

Tri-Ess Sorority

# our Special JOY



Metropolitan

\*\*\*\*\* CHI DELTA MU \*\*\*\*\*

Vol. V, No. 6

CHAPTER

December, 1984

## Editorial

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To carry on a tradition, your Editor wishes all members and their families peace and love at this very warm in-the-heart time of year.

The accomplishments of our Chapter -- YOUR work as members -- are many over this past year! largest attendance at a meeting ever, establishment of Family Day as an important part of our group's activities, a Chapter hotline, and the many new members and wives/girlfriends welcomed to our growing ranks. Yes, progress! We as a group have achieved much and are very thankful to have what we have. As I've always said, enjoy!

1985 will be an important year for us. A new slate of officers to be elected; greater attendance at the meeting will require larger quarters; additional members will place greater demands on Chapter services, and others.

Yes, a number of items to be addressed. All of them have an important "bottom line", and that is individual member's commitment to not only help themselves but others. That's what makes this group work, work for you.

So, let us look at 1985 as a time of opportunity. A time for more services and activities to be provided to you as a member; a time for us to help those sisters still in the "pits", and a time to educate those who do not have the correct information about us. In short, a time to improve all our lives.

Opportunity, time, work and effort. Activities which you can participate in and help all of us, or you can just sit back and do nothing. It's your choice, and for your benefit and mine I hope you make the right one.

NOVEMBER MEETING

.....SEE PAGE 2

HOLIDAY PARTY

FORMAL, GIFT SWAP, WESTCHESTER

DECEMBER 8TH



...Our President, Patricia, opened the business part of the meeting shortly after 7 PM (and shortly after returning a mis-tagged skirt from Lane Bryant's in Paramus)...The December 8th formal Holiday Party will be in Westchester (usual place). Please try to dress in a long skirt or a frilly party dress. If you can't, no problem. You are asked to bring a femme-type gift, wrapped, for our special grab bag exchange.

Be sure that your mate does the same, as she will also participate in this fun affair. Value of the gift is suggested at \$5. What you grab may not be your's! You'll just have to come to the meeting to find out. In January we will meet at our New Jersey site, with Alexis J's Wiggery as a program. We are thinking of some special affair for February's meeting: Valentine's Day, Mardi Gras, 50's sock hop, etc. Let us know what you'd like! Lynda will seek rates at a very comfortable lodge in the Poconos for a Spring Weekend; more on that in future newsletters. We'll need someone to coordinate a "dinner in N. Y. C.", no dressing, to serve as an "ice breaker" for new folks and mates, and to treat our wives/girlfriends/etc., in accordance with the feeling of Family Day developed last August. We all very much appreciate the support of our loved

...The membership approved of your Editor's undertaking of organizing a Chapter in the Western New York State area. The new Chapter will be developed from existing C.D.M. members (if they wish), current TRI-ESS members in that area, and potential members. If you live in that area, an announcement will soon be sent out. I hope to have the help of Jill of the GENESIS Chapter in Cleveland in this matter...C.D.M. is also supporting the development of the OPPORTUNITY Chapter in Philadelphia, organized by Melanie (PA-1401-0). As our Chapter has several members from that area, the Officers are seeking the cooperation of the girls in Philly in terms of mutual aid, coordination of meeting dates, etc. We are always looking to be of help in starting new Chapters of TRI-ESS in our part of the Country! Boston, Hartford, and Albany in particular.

...Lynda reported on her and Marilyn's experience at the week-long Outreach Fantasy Affair held in P-Town in October. Also attending this group and the Tiffany Club's gathering were Jane and Millie, Dorothy and Bev, and Janice. Sounds like something C.D.M. should develop for ourselves.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

ones and this would be a very nice way to treat them and ourselves to an enjoyable evening in the Big Apple.

...Our location in New Jersey is nice, but several members would like something more convenient (i. e., further south). New Jersey members are encouraged to seek out facilities to meet this desire. The meeting spot is not limited to Westchester and New Jersey; as the group has had a significant increase in membership from Long Island, the Chapter is certainly open to going there. N. Y. C. would be nice, but consideration must be given to hotel cost, parking charges, etc. Let's hear from you on this.

...Millie, girlfriend of Jane, had a wide selection of jewelry (costume), for sale at a near-by room at the meeting...Karen, Vice President, reported that \$100 was donated in the memory of Eileen (NJ). Karen told the membership that her firm has decided to transfer her to the West Coast in early 1985. Karen will have more to say on this in a future newsletter.

...After the business part of the meeting ended we ate and videotapes were shown: "Nine On New Jersey", "Susskind", "Carol Beecroft", "Atlantic City Impersonators", and "People Are Talking". The last one was taped by Karen from Philly a few days ago and featured Mary Ann, President of Chi (Chicago), Chapter and wife and children...After the tapes we had a formal "rap session": "Tell The Kids Or Not?", "Hostile Wives", etc. This was good for it gave everyone the chance to share experiences and learn. Perhaps the next time we do this we will tape it for the Library; so much of what was said should really be heard by those sisters still very much in the closet and who don't come to the meeting. Also, we will have smaller groups with individual topics to be addressed.

(continued on Page 4)





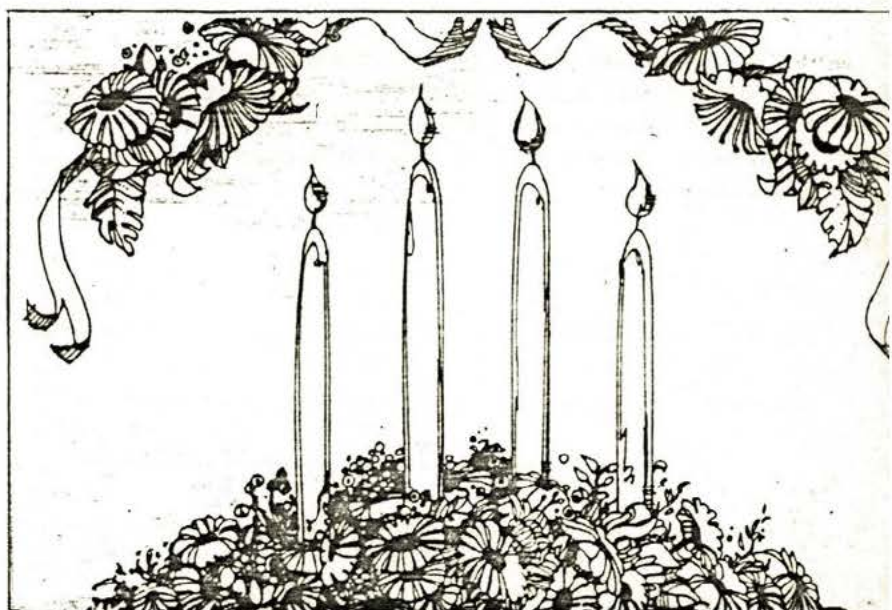
# 'Tis The Season



Attending the November meeting were (seated, L-R): Lynda (NJ-1303-F), Dorothy (NJ-1286-G), Karen (NJ-1305-K), Deidra (NY-D), and Camile (NY-1550-Mc); second row: Renata Lee (CT-1116-W), Lora (PA-1392-W), Jane (NJ-1308-T), Brandy (NY-1677-H), Mary Jane (NY-1322-M), Arleen (NY-L), and Judy Ann (PA-1397-L); third row: Janice (NJ-M), Patricia (CT-1113-G), Fran (NY-1610-B), Felicity (NY-1318-M), and Marlene (NY-1335-B). (Photo: Karen)

