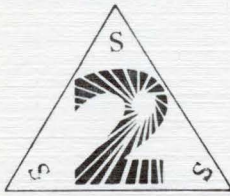
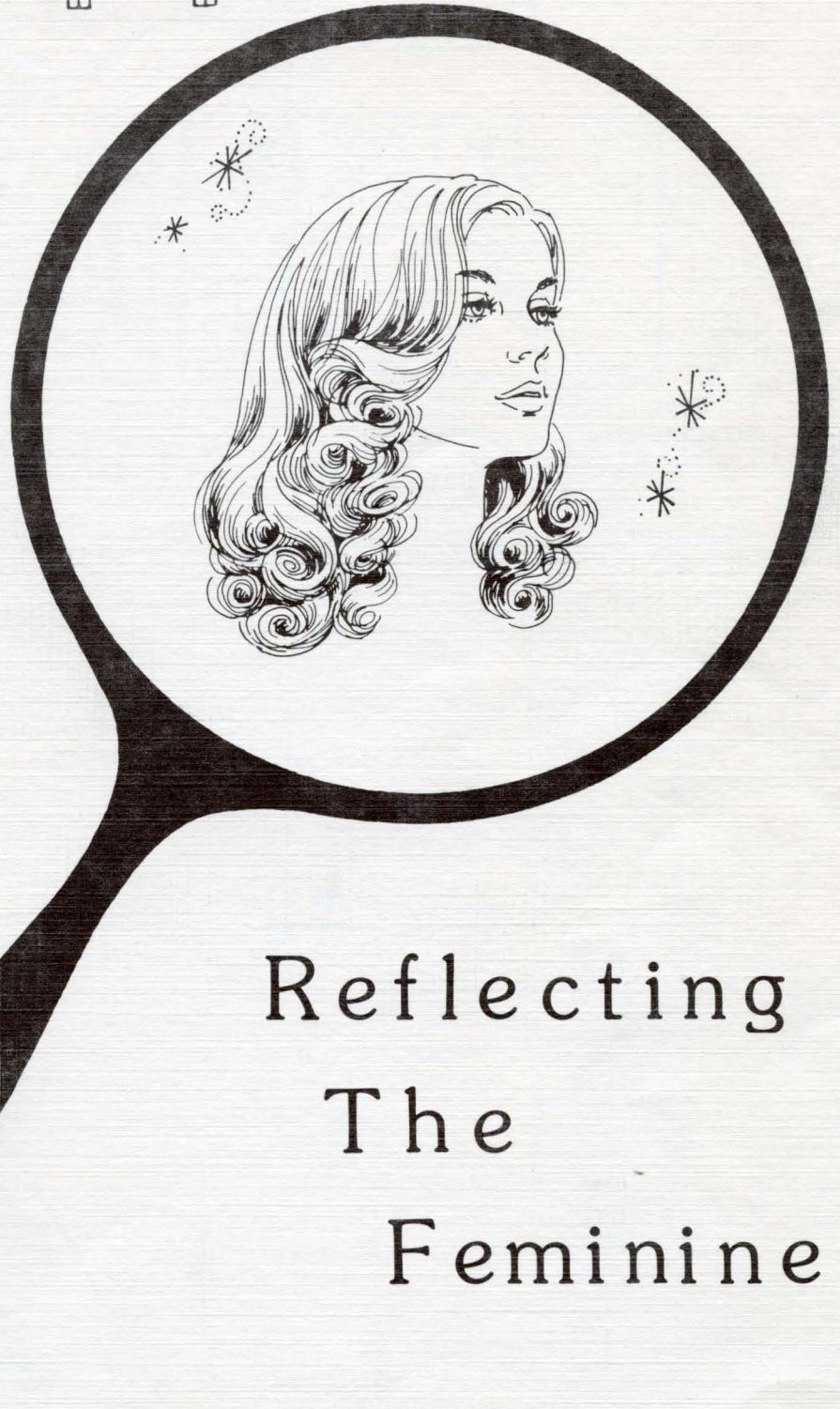


Femme Mirror



Tri-Ess Sorority

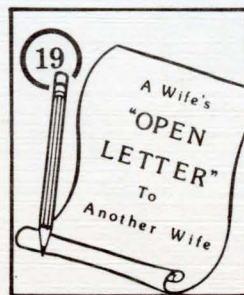


Reflecting
The
Feminine

FEMME MIRROR

VOLUME 6, No. 2 and 3, 1981

Reflecting the Feminine



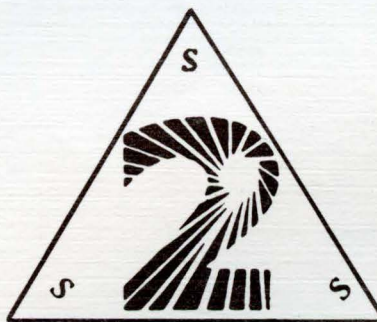
APRIL ☆ JUNE

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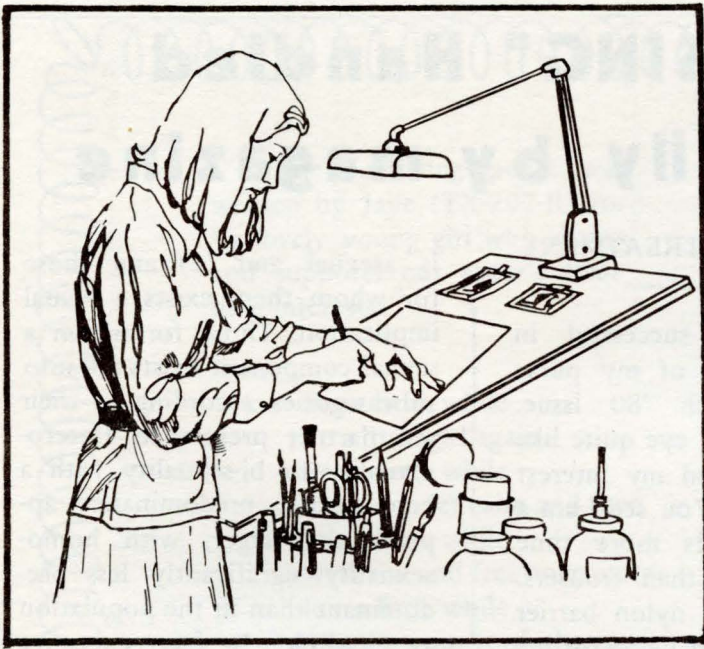
EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR: Carol Beecroft

The FEMME MIRROR is published for members of the SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF at P.O. Box 194, Tulare, California 93275

Manuscripts, photographs and letters should be sent to the above address. Submission of letters implies the right of the Editor to edit and publish, although true names and addresses will not be used.



Tri-Ess Sorority



SPEAKING OUT:

Carol Beecroft
EDITOR

I do hope that you like the Femme Mirror this time. It still is a double issue but is much larger than ever! We have 36 pages this time. I think that this issue is quite professional looking. That's because I just completed a 15 week course in Magazine Production in Los Angeles. It was necessary that I journey 330 miles — to LA and back to Tulare — each Monday evening for a two hour class. But the class, attended mostly by people involved in the magazine business, was extremely helpful. I would do the typography at home as well as the lettering for the headlines, etc, do the art work, paste the material up on boards and then take it to class on Monday evening. There, the class would critique my work and make suggestions to improve it. Often, it was necessary to re-do much of my work but it looked better. The teacher is an Art Director of a prominent magazine. The students were also very helpful and I think that both Transvestia and the Femme Mirror look a lot better. I will soon take a Saturday class (6 hours long) on Production and Paste-

up, at the same school. When that class is over, I'll take an additional class in Typography. The Monday P.M. class almost did me in — I returned each morning at 2:00, exhausted. I'll have to leave Tulare around 5:00 in the morning for the Saturday class but I won't be so tired when I get home. But, if the Femme Mirror and Transvestia look better as a result, then I'm happy and satisfied. That's how committed I am to the "cause" of the Sorority. The art work at the top of this page actually represents your Editor working at her drafting board in the Tri-Ess office.

Another thing I need to discuss with you is that we will have to make a permanent change in the "nick-name" for our organization. Many of you will remember that in an Editorial, printed some time ago, I said that there is another organization, for females, called Sigma, Sigma, Sigma. They had heard that we were using the terms Tri-Sigma, Tri-Sig and rarely, Sigma, Sigma Sigma. They asked that we stop using those words. Well, we did — for awhile, but one thing lead to another and we

gradually went back to using those words again. I recently heard from the sorority for girls and they demand that we stop using their name — which is legally their name to use. They've had it since the 1890's.

So I am asking, OFFICIALLY, that all members not use the names, Tri-Sigma, Tri-Sig or Sigma, Sigma, Sigma as our sorority name. Please use the term TRI-ESS (Tri-S) from now on. Sigma, in Greek is "S" but we can still use the three "S"'s (Society For The Second Self), but we will use the



Roman letters instead of the Greek letters. That's the only change that I am asking you to abide by — but we must comply or we could have problems on our hands.

You will note, as you go through this magazine, that the annual convention will be held in San Francisco in late September. This convention should be the best ever and it is being planned with meticulous care. For that we are indebted to Cindy (CA-58-P), even though she can't attend herself, having used her vacation time to make a move to San Francisco where she now lives. I call that LOYALTY! So, come to San Francisco with us and have the time of your life. Live your life as a girl for a week — be in heaven!

As always I am interested in seeing chapters started and appreciate your letters informing me of your progress. Remember that if you can get at least three sisters meeting on a regular basis, you have the nucleus of a chapter and can be considered one.

I have been waiting for some of our non-renewing sisters to send in their dues money — before I started on the huge Directory. I am receiving checks each day and if YOU haven't renewed yet, please do so. This will be your last issue of the Femme Mirror. I do want to get started on the Directory — it's going to be a "doozer" this time and I'll be spending at least 75 to 100 hours on it. And if I can do that, as well as all the other Sorority work that I do, then surely some of those sisters who will never renew their membership should have developed some sort of loyalty to an organization and, thus renewed for 1981. It is most frustrating to have sisters stay a year and never renew!!

"DRESSING" Handled tactfully by magazine

SYMPATHETIC TREATMENT

You were successful in luring \$1.50 out of my purse with your March '80 issue. Nothing grabs my eye quite like female beauty and my interest in crossdressing. You see I am a male who spends more time wearing a dress than trousers.

Crossing the nylon barrier has been a way of living for me for years. As a behavioral scientist, I've pondered the social and psychological implications of crossdressing extensively. Social acceptance is infrequent, but improving. Open discussions and first person experiences stated in publications such as LETTERS can be credited with increasing acceptance for us. I thank you for your publishing on the subject in a non-sensational manner. I heartily endorse the suggestion of Mr. T.Y. of Colorado in your March '80 issue. There are indeed many males about these United States very much like Mr. T.Y. In fact, recent studies have indicated heterosexual crossdressing males comprise some 6% of the total population — at a conservative estimate. This IS a conservative estimate, in my opinion, due to the intense fear of discovery experienced by most as a result of cultural and social forces prevalent counter to this mode of self-expression.

Over the years I've read and heard literally thousands of individual stories about crossdressing males. They can be arranged into two rather imprecisely defined categories: (1) those for whom the behavior

is asexual and (2) and those for whom there exists a sexual implication. Those for whom a sexual component exists fall into subcategories according to their sex partner preference. Heterosexuality or bi-sexuality with a heterosexual predominance appears the larger, with homosexuality significantly less predominant than in the population as a whole. In fact, excessive macho orientation in males is significantly more positively correlated with homosexuality than is crossdressing.

A strong line of reasoning can be formulated to substantiate a conclusion that, for the most part, any "sickness" associated with crossdressing comes not from the behavior itself, but rather from the suppression of the desire to crossdress. Frustration, tension, anxiety, fear, guilt and other psychodynamics can and generally do lead to both mental and physical problems characterized as "illness." In both the experiences others have related and in my own crossdressing, for some reason, doing so is associated with sharp decreases in tension, frustration, anxiety, hostility, aggressiveness and such. Thus, for those of us able in this simple way to allow the expression of our inner selves, crossdressing appears to be an excellent avenue to well-being. Crossing the nylon barrier has certainly been instrumental in my own personal well-being. For those so inclined, I highly recommend it, particularly in lieu of many of the bottled and packaged pressure relievers that abound. J.R. (Texas)

The following poem was written by Jaye (TX-202-R) for "a lovely young girl who knows and supports our sister's feminine interests:"

POET'S CORNER



For a little while
Be a little girl again.
For a little while
Rest in quiet calm and then
For a little while
Walk tall and free once more,
For a little while
The sky your roof, the earth your floor
For a little while,
Be strong, the fight of life begins,
For a little while
Be a little girl again!

