

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

MEMBERSHIP

\$ 1 2 P E R Y E A R

NEWSLETTER EDITORS Helen and Wilma [redacted]

PHONE: [redacted]

Once again I say Hi : The weather being what it was this past weekend I really didn't think any of the gals would be able to make it. Much to my surprise we had a nice group of girls. Those who braved the snow were, Crystal from Menands, N. Y., Sussane from Mechanicville, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Dennie from Peekskill, N.Y. Elaine & Coleen from Gold Brook, N.Y., Gloria & Dena from Pittsfield, Mass., Michelle Ann from Somerville, Mass., Louise from Waterbury, Conn., Cynthia & Sonya from Norwalk, Conn., Dee Dee & Viola from Hartford, Conn.

I am happy to say that we had 6 wives in this group, and all were at ease. We had two that were here for the first time, to me they looked very relaxed, talked with all the girls and looked like they had been here all the time. This makes me feel good because I do so want all the wives to feel at ease because somehow I think that when they are at ease they make their T.V. spouse feel a inner warmth that certainly must make for a solid marriage.

Julia : This is all for you. Louise tells me that he would like you to come up with him and we would sure like to see you. If you are nervous, don't be as there are always a few wives here who would make you feel you had been here before. I know it is always hard the first time any of the wives come, but it is an enjoyable evening as all they do is talk, laugh, sing and maybe dance, so come on out the next time Julia and be amongst friends.

The meal tonight was Meat Loaf, baked macroni, cole slaw, apple sauce, pickles, cottage cheese, rye bread ,butter, cake and coffee.

We cleaned up after the meal as our new member from Conn. played the Guitar nad Cynthia sang a song with Gu itar accompanist DeeDee. We all enjoyed listening. I am glad we have talent in our group as it makes for a pleasant evening, sorta breaks up the night.

What do you think of a gal , who had the experience of her jelly boobs being left in the car once and freezing and then turns around again and puts them on the window sill only to freeze again. The next time Michelle Ann put them in one of your suit cases you carry around.

Life is what you make it until someone comes along and makes it worse.

There's one thing about Baldness- it's neat!

Nancy: I want to thank you for the fancy pants. I am keeping some for myself as I am a bug on panties. Wilma also took a few she liked. One of the gals took some home with her. So thanks again.

To all you gals out there that couldn't make the meeting we missed you. Don't do too much shoveling, so you don't have a heart problem, we wouldn't want to lose our friends.

Can't help going back to the night when things were happening in Room 302. Here is the story as told to me by Kathy.

It seems that after they left here and got to the motel Kathy was going for some ice when one of the guards started to follow hwr. Jenny and Sharon took off inthe car to the room. Believe it or not all the guard wanted to do was talk to Kathy as he is a T.V. himself. Can you feel what he felt watching you gals month after month going in as male and coming out dressed to kill. Oh the torture he was in. Of course Kathy took him back to the room with her and had him meet Jenny and Sharon and then Kathy called Dennie and Michell e Ann to come to the room, Michelle had on her white short dress and had taken off her coat, so picture her in a white shirt dress and then she grabbed the first thing she could to cover herself and you know what it was, her motorcycle jacket. When Michelle walked in her room she was just open mouthed when she saw the guard.

He wrote to Kathy and Kathy gave Wilma his name and address and Wilma exchanged letters with him and he now is a member of our group.

Had a great time tonight see you all next month. Stay healthy and happy, peace be with tou.

Love to you all Helen

Save your

Hi there all you girls out in TV land: As most of you know we have been having TV gatherings here in Albany since 1954, and T V I C has been operating as a TV club since JAN. 1970. In these years many TV's and there lovely wives have passed through our doors. I must say Helen and I our greatfull for the many friends we have met all over the U.S. and lets not forget our many friends in CANADA. We hope that all of you that have come to our home over the years have enjoyed your stay and that you will keep on coming.