Also at the meeting were: Marilyn wife of Lynda, Millie girlfriend of Jane, Peggy GG friend of Felicity and Edith, Carolyn sister of Renata Lee, Carol bride-to-be of Brandy, Patricia wife of Deidra, Robin Ann (NY-1675-S) and Linda, Ed (Edie, NY-1558-G) and Kathy, and Stephanie (NY). Total attendance was 28.9

*Forgot Kim Verle (John)*





# YOUR LIBRARY IS LENDING A HAND

(from Page 2...What's Going On)

...Lora brought a number of catalogues for the membership to browse (hard to find shoes, tall clothing, etc.). And yet more thanks to Fran for the lovely bouquet of roses which graced the table that the Officers sat during the business meeting. A delightful feminine touch from a very sweet lady! Videotapes and equipment were provided by Dorothy, Karen and your Editor; hostesses were Marilyn and Lynda. Thanks to all for a very nice affair!

P. S.

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...Some discussion was had concerning the status of wives/girlfriends/etc. in the organization. As always we as crossdressers welcome their support and suggestions, and want to do whatever we can to thank them for their concern. They are truly an important part of our group! Someone suggested that they should take a more active role in the Chapter. That's fine. If you as a wife/girlfriend/sister/mother would like to join in this effort, please let Marilyn know of your interest. Please complete the clipping below and send to Marilyn. Address!

M. Frank

P. O. Box 9192

Morristown, New Jersey 07960

Yes, as a wife/girlfriend/sister/mother of a crossdresser, I am interested in that special support which can be provided by others like myself. I am interested in what this opportunity can offer.

Name-----

Address-----

Phone-----



Contact Chapter Librarian, Edith Marie, as follows:

Don

Draw R

Valley Cottage, New York 10989

She'll send you a listing of the Library's contents. A SASE would help (postage = .20 cents). The Chapter is always looking for donations. Of special concern is adding videotapes to our belongings. ("Donahue", "Susskind", etc.). Other chapters are developing and this would be a help to them; also, some members may not be able to make a meeting that these items have been viewed and would like to see them. The Chapter will reimburse you for the cost of the videotape. Please help!





# BOOK REVIEWS

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"Gentleman Transvestite" The basic story line had promise, but the author went off on tangents with various sub-plots and variations, none of which were properly developed. This is a "continued" type of story, but it is doubtful that following installments would show any improvement. RATING: 5.

"The Three Transvestites" Basic story line strong, but TV interest is diluted by heavy domination, spanking and submission themes. Advertisements liberally sprinkled throughout magazine are directed to leather/bondage enthusiasts. If the B.S. were eliminated, it could be a good story. Skim over the bad stuff! RATING: 4.

"Men in Skirts" (Books 14 and 15) A story in two parts, "Confessions of a Transvestite," but somewhat dated. Weak story line, with a timid approach to both transvestism and leather fetishism and domination. Neither TV's nor leather enthusiasts will find anything of great interest. RATING: 2.

"Tula" Transsexual autobiography of an English woman, from chorus girl to top model. Of interest to the reader, but treated in a relatively minor way in the book, was Tula's appearance in the James Bond film "For Your Eyes Only." Illustrated with 24 pages of photographs. RATING: 8.

Editor's Note: Thanks to Donna, our member from Illinois, for the above reviews. Now, let's hear from our other readers. Edith Marie, Chapter Librarian.



DO YOU REMEMBER WHEN GIRLS STARTED WEARING PANTS AND WE WOULD NEVER WEAR SKIRTS? WELL BILL, WERE WE EVER WRONG !!!

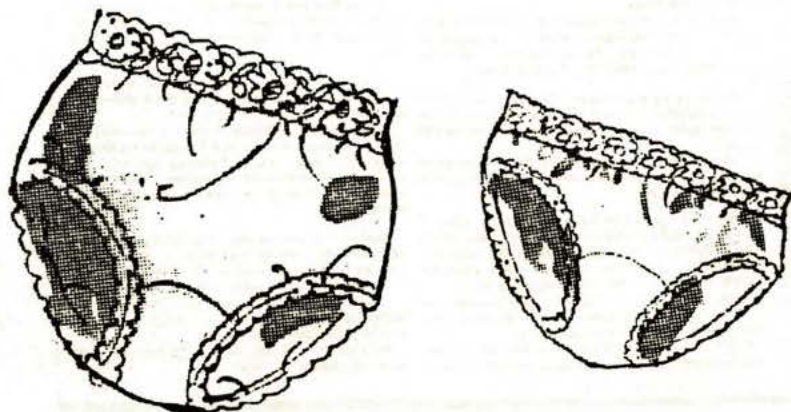
*Thanks, Edith*

C H A P T E R

HOTLINE

(201) 663 - 0772

## Lingerie





# PAGE SIX



Photos by Ann Clifford

Arriving on the arm of tuxedoed Peter Fraser, Elizabeth Soltzman startled the Area youth with a see-through dress by Pedro Alejandro with a faux fur hemline. Beneath it all, she wore lace panties, a garter belt, stockings and Band-Aids in glee of a bra.



Don't be fooled by their short skirts and masks. Underneath their bizarre outfits, they're just a couple of bus-boys getting into the Halloween spirit at the Studio 54 bash.

## SHORT SHIRTS

**M**EN'S underwear shorts are becoming the hottest school fashion at Horace Greeley High School in Chappaqua.

Trendy girls are wearing the baggy boxer shorts with low black socks and tweed jackets or whatever top strikes their fancy.

Sometimes they're worn instead of regular shorts (they sew up the fly) and sometimes they're worn over pants or sweats.

A local haberdashery reports the bigger, baggier and brighter (plaids or striped) shorts are the most sought-after.

*Thanks,  
Edith  
Moore*

# SUBURBIATODAY

Sunday November 4, 1984 Vol. 4, No. 31



Rhinebeck High School students take a walk on the wild side Tuesday as they celebrate School Spirit Week. The students are, from left, Debbie Doyle, 16, as "Harry"; Leston Lewis, 16, as "Stella"; and Knick Staley, 16, as "Rosie."

