A; 9½ to 15B through E; and 9½ to 13EE; \$28 to \$85. Boots are \$40 to \$130. Special orders from factory on occasion. 2 West 35th Street in New York City.

NARROW / MEDIUM AND EXTRA WIDE (6 to 13)

Lane Bryants third floor has pumps in extra wide sizes. Sizes in shoes and boots: 10 to 13N and M; 6 to 12W and WW. Shoes: \$12 to \$60; boots, \$60 to \$80. 465 Fifth Ave, N.Y.C. For a catalogue, write to Lane Bryant, 1500 Broadway, New York City 10036.

ASSORTED HARD TO FIND

Hill Brothers color catalog thoughtfully shows how certain sizes look on extra wide feet and legs. Sizes: 7½ to and 5 to 13AAAA, 6 to 13AAA; 5 to 14AA; 5 to 12A; 2 to 14B; 3½ to 13C; 4 to 13D; 4 to 12E; 4½ to 12EE; 5 to 12EEE; and 6½ to 10EEEE; \$16 to \$40. Boots 6 to 12N through WW, \$32 to \$70. A 14 day walk-around money-back guarantee. Write to Hill Brothers, 99 Ninth St, Lynchburg, Va 24504.

Lawson Hill Leather & Shoe 5 to 13AAAA through AA; 3 to 13B; 3½ to 13C; 4 to 13D; 5 to 13E; 4 to 13EE and 5 to 13EEE. Shoes: \$20 to \$65; Boots \$50 to \$200. Write to Lawson Hill Leather & Shoe Company, 580 Winter Street, Waltham, Mass 02254.



This pretty tot eventually shed the skirts and became macho novelist Ernest Hemingway

Men Who Were Raised as Girls

During Victorian times, little boys were often dressed as girls by their mothers. This was usually just for the first few years because dresses made diaper-changing easier. But some mothers, before and since, carried this practice to extremes. For example:

North Pole explorer Robert Peary's mother sent her little "Bertie" out to play in frilly clothes and a sunbonnet.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur often said, "My first memory is that of a bugle call." His next memories perhaps were those of being dressed in skirts and wearing his hair in long curls until he was 8. Arthur Ernest Hemingway was another macho man whose mother's whim was to dress her son in feminine attire. Poor little boy!

Artist Peter Rubens, at the age of 12, served as one of the three pages at the court of Countess Matilda de Lalaing. For amusement, Matilda and her female friends dressed the three boys in lacy underwear and sumptuous gowns, plucked their eyebrows, and made them wear women's wigs and makeup. (Will our readers stop slobbering)

German poet Rainer Rilke was raised as a girl for his first

six years. His mother had wanted a daughter and was so disappointed that she even called him "Sophie." Another disappointed mom was Speranza Wilde, the mother of wit and playwright Oscar Wilde. She clothed Oscar in blue velvet dresses and so many trinkets that one contemporary writer likened him to "a little Hindu idol."

Novelist Thomas Wolfe was the last of seven surviving children. Said his mother, "He being the baby, I kept him a baby." She breast-fed him until he was 3½, slept with him until he was six. She curled his long hair every day and ignored his pleas to cut it. Once, when some older boys called him a girl, Tom opened his trousers to prove otherwise. At 9, Tom caught head lice, and his mother finally let his curls be cut.

Of all the famous men brought up as girls, wit and critic Alexander Woolcott probably enjoyed it the most. His older sister and her teenage friends took pictures of little Aleck in dresses and makeup. In college, Aleck founded a drama club and played the female leads in its plays. He even went to parties in woman's clothes, handing out calling cards that read "Alexandra Woolcott."

BIGDAMN

Enid (NV-1-S) Does
Up Often, But This
Was Something Spe

Recently I look
clock as I exited from
and it struck me that t
was yet so young, so
have a little adventure!

I did! The first s
don, in place of the pl
I usually wear, a ver
lace all around. Next,
thigh-high nylons inst
usual knee highs I w
time. Then on came
lace-trimmed bra and
the underneath part I
my head one of the
geous slips I have ever
so fancy it could only
up thing. Shoes had to
to match the hose r
the slip-ons I usual

It was almost a s
most of that was final
by a quite plain l
that under other circ
would take me appro
most anyplace. Then,
ing a tolerable amou
mirror (I do believe
appeared there wasn't
you know what I did?