ON WATCHING A YOUNG GIRL ENJOY HER FEMININITY

Glad you enjoy it – your pretty freeness
Your dance-tossed hair – and your skirts in their see-ness.

Glad you adore it – so can't you just guess
How much WE all love it when we make-up and dress?!

WIFELY ERROR

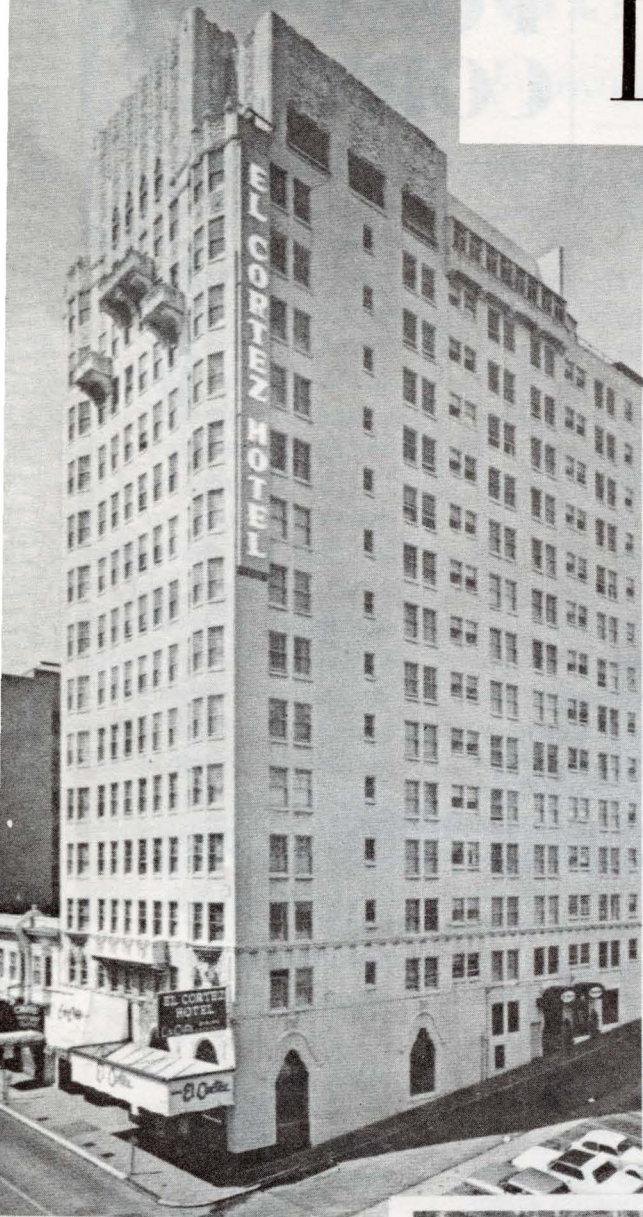
My wife went to dance class in dull, hopeless shorts
– put me, as a man, quite all out of sorts.
With her natural figure and inherent grace
ANY thing would be better to wear at that place.

I told her. She pouted, "I suppose You'd wear a skirt!"
"I certainly would," I heard myself blurt.
She snorted, "Well, do!" stormed off to her class.
I determined to stop all her sass,
– made a quick shopping, turned up at her place.
She didn't know me from Eve. I could tell from her face.
Then, as we practiced – she suddenly discovered!
No sass from her since. She's never recovered.



HOTEL

EL CORTÉZ



ENJOY

EXCITING

SAN FRANCISCO





**Join Us In
SAN FRANCISCO
At The
1981 Tri-ESS
CONVENTION**



JOIN THE CROWD



NOW is the time to start thinking about our annual convention in San Francisco. It will be held from September 20th through lunch of the 27th. This is supposed to be one of the best times of the year, weather-wise, for San Francisco. We will be staying at the EL CORTEZ which is a gracious example of finer hotel living. It is situated in the heart of San Francisco's downtown area and within one block of all theaters, the airline depot, and close to Union Square (the center of fine shops and airline offices). The El Cortez is a 17 story fireproof, sound-proof structure offering accommodations which meet the most exacting standards. The guest rooms are all outside rooms and all room feature a complete Kitchenette enabling the preparation of a snack or a complete meal. Indoor garage service is available nearby, plus an outdoor parking lot adjacent to the hotel. Within the hotel is the famous French restaurant, La Mere Duquesne. Amidst the elegant and charming setting you will experience the exquisite preparation of a wide variety of foods accompanied perhaps by a cocktail made to your satisfaction or a wine selected from a notable collection. The address of the hotel is 550 Geary Street, near Taylor. The pictures of the restful rooms is quite inviting and your Editor feels that you will love the comfort and warmth which the hotel offers.

Cindy (CA-58-P) has done all the footwork in preparation for the convention so we are very grateful for her assistance. At this time we have reserved a block of rooms - 15 in all. But we must have, as a deposit, the equivalent of one day's lodging, which is \$23.00 per person - two people will occupy a room thus making the total cost of a

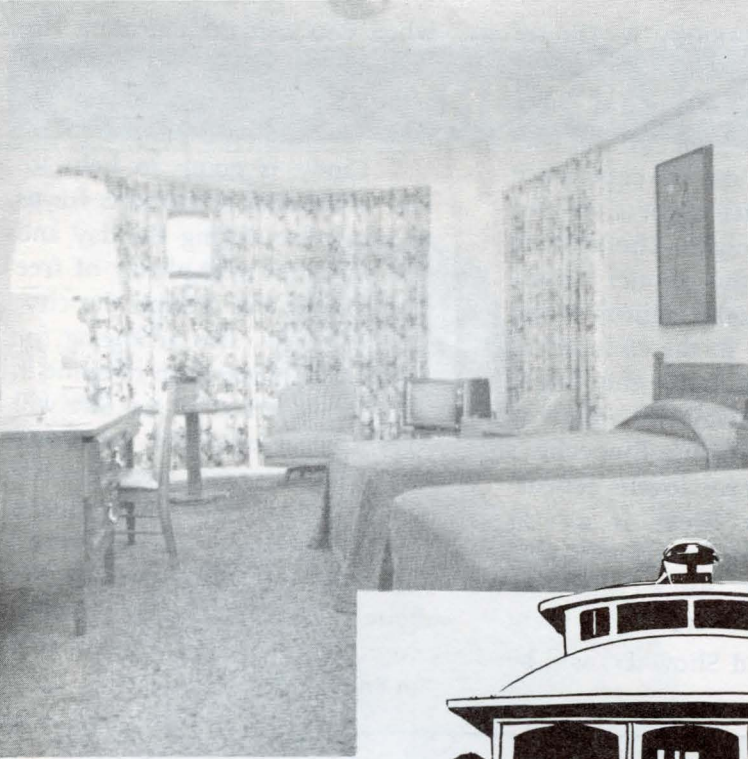
room \$46.00 for each day. If you wish to have a single room all by yourself, then the cost is \$34.00. We can get more rooms if we are overloaded so get your reservation in to your EDITOR quick so we can gauge just where we stand in regards to the need for additional rooms. I forget to tell you that you should add 9.75% to the cost of the room for a city tax.

Your Editor has written for catalogs dealing with the hotel and individual catalogs featuring tours, and activities to attend while there. If you are going to come, then please ask your Editor for the brochures, but since we only have so many, please don't ask for brochures just out of curiosity - OK?

The temperature of San Francisco is normally always a bit cool, especially in the evening. Average temperatures rarely go above 70 degrees, although September and October are the warmest months. At all times of the year you should bring a light coat and for the bay excursions and visits to windy hilltops, you should not forget to bring a head-scarf. Most of the rain falls in the winter but the occasional summer fog dampens the air in the mornings and evenings - so please bring either a raincoat or an umbrella. This city is a very sophisticated metropolitan type center so please dress accordingly. Resort wear and summer dresses are rarely seen in the city. The better restaurants are very conscious of what you wear. You will feel comfortable in a dress or pantsuit during the day and a dinner or cocktail dress for the evening. But they do indicate that the most indispensable item to be included in your wardrobe is a pair of comfortable low-heeled walking shoes.

Regarding tours, there are a number of them and you might be interested in either going as a group or individually - depending on your experience on getting out. It might be safer if we went together on most of the tours. There is a Deluxe City Tour for \$9.75 which will take you from Treasure Island to the far side of the spectacular Golden Gate Bridge. You will see the civic center, the new Opera House and old Mission Delores. You will stop at Twin Peaks for a panoramic view of the Bay Area and at Golden Gate Park for a visit to the Japanese Tea Garden. You will be taken along the Pacific Ocean and stop at the Cliff House to enjoy the ocean breezes. You will also see the Presidio, Alcatraz and the Marin Headlands. You will cross the Golden Gate Bridge, stopping at Vista Point before returning to the Marina, Fisherman's and Pier 39. Now, as far as the Deluxe City tour goes, you can add a Bay cruise to it. In that case the cost is \$15.00 plus tax.

Then there is the San Francisco, Sausalito, Muir Woods and Bay Cruise Tour. This tour is designed for people who want to have an overall view of San Francisco, an opportunity to browse, shop and eat in world-famous Sausalito, a chance to stroll amongst redwood trees, time to explore Pier 39 and the Fisherman's Wharf area and enjoy a leisurely cruise of San Francisco Bay. The tour covers most of the area included in the Deluxe City Tour and also allows considerable time in Sausalito. After touring the city, you will cross the Golden Gate Bridge and wind down along the coast to the Mediterranean-like village of Sausalito. After exploring the city and dining there you will be drive through Marin County to Mt Tamalpais and Muir Woods



Restful Rooms like these insure your relaxation



Part of the Trophy Room Lounge



The beautiful Lobby of El Cortez

Visit beautiful Muir Woods



with its spectacular redwood trees. From there return to the city and visit Pier 39, before taking a memorable 75 minute cruise on the bay - enjoying the breeze blowing your skirts all over. That tour is \$22.50 plus tax.;

A San Francisco By Night Including Chinatown Tour is also available. You will be driven along Union Street with beautifully restored Victorian houses, its boutiques and restaurants. You will see Ghirardelli Square and the Cannery and continue via Fisherman's Wharf to the lantern-lined streets of Chinatown. You will explore temples and shops with a chinese guide. You will also visit the Wax Museum, view telegraph hill and the Coit Tower as you are driven through San Francisco's famed North Beach. This tour is \$11.25 and goes to \$19.75 (plus tax) if you want to dine at an authentic Chinatown restaurant.

Further afield, You might like to take the Napa Valley Wine Country Tour. You will enjoy the lush beauty of the World Famous Napa Valley Wine Country and The Valley Of The Moon made famous by the writings of Jack London. You will pass acres and acres of vineyards and stop at one of the Wineries. After lunch at one of Napa Valley's outstanding restaurants, you will visit the very famous Sonora County Winery for a tour and a memorable tasting. You will also visit Vintage 1870 where most of the original buildings of this lovely old winery are unchanged and now house charming boutiques and craft shops. This tour costs \$29.50 plus tax.

Finally there is a combination of Tours featuring the Night Club Tour (Three clubs but no dinner) for \$35.00; A Dinner and Night Club Tour (3 clubs with

dinner) for \$48.00. A Dinner and Show Tour (2 clubs and dinner) for \$35.00; and a Show Tour (2 clubs but no dinner) for \$23.00. You will experience the exciting atmosphere of San Francisco at night. The evening begins, for the dinner tours, at the fashionable Hilton Hotel with a dinner in the continental manner. Then onto the bright lights of Broadway and a show at the world famous Finocchio's where they have lovely female-impersonators. Next is a visit to the renowned discovery club Purple Onion. An elegant conclusion to the evening (except for Dinner and Show Tr) will be

when you visit the Fairmont Hotel for a star performance by one of the great names in show business in the Venetian Room.

Cindy is going to help locate additional restaurants for us to patronize during the day and we will allow you plenty of free time to browse around the city.

Cindy is also arranging for a girl from a wig shop to come in and demonstrate for us. She will also be available for assistance in comb-outs and arrangements for your hair. There will also be a demonstration having to do with the use of cosmetics. We hope to have other special events to help make your stay an enjoyable one.

An "Unlikely" Story

By Dee Dee (CT-7-W)

On a sunny day, five years ago, John and Alice were on a golf course. At this particular time, there were two tournaments going - one for men and the other for women. The locations of the two courses were alongside of each other.

By a trick of fate, the two teed off at the first tee on their respective courses. Suddenly a thunder storm arose and John and Alice took shelter under the same tree. Lighting struck the tree, killing Alice instantly and burning every stitch of clothing off of John, plus giving him instant amnesia.