## Lunacy prevails as students swap roles in Rhinebeck

By Jane Gottlieb  
Journal correspondent

**RHINEBECK** — When Rhinebeck High School boys said they didn't have a thing to wear to school Tuesday morning, they were probably dead serious.

By first period, however, many of them had come up with the most important fall styles, as they filled the hallways, classrooms and cafeteria, donning miniskirts, cutoff tops, heels and beads. Some of them added to the effect with flourishes of makeup.

The occasion, oddly enough, had nothing to do with Halloween but with the idea of school spirit. "Crossover Days" was Tuesday's contribution to School Spirit Week.

On Monday, it had been crazy hats and sunglasses, with Wednesday reserved for pajamas. Thursday will bring "Inside Out Day," preceding Friday's pep rally and benefit dance.

Sponsored by the Student Organization, Spirit Week coincides with the start of sectional finals for the field hockey, cross-country and soccer teams.

The lunacy allows Rhinebeck High students to have perhaps a bit more fun in school than they normally might.

"We'd like to try to have these more often," explained Student Organization president Alicia Nieva-Woodgate, who was found in the cafeteria sporting new-boy-style knickers. "It's good for people at school to be able to laugh a lot."

Girls, whose role reversal was a bit less obvious at first, passed between classes in pants too baggy to ever be considered stylish.

Quite a few of them added oversized jackets and business hats, which neatly concealed their

hair — and sometimes major portions of their faces. To make their point, the extremists had drawn in whiskers.

What students wore Tuesday, like any other day, was a reflection of their individual style.

Senior Kevin Monthie, for example, said he preferred his stretchy bright green selection — a slack suit — to a dress. Bringing out the kelly green were the vivid orange beads and matching earrings he wore.

"I'm just not a girl who likes to wear skirts," he said simply, an unlit Tiparillo cigar dangling from his mouth.

Contrasting the curly blond wig that was a bit crooked were Kevin's army boots.

Asked how the feminine attire related to school spirit, Kevin explained it helped get him "psyched" for graduation, even if it is only October.

"Now here comes a guy who likes wearing a skirt," he said, of a friend trying out a cheerleading look, as they left to have lunch.

Spotted in the hallway, Leston Lewis was another skirt-type. Buxom in a leopard-skin blouse, he wore a khaki skirt, Panama hat and gold earrings. He admitted to feeling "like a fool sometimes," though he seemed to enjoy the attention.

Leston, a junior, pointed regretfully to his Nike sneakers. He said he was sorry he hadn't been able to find pumps suitable for a size 14.

Meanwhile, in the central office, the gender reversal was becoming serious business as one boy in lipstick had to convince a cynical school official to give him a late pass.

He pleaded with her, saying he had had to go home to change his skirt.



"My Christmas Wish"  
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Rain had been pouring out of the sky ever since I had arrived at my grandparents' house. An icy wind shook the windows, frosting the glass. It was one of the coldest nights ever recorded in Jerome, Idaho. But it was also Christmas Eve 1955 - a special time for a six year old boy with just one Christmas wish.

"Danny boy," Grandfather asked, "have you let Santa Claus know what you want for Christmas yet?"

"No, he hasn't," came a voice over my shoulder. I looked back. It was Gigi, my grandmother. Granddad called her Gigi ever since their courting days because Grandma had a weakness for French perfume.

Of course I had let Santa know, but I hadn't told anyone else. Though Dee Dee, my big sister, had confided that she believed with all her heart that there was no such person as Santa Claus, I told her that this Christmas I would prove her wrong. I knew Santa was real. Besides, I had a very special wish.

When Grandma tucked me into bed, she said, "Now you be a good boy and go to sleep. Santa will be coming to visit us soon. Remember to say your prayers and be sure to thank God for making you a healthy little boy."

"Yes, ma'am," I answered, but I was too excited to go to sleep. I could hear my grandparents talking for a while, but gradually it became very quiet and I must have dozed off.

I awoke to the sound of hushed conversation coming from the front room. The words were blurred by the howling wind and rain, which had turned to sleet. It was Santa, I knew. I wanted to run into the front room and meet him, but I had heard that he would never return if you saw him. Then there was a creaking sound and all the whispers were gone. I felt dizzy with excitement.

My excitement gave me courage. I slipped out from between the covers to the cold floor. It was dark and I couldn't find the light switch.

I would have to find the front room without lights. Somehow I found the door knob and carefully pulled the door open. There was a shrieking sound! I froze. Another shrieking sound might waken my grandparents, so I left the door where it was and slipped through the narrow space. There seemed to be a little light in the dark house, but I found my way mostly with my feet. Once in the front room, I reached out with

one arm and my hand brushed evergreen needles and there was a tinkling sound. That had to be the tree. At the bottom of the tree, I knew, was a cord and a switch for the more than one hundred lights on the tree. I snapped it on and the room was filled with a soft glow.

I glanced around. Was Santa still here? I was too late. He had gone on to the other houses in town. Sighing, I knelt down to examine the names on the gifts under the tree. There were many familiar names - my cousins, uncles, aunts, parents and sisters - but I couldn't seem to locate mine. Here was Janet's. Here was Dee Dee's. All the presents under the tree were for other people; there was nothing for me! I felt woozy in the stomach for a moment. Could it be? No, no, I wouldn't believe it. I looked down again and suddenly there was my present - "To Danny Boy from Santa."

I picked up the package and examined it carefully. It was just the right size box. I began to twist and tug the ribbon on this very special present. At last I would prove to everyone that I was a little girl, not a little boy. Certainly, if Santa gave me what I had asked for, no one could dispute the fact that I was really a girl. As I pulled the wrapping paper off, my eyes must have been shining. I yanked the tissue paper off and saw the yellow cloth.

It was a dress. A bright yellow dress. I hugged the dress to me. It had finally happened!



I had proof now! Nothing else could matter. All the names the neighborhood children had called me were meaningless, now.

I jumped at a sudden sound, stuffing the dress back into the box. It must have been the wind. I wanted to go back to my bedroom. In the

SEE NEXT PAGE



front room I was sure to be caught opening my gift too soon, but in my bedroom I could try the dress on and look at myself in the mirror. Leaving the warmth of the front room didn't bother me now.

There was a tall mirror on the back of the bedroom door. I pulled the dress from the box, held it in front of me and grinned at my image in the mirror. I was spilling over with happiness. I looked so pretty, just having the dress in front of me. And now I wouldn't have to hide myself while I wore it. This was MY dress. Santa had given it to me. No one could ever take it away.