I (possibly swish
bit, which I practically
went into the living ro
down in my easiest ch
my legs and read th
paper from beginnin

Bigdamdeal! Hu
that just to stay at ho
it was such fun!! ENI



TEE VEE TIPS

How To Build A Basic Wardrobe

The following discussion revolving around colors and your clothing, although primarily directed towards females, can also assist the crossdresser in so many ways and it is thus important that the reader grasp what is being said and apply it towards "her" own crossdressing situations. There is so much truth in what is about to be read, that it would not be a bad idea if the reader would call "her" wife's attention to what follows.

DO YOU REINFORCE YOUR OWN EMOTIONS WITH COLOR?

If color is able to affect the moods and emotions of others, it follows that it affects yours, too — perhaps more subtly than you imagine. Why, one some days when you're feeling blue and depressed, do you reach for the dreariest dress in your closet? Why do you tend to pick something bright and cheerful when you're feeling good? In doing these things, you're probably using color to reinforce your own moods which can be a self-destructive process. Consider the experiences of these two women.

Denise is an attractive, generally cheerful woman who is first rate in her job - a public relations writer. She had an opportunity to interview for a job with a major public relations

firm. The job represented a step up in both salary and prestige. The day before the interview, when Denise opened her mail, she found a rejection slip from a magazine for a short manuscript she had recently submitted. The rejection disappointed and upset her. When she dressed for her interview the next morning, she consciously chose one of the dreariest dresses she owned. It was dark gray, high necked and since she was feeling blah, she didn't take time to liven it up with a colorful scarf or some jewelry. When she checked herself in the mirror before leaving home, her self-esteem slipped another notch because she felt she looked so drab. She later felt her performance at the interview was as colorless as she looked. She got the job, but several months after she started working, her boss, who had interviewed her, confided that she almost didn't hire her because her manner was so low-key and she looked so mousy and drab that her boss wondered if Denise would fit the image of the firm. Her credentials were good and her writing was first-class so her boss wisely chalked off her appearance to nerves or a bad day — but it was a close call for Denise.

Sarah and Hank were going to celebrate their first wedding

anniversary with a candlelight dinner at a luxurious restaurant. She and Hank had a fight over the phone that morning and it took the edge off the occasion for Sarah and made her feel depressed. As she dressed for dinner that evening, she just did not feel like putting on the pretty, yellow, chiffon print she had originally planned to wear. Instead, she wore a black crepe dress she had never particularly liked. The somber mood of the dress seemed to set the key for the evening, and all in all, it was not an evening she cared to remember.

What both Denise and Sarah did was use color to reinforce a negative mood. They felt blue and depressed and they chose colors that intensified the mood rather than something that might have helped brighten their spirits. If Denise had made the effort to wear something she particularly liked and felt good in, her interview might have well been more upbeat. If Sarah had worn her chiffon dress, it might have made her feel pretty and gay and encouraged her to act that way.

Many women say that they know what kind of a day they're going to have when they pick a particular dress or outfit in the morning. "When I wear this dress," says one woman, "I

always feel good and attractive and it makes me feel better no matter what happens during the day." Conversely, another woman reports, "I can't explain it, but whenever I wear this dress I have a lousy day. I feel unattractive and I'm grumpy." Clothes, especially their color obviously affects our moods. Choosing a dress in a color (and of course a style) you like can help you feel confident and attractive. If you have had an unpleasant emotional experience or you're going into a particularly tense situation, wear something that you like. It will make you feel good about yourself and help offset some of the tensions or depressed feelings you may have.

HOW MUCH COLOR CAN YOU HANDLE?

Depending on the occasion, this can be an important question. Let's say that you decide to go out for the party and you wear a bright red, very close-fitting dress. You may look sensational, but do you FEEL comfortable? This is not the kind of color or style that will allow you to fade into the crowd and go unnoticed. If you would feel more relaxed mixing with, rather than standing out from the crowd, wear something quieter.