Helen and I want to also thank you for all the wounderfull Christmas Cards. I most say that we received over 250 cards. Again our thanks. AN

I trust that all you girls have made NEW YEAR resolutions to do extra good job of your dressing and appearance in 1978. Then again some of you are so beautiful and stylish that your wives are a little jelous. Do not forget it is the little extra touches which make for more femininty, things like wearing clean clothes, clean fresh smelling lingerie, never wearing the stockings twice without rinsing them through, you will be surprised at the extra life you will get out of them if you do so. There is nothing worse then seeing a busted shoulder strap fixed with a small safty pin, unless it is two shoulder straps. It takes such little time to make minor repairs. I have found that many TV's do not take enough time to read the fashion pages and cosmetic adverts. There is so muchwealth of information to be had in them. I admit there is a lot of padding insuch articles yet one can keep up with trends of fashion and make-up. It is sad to see a "Girl" who has done an excellent job passing only to be dressed in fashions of a few years back.

A FEW COMMENTS ON GETTING YOURSELF OUT OF THE HOUSE:

It is myassumption that everone wants to "see herself free" but is simply afraid to come out of hiding.

Whatever gives you pleasure in private is hunky-dory. But for public, ther is a list of apparel which is almost synonymous with TVism--especially beginners--which for the most part should be avoided. Pink hot pants, shiny black leather boots or other wise overly noticeable boots, old fashioned spiked heels, fishnet stockings, platinum blond wigs or similarly outlandish hair pieces, 43 inch bust, micro minis with gartered stockings, gobs of flashy jewelry, latex outfits.

Before going out, it is nicessary that you have developed some skill with make-up. Beginners often look like they've been cemented over with just their eyes peeping out.

I would suggest you be a plain and unobtrusive, wallflowerish. I happen to believe you can be sexy and attract all kinds of looks if you please But there are limits and aometimes TV's lack common sence.

Taking for granted you have acquired the necessary skill and common sense. I'll continue from here with some of the sublteties of passing in public.

In a large city on a warm afternoon, you can be a sex bomb in a mini or hot pants without being obvious; a lot of other real girls will be doing the same thing. Yet in a small town you wlll be dreadfully out of step if too much shows.

Rule one, then is: Sure, be sexy but don't be out of place. Passing is more amatter of poise and self-confidence rather than good looks. The second thing to remember is that passing is largely a state of mind.

No matter what, though, someone somewhere sometime is going to realize the truth. Perhapsyou will note that your voice register to octaves lower than any girls ought to. Or they will notice a patch of beard on your neck which you missed because you were in a hurry. Or maybe you will come face eo face with someone who knows you! Don't w sweat it. Make up your mind right now that it just dosen't matter Rember to "Accept yourself before anybody else can," I've given up on my voice, I just can't talk to anybody with any ear for ~~the~~ the proper sound of things without giving myself away. But by being cheerful and positive people react cheerfully and positively.

All told, there are only three rules to keep in mind when going into public (1) Don't be flashy like a prostitute, but fashion is good. (2) Think positive and self assured. (3) Don't let it shake you if somebody does happen to guess the truth.

THIS PAGE IS OPEN TO COMMENTS. SO SEND THEM IN. I NEED YOUR LETTERS TO MAKE THIS JOURNAL.

W I L M A

Old TVs never die,

THEY GET YOUNGER, LOOK AT ME. HA! HA!



"Nobody's ever risked their life for me before. Most men don't think too highly of female impersonators."

your dues?

Presidents Pen

ARE YOU MISSING THE BOAT?

OUR NEXT TWO GATHERINGS:

FEBRUARY 21st and MARCH 18th.

Welcome New Members

I am very pleased to announce the enrollment of 3 new members this month.

- RAY M [REDACTED], [REDACTED] New York, N.Y. 10022.
- D. DOUGHTY, [REDACTED] Washington, N.J. 07882.
- Barbara, (this add. can not be given out) Malden Bridge, N.Y.

We all here at T V I C hope to see you all in the coming months in person at one of our parties. All you members out there drop them a note to say hello and welcome them to T V I C.

B O O K S :

New books have arived. Send for list #6. They can still be had 10 for \$11 as long as they last. All these books our about TVism.