I hurried to take off my pajamas. The icy cold didn't matter. Kicking my pajamas away, I slipped the dress over my head. It fit! It even fit. I looked at myself in the mirror and started to cry. Why did I have to be a boy? It wasn't right. Nobody liked me for what I was. I was different; I was too pretty to be a boy. I knew I was a girl like my sisters.

The buttons in the back were a struggle, but it was a familiar task. I had been dressing in my sisters' clothes from the time I was three years old. Blinking back my tears of joy, I reached to check the last button again.

"Danny? Boy, what are you doing with that dress on? That isn't for you." I gasped with shock. It was my grandmother. No one had seen me in girls' clothes before. I was only six years old, but I had a real fear of being discovered.

"Grandma," I was crying again. "This is MY dress. Santa gave it to me. This IS my dress. It's even my favorite color, yellow. See?"

"Danny?" There was confusion in her voice. "You're a little boy. Little boys don't wear dresses. Santa wouldn't give a dress to a little boy. You've made a mistake. You've opened the wrong present."

It was hard to answer her through my tears. I wanted only to prove to her that Santa had given me the dress. Then she would believe me.

"Come here, Grandma," I said, "Look at the package." I took her hand and, sobbing, led her to the box on the bed. Releasing her hand, I searched for the tag.

"Here! Here it is," I exclaimed. She was surprised to see my name on the tag. There was no doubt I had opened the right present. She lifted her eyes from the tag slowly, looked at me, then looked away.

"Well," she began, "there's certainly no doubt that this present was addressed to you, but I think maybe Santa made a little mistake." She looked at me again. "Why don't we look under the tree for another gift? I'm sure we'll find the one meant for you."

I was crying again. I pleaded with her to understand that Santa had gotten me exactly what I had wished for. She seemed to shake her head a little. I could understand her confusion, but there was no confusion for me. My name was on the tag.

"What's going on here?" came a voice from the doorway. "Danny, what the hell are you doing in that dress? That's supposed to be for your sister Dee..."

"John, hush up," my grandmother interrupted. "We have no idea who the dress is for. All we know is that the present was addressed to Danny."

## Girls Only

No matter what I tell him, he refuses to believe that Santa could have made a mistake and put his tag on someone else's present."

Granddaddy seemed quite put out. He spun around and left the room. In a minute, he returned. His face was red. One hand was clenched into a fist.

"Now listen, young man. This is going to stop right now! You're a boy, not a girl. Even though this present had your name on it, it was meant for your sister. Now get that damn dress off, right now. We'll go find your present. It's probably got your sister Dee Dee's tag on it."

It wasn't fair. I was humiliated. If the dress was for Dee Dee, why did the tag have my name on it? It didn't make sense. I was a girl, just like Dee Dee, even if they didn't think so. Santa had brought me just what I had wished for. I wasn't going to let them take it away from me.

Granddad disappeared again. My grandmother began to urge me to take off the dress.

"No, no," I screamed. "I'm not going to take it off. Not ever!" I glared up at her. She wasn't my friend anymore. She didn't understand. I hated this stranger who stood over me. I hated both these people who had made me feel so degraded.

"Now, look. Look." My grandfather was smiling as he entered the room with a shiny gun and a cowboy hat. "THIS is your present. I was right. Santa switched the name tags somehow."

I couldn't accept the possibility of a mistake. I hadn't wished for a gun set. I had wished for a dress. A yellow dress. This was a yellow dress. It was mine. I was not going to give it up.

Where were my parents? I didn't want to be there anymore. No one seemed to understand.

Granddaddy pulled Grandma out of the room. In just a couple of minutes they were back. Both of them were smiling.

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"We've decided," Grandma began, "you can keep the dress on until Mommy and Daddy come tomorrow."

"Danny Boy? Okay?," Granddaddy asked. But it wasn't okay. It was just a reprieve and I knew it. The smug look on their faces reflected my certainty that my parents would leave me with no alternatives, but I wasn't going to give up easily. They couldn't shake my conviction that I was a girl.

I couldn't go back to sleep. I kept the dress on, but the magic was gone. Once my parents came, there would be only anger and



humiliation. They wouldn't be able to see why I wanted the dress.

Eight o'clock Christmas morning I got out of bed and went to the window. The wind had quieted down and the sleet had turned to snow. Snow covered everything in the yard. My decision was clear. I would take off the dress. I would swear to my grandparents never to mention the dress again - if they wouldn't tell my parents. That was it, plain and simple.

Hurrying, I removed the dress and pulled on a pair of Levi's and a sweat shirt. I could hear my grandfather yank open the basement door. He would be going down to stoke the furnace for the day. I knew I had to move quickly.

"Granddaddy?" I was quiet. If Grandma was still asleep, I didn't want to wake her yet.

"What is it?" he answered me gruffly.

"Uh, Granddaddy," I went on, "I just wanted to tell you I'm sorry. I won't ever wear the dress again if you promise not to tell Mommy and Daddy."

His face softened as I told him of my decision. I felt good about it. This would be the last time I'd ever do this, I was thinking. I was trying to reassure both of us of my masculinity. Granddaddy picked me up in his arms, telling me he was proud of me. He understood, he said; it was the principle of the thing that had made me put the dress on. I was glad we were friends again. The previous night was the first time he had ever been mad at me and I didn't like the feeling.

"What are you fellows so happy about?" Grandma asked, as she came into the kitchen. She was smiling. Granddaddy explained my decision. She nodded in agreement when he told her of my request not to tell my parents, then she took me from Granddaddy and hugged me.

"Let's look under the Christmas tree and see about the gun set and that cowboy hat your grandfather showed you last night," she said. "I hope it's still there." She put me down and I ran into the front room. The new present was lying in its box, near the tree. As I picked up the hat, there was a knock on the front door.

Grandma disappeared while Granddaddy went to the front door. My sisters rushed through the door when he opened it. Behind them were my parents. I waved my hat at them and hurried to my bedroom.

There was Grandma, quickly putting the finishing touches on the dress box. She had crumpled up the paper I had so eagerly torn off. But the new paper that she was putting on was the same pattern. I managed to swallow my surprise, but as I stood there watching, I suddenly realized that there was no Santa Claus - that my grandparents had purchased those gifts for me and my sisters. If there really was no Santa, as Dee Dee had been telling me, then it was all just a cruel mistake that my wish for a dress had been fulfilled. Maybe feeling like a girl was just part of my imagination, like believing in Santa Claus had been.

But the feeling that I was a girl trapped in a boy's body was one I had already identified, and although I gave up my belief in Santa Claus that Christmas morning, I was to find my gender identity problem an increasingly difficult one to deal with.

(Editor's note: The poignant story above was condensed from CANARY, by Canary Conn. Thanks to chapter member Fran (NY-1610-B), we have a copy of CANARY in our library.)