Color can make you the focus of attention in business as well as social situations. If you're participating in a panel discussion, for example, and you haven't had the time to do the boning up on the subject as you'd like, you'd do best choosing a neutral color rather than red or purple.

LORD CORNBURY

*They called New Jersey's first governor
a "peculiar and detestable
maggot"...among other things...*

The first governor of New Jersey was Edward Hyde or as he was called, Lord Cornbury. He was sent to the young colony in 1702 but his actions and administration stirred enormous dissatisfaction from the Puritan colonists. He was quite corrupt and immoral and has been considered the worst governor of New Jersey. He instituted graft and openly accepted bribes for favors.

In addition to being the 41 year old Cornbury was a crossdresser. His "peculiar habit," even for a governor, was a daily stroll in the streets outfitted in a wig, gown, earrings, and high-heeled shoes and carrying a fan.

Cornbury was born in 1661 in Oxfordshire, England, the only child of the second Earl of Clarendon. He was a disappointment to his father as well as to the King, who had doled out a weekly food allowance for the then 40 year old wastrel. He was instituted as governor in New Jersey by his cousin, Queen Anne, who thought it proper distance for her troublesome black sheep relative.



From the beginning, Cornbury was unsympathetic to the rights and needs of the colonists and, in fact, did not both arrive in New Jersey until a year after he was supposed to have assumed his duties.

The new governor sought to make his fortune by exploiting his position as governor of New York and New Jersey and soon formed his own group of followers, the "Cornbury Ring."

He ingeniously conceived a gaggle of ways to pad his pockets, including a blind or hidden

His so-called "immorality" that the colonists deplored was his "obsession" for prancing about in women's clothing. Various explanations have been offered by historians as reasons for the governor's unusual "quirk." One suggested charitably that since he was a representative of Queen Anne, he may have taken the role literally, thinking it necessary to dress like her as well.

Another historian thought his close physical resemblance to his cousin prompted him to imitate her. Still another theory was that he vowed to wear women's clothes for one month a year. Whatever the reason, the sight of this crossdresser was a shocking sight to the early colonists.

The chief executive of the

TWO states not only dressed in a long, hooped low-cut gown, but also wore make-up, a head-dress adorned with jewels and was frequently seen in the evenings "on the ramparts." In such attire, he caused everyone's embarrassment but his own; especially the soldiers whom he reviewed dressed in petticoats. He was called "a peculiar and most detestable maggot," and "a man without a redeeming virtue."

Cornbury was married but his wife died in 1706 and the widower went into a "most ostentatious" mourning period. Their unusual marital relationship was just as scandalous to the inhabitants of the area. Ladies of the times amused each other with gossipy tid-bits of their Lord and First Lady.

Because of the many com-

plaints of the colonists, the governor was replaced by Lord John Lovelace and the ex-governor was thrown into prison by his creditors. His extravagant personal spending had surpassed the graft monies obtained by him and his "Ring" as well as his salary and illegal taxes.

He remained confined until 1710 when news came of his father's death. He then became the third Earl of Clarendon and was immediately released, as it was illegal to imprison a member of the peerage for debt.

Cornbury returned to England where the records in the Public Record office in London cite that he did not alter his crossdressing habits on his return. He died there April 1, 1723.

PARABLE FOR CROSS DRESSERS

Conrad the Snail loved to look in the mirror and admire himself. "I am by far the most beautiful snail in all the city," he would say. "I have such lovely blue eyes and lovely red horns and a yellow shell and the prettiest purple feathers you've seen.

Feathers? Yes, Conrad the Snail was covered with feathers. In fact, he looked very much like a small turkey. Now you may not have known that snails have feathers. That's because Conrad was the only snail to have them.

So, even to other snails he appeared exceedingly odd. But to him, the feathers were beautiful.

"I can't wait until spring so I can march in the Easter parade and let everyone see my beautiful feathers," he said. "They will probably put my picture in the newspapers as being the most beautiful snail." Spring finally arrived and Conrad decided to take a walk around the square and show off his feathers.