There he was, quite naked, without the slightest idea of who he was. So, in that confused state, he stripped Alice of her clothing, put them on and went over to the women's tournament. John is now Alice and murdered the course by coming in 23 strokes under par.

Then five years go by and "Alice" is walking down the street when suddenly John's

memory returns. Seeing himself in female attire he faints dead away and awakens in a hospital, now quite himself.

It turns out that in the past five years, "Alice" had become a super golf champion, earning enough money to buy a string of condos plus a bundle of blue chip stocks.

Reading about it John now figured that he could make a living playing golf, but while "Alice" could drive a ball out of sight, John couldn't hit a ball in the rear end with a banjo.

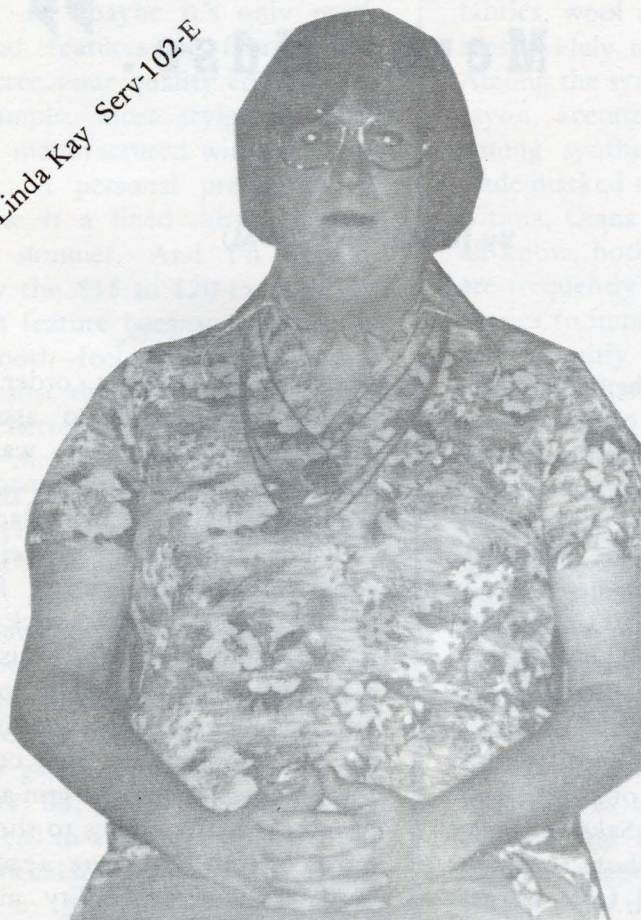
Poor John is now caddying for a living and doesn't have much to say. "Alice" keeps slipping in and out and he'll buy pretty dresses without knowing why.

Nowadays when a storm comes up, everybody runs for the clubhouse - except John. He can be found under a tree, hoping for the best.



THE TRI-ESS ALBUM

Linda Kay Serv-102-E



Nicole NJ-200-S



Debbie AR-200-H



Janice MA-200-H



Janna IO-201-T

Catalog

Carnival

“ More Than
Mere Mdse. ”

Part Two Of “An Expert Tells Us
How To Use Catalogs”

By JOYCE (NJ-206-M)

As most of you know the arrival of mail order catalogs is always a welcome event. And when such publications are devoted to our beloved “girl yum-mies,” we eagerly accord them hours of priority browsing — as kids in deliciously non-fattening candy stores. Some of us rush in our orders and agonize — and hope. Whatever your straits, your catalogs should be serving you as far more than a mere “clothing connection.”

So let's go shopping in the byways of these discreet “department stores” and discover some of the delightful extra treats those precious periodicals provide us.

Like almost everything else, women's catalogs come in all sizes, shapes and colors. Some show outfits on models, some use mannequins, and some feature photos or line drawings of the articles alone. Some offer a complete “menu” of feminine clothing and accessories. Others concentrate on lingerie, shoes, sportswear, jewelry and so forth. “Menu” is an apt word to describe many of them. For, indeed, in attempting to appeal to your tastes, they provide a potpourri of insights, imagination, information and ideas. For instance:

Labels, be they manufacturers or retailers, can be among your best indicators of quality — which generally (but not always) goes hand-in-glove with price. Single name brands abound: Gordon...Halrin...Bradley...Wilroy...Talbott...Vera...Gabor...Viliger...DeLiso...Meadowbank...Ulla...Ciao...Aigner...Bernardo... — just to skim the surface.

And “house brands” harbor a heavenly horde of habilement — from Sears to Saks to Spiegels; from the Talbots to Town and Country; and from Lerner to Lane Bryant — to mention just a few.

Labels are splendid signals. They announce reputation and areas of focus, such as shoes, purses, scarves, swimwear, dresses, sweaters, coats, skirts, lingerie, nightwear, foundation garments — sport, social, dressy, business or multi use. Labels are also indicators of style, cut and fit. For instance, if you look and feel stunning in an Evan-Picone size 14 red blazer, you might not wish to experiment with a Stanley Blacker size 14 for a white or navy blazer. If you adore the fashion, fit and feel of your Harlin or Ulla skirts in size 12, you might think twice before ordering a Haymaker or Meadowbank skirt in the same size. (Forget those cautions for

wrap skirts: Always order a size or two larger to assure sufficient overlay. The waistline will become “custom-made” as you button or tie it in place.)

For foundation garments, either experiment with a few brands, select one and stick to it; or tailor-make them — using a professional or doing it yourself. Cinches, shapers and bras are too important to your comfort and well-being to grin-and-bear-it. When it comes to shoes, most of our sizes are readily available from speciality mail-order firms such as Hill Brothers or “big girl” catalogs like Roaman's or Lane Bryant. If you need to experiment on size, order a few pair in Urethane or other imitation leather. When you know the maker's or seller's correct size for you, upgrade to leather; and, unless you know you can take it, don't go much higher than a two-inch heel for extended periods of wear.

While labels are also a key to quality and price, the most important thing to keep in mind is to buy only the quality and durability you really need and want. If lovely lingerie is your favorite feminine focus, splurge on it. You'll love it! If it's your shoes, then lavish your life with lifts. If your delights are dainty dresses (or even simple classics),

baby yourself with the best of what you truly adore. If you are tantalized by tailored trappings, decide the tailoring you prefer and proudly parade in your pleasure.

Or maybe it's only particular features or fabrics that decree your quality criteria. For example, most styles of skirts are manufactured without a lining. A personal preference of mine is a lined skirt — winter or summer. And I'll happily pay the \$15 to \$20 extra to get this feature because I prefer the smooth feel of the lining and because the skirt holds its shape far better and longer and because (to me) its drape and swing are more elegant, comfortable and ladylike than a comparable skirt that is not lined.

Another personal example is jewelry; it can make or break about any ensemble. I'm not fond of a lot of jewelry and much of what I do like is either too garish or too bulky to my taste. So, when I see something special in a delicate bracelet, pin or necklace, I'll pay extra if need be to get it. On the "inner" side, it is rare that I'm attracted to lavish or luxurious lingerie in a cavalcade of colors and lathered with lace. So, I tend not to pamper my pocketbook on panties and petticoats. On the other hand, I do have a favorite fragrance. Without it, I feel absolutely undressed. It costs. I pay.

MORAL: Decide who you are, how you feel and what you want — just like any other woman!!

What's the word for it?

Girls need — and have — a fashion vocabulary all their own. Most learn this sub-language as a part of growing up and without even realizing it. You will have to start somewhere. And

the descriptive copy in most catalogs is an excellent entree.

Fabric, for example, is a world unto itself — as is knowing which fabrics go well together and which don't. Of the natural fabrics, wool and cotton are the most widely used raw materials. Among the synthetics, it's nylon, rayon, acetate and orlon. Also among synthetics are a lot of trade-marked treats like Ultressa, Ultima, Qiana and Lycra. As we all know, both cotton and wool are frequently blended with synthetics to improve wearing qualities, simplify cleaning or laundering, reduce price, or some combination of those reasons.

Any of these basic textiles can be combed, brushed, or woven in a multitude of ways. Thus, wool can become a worsted, a flannel, a gabardine, a tweed or a velvet. Cotton can be turned out as lisle, flannel, linen, batiste, velour, velveteen, corduroy, plisse, seersucker, terry and jersey — to name a few. Silk as a raw material can be made up into satin, taffeta, organdy, crepe, moire or chiffon, among other things.

Both cotton and wool may be woven or knit. Weaves can be with or against the grain of the thread, or even across it. Knits can be single, double or triple stitch. Polyester and other synthetics can also be treated to a potpourri of processes, and knitting techniques. Which is why you can get satin, jersey, taffeta and chiffon out of these fabrics, too. Catalogs offer abundant avenues for learning about fabrics and their uses. What you don't know or can't figure out, you can always look up.

Another vocabulary has to do with styling and detailing. Catalogs are chock full of terms like "A-line", "shirtwaist", "princess", "shawl", "jabot", "bias-cut", "half circle", "blouson",

"pleated", and "placket". Neckline and collar descriptions alone abound with definitions such as, "vee", "square", "jewel", "turtle", "round", "standup", "pan", and "cowl". Do you know what they mean?

And what about "gathers", "cables", "tucks", "appliques", "gores", "tiers", "flounces", and "yokes"? What is meant by such things as "full fashioned", "set-ins", "darts", "shirring", "piping", and "top stitching" — to say nothing of "bibbing", "ribbing" and "faggoting"?

If you're on the outside of this kind of "girl talk," you simply don't know what you're looking at, never mind buying. Good bet: Get a dictionary and make up your own list. Better bet: (and more fun), start your own "swatch scrapbook" of fabrics and tailoring points.

When it comes to color, the spectrum is only the starting point. Women (and those who sell to them) are much more inventive and imaginative than White, Red, Blue, Green, Orange, Yellow and Violet. Try a few like "cerise", "teal", "mauve", "coral", "lilac", "ecru", "cornflower", "taupe" and "jade". Or, take a couple of adverbs like "dusty" and "heathery" and attach colors like "dove", "rust", "champagne" and "fuchsia". Again, head for a dictionary. But keep in mind that one copywriter's "cerise" is another's "red"; and one person's "taupe" is another's "biege" or "camel". A slick color photo is your best bet not to botch.

Catalogs can culture you in a gaggle of gratuitous girl gabble in many other areas as well. Do you know, for instance, what a "Bermuda Bag" is? Or that when a lady refers to "an adoreable clutch", she does not have her car even remotely in mind? Similarly, a "pump"

has nothing to do with a gas station. Neither do "eardrops" have any connection with medication, nor do "rattails" have the slightest relationship to the vile vermin.

When a woman is "fetching", she is not on an errand. And "wedges" and "slides" could no more be obtained at the local hardware store than "spectators" at a sports arena. "Crepe-de-chine" should never be mistaken for an oriental entree in a French restaurant.

Is "D'Orsay cut" an expression used at the butcher's? Never! What is a "lavalier"? Does one use perfume or wear it? Can a "camisole" be repaired by the shoemaker? The miscellanea is marvelously mind-boggling!

There is yet another sparkling subtlety in catalog copy descriptions: An abundance of feminine adjectives. This not only provides a sumptuous supply for sprinkling into your own girl talk, it offers some superb insights into the language and the connotations to which women respond. In other words, the descriptions suggest strongly how women actually do feel (or would like to feel) about themselves.

Decide for yourself if there is any truth to the old saw, "Women never dress for men. They dress for other women"? Look at just a sampling of the words used to describe catalog offerings: "feminine".... "floating".... "exquisite".... "dainty".... "fluffy".... "gracious".... "lavish".... "pampering".... "lilting"..... "precious".... "adoreable"..... "pretty".... "comfy".... "caress-able"..... "romantic"..... "sensuous"..... "radiant"..... "smashing"..... "stunning"....and, yes, even the term "sexy."

Terms like these do not

describe objects or persons. They suggest emotional textures and moods. They suggest attitudes. They imply principally, "This is the way you'll FEEL when you wear this!" A woman's actual appearance has little to do with appealing to her self-image. Thus, she dresses FOR

HERSELF first and foremost. And this reflects the way we girls should consider our purchases. If you feel great about your comfort and appearance, your looks will take care of selves....with a little bit of help of course.