Shopping  
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The size chart on this page is from a Lane Bryant catalog and may be helpful for you sisters who only shop (ahem), for the "wife", "sister", "girlfriend", etc., at this time of year.

If you would like their catalogs, write:

Lane Bryant  
2300 Southeastern Av.  
Indianapolis, IN 46207

They have a special "Tall" catalog. Several members shop at their White Plains store, both dressed and as men. Store personnel are very considerate and helpful.



## For the best values, shop our catalog!

### FOR THE BEST FIT, USE THIS SIZE CHART.

*For that extra measure of good fit, remember...*

**ON COATS** and budget dresses, you don't need to order a larger size. All our garments are amply cut, regardless of price!

**ON PANTS**, order by the waist size that most closely corresponds to your hip measurements. All our pants have been carefully proportioned to fit and flatter the fuller figure.

**IF YOU'RE IN BETWEEN SIZES**, order a size larger.

**ON LENGTHS**. Most garments are longer than shown to allow for your own preference in length. Most dresses and coats have ample 2" hems. Slacks are 43" long (minims 39") unless otherwise stated.

**ON ALL FITTED GARMENTS**, order the size that best matches your bust, waist and hip measurements.

#### USE THIS CHART TO ORDER DRESSES, COATS, SUITS, PANTSUITS, SLEEPWEAR, SHIFTS, ROBES, LOUNGEWEAR.

HALF SIZES	12½	14½	16½	18½	20½	22½	24½	26½	28½	30½	32½	34½		
WOMEN'S SIZES	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58
MISSES SIZES	14	16	18	20	22	24								
IF YOUR BUST MEASURES	35-37	37-39	39-41	41-43	43-45	45-47	47-49	49-51	51-53	53-55	55-57	57-59	59-61	61-63
IF YOUR WAIST MEASURES	28-30	30-32	32-34	34-36	36-38	38-40	40-42	42-44	44-46	46-48	48-50	50-52	52-54	54-56
IF YOUR HIPS MEASURE	36-38	38-40	40-42	42-44	44-46	46-48	48-50	50-52	52-54	54-56	56-58	58-60	60-62	62-64

ORDER MINIMS SIZES IF 5'3" AND UNDER. Minims fit same body measurements as half sizes, but are shorter from shoulder to waist, with shorter sleeves. Dresses are 4" shorter in length, slacks are 39" long and shorter from waist to crotch.

#### USE THIS CHART TO ORDER PANTS, SKIRTS, SHORTS, CULOTTES

ORDER WAIST SIZE	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52
IF YOUR HIPS MEASURE	36-38	38-40	40-42	42-44	44-46	46-48	48-50	50-52	52-54	54-56	56-58	58-60	60-62

#### USE THIS CHART TO ORDER BLOUSES, SHIRTS, TOPS

ORDER WOMEN'S SIZE	32	34	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54
IF YOUR BUST MEASURES	35-37	37-39	39-41	41-43	43-45	45-47	47-49	49-51	51-53	53-55	55-57	57-59

#### USE THIS CHART TO FIND YOUR BRA CUP SIZE

If Bust is larger than chest by	1½ to 2½ in.	2½ to 3½ in.	3½ to 4½ in.	4½ to 5½ in.	over 5½ in.
Your Bra Cup Size is	B	C	D	DD/E*	F

\*DD and E Cups are the same size

**ORDER SWEATERS AND FULL SLIPS** by bust measurement, in the bust size nearest to your bust measurement.

**ORDER PANTIES** by hip measurement, in the hip size nearest to your hip measurement.

**ORDER BRAS & ALL IN ONES** by closest even-number chest size, then figure cup size from bra chart. We need both sizes to fill your order.

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LANE BRYANT



## In Case You Missed It

\*\*\*\*\*

## A MERRY LITTLE CHRISTMAS

It's Christmas day and without a doubt the happiest day of my life. I am a transvestite, age 18, and finally my parents have accepted my sexual idiosyncrasy. After fighting it for the last two years, they have finally realized that they can't change me. When they first found out about my love of girls' clothes when I was 16, they were horrified. They didn't realize then that transvestism doesn't make a person gay, but now they have made my Christmas the happiest ever.

Early this morning, we all gathered around the Christmas tree to open our presents. My sister insisted that I open my gifts first. With my mom, dad and sister watching me, I tore at the gift wrap on the top box. I expected to find the usual boring shirt or sweater. Instead, I found a box filled with luscious lace bikini panties. I said that there must be some mistake and handed the package to my sister. She smiled and said, "No, these are for you."

My mom then spoke up and told me that she and my father have realized that they can't change me. They both accepted the fact that I'm not hurting anyone and that being a TV makes me happy.

With tears in my eyes, I continued opening packages. I cried when I opened a box of fashion bras. My mom was thoughtful enough to have provided me with a pair of falsies, too! Other boxes contained teddies and camisoles, dresses, skirts, and blouses and two pair of high heels. The real emotional overload came when my sister gave me a box with a lovely yellow lace garter belt and a pair of stockings in it. Through it all, I did not get one stitch of boy's clothes this Christmas.

After everyone opened all their gifts, I got ready for a lovely dinner. I shaved my legs and my sister did my hair and my face. Sitting at the table all perfectly turned out, I felt like a princess.

As I'm writing this I'm wearing a beautiful babydoll nightie. My sister and I are going to go shopping as two girls tomorrow. I think 1984 is going to be great.

Mr. T.S.,  
Pennsylvania

(FORUM Magazine, June 1984)

## Skirts for Men? Yes and No

By JOHN DUKA

Special to The New York Times

LONDON, Oct. 28 — No one is yet certain whether it actually represented a significant breakthrough in fashion history or whether it merely provided comic relief from the boredom of the Paris spring collection, which just came to a close. Nevertheless, the 1984 Paris showings, as well as those in London the previous week, will go down in the collective fashion memory as the time when men were first seen wearing skirts on the major runways of Europe.

The phenomenon, as it was called, appeared primarily in collections of young designers who create clothing for both men and women: the Body Gap show in London and the Jean-Paul Gaultier show in Paris.

## An Important Issue

But even at Chanel, which does not make men's clothes and does not have a young designer, a man appeared in a Chanel suit. He did not, however, wear a skirt. He wore, for the sake of propriety, side-button trousers. (The Chanel line was done by Karl Lagerfeld.)

For some, the wearing of skirts by men became an important issue.

"It is the most important thing to happen in fashion in the past 20 years!" announced Daniel Hechter, the French designer, at a dinner he gave one night in his apartment on Avenue Foch. "I remember when it was a scandal for women to wear pants," he said. Mr. Hechter was one of the first to design pants for women.