"Oh what a fine day it will be," he mused. "I can't wait until people start telling me how nice I look." But as he walked around the square the most dreadful thing happened! People started to giggle.

Conrad was mortified. "I will never show my face in public again," he cried. "I thought I was beautiful but now I perceive that I am ugly beyond belief. I will go home and pluck out my

feathers and then become a hermit." But, just as Conrad was feeling sorriest for himself, he heard a gentle voice. Alvin the Clam had heard Conrad crying and came over to console him. "Don't feel bad, little snail," said Alvin. "People are laughing because you are different; they have never seen a snail with feathers before. But I think you are a very pretty snail and I am sure that the feathers will keep you warm and comfortable.

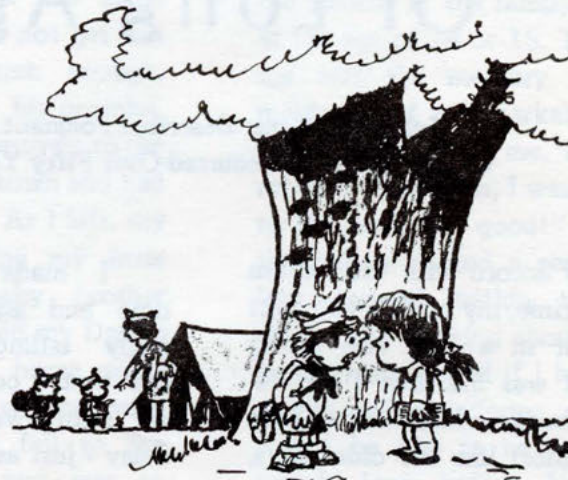
Alvin's kind words made Conrad feel happier. "I guess I was rather silly to think that I was the most beautiful snail in the world and then to think that I wanted to become a hermit when I discovered that I was not." Conrad said to himself. "From now on, I will try to be myself and have fun with my true friends like Alvin the Clam." And that's just what he did!

Ladylike Laughs

The following cartoons are the product of Sylvia (FCQ-1-K)



"WE'LL JUST HAVE COFFEE, UNTIL OUR WIVES GET HERE, THANK YOU!"



"JUST 'CAUSE THE SCOUTMASTER DRESS THAT, DOESN'T MEAN YOU CAN, ALFIE."



"WHEN I'M DRESSED THIS WAY, MY NAME IS ARLENE, -YOU HEAR!"



"I KNEW MY BONANZA WOULD COME SOME NOW! DO I GET MY RAISE, MR BROWN, OR TELL THE WHOLE OFFICE HOW I FOUND IT AT HOME?"

Sweet Memories Of Long Ago!

An Unknown Writer Describes Poignant Memories
Of Events Which Occurred Over Fifty Years Ago!



IN accord with the custom of the time, my mother had kept my hair in a long bob up to when I was 5½. But I had recently become impatient to have it cut short like the older boys, especially since some of them had started to tease me about it. She had reluctantly consented but asked my father, who was an amateur photographer with his own dark room, to take some photos of me first. However, mother delayed the inevitable for a few days, much to my disappointment. I knew that her reluctance to having it cut had resulted in her shedding some tears over it, so I was worried that she might change her mind.

Then one afternoon my worst fears paled into insignificance when she took me into her bedroom and I saw a girl's dress and complete outfit from hair ribbon to shoes laid out on the bed. I knew right then that she had decided to change me into a girl instead of having my hair cut, so I kicked up a big fuss and she had to carefully explain to me that all she wanted was for Dad to take photos of me in the outfit before I received my first haircut.

I made her assure me time and again that she was really telling me the truth and that I could have my hair cut right away without further delay - just as soon as the photos were taken. She got me all dressed up and I remember to this day, over half a century later, the breezy feeling of the dress around my legs, the last combing out of my long hair and the careful tying of the ribbon. I also remember how she stood off and looked at me and exclaimed about how much prettier I did look as a girl and also how the housemaid came in and said the same things and things like that I should have been a girl and what a shame it was to cut off the pretty hair. Mother and the maid both kissed me and then led me out by the hand into the living room where Dad was preparing his camera and tripod so as to take them out on the lawn for the photos.