Something New

From OUR SORORITY,
The mid-Atlantic Journal of the
Society For The Second Self,
we learn:

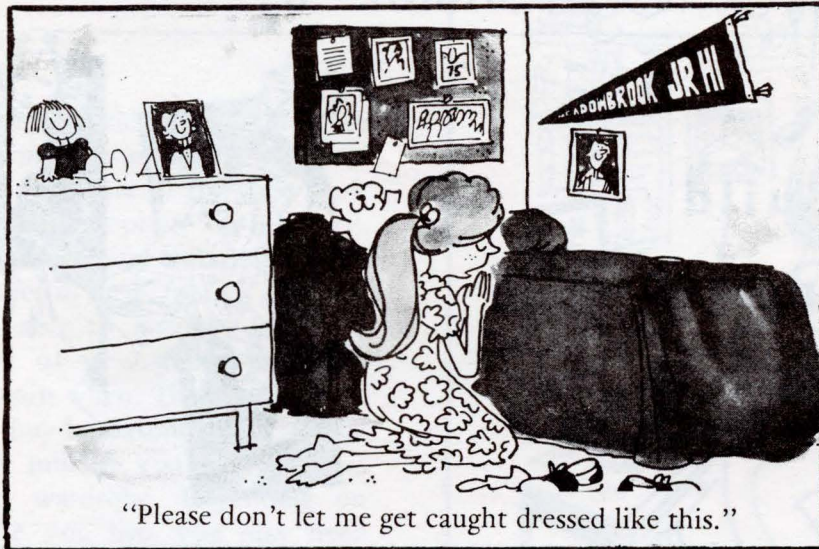
USING PIERCED EARRINGS WITHOUT HAVING PIERCED EARS. Sylvia, a new member of Phi chapter, tells us that it is possible to wear pierced earrings (the stud and retainer type) even though you do not have pierced ears. "Simple - Miracle (or super) glue. The only tools needed for the preparation of the earrings are small needle-nose pliers, small cutting pliers and a fine cut file. When you look at the back of the inexpensive earrings you'll probably find that the stud is attached to a little round dark colored metal fastener. That is usually soldered to the flat back of the earring. The idea is to snip off the stud and fastener together so that you end up with a smooth surface.

After successfully doing that to both earrings, to attach them, first clean each earlobe with a cotton swab and alcohol. Next, apply a small drop of glue to the back side of one of the earrings, spreading it a bit. Now, being very careful, pick it up edgewise between

two fingers and, standing close in front of a mirror, position it into place and hold it there for 15 seconds, gently pressing it onto the earlobe. Repeat the same process on the other side and you can wear them the entire evening with no discomfort soever. To remove them, simply peel them off with a fingernail. The small residue of glue on the earlobe is easily removed with a cotton swab and alcohol.

To further the illusion, you can take the studs that were removed and cutting them in half, file the cut ends smooth and insert them into the retainers that normally slide over the studs. The object is to have a smooth surface on the flat side and the sharp-pointed end of the stud protruding just past the rear of the retainer. When the stud and retainer are glued (using the same process described earlier) to the rear of the ear, the illusion is complete. Sylvia advises that you experiment to make certain that you are not allergic to the glue before you attempt to do this.

Ladylike Laughs



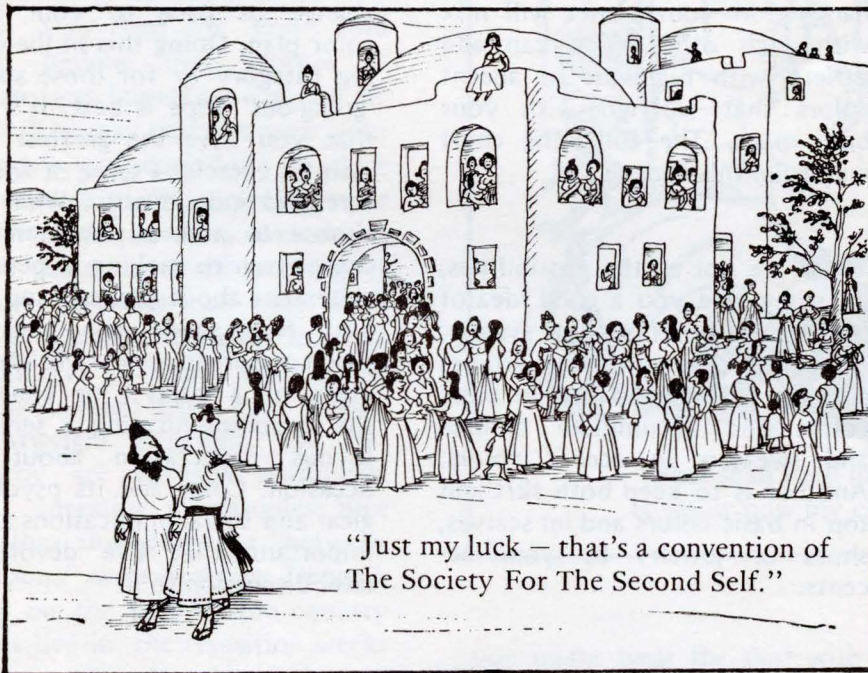
"Please don't let me get caught dressed like this."



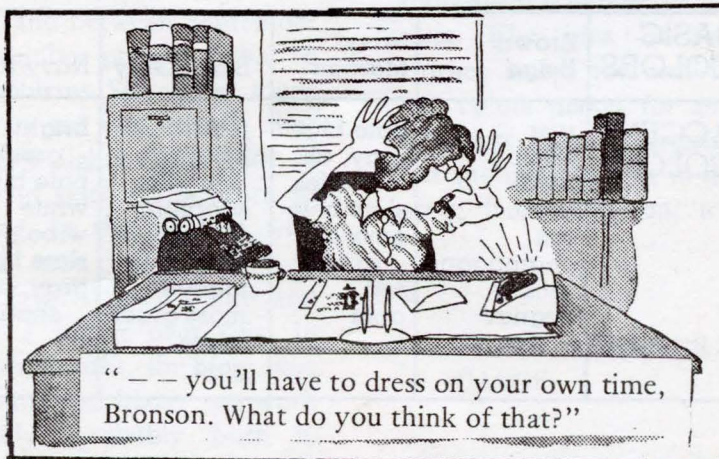
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Glabersin 11-15

"If an earring and a necklace can make a man look macho, just think what a whole outfit can do!"



"Just my luck — that's a convention of The Society For The Second Self."



"— you'll have to dress on your own time, Bronson. What do you think of that?"



"Sure you hired me as an office boy but I get twice the cooperation from the office staff THIS way."



TEE VEE TIPS by CAROL B.

How To Build A Basic Wardrobe Part 3



COLOR HOLDS IT ALL TOGETHER

You may have most of the pieces mentioned in both daytime and evening sections pictured earlier in this article and STILL legitimately complain that you don't have anything to wear. Why? Probably because you have too many separate pieces that don't work together. You put a skirt and top together and the look is unfinished or unpolished or plain doesn't work. You can solve this with color. As you've probably noticed, a great many of the clothes recommended so far have been separates. This is because they offer so much variety and so many mix-and-match possibilities. Their mood is also right for today's kind of dressing. But if your colors don't work together, you have problems. I suggest that you solve this by building your basic wardrobe around two or three colors, preferably good classic colors such as beige and brown, or navy and maroon, or black, gray, and white. Your complexion and personal preference will guide you. This doesn't mean that everything in your wardrobe has to be one of these colors, but it does mean that most of the things in it will WORK with one of these colors.

This way, most of the clothes hanging in your closet will mix with each other. You can add variety with highlight or accent colors that will go with your basic plan. The following chart will make this idea clear.

These are not all the possibilities, but they give you a good idea of the versatility of such a system. One good plan is to buy articles such as pants and skirts in basic colors and accumulate blouses and sweaters in accent colors. Another is to keep both skirt and top in basic colors and let scarves, shoes or jewelry be your accents.

You will want to add some change of pace to your basic color plan. Doing this in the evening category or for those special 'going-out' trips is best. It's here that you have the greatest freedom to exercise a sense of adventure and individuality. What you choose to add is important because you're making a personal statement about yourself and how you feel about the occasion. When a woman wears a bright red dress to a party, for example, she is communicating a sense of joyous expectation about the occasion. Color and its psychological and social implications are so important that I've devoted a later discussion to it.

| BASIC COLORS | Brown/Beige | Navy/Maroon | Black/Gray | Navy/Red |
|---------------|--|--|---|---|
| ACCENT COLORS | rust shrimp coral gold tan champagne amber cognac | pale blue gray, all shades slate blue emerald green red gold | red bright green sapphire blue lilac mauve moss green white gold | bright green pale blue white wine slate blue gray, all shades |

TYPE OF FABRIC EXTENDS VERSATILITY OF CLOTHING

More and more, clothes are becoming seasonless, and the skirt you wore in June may look equally appropriate in February. This is because of some of the wonderful new fabrics available and also to a freer, less rigid point of view about what's to be worn when. The more clothes you buy in seasonless fabrics, the more mileage you will get from your wardrobe. Depending on where you live, you may need a cluster of clothes that are only for very hot or very cold but beyond that, clothes of seasonless fabrics are your BEST bet. The way that you wear your clothes can contribute to their seasonless quality. Layering vests over shirts, sweaters over shirts, and jackets over the works gives great versatility of both look and warmth. Fabrics such as silk, silky synthetic knits, lightweight wool, wool knit, velour, lightweight gabardine, and corduroy are virtually seasonless.

Investing in seasonless nice clothes also solves the "between seasons" wear problem. Depending on the part of the country you live in, the transition weeks between late March and the end of May, and between September and November present "what to wear" problems. Seasonless kinds of clothes are one answer. For example, a lightweight wool or wool-blend skirt can be worn all year long. In the dead of winter you may wear it with a sweater layered over a shirt and possibly a blazer over this. In transition months, the same skirt with a shirt and blazer can work beautifully, probably both in doors and out. In full summer,



you might wear the skirt with a short-sleeved blouse or dressy T-shirt. The idea of seasonless clothes and a few well-thought-out colors makes for an almost effortless kind of dressing. You put the initial effort in the shopping, from then on, it's easy.

FABRICS CHANGE THE IMAGE

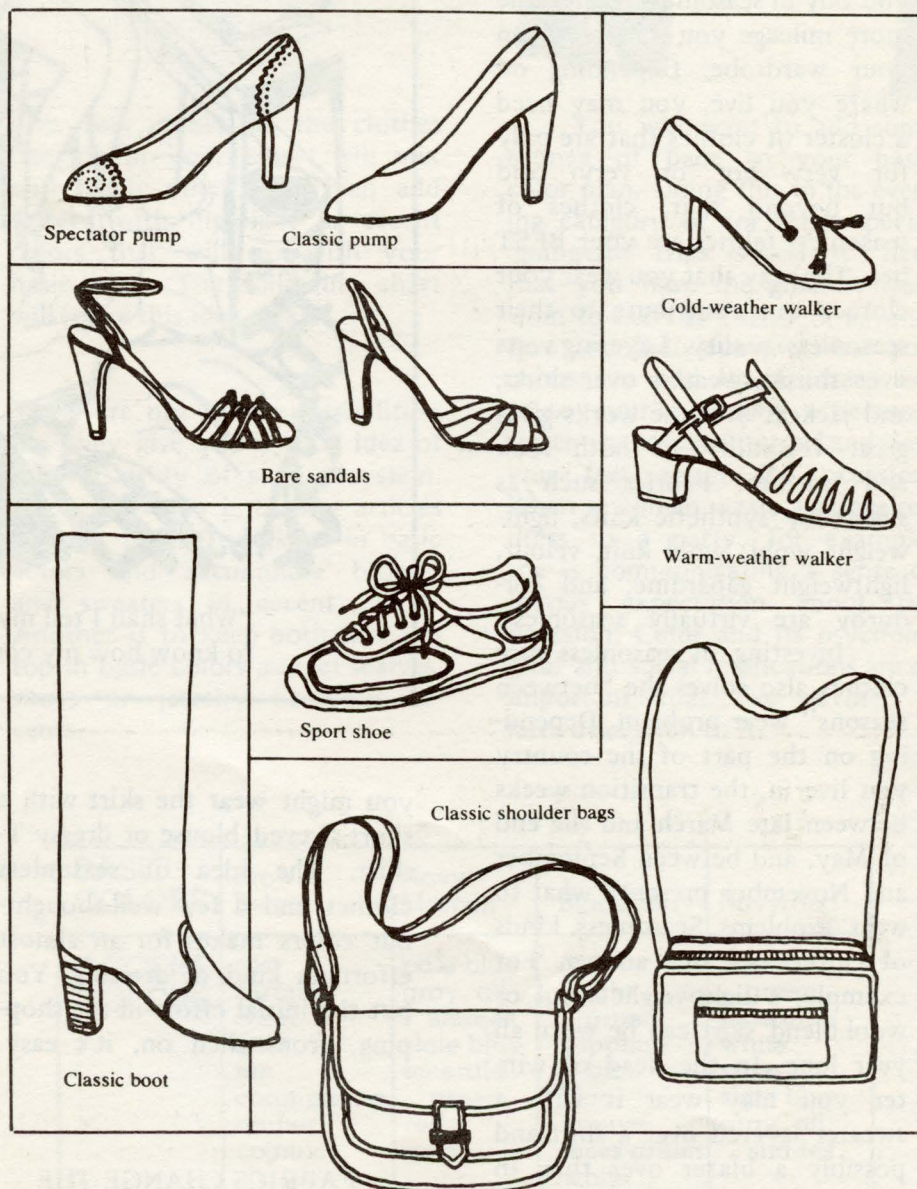
In addition to its warmth or seasonal quality, fabric can totally change the image you present. Take a blazer and skirt, for example. A velvet blazer and a wool challis skirt project a soft, feminine image. They also appear relatively dressy. Take the same shapes and think of them in deep-toned, heavy tweeds. The look suddenly becomes less soft, more authoritative or perhaps more outdoorsey, depending on the tweed. If you're aware of the subtleties fabric lends a look,

you can use them to your advantage. The chart following gives you an idea of the images some fabrics tend to create. Some of the fabrics could project all three images, depending on the style and color, but in general, they do have certain associations for many people. You can do some interesting things by mixing fabrics from the soft, feminine column with those in the tailored one. A crossdresser might wear a velvet blazer and a gabardine skirt on a day when she is going out for dinner in the evening. The fabrics combine nicely and you will have an image that's neither too soft nor too tailored for both occasions.

| IMAGE | Soft, feminine | Tailored, hard-edged |
|--------|--|---|
| FABRIC | velvet challis silk crepe soft knits velours satin jersey suede | broadcloth most tweeds gabardine double knits silk or silky twill leather |

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR ACCESSORIES!!