The Gaultier show caused the most discussion. Some of the male models wore plaid skirts and open-toed platform basketball sneakers. Other outfits pushed the phenomenon to its limits, with men wearing sarongs and tank tops or see-through harem pants.

The show prompted The Times's

fashion critic, Bernadine Morris, to pose a question. "If it's all right for women to wear fully tailored clothing, why isn't it all right for men to wear skirts?" said Mrs. Morris at the St. Laurent show. She was wearing a man-tailored Calvin Klein suit, and she answered her own question, more or less: "Because women are not trying to pass as men. Whereas many times men wearing skirts are trying to pass as women. The answer is somewhere in there."

But Jean-Paul Gaultier did not agree. "Wearing a skirt doesn't mean you're not masculine," Mr. Gaultier said. "Masculinity doesn't come from clothes. It comes from something inside you. Men and women can wear the same clothes and still be men and women. It's fun."

Opinions, however, varied widely among those who attended the showings. Elliot Saltzman, the vice president of Saks Fifth Avenue, was on her way to the Yves Saint Laurent show when she was asked about the phenomenon. She was wearing trousers, high-heeled shoes, a royal purple jacket with frog closings and a black scarf. "Skirts on men?" she said. "Very good. My husband, Ronnie, says they're very comfortable."

"I think they're irrelevant," said Kai Rutenstein, the vice president of Bloomingdale's, who wore a gray suit.

"Skirts on men will be too much work," said Gene Pressman, the young vice president of Barney's. "We will have to shave our legs."

"I think they're, um, I don't know," said Soliman Wadwa, the owner of Charivari. "No, wait a minute," she said. "They're revolting. No, I hate the word 'revolting.' Skirts for men are disgusting."

"My son, Jon, did buy four skirts for the store, though," she continued. "He said it was just for publicity and for fun. Of course, we do sell women's

clothes to men. We saw a line for women in Italy which we're going to adapt for men. We'll just have to lengthen the sleeves and take off some of the detail."

To set the record straight, the first documented instance of the phenomenon occurred during the first fashion show of Stephen Sprouse, the young American designer, in April 1983, in which one male model wore a black denim miniskirt over black denim jeans.

By July of this year, the notion that men might look good from the knees down spread like an epidemic throughout Europe, where, during the showings of the men's summer collections, skirts, sarongs and transparencies and pants were worn by male models on the runways.

In the Yoshi Yamamoto men's show, men wore yellow and purple or gray shirts or long coats with no trousers underneath and tie shoes with socks.

"I just wanted to play," Mr. Yamamoto said. "Joking sometimes gives us a real future. The most difficult thing to get away from is the jacket. So when you fight against men's wear, you have to fight with jackets. Still it's nice to wear that jacket."

Because the fashion editors of the leading women's fashion magazines were not present at the men's fashion shows in July, some had to wait until last week for their first glimpses of the phenomenon.

## Men Have Always Worn Skirts

"I've always thought men in skirts have a great chic. I really have," said Polly Mellen, the fashion editor of Vogue. "I think of my father wrapping a towel around himself, or I see him standing in his monogrammed nightgown when we were little kiddies going off to school. That was really chic. Men have always worn skirts through history. But is it time to revive them now?" Mrs. Mellen paused. Finally, "No," she said, "not now."

Indeed, men have worn skirts throughout history — kilts in Scotland, chitons in ancient Greece. But where did the new phenomenon come from? Some say it came from the streets, the birthplace of many fashion trends. "The whole thing came from the streets," said Issey Miyake over tea and chocolate cake one afternoon in Paris.

"Boys have been wearing skirts for some time now," he said. "My three assistants wear miniskirts. They come to work on their motorcycles wearing miniskirts. The French saw the idea on the streets and have done it in better fabrics and now everyone says 'Ah! Men have been buying my women's coats for years.'"

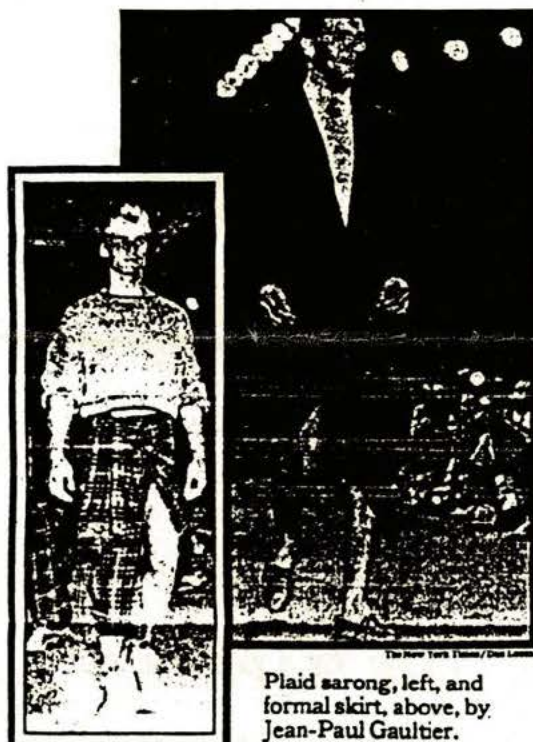
## A Statement

But what about the men who actually have worn skirts? What do they say about the phenomenon?

"It makes me feel free," said Rodney Martin, who is English and was wearing a long white tube skirt one night at Bains Douches, a Paris club. "It's a statement by which I can say I am free to do whatever I want. It does cause hostility on the streets, though. Sometimes I keep my coat closed over my skirt so no one will see it. And I do have to sit differently. But it's not about being a woman."

Perhaps the comment that best summed up the situation came from Bernie Ozer, vice president of the American Merchandising Corporation, as he was leaving the Girbaud show. He was wearing a violet paisley tie, a yellow vest, a royal blue shirt, dark trousers and a hat.

"Did you see that loveliness?" he said, indicating the show he had just left. "What? Men in skirts? I've been wearing them for years. I take the sheets off my bed in hotels and wrap them around me when the waiter comes in."



Plaid sarong, left, and formal skirt, above, by Jean-Paul Gaultier.

Carole ← THANKS! → Nora Helene



## Our Readers Write

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"...I would like to pass along a tip that I have used to acquire femme materials. One thing most sales clerks seem to enjoy is helping an unusual situation. I told clerks, when looking for femme articles, that I was attending a costume party where all the attendees had to dress as members of the opposite sex. Since Halloween is just about over, I have also used Christmas/or New Years costume party statement. The clerks seem to think this was great fun to help, even more if the customer seemed embarrassed about the situation! The result was great; at a Merle Norman cosmetics store in the Ingleside Mall in Holyoke, the clerk was very helpful, and even helped to coordinate makeup with two different hair color/clothes color combinations...Maybe this won't help anyone else, but it helped me immensely, and possibly others can use it." Pamela (NH-1607-O). Thanks, Pamela, for a helpful suggestion. Ed.