I was terrified of being seen out on the lawn in the dress by my friends and begged them not to make me do it. So, dad tried several exposures with the slow films of the day in the dining room and went upstairs to his darkroom to develop

while my mother, my younger sister and the maid, tried to keep me happy and neat while we waited. Of course, my sister thought it was real funny and spent the time smirking at me although she did seem to admire my appearance and said so, to my greater discomfiture.

Finally Dad came downstairs with the still-wet negatives, saying that they were unsatisfactory due to the insufficient light indoors and that I would have to go outside, after all, to get good shots.

I had been forewarned of this but it still took a lot of coaxing and reassuring by everybody that I would not be seen by anyone. I now believe that the neighbors had been told about the plan and that they were keeping their kids out of sight. So we went out on the lawn between our house and the next one and Dad set up his tripod and ducked his head under the black cloth to focus the lens

on the ground-glass plate of the old 4 x 5 camera and proceeded to leisurely take the photos while I stood there imagining that all of the neighbors and their kids were peeking at me through their curtains.

Miraculously, no one appeared but I am sure that they would not have noticed anything unusual anyway, because just as my Mother and the maid were assuring me of the realistic appearance of myself, I now believe (to judge from the photos) that I would have passed anyway. Actually, a few strangers had walked by on the sidewalk without appearing to notice anything and this seemed to delight everyone present, including me, of course.

I will never forget the feeling of coolness that the dress gave me as I walked in it with the skirt and petticoat brushing my legs as well as the sensation

of being the center of attraction as Mother, the maid and my sister hovering around me, getting me posed and my hair arranged just right. Actually I think that except for the fear of being seen by my friends, I would have really enjoyed it. Nevertheless, after another delay to make sure that the shots were good, I could not get out of the outfit quick enough.

Them true to his promise, Dad walked me downtown to the best barber shop in town and had my hair cut short. As I left, my mother was holding my little one year old baby brother in her arms and asked my Dad to be sure to bring home some locks of my hair. I watched with joy my long hair fall to the barbershop floor and was so thrilled at my new boyish appearance and the compliments from the barber as well as my Dad on how I looked like a real

big boy.

This was not quite the end of the incident, however, for although it was all put out of my mind during a busy day, for the next nine years the vivid memory actually lived with me in a dormant state and caused me to look at the photos in the family album at the age of 14 or 15. The incident and the memory of it had a remarkable long term effect upon me. To use a modern slang term, I was "core" to the core, but good!" The photos caused a real turbulent turmoil within me, started me thinking about how I would have looked if I had been a girl and wondering how I would be like to be one. It wasn't long before I was on the same road as most of the crossdressers - and I stay on as often as possible and never stop.

Booze Builds Breasts ?

Men could be risking impotency and sterility - plus the risk of appearing more feminine - by consuming large amounts of alcohol, according to a new university study. Now before all of our readers start consuming gallons of "booze," in order to look more feminine, allow me to do some explaining.

Dr. David Van Thiel of the University of Pittsburgh School

of Medicine reports that these side effects are not restricted to "skid-row" people. Early signs of alcoholic damage to the reproductive system can appear after only one binge.

According to the study, drinking enough alcohol to cause a hangover can decrease the hormone level in normal, healthy men who drink only on occasion.

The Doctor's study overturns earlier evidence that linked sexual dysfunction to alcohol induced liver damage. Instead, his six-year research suggests that alcohol directly damages the testes, the glands which control their function and parts of the brain.

Among other conclusions, the study found: (1) that complete impotency can be caused

by downing a pint or more of hard liquor a day for five to eight years; and (2) that chronic alcohol abuse makes men appear more feminine by causing an abnormal distribution of hair and to characteristically feminine places on the body.

With all these medical studies going on, we can pretty soon expect to learn that spaghetti and meatballs in the bloodstream has been seen as a leading cause of crossdressing.

Meantime, drink up! But don't take your medicine every day! However you value your mind, boy or girl, male urges, think twice before you take that suggestion seriously. Have a second helping of spaghetti and meatballs instead!! JOYCE (NJ-)

I like myself
But I'm odd, you know.
I have this compulsion
that doesn't quite show.