Don't overlook the importance of accessories. They can make the difference between a day or evening look, a casual or more polished one. They can make a look summery or — just right or just off. The sketches following in this article include a basic group every sister should aim for. You can see right away that a pair of boots, for example, can create a winter feeling while a pair of bare sandals can give the same outfit either a more dressy look or a warm-weather feeling. Walking shoes can give a sporty look to a blazer, shirt, and skirt, while sandals would dress this outfit up. A wrap dress in a knit can go summer or winter with a change of shoes and jewelry. Sandals and a wooden bead necklace for summer could replace the gold chains and pumps of winter.



The femme shopper

Patronize
Our
Friends

Reflections, Lower level of the Towers Shopping Center, Roanoke Va. 24015

They carry fashions, wigs, prosthesis, bras and swim suits. We are informed that they do business by mail. Contact any clerk at 703-342-4664. No after hrs appts can be made

Joseph Seidenfeld, Optometrist
396 Main Street, Poughkeepsie
Phone: 914-454-1955

Felicity (NY-16-M) recommends this optometrist highly. Understanding of Tvs. Call to make an appt.

Past Patterns, 2017 Eastern S.E.
Grand Rapids, Mi 49507

Write for information dealing with authentic Turn-Of-The-Century Ladies Fashions. They have patterns, ready-to-wear clothes, so here is a rather unique place to buy some rather unusual clothing

The Tall Girls Boutique, 375 Pharr Rd, No.204
Atlanta, Ga 30305

They sell Max Factor products, Caressa Shoes, Bra forms, lingerie, hoisery, etc. They also provide makeup consultation. Mail-order business is OK. Call Christine at 404-237-0121. You can try on clothing and after-hours appts can be made.

Adams Speciality Shop 8329 Reseda Blvd
Northridge, Ca 91324

They carry bras, prosthesis, lingerie and swim suits. They are very understanding and will do business by mail. Contact Paula Adams at 213-993-8556. You can try on some things while there and after hours appts can be made

Jane Hamilton 103 Buckingham Pl,
Blackburg, Va 24060 Phone: 703-951-3612
Ms Hamilton is an electrolysis and writes that coarse textured hair, characteristic of a man's beard, is her speciality and she gets excellent results

Gailey's 2425 Cobb Parkway
Smyrna, Ga 30080 (Metro Atlanta)

They specialize in evening wear
Contact Linda Gailey at 404-952-0315
There is an opportunity to try on clothes and after-hours appts can be made.

Head Hunters Hut No.2
5220 Sunset Blvd, Hollywood, Ca 90027

This shop has very understanding personnel who will style your hair or wig, manicure your nails, and give you makeup instructions. Call Roberta or Inez at 213-666-5785 or 666-9393. After hours appts can be made.

Playmates 5917 South Gessner
Houston, Tx 77036 713-270-1159

One of our sisters, Judy Tx-209-L, met the owner, Alice. You can look around and try on clothes. After hours appts are available and they do facials and makeup. The owner is very understanding.

Joan King 345 W.Foothill Blvd ,Suite No.6
Glendora, Ca 91740

Ms King is an electrologist and a licensed cosmetologist. Phone: 213-963-7713

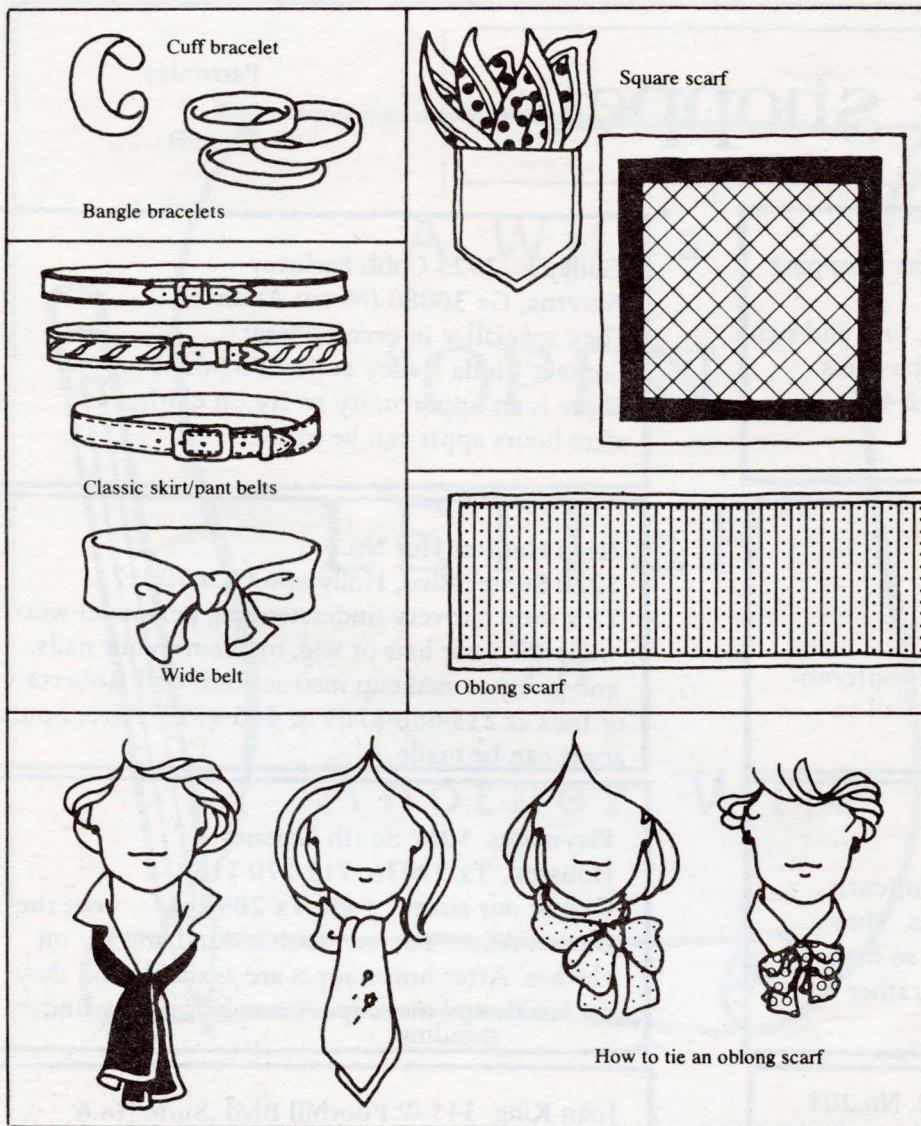
Academy Tailor 88 Academy St

Poughkeepsie, N.Y. Phone: 914-452-7725

Felicity (NY-16-M) recommends this tailor very highly; They do work for Tvs. No problem coming in dressed but call ahead of time.

Tall Modes 2609 East Sunrise, Fort Lauderdale, Fl. Phone: 305-565-1105

Felicity (NY-16-M) says that she has been there and purchased some nice tall clothing. They have a fine collection.



high-heeled shoes, a black corset over panties, fishnet hose, satin lace outer panties, short, three-layered taffeta petticoats and the short dress with a full skirt over the petticoats. She did our hair and put on earrings. We wore a tiny white apron that tied in a bow in the rear and carried a tray with a strap around our neck. We practiced walking in heels and it was fun to feel the short skirts puff out over the petticoats and expose our satin, lacey panties.

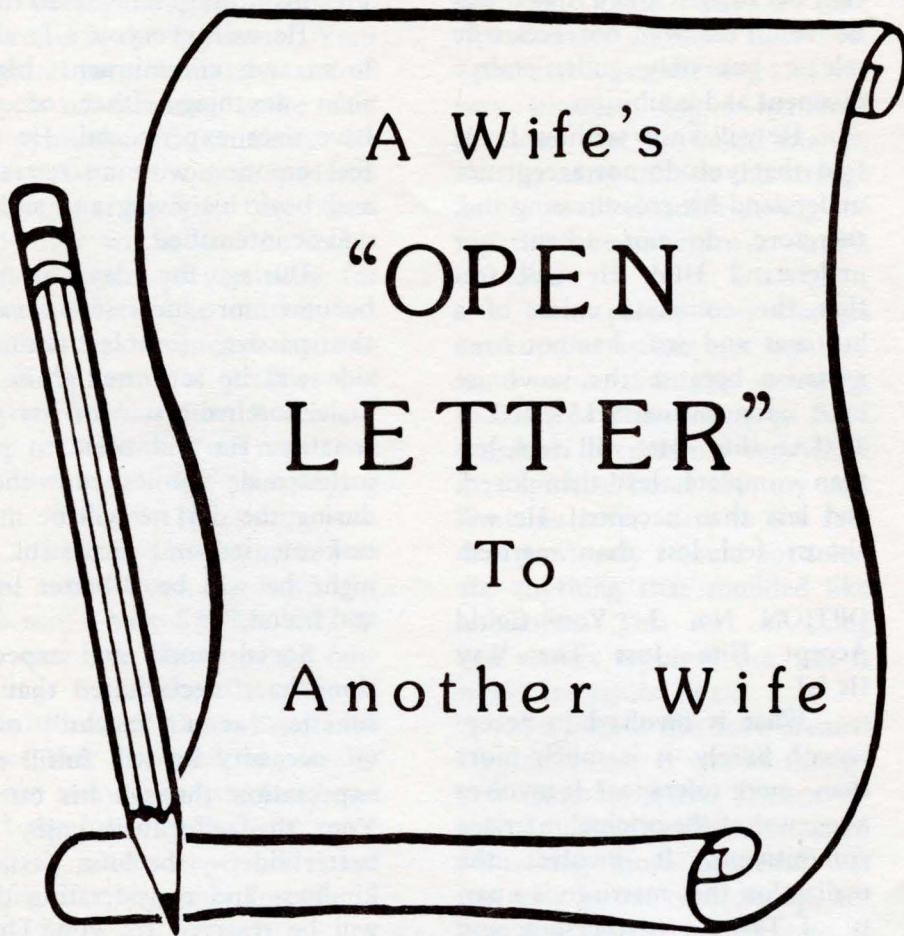
The Saturday came and we dressed early to get the feeling of being girls. We were sprayed with perfume and installed long-hair wigs on us. On our trays were candy treats to be given away free. Once the dance began, we went downstairs and began our "service." The response was interesting — no one thought that we were boys! After we had spent several hours at this, the Secretary took us upstairs and we changed into a slip and dress she had brought for us and then it was off to her apartment where we had dinner and wine. We left late at night in our dresses and returned to the YMCA office to take off our pretty clothes. While at the dance, I had my rear end pinched and patted by many a boy. This experience actually deepened by need to dress as a girl. I was 5' 7" tall and 99 pounds and in a dress I looked like a girl. I kept dresses and things in a trunk under my bed in my private room that I kept locked. At night I often got dressed, and went out as a girl. I long for the days of long past since I no longer am free to dress when I want — my wife is not tolerant of my crossdressing.

I Was A Girl At A Party

By SALLY ANN (MD-7-K)

Many years ago I spent an afternoon and evening as a candy girl. The YMCA secretary was in charge of we first year students and we had planned a dance with girls from a nearby

college. Another boy and myself were asked to dress as candy girls so we went to the secretary's apartment the Thursday before the Saturday dance and she proceeded to dress us up in black



An Understanding Wife Writes About Her Own Personal Experience With Her Crossdressing Husband.