"...Your organization offers exactly the kind of activities and support I've been looking for...I was able to crystalize for the first time in my life many of the ambiguous and self-destructive feelings that have paralyzed my life and caused me so much pain. I hope that with the support of the sisters in Chi Delta Mu I can begin to develop my desires to crossdress into a healthy, positive force for self-expression...Thank you for opening a new door on my life. (potential member, Ed.)

"...Sure was great seeing you folks. Each meeting seems to add a little something (sort of like compound interest)." Jane (NJ-1308-T).



## THE HAPPIEST OF HOLIDAYS

## Treasurer's Report

\*\*\*\*\*

Opening Balance (10/1).....\$608.61

## Receipts

Meeting Fees	270.00	
Dues New	60.00	
Dues Renewal	120.00	
Donations	45.00	
50/50	15.75	
Pink Elephant	80.25	
TOTAL		591.00

## Expenses

Motel	127.88	
Food	47.85	
Newsletter	184.21	
TOTAL		(359.94)

Ending Balance (10/31).....\$839.67

Welcome new Chapter members: Peter (T-NJ), Nancy (FL-1135-N), Eve (NY-1676-H) and Valerie, and Jackie (NY-D). Renewing are: Camile (NY-1550-Mc), Marion (NY-1325-G), Mary Jane (NY-1322-M) and Agnes, Patricia (CT-1113-G), Janet (NJ-1300-K), Fran (NY-1610-B), Carole (NY-1323-S), and Lora (PA-1392-W) and PeeWee. Thank you for your support of our organization! Donations were received from Janet, Hollis, Yvonne (NY-1342-R) and Victoria, Diana (NJ-L), Camile, Eve and Valerie. Thanks!

Marlene of California advises us of new members to the national from our area! Judy (NY-1732-R), Cynthia (NY-1725-W), Kimberle (NY-1746-V), Tes (NY-1745-L), Michelle (NY-1744-G), and Georgette (NJ-1743-H). As usual, all new members to the national who are not yet members of the Chapter are contacted and invited to join us. I know that Kimberle already has. A very warm welcome to the sorority and we hope for all of you, the Chapter. If you have some free time, why not contact these sisters via the Calif. mail service and welcome them to us and encourage them to join the Chapter.

January's newsletter will contain the November and December reports, the Quarterly Budget Status Report, and a statistical section on how we're doing.

Lora suggested that we have one month during which all of us renew our dues. Proration would apply. Your thoughts???



# WHO'S WHO

5. Bronx/Westchester/Connecticut - Violet  
GALs: Patricia (CT-1113-G), 10/85  
Renata (CT-1116-W) & Carolyn, 1/85

Leslie (CT-1713-A) & Isabelle, 8/85  
Elizabeth (NY-D), 3/85  
Camile (NY-1550-Mc), 9/85  
Diane (NY-1674-R), 4/85  
Claire (NY-1324-S), 4/85  
Carole (NY-1323-S), 10/85  
JoAnn (CT-1602-U), 3/85  
Cindy (CT-1115-V), 10/84

4. Ulster - Impatiens  
GAL: Robin Anne (NY-1675-S) & Linda, 3/85

3. Orange & Rockland - Gardenia  
GAL: Fran (NY-1610-B), 10/85

Hollis (NY-K), 10/85  
Arleen (NY-L), 6/85  
Jennifer (NY-1678-P), 7/85  
JoAnne (NY-1635-S), 3/85  
Edith Marie (NY-1340-W), 4/85  
JoAnne (NY-Y), 6/85

2. Northern New Jersey - Lily  
GALs: Wilma (NJ-1296-Y), 3/85  
Lynda (NJ-1303-F) & Marilyn, 10/85

Frances (NJ-1289-B) & Bernice, 11/84  
Tina (NJ-1243-E), 4/84  
Joan (NJ-204-G), 5/84  
Suzie (NJ-G) & Joyce, 4/85  
Diana (NJ-L), 4/85  
Vikki (NJ-1599-M), 1/85  
Joyce (NJ-1299-M), 10/85  
Janice (NJ-M), 9/85  
Lisa (NJ-1304-P), 8/84  
Doreen (NJ-1608-P) & Cindy, 6/84  
Jana (NJ-304-T), 1/85  
(Peter) (NJ-T), 9/85



Carefree

6. Balance N. Y. C. & Long Island -  
GAL: Edie (NY-1558-G) & Kathy,

Marlene (NY-1335-B), 4/84  
Jenny (NY-326-B), 8/84  
Jackie (NY-D), 10/85  
Jean (NY-1600-E), 1/85  
Barbara (NY-F), 6/85  
Marion (NY-1325-G), 9/85  
Eve (NY-1676-H) & Valerie, 8/85  
Brandy (NY-1677-H) & Carol, 8/85  
Ann (NY-1688-J), 6/85  
JoAnne (NY-Mc), 11/84  
Jamie (NY-1609-M), 2/85  
Angela (NY-1681-P) & Sue, 9/85  
Barbara (NY-S), 10/84  
Kimberly (NY-V), 10/85

7. Balance N. Y. State - Daisy  
GAL: Eileen (NY-1317-J) & Priscilla, 9/85

Joan (NY-1316-F), 1/85  
Hazel (NY-F), 9/85  
Felicity (NY-1318-M) & Edith, 1/85  
Connie (NY-1320-N), 2/85  
Yvonne (NY-1342-R) & Victoria, 3/85

## SISTERS



Sophisticated



Soft

1. Southern New Jersey - Iris  
GAL: Dorothy (NJ-1280-G) & Bev, 4/84

Nora Helene (NJ-1291-C), 2/85  
Janet (NJ-1300-K), 10/85  
Karen (NJ-1305-K), 9/85  
Renee (NJ-1587-P), 4/85  
Terri (NJ-1307-R) & Terri, 10/84  
Linda (NJ-1598-S), 2/85  
Jane (NJ-1308-T) & Millie, 8/84

8. All Other - Mum  
GAL: Mary Jane (NY-1322-M) & Agnes, 10/85

Sylvia (FCPO-1523-K), 1/85  
Judy Ann (PA-1397-L), 9/85  
Donna (IL-1148-M), 4/85  
Alice (FL-1129-M), 9/85  
Andria (VA-1304-M), 3/85  
Nancy (FL-1135-N), 10/85  
Pamela (NH-1607-O), 7/85  
Jill (OH-1581-W) & Diane, n/a  
Lora (PA-1392-W) & PeeWee, 9/84

# A Classic Collection





Etc.