It's always in hiding,
and only I can see it.
When it knocks for release,
it can't be resisted.

It's glued into my soul,
it's a part of my heart.
It relentlessly clings;
not to be torn apart.

I've had it since childhood
when it made me a wreck.
It's been my singular albatross
about my weary neck.

And it matters not
in how I live.
In happy or sad times
it always looms big.

It is the two of us
in a single body.
Each knows the other;
indeed! An absurd party!

It is a dream pursued;
one part polished, one part rasped
A union of two genders,
one overt, one masked.

(In a secret room
by a secret mirror,
it begins and flows.
Like a secret river
in a fantasy story
to the city of Oz).

The pulse in my wrist
beats that like a clock.
My brow starts to bead;
My ship begins to leave the dock.

POET'S CORNER



My world turns pink;
the air smells sweet.
And time has stopped.
I can hear my heart beat.

The change begins;
it is slow but sure.
And I welcome it now,
no problem to endure.

Regina (CA-227-K)

My hair grows long,
and my eyes, defined.
My lips, the color of crimson;
to this change I am resigned.

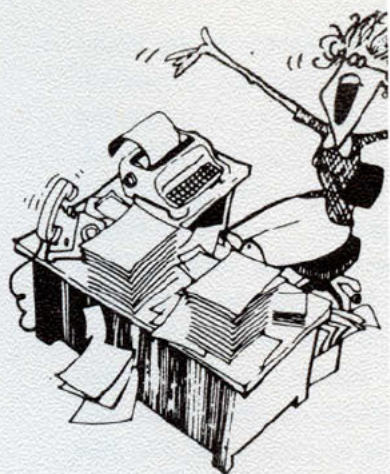
My name was Peter
but now ---
I have a
need to be Barbara.

The curves of my body
are now shapely and pretty.
My dress hangs softly,
(Is this part of the world
of Walter Mitty?)

My feelings now, intense, and
like a stone changing into a pearl
I am content, for awhile
to be like a girl.

I like myself
but I'm odd, you know.
I have this compulsion
that doesn't quite show.

The Editor's Mailbox



Dear Carol: I need to explain why I dropped out of Tri-Ess before. You see, for the last several years I have worn a beard and have fought off my femme self in every way possible. But, as in times before, I've lost again! For one reason or another I am one of those persons who has a difficult time accepting the girl within me, and so every now and then it seems that I have to try and rid myself of her, but I have never been able to, of course, and so after all the fighting and struggle and pain "she" is still there - and I suppose that she will always be.

One positive thing that has come out of the struggle is that my wife now understands more about the tremendous pressure we are all under when we try to suppress this desire and thus she is much more willing to help, in an understanding and tender way - than she ever was before. She has watched me sincerely try to "overcome" this and still fail. She now realizes how deep this goes with me and that acceptance of this part of my life is probably the best way for her - rather than fighting something which isn't going to change or go away.

So, if it is still possible for me to re-join the sorority, please assist me in doing so. Dacyl (Susanville, Ca)

Dear Carol: My mom found me all dressed up in my bedroom when I thought that the door was locked. I was 13 at the time. She got awfully upset and started crying and after she told me to get out of the clothing, she hardly talked to me for days.

Time has gone by and I have a girl friend who helps me and I have located an electrolysis. I had my first appointment last week and the lady said that although it would take awhile to remove my beard, it could be done. I told this lady that I was a crossdresser. This is the first time that I have come face-to-face with a person and then told them. The lady did not mind my telling her and another lady, who works there (by the name of Joanne), is going to allow me to dress as Lisa and give me a facial and apply my makeup. The ladies said that I could come anytime. I plan on stopping by for a facial before each chapter meeting and get beautified. I love being like a girl and I do hope that I can eventually meet a real girl that likes me for what I am. I never went to a dance or dated during my teen years - I have always been so shy. I just can't take being alone any more. I need to build up my confidence and enjoy life. Thanks for your kind letter. Lisa (MD-206-M)