She Explains Options For The Wives Who Are Having Difficulty In Handling The Emotional Setback Which Often Occurs To Unspecting Wives.

She Tells How Difficult It Is To Operate In A Man's World, If The Wife Were To Leave Her Husband.

Dear Shirley: You have just received the startling news that your husband is a crossdresser. The reality of this news has saturated your full conscious awareness. At this moment you may be experiencing the bitter blend of hurt, anger and disappointment — to say nothing of the frustration related to deciding just what you should do with this bomb shell.

Following your initial shock a variety of thoughts invade your mind as you attempt to logically sort out the options. You can (1) leave him; (2) tolerate him; or, (3) accept him as he is. Before you make a decision let me help you evaluate the options.

OPTION No. 1 — Leave Him!

You could walk out the front door, divorce him and leave him to be feminine all by himself. This probably seems like the easiest of the three optionsbut, is it? There are at least a hundred good reasons why you married this man, and upon a careful analysis of the situation, you will probably find that most of the hundred STILL exist. Nevertheless, at this time when you are so saturated with hurt and anxiety, you may fail to evaluate this option both positively and negatively. True, this is the easy "cop out" — just walk away and hope to close him and all of his feminine attire out of your mind and life, but it may

not be that simple.

Let me assure you that the grass is NOT greener on the other side of the fence. It's a man's world out there. Even if you get lucky and make it — become a female executive, for example — there are problems. Typical men, saturated with their macho image and male egos, can not tolerate a woman who has moved faster and climbed higher than them. Women will feel jealous of you and question your credibility. I know! I've been there .

If you don't make it, you will struggle to pay the bills and manage household chores without the male being there. We girls have really placed a tremen-

dous responsibility upon our men. They manage the business, make decisions, care for us, love us, sucor us, and at the same time, continue full speed ahead as "macho."

And so, my dear, if you leave him and try it "out there" alone, you may come back to the original point of all this. You may, at some stage of introspection, say to yourself, "Hey, I was married to a transvestite and upon a close assessment of this man's world, I think I understand why he became one."

Ponder these things that I have just written. Could it be that he grew weary in a male dominant society? Was his burden too heavy? Did he desire a time of release when mach could give way to lace and sweetness? Look again at your first option. You can walk out of his life completely, but I can guarantee that if you do, at some time while you are alone, you will come face to face with the pressures that contributed so dramatically to your husband's need to crossdress. You will probably understand, from an experimental level, why he does not desire a male dominance in his personality ALL the time.

OPTION No. 2: You can Learn To Tolerate His Need To Be A Crossdresser.

Let's look at that second option. You can stay in the marriage and tolerate the situation. With your tolerance your husband will feel some release through cross-dressing. He will touch the tangible side of the crossdresser — the clothes. The problem is that the feminine side of your husband also includes the intangible — emotions, love, caring and sharing.

If you stop at the "tolerance only" level, he will feel inhibited in all emotional expressions of these intangibles.

This approach will become an extension of society's condemnation because ACCEPTANCE will be void. He will not feel true release but only guilt, embarrassment and inhibition.

He will know without being told that you do not accept nor understand his crossdressing and, therefore, do not accept nor understand HIM. He will feel that the complete union of a husband and wife has not been achieved because the vows are built upon mutual SHARING of TOTAL life. He will feel less than complete, less than loved, and less than accepted. He will almost feel less than married.

OPTION No. 3: You Could Accept Him Just The Way He Is!

What is involved in acceptance? Surely it is much more than mere tolerance? It involves a renewal of the original marriage commitment. It involves the realization that marriage is a party of TWO, a partnership, and a giving and sharing of the total self. When you reach the point of willingness, to SHARE all aspects of his life, you will be willing to accept him just the way he is. The intent to change him or alter his personality will fade away and become less important to you. In time, it will completely disappear.

You will move into a willingness to openly communicate with him re: his second self and will start to read as much as possible on the subject of crossdressing so that you can communicate intelligently with him about it. In short, you will love him — all of him. You will accept him — all of him.

At this time your husband will begin to feel that for the first time in his life he is a COMPLETE human being. He will be in touch with his total self. His love for you will grow

deeper, because you will be providing the key that opened up his total self realization.

He will give you a level of love and commitment higher than anything either of you have ever experienced. He will feel emotion with no restraint, and both his giving and sharing will be intensified.

During the day he will become more successful, because the passive, lovable, feminine side will be separated from the male dominant side of his personality. He will cease to play male-female games! In short, during the day he will be more task-oriented and successful. By night he will be a better lover and friend.

Social mores and expectations have necessitated that he function as a "macho" man. Of necessity he will fulfill this expectation through his career. You, the wife, will enjoy his better side — the love, passion, kindness and consideration that will be reserved for you. There will also be material benefits, since he will probably become more effective in the world of business.

When your acceptance is in full bloom, you will enjoy the benefits so much that you will want to help him to be more beautiful as a "woman." You will select clothes together and study the most recent technique of makeup application. You will want to experience the full emergence of the lovely personality that has been dormant within your man.

You will have a new friend — a confidant — who will share your joy, sorrow and expectations. You will have someone who understands how you feel as a woman and who can interpret your feminine needs.

Perhaps you should also know a new word for transvestism that is gradually emerging.

The word, FEMIPHILIA means the love of femininity. By now you may be beginning to understand that this is the key issue. Your husband loves femininity and all aspects of feminine attire that are symbolic of femininity. He places women on a pedestal and you, as his wife, best friend and lover will always be in his highest esteem. If you pause for a moment to take in this fact you will feel an intense desire to be all the beautiful qualities that a woman should be. Reach out with tender love. Your man, and the "woman" that is emerging from him BOTH need you.

These words written to you have come from my head, for you see, I have EXPERIENCED the emotions that you are now feeling. I am also the wife of a crossdresser. There have been times that I wanted desperately to run away, but I soon realized that the love my husband and I share is much deeper and more lasting than any other "problem" could be,

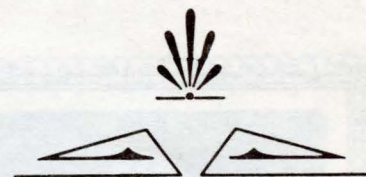
Following the time when I wanted to run away from the problem, there was a time characterized by mere tolerance. I permitted crossdressing and was very pleasant, but I harbored the idea that he would change, that by some miracle this strange habit would dissolve during the night and never return to tarnish our love.

Time passed and changes curred, but it was not my husband who did the changing. I changed! There came to me a sensation of drawing very close in a spiritual bond with my new feminine lover, despite the fact that previously I could not tolerate anything that sounded like lesbianism. This sort of thing had always repulsed me. But it wasn't lesbianism at all!

Somehow this love seemed very different. It was as though two feminine spirits became involved in caring for each other. Something more beautiful was emerging in our relationship. My man was showing an element of

his personality that exemplified love, kindness, tenderness and passion. He became more attentive, more complimentary and more giving. What had been reluctance on my part was replaced with anticipation, joy and fulfillment.

My advice to you, dear friend, would be to simply relax. Let the positive element of your problem emerge naturally. Don't resist him. Don't allow social mores and tradition control you. Don't be overwhelmed by your pre-conceived ideas of what love should be. If you can do these things, it is highly possible that ultimate and complete happiness await you to a degree that you never dreamed possible. Sincerely yours, Another Tv's wife.



Donna (IL-11-S)



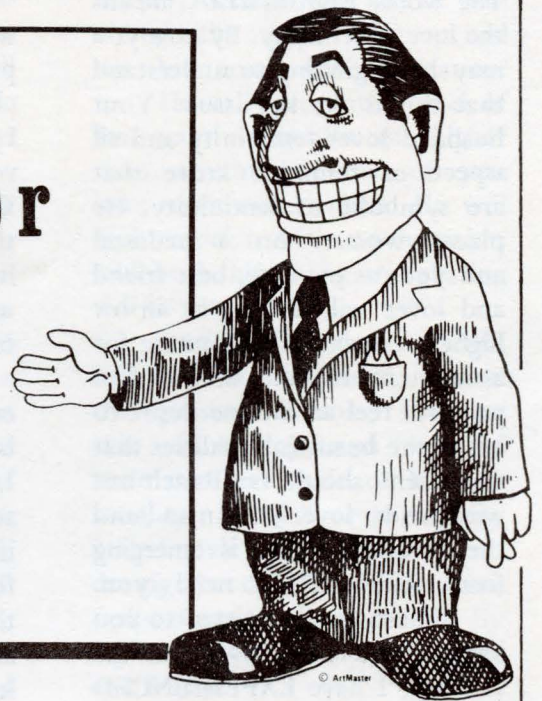
Service Award

Betty Ann (VA-10-L)



Each year the national office will be awarding a plaque to an outstanding sister whose work has been outstanding in advancing the cause of the sorority. For 1981 we have TWO sisters — Donna Martin (IL-11-S) who has contributed so much in her work with CHI chapter and as a Division Leader; and, Betty Ann (VA-10-L) who has developed a goodly number of chapters through hard work and the expenditure of much of her time in her role of Regional Coordinator.

The Femme Mirror Goes To A Dinner



LOS ANGELES' ALPHA CHAPTER
HOLDS "DRESS UP" DINNER AT
SWANKY HOTEL



Chapter President, Carol Ann CA-69-M is trying to give us a big smile just after receiving the check and learning that half of the girls left their money at home!!



Gwendolyne CA-231-A and Pattie CA-55-H – Pattie had to keep reminding Gwendolyn to step back a bit because her "boobs" were pushing Pattie off balance – and THAT'S not an easy thing to do!!



Virginia Prince, who started it all and Ariadne Kane of the Outreach Institute. Ariadne is snikering over a dirty joke she just told Virginia but Virginia didn't get it, but she's pretending to be thinking it over!



Typical Waitress - Very Feminine



Sherry CA-104-D needed to go to the restroom, so she did - into the MEN'S room, where she nearly caused a man to have a heart attack!



Carol Beecroft and Ariadne - now don't we look cozy - you wouldn't have known that these two hussies had been fighting at the rear table for the last glass of Lydia Pinkham's female tonic!



Helen CA-209-S and Charlene CA-206-H are looking glum because they didn't get a chance to see the waitress with the very short skirt lean over to pick up something off the floor



Cathy CA-61-S had a VERY good time at the dinner. How about that, Cathy?



Maxine CA-124-D and Charlene CA-27-D are leering because they DID get a chance to see the waitress with the short skirt lean over to pick up something from the floor!



HERE AND THERE

Your Editor is very interested in hearing from a retired sister who might like to move to the Tulare area - in an effort to help with the Tri-Ess national office. Eve is no longer able to help due to reasons of health, mainly, and your Editor is back working her self into an early grave. Housing is much cheaper here regardless if you want to buy or rent. Since your Editor is in the Property Management business (handling over 600 rental units) you should be able to locate something easily if you wish to rent. The climate is fine (Sunshine most of the year) and the area is mostly agricultural if you want to get away from the big city. But help is needed in the national office. If your Editor had additional help she could get more issues

of the Femme Mirror out, too. How about it?

Are you enjoying the section dealing with businesses that cater to our sisters. Well, you can help obtain more of them by just sending out the printed letter we have for you. You send it to businesses (usually small ones) and they return it, filled in, if they will help our sisters. It works - but we need more sisters to send them out.

One of our sisters asked if we might have an unofficial contest to determine who is the prettiest Tri-Ess sister. And she also wonders if we could also have more chapters send in their pictures so that we could vote for the prettiest chapter. So, gals, just send your Editor a note indicating what picture in the upcoming Directory is the

prettiest and later on, when we get enough chapter pictures, we can run them all together and you can vote for the prettiest of them all.

Susan (VA-5-R) requests that our sisters write to her. Contact her by using the forwarding service of this office.