Happy Birthday Girls

- FEB. 1 Alice M [REDACTED]
 - FEB. 9 Deana M [REDACTED]
 - FEB. 18 Velvet p [REDACTED]
 - FEB. 18 Kathy g [REDACTED]
 - FEB. 26 Frances G [REDACTED]
 - WEDDING ANV.
 - FEB. 14 Deanne & GLoria [REDACTED]
- It is always nice to receive a birthday or wedding anversery card. so lets send these girls one. If I have left anyone out for February it is because I do not have your date of birth. All members who have a birthday or wedding anversery send me the date. MARCH. So that I can get it into the February Journal.

SICK LIST:

EBEN G. B [REDACTED], R.R. 2, South royalton, VT. 05068.

EBEN will be going into the hospital this month.

SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT:

- WAYNE M [REDACTED] N, Box 42, Vasse Burg Trl. Park, R.D.2, Mechanicville, N.Y. 12118
- MIKE B [REDACTED] Box 320, Somerville, Mass. 02144
- FRANCES C [REDACTED] Box 397, Nesconset, N.Y. 11767.
- WAYNE: For the extra books he has donated to TVIC.
- MIKE: For doing some zeroxing for us.
- FRANCES: For the shoes she sent. (dont gorget to send her a thank you note for the shoes you have taken.)

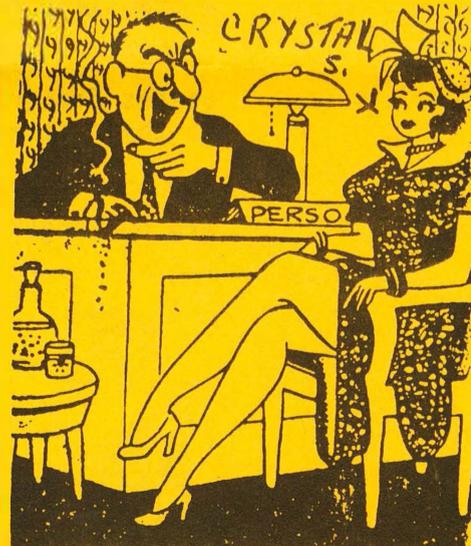
THINGS TO SEE :

FEB. 4th 1978. There will be a TV party at Cynthia [REDACTED] home, 6 P.M. Catered buffet - Ferme Apparel Swap - Auction - Disco Dancing - Raffle Drawing. Donation \$7.50 per person. If interested contact OUTREACH FOUNDATION. 102 CHARLES ST., SUIT 433, BOSTON, MASS. 02114.

FEB. 21-26 Boutique Fantastique - Cost of the week end \$199. Includes meals - deluxe accomodation for Sat. evening - Taxes and gratuities. For more information - Contact * - ARIADNE KANE - 617-787-2266 from 4 to 10 P.M. Monday Thru Friday.

NOTE.

Some of you will find a picture of a TVIC member with her name and address on the back, with this months Journal. Why not drop her a line and thank her. Anyone so wishing to send me some pictures with there names and adres on the back, I will enclose them with our Journal.



"Your qualifications are amazing young man, but I'm afraid they're not legal in this country."

letters to the editor

Chief, Facilitation Enforcement and Control,
Department of Manpower and Immigration,
305 Rideau Street,
Ottawa, CN, K1A 0J9.

Dear Sir,

An American friend, a male heterosexual practicing crossdresser (transvestite), wishes to visit me here in Ottawa, but is nervous about being turned back at the Canadian border because of his mode of dress.

Please confirm that :

- 1) a male cross-dresser is not an "excluded category" for the purposes of immigration;
- 2) an immigration or customs official or inspector at the Canadian border will not (or should not) interpret a cross-dressed male as belonging to any other "excluded category";

N.B. a similar Canadian friend was recently turned back by the US Immigration at the American border, because one official interpreted his cross-dressing as indicating that he was homosexual and therefore one of their "excluded categories", specifically a "sexual deviate".

- 3) that there is no law in Canada against cross-dressing;
- 4) that the new law dealing with immigration (recently passed in parliament but not yet proclaimed, expected to be so in the new year) now no longer includes homosexuals as one of the "excluded categories".

M.D. Johnson,

Yours truly

Ottawa, ON, K1S 2H7

M.D. Johnson

M.D. Johnson

1977-09-22

OTTAWA K1A 0J9
December 19, 1977

Dear Mr. Johnson:

I refer to your recent letter asking whether a transvestite would be prohibited from entering Canada.