I had wanted to join a sorority in 1975 but at the time I was married to a very understanding woman. I was divorced in 1976, after she stopped my crossdressing to get what I wanted. I remarried in 1977 to a very understanding woman who really allowed me to get out of the closet. She has helped me to accumulate a complete wardrobe. I spend most of the night in bed and most of the day as my femme self. She has chased me some nice state. We have had many women times spending weekends with girls. I am interested in looking for crossdressing sisters in the Washington and Oregon area. I also like to help the sorority get out information to those who are like us. Anon

Dear Carol: One of our sisters wrote, sometime ago, reference to obtaining a post office box, that we use a false address. I know someone who works with the Post Office and was advised that one should never give a false address.

Providing false information on a P.O. box application is sufficient grounds for refusal to rent out a box. In addition, the post office sends out a

cation of residency of the applicant at the address indicated. If the carrier does not know the person at the address indicated, he will return the application as unknown. Actually Postal Employees do not care who has a P'O' box nor do they care what type of mail goes into a box. Remember, most mail comes either to an initial and last name or with a Mr. and Mrs before it. Deanna (IL-35-G)

Dear Carol: My marriage has improved tremendously since my crossdressing came out into the open about a year ago. We've fallen in love all over and my general outlook on life is also much improved. I am still kicking myself in the rear for not being honest about it much sooner. We had been married about nine years before my wife found out. As it was it took a slip on my part for her to find out. An example of "it's funny now but not when it happened" type of stories. The wife has been absolutely marvelous about my crossdressing. Sylvia (PA-208-B)

Dear Carol: Since joining the society this past spring, Nancy and I have been fortunate in meeting many other crossdressers, but too few wives. The wives that we have met for the most part are not very enthusiastic. Though I really hate to write letters I feel that Nancy and I owe the Sorority something for being there when we needed you. For those crossdressers who bemoan the fact that their wives don't understand, won't accept or, heaven forbid, enjoy, we would like to share the following: We have

had a "gender free" relationship. We both work, take care of the home and children. I do not feel that I am doing her a favor when I cook, clean or take care of the children. She, in turn, does not feel that she is doing me a favor by working outside of the home. We interchange roles for purely selfish reasons. We're not satisfied being half of a person. Nancy's masculine self has been suppressed just as my femme-self has been suppressed. We painfully realize that this is our first marriage and are determined that it will be successful.

I have a vested interest in the development of Nancy's masculine self because the more she experiences the masculine world the more she will understand me. The reverse is true as respects the development of my femme self. The more I explore the feminine world the more I can understand Nancy. Right now I'm helping her start her own business and revel with her when she's victorious and commiserate with her when defeated. Six months ago she insisted that I go for electrolysis despite the expense. She delights in my joy when I succeed as a woman (passing). I delight in her very visible sense of accomplishment when, in dungarees and work boots, she comes in from repairing the car. As for our sexual relationship, Nancy feels that she has the best of both worlds. We have feminine gentleness and sensitivity plus traditional male/female satisfaction. To love only half a person is to have half a love! Diane (NY-203-W)

Dear Carol: I felt that I just had to drop you a short note

to let yu know how pl was with my first issue Femme Mirror. It wa professional looking and enjoyable. Quite frankly, also in good taste wh you'll agree is not true crossdressing publication though my wife is very t it's not a situation to b for granted and I believ Tri-Ess will have a p effect in my relationshi her as far as crossdres concerned. I wish that become a Tri-Ess girl sooner. I want to add m to the chorus and let yo your efforts are sincere preciated. Rhonda

Dear Carol: The oth I went downtown and ever I was wearing was inten be bought by a woman an by a woman, yet (Shucks not one whistle - and not turned head.

Now the point to is not how brash I can that any of those girls ou in Tv-Land who share v the physical characterist makes women's attire mc comfortable than men's, a condemned to a state of I Could." Actually, yo Women's styles are so that a complete casual w can be assembled that stand out in public, and proved it over severa of dressing in that mc considerable extent. Ar not referring to unise; Who really checks to se way a zipper opening which side are the located. It works - and take it from me. Enid (I