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...Glad to see the FEMME MIRROR again, and we all hope that Carol will be able to produce this important publication on a regular basis. Great job!...People are interested! Virginia Prince is still looking for you folks to complete a questionnaire about yourselves, which will reveal the TRUTH about OURSELVES. Write Virginia c/o Carol Beecroft. And, a Dr. Robert Peterson, Casper Psychological Service, P. C., 125 N. Washington, Casper WY 82601, is seeking members to complete a questionnaire, because! "At a recent symposium on human sexuality, attended by psychologists, psychotherapists, and counselors, only a very minute percentage actually treated transvestism". Your Editor will have several copies of this questionnaire for the December meeting. If you can't make the meeting and would like to participate, write Dr. Peterson....The VOICE ad will be delayed because we are low on Chapter brochures and due to typos, changes, an updated version will have to be made. The holidays also cause problems, so early 1985 is our promotion time in this medium....As we enter the season when storms could cancel our monthly meeting, members are asked to call the Chapter's HOTLINE (201-663-0772), should doubtful weather be a possibility and you are planning on attending the meeting. We don't want you on the Jersey Turnpike, stalled, and coming to a meeting that has been cancelled due to snow!...The Chapter's Officers always welcome suggestions for



the meeting. A large number of you have only the newsletter to benefit from as you can't or will not come to the meeting. Please remember that there are other services available to you (and all members): the use of the Chapter's Library, wives who will help, letter forwarding, etc. Those of you in this situation, please, if we can help in other areas, let us know!

\* C. D. M.

CLASSIFIED \*

(Friendly business people who want our \$ can advertise here)

## Rates!

\$30.00 per year, 12 issues  
\$15.00 for 6 months/issues  
\$7.50 for 3 months/issues

Have the business contact Chapter Treasurer Lynda with their payment and 2" x 3" business card.

Remember, merchants want business (\$\$\$), we want to spend our \$\$\$ at places that are understanding and meet our needs, and this effort helps the Chapter's Treasury.

AND.....Janice (VA-1466-S), advises us through our Vice President Karen that she is about to update the national's SHOPPING DIRECTORY which is sent out to all national members. As Janice says: "Rest assured that our members do not venture out in public unless they are quite presentable and can pass in public without difficulty". The ads in this directory are free for interested businesses, so contact Janice as follows:

Janice A. [REDACTED]  
P. O. Box 457  
Springfield, Virginia 22150



## Food For Thought

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The Gift

by Renata

(CT-1116-W)

How many of us, I wonder, have ever stopped to think in a POSITIVE way, about the "woman within us". For me this mystery has been as I am sure it has for nearly all of my "sisters of the heart", an almost never ending succession of negative thoughts from a very early age. Then, about three years ago, something very special happened to me from within. I don't mean to say that my feelings about myself changed instantaneously. It took some time, and even to this day I am still learning. But gradually, and with much help, I began to think about my "feminine side" in a very gentle and open way. It wasn't an easy thing to do. All of those old negatives kept creeping in; guilt, shame, fear, hurt, confusion, rejection and the rest my sisters know all too well.

Much to my surprise, I found in time that there was a positive aspect for every one of those old negatives. I have long since stopped finding the bad things about my feminine self and doubt that there will ever be an end to the discovery of good thoughts about "her" for me.

And so it should be for all of us no matter what our problems may be. After all, WE did not make ourselves the way that we are. In fact, it is becoming ever increasingly more evident that our families and life circumstances may have had little or nothing to do with the development of our second selves. I am not saying that our second self may not have been influenced to some extent by our upbringing and/or childhood experiences, for in fact many of us, myself included, know very well that we may never have become consciously aware of our feelings had something in our childhood not triggered them in the first place.

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to have access to fairly up-to-date written material on the subject of gender identity, we are aware that there is a fair consensus among the experts in this field that genetics may have much to do with this phenomenon "we" know as transvestism.

Genetics!, you say? Well I admit that possibility was a real shocker for me too! And here is where the positive thinking comes in. We know fully well that no one (so far), has any control over our individual genetic patterns. No one except God! That's right, dear sisters, God made us, EACH AND EVERY ONE, just exactly the way we are right now. This being the case, which it most definitely is, then what we have perhaps believed to be a "curse" or emotional disturbance, turns out to be one of the most amazing mysteries of human nature. Yes, God does work in serendipitous ways, and ours is not to question why, but to accept with gratitude the gifts that have been given us and to share them.

Think about it kind and gently, sisters. Think about your feelings. Let them drift softly through you. It isn't just the lovely soft clothes that we all so adore. They are only ONE of the MANY benefits of being the way that we are. They are the outward expression of our innermost selves. The REAL woman within thinks and feels and loves in much the same way that our biological sisters do. Yes, oh yes! That woman within me who is NO LESS than half of my total



**A beautiful  
Smile . . .**

being, is ALL WOMAN, and loves every minute of it! And what a wonderful gift we have been given!

It IS "our special joy". And like all of God's gifts, it is meant to be shared with one another.

One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible bids us to share our special gifts! "No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house" (Matt. 5:14 & 15).

So, shine my sisters, shine! Love it! Live it! Enjoy it! And most of all share that gift! Not only with those, myself included, who love and understand you, but especially with those who DO NOT understand the many, many reasons why God has given us "the best of both worlds" as a "very special" gift!

FROM 2/83 O. S. J.

*Thanks*

*Renata, Just Lovely!*



# Joy's Greatest Hits (Vol. 10)

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## Side I

1. From A Jack To A Queen
2. I Wonder What The King Is Wearing Tonight
3. There's Nothing Like A Dame
4. If I Were A Bitch, Man
5. Staut Hearted Women (who will fight for the tight's they adore!)
6. I Got Plenty Of Nothing

## Side II

7. In The Mood
8. I Could Have Dressed All Night
9. Hello Young Dressers
10. When I Grow Too Old To Dress
11. You'll Never Dress Alone (Chi Delta Mu Theme)
12. Luck Be A Lady (for you Lotto playing sisters)

*Thanks,  
Diane,  
(N.Y.)*

I'd like to specially thank all the O. S. J. "staff": Edith Marie as Assistant Editor, Renata who is in charge now of production/distribution, and Nora Helene who used to perform that job for us. Not forgotten are all of you who have written articles for us and have sent in clippings. All of you have helped make O. S. J. what it is; as Editor, I certainly could not have done it myself. For 1985 the Chapter looks forward to more participation of the members in its activities and in the newsletter, and this participation is most welcomed.

Again, a very warm thank you.

# ENJOY

## CHAPTER OFFICERS

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Secretary: Mary Jane (NY-1322-H)  
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*Peace,  
& Love  
to all  
Sisters &  
family  
Best Regards  
Mary Jo  
YOUR SISTER*