I can assure you that neither under the present immigration legislation nor under the new legislation, which should be implemented next spring, would a person be barred from entering this country simply because he is a transvestite. An immigration or customs officer at a Canadian port of entry should not normally interpret a person's mode of dressing as an indication that he is a homosexual. Moreover, there is no law in Canada, that I am aware of, against a person being a transvestite.

With respect to your friend's difficulties with the United States Immigration authorities, I can only suggest that this be brought to their attention.

Finally, under Canada's new Immigration legislation homosexuals are no longer listed in the classes of persons who are inadmissible.

Yours sincerely,

W.J. van Staalduinen
W.J. van Staalduinen,
A/Director,
Policy Division,
Facilitation, Enforcement
and Control Branch.

letters

3 January 1978

Dear Wilma,

At last, we started something rolling in the Flint area! The first meeting of the Crossroads Chapter was held last Thursday night. Five persons attended; all were tvs. In spite of the low number who attended, I considered the meeting a success for two reasons: one, it was a weeknight rather than a weekend, two, roughly 25 per cent of those notified of the meeting attended. We spent most of the time getting acquainted and set the next meeting date for the 4th of February. This time there will be more time to give notice to those interested. The first meeting was a bit impromptu as it was partially set up for a tv from Illinois and one from the western side of the state who were coming over to Flint that night. I invited every tv I knew in the area to come on over. There was only about ten day's notice given. The two who the meeting was set up for never did show up due to a health problem, but the rest of us had a worthwhile meeting.

On the 15th of December, I made another radio appearance here in Flint. Listener response was good--good enough to keep me on the air for three hours instead of the scheduled two. The show has a format of audience participation--the listeners can phone in with comments or questions. Of the 25 calls handled on the air, a majority were at least partially supportive to myself and to tvs in general. Twelve callers either did not express an opinion or were non-supportive, while 13 were supportive to some degree. Several of the calls were deeply moving experiences to me. Two came on separate calls from a wife and husband--the husband was a tv and was having problems at home because of it. Another was from a lady who has a four-year old son who dresses in his mother's lingerie--I know what this can mean, since this is exactly the way I started and at about the same age.

The highlight of the evening had to be a call from a lady that I chatted with briefly before going on the air. Her husband was called to the station to fix a microphone; she came along with a small child. She knew in advance that I was going to be there. As we chatted I had the distinct impression that I was being read right and left, but she was friendly anyway. Late in the show, she called in and said that she was pretty apprehensive about what she would run into at the station. Apparently, I made a favorable impression, she changed her mind from talking with me and hearing me on the air.

The station was kind enough to give me the master tapes of this show. If you would like to hear them, let me know and I will loan them to you. They are on cassettes and cover the entire three hours of the show.

If I have learned anything from this experience it is that the tv world has hurt itself by being so secretive. Most people I've come into contact with know very little about us and have no sources of information about the transvestite world. I feel that those of us who are open enough to do the sort of things I've done have an obligation to the rest of the tvs to continue to do so. I know that I have reached a few people, to judge by the phone calls on the air. I may have reached others who did not phone in, since the show is heard by 25-30,000 people each night. I know that I've done some good and intend to continue to inform and educate the "straight" world as to exactly who and what we are.

Love, Grace B. [REDACTED]



"I'd feel a lot more secure if you'd fix the wobbly leg on this couch."

letters

Dear Wilma;

Just a year ago, on the 26th of December, when I first heard that Pam had been killed in a car crash, my feelings were that of heartbreak, anger, and frustration. Heartbreak at losing such a dear friend, anger to think one so young that enjoyed life so much would be taken, frustration at why Pam, who had Jane, two beautiful children, a father, mother that she loved dearly.

Have never been able to cope with death, or really understand it. The bible says the soul goes to Heaven, but I know the body goes into the ground to decay, and finally becomes but a bit of the good earth. Am certain that the Bible is correct, after death the Spirit or Soul goes on to a place far better than this one, and after reading this beautiful poem what happens to the body is beautiful too.

My Body

My body's only lent to me;
I carry it with me tenderly,
I wash it's face and brush it's hair
And give it every loving care.
And in the summer when all is still,
I can hear it's heart-beat on the hill.
When I die and go to earth,
Something beautiful will have a birth,
A blade of grass or a willow tree,
My body's only lent to me.