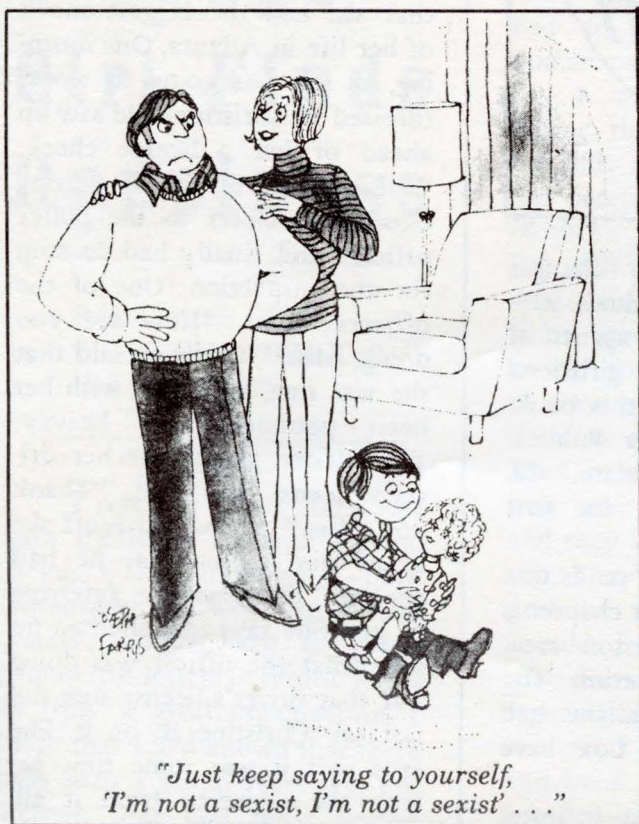
Lori (RI-1-F) is seeking to contact sisters in the New England area. Contact her if you are interested in starting a chapter in that area.

A sister sent in a clipping which indicated that the average man's beard has 13,000 whiskers - 390 per square inch on his cheeks and 580 per square inch on his chin. Depilatron, anyone? Can you imagine anyone actually COUNTING all those whiskers.

Dawn, CO-200-S, wonders how extensively our sisters get "dressed." She says that she gets the impression that many sisters are satisfied to confine their dressing to the home and relatively few go "out." Your Editor wonders too, how many of you actually get dressed up and go out.

There are many readers who have enjoyed reading Transvestia for many years and regret that certain old issues are no longer available. However, Virginia has the lending library and it works this way. Send her \$7.00 for the price of a particular issue that you want (name it) and when you return that issue to her, she will send you \$3.50. All issues no longer in stock can be rented. Virginia's address is: Virginia Prince, Box 36091, Los Angeles, Ca 90036. Do remember to include 15% for first class postage. And for you who have not seen the NEW Transvestia, you can purchase it from your Editor: \$7.00 plus 15% postage. Write Chevalier Publications, Box 194, Tulare, Ca 93275.

For you sisters who like unusual books relating to cross-dressing, may your Editor suggest a new one: Dress And Undress; A History of Women's Underwear. It sells for \$14.95 through Chevalier Publications and contains 240 pages with



*"Just keep saying to yourself,
I'm not a sexist, I'm not a sexist' . . ."*

"Wait until you see the turnout for this chapter meeting — even the horses are dressed!"



Handwritten signature: Handwritten

many, many photographs and illustrations. It is written by a woman, Elixabeth Ewing. In effect, it is a history of women's underwear and covers the changing styles from 3000B.C. to the present day. The book is exceptional for it's emphasis on materials, techniques and manufacturing processes. It is all in the book — bikinis to bumrolls, girdles and garters, Du Pont and Dior, whalebone and Wonderbra. The author describes the clothes of each period in history and the manner in which this clothing evolved. She explains

the reasons for the changes and names the individuals who were themselves the agents of change. Your wife or girlfriend would actually enjoy this book. Get it from Chevalier Publications, Box 194, Tulare, Ca. 93275. Include 15% for first class postage.

Judy (TX-209-L) sends us a letter indicating that a chapter is forming in the Houston area. Write her for information. The earlier problems that she had with her postoffice box have been taken care of.

Patricia (CT-8-G) is inter-

ested in getting a chapter going in her area. Write her for information.

Well, they did it again. We have seen it on television, but it also happened in real life. Barry M. a convicted raper, has been charged with escaping from the medium security prison. He was arraigned on the escape charge not so long ago. He reportedly escaped from the prison by disguising himself as a woman and walking out of the prison after visiting hours on a Sunday. We hope he enjoyed being a girl, even for a few hours.

Susan (VA-5-R) had a dinner party recently which was followed up with a very impromptu gathering. There were three couples there as they watched a ball game. Susan says that everything turned out well but she'll have to admit that there is something a bit incongruous about seeing an immaculately dressed "woman" sitting on the edge of her chair, shouting, "sack him, sack him."

Christine, (GA-200-B) says that she had the biggest shock of her life in Atlanta. One morning, as she was going to work, (dressed as Christine) she saw up ahead of her a license check. Well, she kept on driving, getting closer and closer to the police officers and finally had to stop for the inspection. One of the officers said, "How are you doing, Miss?" Christine said that she was fine, no doubt with her heart pounding very heavily. The officer glanced at her driver's license and said, "Thank you, Miss." As she drove off she heard him saying that he had checked the license - referring to her. She says that she had no idea what the officer was doing but that driver's license sure did not say Christine B. on it. She says that it was some time before she recovered from it all.

Ann Lander's column is always nice to read and a recent one told of a wife who purchased her husband a pair of platform wedgies and that after awhile, he began to enjoy them. And from the wedgies it was just one step for him to try on her dressès (Now it's getting interesting). She said that with make-up and a wig he looked prettier than her. He now enjoys cross-dressing and thinks it's a lot of fun. (It certainly is!). Now, they are interested in going to a restaurant as a couple - he as she and she as HE!. Pretty cute.

On March 7th several of our members, along with Ariadne Kane presented a resolution to the 7th International Gender Dysphoria Association Conference. The many signatures on the resolution included psychiatrists,

psychologists, social workers and others devoted to the interests of crossdressers. The resolution reads: "We the undersigned members of the Harry Benjamin International Gender Dysphoria Association propose, as an item of new business, the following statement of purpose which upon future discussion will serve as a principle position of the Association before other professional Societies -

"The Desire to emulate the behavior of the opposite Gender/sex in dress, modes of behavior activities, and the like is a trans-cultural transtemporal phenomena. As such, it must be regarded as a natural variant of human behavior which in and of itself is not an illness or psychiatric disorder."

We hereby move that a

committee within the Ass. be appointed to study the above and to formulate a statement of position for the association at its next regular meeting."

And lastly, your Editor is in receipt of a letter from Dr Neil Buhrich of St. Vincent's Hospital in Australia. Some of you will recall the study which Dr Buhrich did with our members. His findings were reported in an issue of the Femme Mirror. Well, his article entitled Comparison of Transvestites in Australia and America" will be published in the Archives of Sexual Behaviour, Vol. 10, No.3, 1981. We've now gotten a place in history. Thanks to those who participated in the study. Your Editor has seen the Proofs of the article and can assure you that the study was most professionally written.

Chicago Girl Finds Happiness

RELATIVES HELP
BRING OUT FEMININE
IN LITTLE BOY

I just had to let you know how pleased I am with Tri-Ess. Being a new member I took advantage and wrote to several sisters and received so many wonderful letters in return - this is truly a great organization. I wish that I had known that there was such a group years ago. I'm certain that you must receive

many letters like mine but I had to tell you how happy you've made me.

I was raised in Chicago during the depression and was the only child of my late-marrying parents. At that time, My mother's three sisters came to live with us - leaving the farm in Wisconsin. My earliest recollections were of the three sisters caring for me. I was always in their room and would watch them as they dressed for dates. Back in those days the curling iron was used to curl the hair and they would often curl mine, too. They would spray me with perfume and one of the girls would dress me in one of her silk dresses and high heels - I guess that's how it all started.

As I think back I'm very indebted to them for allowing my feminine side to show it-

self. I just wish that I had become ANN many years ago. You see, I didn't acquire a full feminine wardrobe until seven years ago. Since that time I have been truly happy.

My wife is either ON or OFF but when she's ON, she's great! We have gone out many times as girl friends - the most thrilling experiences were going to the Arlington Race Track and to the Arlington Hilton for dinner. We also attended an afternoon luncheon/fashion show. I'm always on a diet and would love to shed 10 to 15 pounds. Most of my wardrobe is conservative and I just adore high heels. I wear a size 16 or 18 skirt but require a 20 or 22 in a blouse. I wish that I had better proportions. Well, keep up the good work. ANN
IL-201-R

WHAT'S GOING ON

OUT THERE ?



News About Tri-Ess Chapters

Hey, it's happening in Houston, Texas. On June 20th the first Houston chapter meeting will be held at a nice hotel. Wives and girlfriends are invited. This meeting has been planned by Judy (TX-209-L) We hope that she will have a good turn-out

LAMBDA DELTA Chapter will be having a meeting on June 13th. Chris and Laura will be the hostesses. We hope that Alice (KY-5-D) will be successful with the meeting. This is a relatively new chapter and needs all the support that the girls can get. All power to you girls of Lambda Delta.

However, these girls are all there, working hard. On next page you will see a picture of some of the girls. There were actually 5 girls at the meeting they had recently, but, Ann, from Dayton, had to leave prior to the picture session. Dianne's wife, Dottie, was gracious to take the group picture. We are told that they discussed some business and talked about future programs. They also talked about bi-monthly meetings rotating between Louisville, Cincinnati, Dayton and Indianapolis. The subject of wives was brought up. A family night, such as Chi chapters annual dinner, was

discussed. Dottie, the lone wife at that meeting, said that this would be the best means to introduce wives who are reluctant about crossdressing.

Joanne (FCA-3-D) wrote that she is about ready to branch out of Alberta in order to get a chapter started there. It's a bit difficult but we know that through persistence Joanne will have a small, successful group in the Alberta, Canada area. How about you girls who live near Joanne helping her.

PHI CHAPTER — This bustling chapter, under the leadership of Michelle (NJ-12-W) has had regular meetings with good attendance. Eighteen members, including your Editor, attended last November, and still another 18 attended the Christmas party. On January 24th, they had a dinner at a nice restaurant.

PI CHAPTER — Patricia Louise is having a difficult time in developing a chapter in her area. She planned a nice party



Dallas Chapter
Maxine, Helen, Genevieve, Stephanie, Linda, Rita, a guest, Lori, and Janice



Lambda Delta Girls

Laura – Alice – Linda – Dianne

of recent date but the girls had various reasons for not attending. She went to a lot of trouble but the gals seemed to have valid reasons for not being there. We wish Patricia Louise better luck next time.

BETA RHO CHAPTER – Rona (VA-1-G) says that her little chapter is planning meetings each month with the exception of the hot summer months. They are struggling through their first year and really would like to hear from sisters who would be interested in joining the chapter.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER – We are informed that this chapter had a dinner in February – a “straight” dinner for couples. It was believed that such an occasion would provide a comfortable way for members and prospective members to introduce wives and friends to the chapter. Earlier the chapter sponsored a New Years Party and even though the weather was terrible, ten gals managed to get there. An evening of good talk and a delicious buffet dinner followed. We also understand

that the sisters in the Mid-Atlantic states had a Beauty and Fashion Clinic in March.

REGIONAL MEETING – On March 6, 7, and 8th a group of Mid-west Tri-Ess members gathered at the Point West Resort in Holland, Michigan, for what turned out to be another very successful and enjoyable annual weekend get-together. Those present included: Elaine (MI-16-W), Leslie (MI-10-W) and Laura, Karen (IL-3-M), Donna (IL-11-S) and Mary, Sharon (IL-25-H), Janna (IL-28-P), Deanna (IL-35-G), Mary Ann (IL-203-B), and Kathy, Kiki (IL-207-M), Helen (IL-209-R), Naomi (IL-212-O), Lorna (IL-222-J) and Teri, Susan (IL-225-J), and Ruthann (WI-14-L).

Members began arriving about 3:00 P.M. on Friday. Deanna, Sharon, and Elaine, the co-sponsors of the weekend festivities, officially opened the start of the activity at 5:00 with registration and roomments. A cocktail party began at 7:30, giving everyone an opportunity to renew old acquaintances. The early part of the evening

was devoted to general conversation, since we knew that many people would not be arriving until close to midnight. Although Debbie (MI-18-K) was not able to attend, she sent video-cassettes of “La Cage aux Folles” and “Outrageous” - movies for our entertainment. We viewed the French movie that evening, to the delight of all. After the movies, Pizzas were served until the wee hours of the morning.

Elaine, Donna, Sharon and Ruthann, who are also members of Tri-Ess’ National Advisory Board, along with Deanna and Karen, President and Vice-President of CHI chapter, had an informal meeting. A number of general issues concerning both national organization and local chapters were discussed. One of the concerns expressed was over the large workload being carried by Carol Beecroft. Since our membership is quite limited in her vicinity, only a small amount of assistance can be given to her. We feel frustrated because we would like to ease her burden in some way, but realize that living several thousand miles away makes any direct help extremely limited. This was the first opportunity for Advisory Board members and chapter representatives from the Great Lakes Area to meet in person for an exchange of views, so we did not miss the chance for general discussion and an interchange of ideas for improvement of our chapters and the Great Lakes area.