So if the body can make the grass grow green, or a tree grow tall, to make the world more beautiful, then our loved ones are not gone completely, but a bit of them remains, here, with us, forever.

God Bless You,

Crystal

Dear Bill and Helen:

December 16, 1977

Belated, heartfelt thanks for the lovely time spent in your home last Sat. First, I so enjoyed meeting you two charming host(esses) after a long time in which I've wanted to get down your way but just couldn't. Connie of Jamestown has talked of little else; she is so psyched up to meet everyone, but being in her early seventies, and with a wife who suffers from back and leg problems, the winter is a poor time for them to travel. However, they will be there come spring, and I know that ~~the~~ you will find them to be the very special people that they are. Connie has a sense of humor that will have you busting your corset stays, Wilma, and Jeanette is a cheerful and friendly soul whom you will instantly like, Helen. So, we four (Ron, Muriel, Connie and Jeanette) will be on pilgrimage come about April or May, Ron and Muriel maybe sooner if the green stuff is sufficiently plentiful.

Second, the food. Scrumptious! I ate like a bloody pig and loved every caloric bite of it. You are a marvelous cook, Helen. Now I feel really badly that you wouldn't let me give you a hand with the dishes. When I think of all the hard work you put into preparing that lovely meal and serving it up, you deserve to have the guests clear and clean up. You can put away because you know where everything goes. So, next time, put me to work.

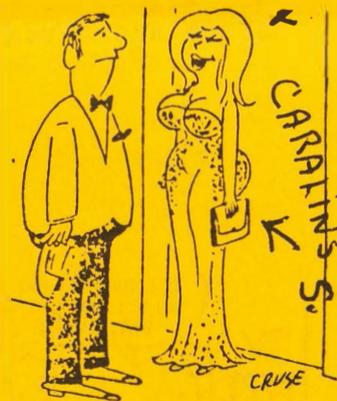
Third, it was fun to meet quite a few of the members who are so regular that I ~~never~~ recognized their names, and could dig out my back copies of the Journal, read up again about them, and have it all make sense.

As for the breakfast! Well, I never expected to see Michelle Ann's male self in earrings or Renee's alter ego wearing nail polish. I thought it was funny and wished I could have seen the reactions of the patrons (Hans told me they were not unnoticed).

Connie will keep you informed of her efforts to arrange occasional mid-west meetings (Kathy, Frances, Winnie and Elanda expressed interest that evening, and I'm confident there will be others).

MURIAL

RON W. [REDACTED], Geneseo, N.Y. 14454.



"Thanks for a lovely evening, pal. I gotta go get out of my wife's clothes before she gets home."

letters to the editor

Dear Wilma;

I know I sound like a broken record, but I sincerely believe you and Helen are doing a better job with your group than almost any I have ever been a part of. I made more worthwhile contacts in 1977 than in any year since I came out of the closet. Happily, to say, I made a lot of them through your organization. My wife and I both enjoy the TVIC Journal very much and it is one of the few TV publications that are in good taste and still look at the subject with a sense of humor. To a TV trying to convince her GG to "go along" with her dressing, your journal can be an invaluable aid. At least it's helped me. Love, Rhonda. MS. RHONDA E. J [redacted], P.O.B. 25045, CHARLOTTE, N.C. 28212.

Dear Wilma :

Its almost a year since I joined your group and in that time I have met so many more people. Julia from Akron, Ohio Velvet from California and of course your very nice selves. Enclosed find my renewal. love, Sarah Anne. JIM D [redacted], BOX 1123, MARCO, FLA. 33937.

Christine's Date

Gender-Change Anniversary

Twenty five years ago Dec. 1, a former Army private named George Jorgensen announced that a team of European doctors had changed him into a woman. From then on, George would be known as Christine Jorgensen. The information was a tabloid sensation, but little else was added to general intelligence except for the term for people who undergo such changes: transsexual.

A quarter-century ago most Americans didn't even know what an identity crisis was. Sex-change surgery was considered a bizarre sort of lab work. Today, according to a report of William V. Thomas on the subject (for Editorial Research Reports) a gender-adjustment operation still causes doubt in some circles, but is an accepted medical procedure practiced at 18 hospitals in the United States. In addition, there are dozens of so-called "gender identity centers" throughout the nation where specialists are prepared to hear the transsexual's case and provide counseling to help synchronize the inner and outer person.

Christine Jorgensen helped to encourage treating the topic as a racy scandal. She went on night-club entertainment tours for 15 years before retiring. Recently the subject of the transsexual came dramatically to public attention in the case of Renee Richards, formerly Dr. Richard Raskind, who underwent a sex-change operation in 1975. After a long fight with U.S. tennis officials she was finally allowed to enter a tennis tournament as a woman.

Many cases of gender identity confusion never reach the point where the individual is driven to seek medical assistance. But clinics across the country report increasing numbers of male and female transsexuals coming to them for help.

NEED FOR HELP

In keeping with the spirit of your editorial, "Gender Change Anniversary."

Your statement that "many cases of gender identity confusion never reach the point where the individual is driven to seek medical assistance," rightly implies a need among this population who cannot afford high-priced clinics.

For those who have needs of this sort, help may be received by writing to T.V. Outreach, P.O. Box 161, Cambridge, Mass. 02140. Also, male and female transvestites, transgenderists and transsexuals may find assistance through an effective program called "T.V.I.C." (Transvestite Independent Chapter). Contact: TVIC, P.O. Box 4021, Albany, N.Y. 12204.

Both of these services offer social contacts, opportunities for counseling, and further information on services and literature. Their services are also extended to spouses and relatives of TV's, TG's and TS who want someone to talk to and are looking for support and information. They also offer speakers, consultants for conferences, workshops or informal discussions on gender roles and identity. For the most part, there is little or no cost involved.

GERALD A. HINCKLEY

Poultney

The farmer was scolding his hired man for carrying a lighted lantern to call on his girlfriend.
"The very idea!" he said. "When I was courtin', I never used to carry no lantern; I went in the dark."
"Yes," said the hired man, sadly, "and look what you got."



ACTION LINE Trenton Times, Trenton, N.J.:

"I once read where a man got pregnant. I was wondering if this could be true and, if so, did he ever have the child? I'm worried because I think I might be."



to SSE G, WIS. AW: SHING VAYS ST.

Whipple and BORTH

DEAR ABBY



Lingerie Buyers Boosting Christmas Gift Purchases

From thermal underwear to pure silk panties and lacy nightgowns, lingerie is being snapped up by men on holiday shopping sprees for wives and girlfriends.

'Tis the season when women's intimate apparel departments are stocked to their pink-paper walls with the year's fullest array of fluffy undies, nighties and lounge wear, attracting not only men shoppers but women who shop for themselves.

And this year that means an array of some of the sexiest lingerie seen in years with an emphasis on femininity, naturalness and the nude look.

But that doesn't mean that perennial favorites like flannel granny gowns and quilted robes aren't being sold also.

"THE MEN WHO started shopping early were choosing the warm, practical flannels and quilted robes," said the manager of a lingerie department.

But the tardier male shoppers want sexy, feminine, black lace, peignoir gowns and even bras and bikini panties.

One saleswoman recalled several men who came into her department on two different days.

"One day they will come in and buy something practical, like a flannel nightgown. A day later, as though they have never seen me before, they come in and buy something outrageously sexy, like a sheer babydoll pajama.

"Now I may be wrong, but I can't see the same woman wearing both those things."

FOR MEN, THE lingerie department is a foreign world, said Jeanne Clapp, who has been selling fluffy undergarments for several years.

"They don't seem as nervous anymore as they used to be," Jeanne said. "But sometimes they have trouble figuring out what we're talking about."

Indeed, men in a lingerie department may face some foreign-sounding terms. Like "peignoir" (translation: the usually lacy robe that matches a usually sheer nightgown), "foundation", "garment", "underwires" (bras come either with or without them) and "the natural look" (the trend in lingerie toward sheer, underconstructed garments with a minimum of seams).

Once they get past their nerves and the terminology, men shoppers want to choose their own gifts.

It's the sheer bra spun from a glossy nylon thread and available in an almost full spectrum of colors that attracts the male eye, the saleswoman agreed.

ONE SHOPPER WAS a middle-aged man buying a gift in the lingerie department. He bought a flannel granny nightgown.

"We have just moved to the country and it gets cold there nights," he said. "So my wife said she wants something warm."

"But you know what she wanted? One of those terry cloth pajama outfits with the feet in it," he confided. "I don't like them. She'd look like a bunny wrapped in a towel."



A neighbor is someone who advises you on what to buy, so he can borrow it later.

Alimony is a system by which, when two people make a mistake, one of them continues to pay for it.

Bachelors, like detergents, work fast and leave no rings.

DEAR ABBY: I am a 24-year-old born-again Christian. I studied for the priesthood, but dropped out because I felt I wasn't "good" enough to serve the Lord while living a lie. I am now in training to be a male nurse.

The lie I am living is that I have always wanted to be a woman. I FEEL like a woman inside. I love all feminine activities—cooking, sewing, decorating—yet I am very athletic. I was encouraged to try out for the U.S. Olympic track team. (I broke many records in high school.) I detest hunting and fishing; never could I kill a living thing.

I am not a homosexual, but this desire to live as a woman is about to destroy me. Where can I get a sex change operation? I will go anywhere. How much would one cost? I will save a lifetime if

necessary. I would rather be dead than go on living like this.

If the Lord really loves me, why did he give me a man's body with all the feelings and desires of a woman?

I have felt this way as long as I can remember. Please help me.—MISERABLE IN MAINE

DEAR MISERABLE: The Lord creat-

ed all of us, and why He gave you a man's body, but the feelings of a woman, I do not know. Nature sometimes makes biological blunders, as is the case when one's body does not conform with his (or her) natural feelings. You are not alone. Don't feel guilty. One cannot help what he feels.

I believe that knowledge, skill and talent are divinely inspired, and that those scientists, physicians and surgeons whose combined efforts have made sex-change surgery possible, do so with God's guidance. For information

about sex-reassignment surgery and related problems, write to:

Janus Information Facility
University of Texas Medical Branch
Galveston, Texas 77550

It is a non-profit help agency for people such as yourself, so please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for their reply, and tell them Abby told you to write. All correspondence between you will be strictly confidential. God bless.

Church hospital sex-change work an issue in Okla.

OKLAHOMA CITY (AP) — An Oklahoma Baptist church leader said church members were shocked to learn that sex-change operations have been conducted at Baptist Medical Center. He said action will be taken to stop the surgery.

The hospital's board of directors had voted in favor of the operations, but suspended them this summer at the request of Baptist church officials after complaints from an unidentified rural preacher who had learned of the operations.

"This is more than a medical issue," said the Rev. Richard B. Douglass, president of the Baptist General Convention of Oklahoma. "The ultimate problem is that when we own an institution, we are publicly identified with what happens there."

Mr. Douglass predicted that when the convention's hospital committee meets Oct. 6 it will vote "strongly against" continuation of the operations.

Some church officials said that if the operations are not vetoed next month, there may be a floor fight over the issue at the state convention's annual meeting in November.

Mr. Douglass said that from a theological standpoint, the Baptist church firmly believes that the "wholeness" of the individual can't be

achieved through a physical change, but only a spiritual change.

"I am sure the average member of the average Baptist church in Oklahoma would feel very negatively about this kind of operation," he said.

There are 600,000 Baptists in Oklahoma, about one-fourth the state's population.

Dr. David W. Foerster, a surgeon at the Baptist Medical Center who has performed sex-change operations, said he is confident that the operations will be resumed.

News reports have listed Oklahoma City as among the nation's top centers for sex-change operations. Since 1973, about 50 such operations have been performed at the Baptist hospital. Hospital officials have said there is a waiting list of 50 patients.

An undisclosed number of sex-change operations have been performed at Oklahoma City's University Hospital, affiliated with the University of Oklahoma.

Dr. Tom Lynn, dean of the University of Oklahoma College of Medicine, said sex-change operations are "legitimate medical operations."

Officials at University Hospital haven't disclosed the number of sex-change operations performed at that hospital.



"I was, er... wondering, Bruce, after... you know, your sex change, er... operation, would you, er... let me... that is... er..."