On Saturday morning, Mary Ann and Kiki prepared breakfast. We were situated in a three story, deluxe apartment building, complete with kitchen facilities. We all enjoyed plenty of bacon, eggs, hash-brown potatoes and coffee – courtesy of our wonderful cooks. The remainder of

Saturday's morning hours, and the afternoon, was left open for sightseeing. Several guys and gals availed themselves of the opportunity to see Holland, the Dutch Village, and Saugatuck.

Debbie also sent along cassettes of Ariadne Kane's television appearances on the Phil Donahue Show and Kelley and Company programs. These shows were seen Saturday afternoon during a general discussion period by those who did not wish to go sight-seeing. The consensus of those present was that "although Ariadne Kane would not be everybody's choice for the person best able to represent Tri-Ess' point of view, she is at least spreading the world about crossdressing and trying to educate lay persons about our needs, desires and frustrations."

By 6:00 on Saturday evening, the remainder of the sisters that we were expecting had arrived. A second cocktail party began about 7:30 and Deanna put out a delightful buffet supper at 9:00. We had roast beef, salads and relishes. Leslie was accompanied by her friend, Laura, who is an electrologist in Grand Rapids, Michigan. Laura explained the different types of electrolysis, told of the expenses involved and the discomfort one must suffer through. Laura then answered several questions concerning electrolysis and compared it to the Depilatron method.

The evening continued with a showing of Craig Russell's "Outrageous." This movie was like watching "One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest" in drag. It was a great vehicle to exhibit Russell's talent and was an outstanding movie. The last of our video cassettes were provided by Donna Martin and Naomi, which included the complete "Bosom Buddies" television ser-

ies and a "Vegas" episode which featured a crossdresser.

The night was quickly coming to an end by now and several girls called it a night. However, a handful stayed up to begin laying the groundwork for July's Midwest Summer Gala, which is sponsored by Outreach under the local sponsorship of Sharon Hess. The dates for this year's gathering will be July 24th through July 26th. So mark your calendars and make plans to come to Chicago for a fun-filled weekend. Contact Ron Hess at 512 West Barry, Chicago, Ill 60657 for more information.

Sunday morning came before we knew it. Mary Ann and Kiki were again in the kitchen, cooking breakfast — all of the comforts of home for the rest of us with none of the work. The remainder of the morning was spent packing and reflecting on the events of the weekend. The most memorable of all is what happened Saturday — in the morning. In spite of our request to the management, three young girls, maids for the

Resort, came over to the apartment complex to change the linen and towels. As they entered the first apartment, they spotted Karen in a shortie nightgown, her hair in rollers, and shaving cream covering her face! The maids were last seen walking towards the Resort office — laughing their sides off. We, too, laughed about this — along with Karen, who entered into the spirit of the faux pas. Evidently the management was not concerned, because nothing was said to us about it. When Deanna departed, she left in her room a Tri-Ess brochure, a tip for the maids, and a note saying simply "Thank you."

Although definite plans were not made, be assured that we will be back in Holland next year, with a bigger and better gathering. If you enjoyed this account of our weekend, and would like to be with us next year, keep the first weekend of March, 1982 open. All my love and thanks to those who helped make this a successful and enjoyable weekend. DEANNA (IL-35-G)

Point West Weekend

Back Row: Deanna, Karen
Helen, Naomi

Middle Row: Donna, Elaine
Ruthann, Lorna

Front Row: Janna, Maryann
Leslie, Kiki

Not in picture were Sharon
and Susan

Wives and friends present,
but not in picture were Terri,
Kathy, Mary, and Laura (the
photographer)



she occasionally let me wear her nightgown, but then became hostile if I even mentioned wearing her clothes. However, she would help me if I were asked to take a woman's part in a home talent show. Now, it is a "No-no" to even mention it.

I am 67 years of age and married to the same woman for over 40 years. She has been a wonderful wife except for my crossdressing. I have three years of engineering and am one of the "lost" generation of engineers. Among other jobs, I have been in business for myself and have been an 18-wheeler jockey, but am now retired.

When I was about eight years of age, my cousin Bessie, who was six months older and who lived next to me, with her mother's consent talked me into wearing some of her clothes. My aunt (her mother) did not think that I should wear Bessie's panties so she reserved several pairs for me to wear. The first time that I dressed was only for a little while. Bessie also gave me the name of Marie since she had a cousin that she didn't see very often.

My aunt took care of me when my older sisters were not home and while my mother was out doing volunteer work. One day it was raining rather hard when I went to Bessie's home. Bessie wanted me to get dressed up right away so she could play with "Marie." As her mother put my hair ribbon on she told me to get my boy's clothes as she was going to keep them so that I could not change until she told me that I could. By mid-morning, the sun came out and my aunt made Bessie and myself go outside to play. Wearing Bessie's clothes just allowed me to fit in with the rest of the girls in the neighborhood and , boy, did I have a great time that

day!! I was the only boy in the area of my age group and I always felt out of things as a result. My aunt wanted my mother to see me as "Marie" although she did know that I was dressing in Bessie's clothes but had never seen me dressed that way. But that time I did not want to change so my mother said that I could stay that way until bed time. She had wanted me to stay that way so my sisters and father could see me. Mother even said that she had THREE daughters now - Mable, Marion, and Marie. After that, I always dressed as a girl for Halloween and whenever else I was allowed to dress that way. My father was not too happy about it but did not forbid my doing so.

Now, being retired and with my wife working eight hours a day (five days a week), I can dress at home when I do the laundry or clean the house G.F. (Sugar Grove, Ill)

Dear Carol: I just returned from a trip and found your letter in my box. The last four days of my trip were the most enjoyable because I could relax with a friend of mine. We have known each other for about 18 years and she has gotten to know Karen very well. Her late husband was my closest friend.

When I had called her, telling her that I was going to be in the area, she asked if I would like to spend those days as Karen. Naturally I agreed right away and it was understood that she would help me to look nice as Karen. When I arrived at her house, she asked where Karen was and I replied that she would join us soon - if I could be alone in my room for awhile. I spent the next hour and a half, dressing, because I wanted my dear friend to like Karen. When I came out for inspection, she told me that I was getting better

with my makeup but volunteered to help me with a few things. She kindly spent the next hour working with me. When we were all finished with the "patch-up" work, she suggested that we go out for a drive. Well, my first reaction was negative but she talked me into going by assuring me that no one would know me. Carol, this was the first time in my life that I ever went out in femme clothes and I would be lying if I said that I wasn't nervous. So off we went. She drove around and into a parking lot and said that she would be right back - she was going to pick up a prescription for me. I gave her the type of look that one must have when going down for the third time but she patted me on the shoulder and said that I shouldn't worry. Then, something happened - it is what I can call the 'moment of truth' - because I got OUT of the car with her and went into the drug store along with her. I have never in all my life been so afraid and I felt that everyone was looking at me. However, after a few minutes I began to relax - and for the first time came to really know Karen. When we returned to the house, I was a new and different person because I had finally crossed the barrier which we all build up in our minds. I had "passed" - it is an experience that I will never forget. Yet I have to admit that I still have a lot to learn about makeup, etc. Once a crossdresser has "gone out," he is never happy to be in the closet again. KAREN (WA-3-K)

Dear Carol: I am so happy to be a member of the sorority and am looking forward to meeting the new sisters in this area. I am so anxious to express the feminine side of my personality - so much so that if I don't do it soon, I'll bust! I love being

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a woman even if for only a little while because I believe that I have tapped a new being within me and SHE is so free and HAPPY to be "OUT." Thanks for our organization - I hope to really live, now. KAREN (IL-216-P)

Dear Carol :The sorority is a wonderful organization. I have written to three sisters and already have heard from two of them. It's great to be able to allow my feminine side out. I even wrote Jeri and she has a couple of females that are interested in writing. It's a great organization and I'm proud to be a member. RONNIE (IN-200-B)

Dear Carol Since I last wrote my life has changed a lot. First, I have divorced my wife and have moved to a place of my own. In the beginning I did feel very lonely but then something like a miracle happened. Two months ago I went to a party where I met a very lovely girl. She is younger than me, divorced, and with no children. Diana is very pretty and is an attorney with a bright career ahead of her. During our conversation I was very honest with her and tried to explain to her the reasons that I like to dress in women's clothing. She did not believe me and said that I should prove what I was saying. So, the next week she came to my place to have dinner with me. I greeted her in my male clothes. I had made what I considered an excellent dinner and she remarked how good it had smelled when she first entered my home. When she saw that I was not "dressed," she said that she was right about her not believing me about my crossdressing. But I said that she should be patient and I went into my bedroom and took the next hour to dress. I finally opened the door to the bedroom and walked

into the living room for her to inspect me. She had been reading a magazine but she saw me with a pair of wide-open eyes. She said that she was now a believer. She came over to me and gave me a nice kiss on my mouth. We enjoyed the dinner and after a glass of cognac she left - but I was in heaven because for the first time in my life another person had seen me dressed. We dated again and had a nice talk between us and it was decided that we would live together before we got married. So now, in the mornings I go to my office and do all my work there and in the afternoon I stay at home, helping Diana type her work. You are right, we live as a couple of nice girlfriends. We split the work around the house but she says it is OK for me to do my share when I am dressed. I feel so great now that my Second Self is at last free!! And believe me, Carol, nothing is sweeter than freedom. We recently went for a ride and although people looked into the car and saw me, I feel that they did not know that I a man. Diana said that I need to lose at least 20 pounds so that I will look nicer as a girl. So right now I'm under a strict diet. I couldn't understand before how much women have to suffer for their figure - but it's true. In case you need to translate any of your materials into Spanish, I will be glad to help. I would also like to help start a chapter. CAROLINA (FM-100-V)

Dear Carol:I feel that I'm now a member of one of the most exclusive societies in the world! It is absolutely exhilarating! Since the various publications arrived, I've spent hours and hours thumbing through them - the Directory, the Femme Mirror, etc. The Mirror is well-written, well edited, informative

and entertaining. As I reviewed the pages I found so many sisters expressing my own feelings and emotions. I'd like to help in the establishment of a viable chapter in this area. I'm regretful, to me, that I did not discover the Society earlier so that I could have met you in New Orleans. I would have loved to have met you as well as all the other girls of quality who make up the sorority. JANA (IL-201-T)

Dear Carol: I have spent such a long time in answering your last letter that you might think I have passed away or perhaps crawled into a hole. One of the reasons was that I went away for a month's trip to visit another sister, Janice, in Queensland as well as other friends and relatives who live in that area. We had a lovely time together and she was so kind in allowing me to stay with her in Brisbane. She's a good cook and made her own clothes beautifully. I did some cleaning for her and shopped for femme things together. I bought a lovely sweater from a lady who was so thrilled to sell it to me. I met this lady that it was better to join the Ladies as I was unable to beat them. She replied, "So why not?" When we set up camp north from Brisbane Janice stayed in the annex tent and I in the Campervan and I did the cooking and paid for the camp site so as to make things even between us. We would dress each evening and sit about talking. On a rainy night I had to rush out to the restroom so I put on a raincoat and dashed over to the ladies Restroom under an umbrella and as one woman came out I went in and sat me down. I always use the ladies restroom when dressed but one should be sure of herself when using such a place so as to avoid any p



It states quite clearly on the invitation, MacFarlane—EVENING dress.

lems. Janice said that I was always welcome to stay with her and I am so pleased to have met a thoroughly genuine sister in my homeland. On my way home I found a ladies hairdresser for men and so in I went and had a perm, shampoo, and blow-wave with two lovely girls fussing over me. I would have loved to have told them that all my undies were like theirs and one day I hope to go back and tell them that I love to wear feminine clothes as I feel sure they will accept me as one of them — seeing that they criticised a male who came in because of his rough, demanding manner. I told them that I did not mind how feminine my hair was made to be so long as it was neat and tidy — so I was in their soft hands for several hours — lovely!
CATHERINE FAU-1-P)

Dear Carol: Bit by bit, my circle of contacts in the cross-

cross-dressing world is increasing. Just a few days ago I dropped on my way to Montreal into Sylvia's home for some pleasant hours. The hours that I spent there — dressed — were so rewarding. It strikes me rather funny that wearing a plain, black skirt is considered "wierdo" on our part, but if it were in a bright tartan, it would be considered "respectable" even if it be somewhat eccentric — knowing a few devotees of everything from Scotland. To get back to Sylvia, she is such a very gracious lady who knows how to make this very clumsy and amateurish girl feel very relaxed in her presence. I am sure that I still look unnatural in these nice clothes and that I do all sorts of things wrong. But Sylvia did such a nice job of helping me to feel at ease. At her place, I ran across my first copy of Transvestia. She allowed me to look over a few copies

and I noted some information about one girl in particular made me feel a lot better. I found out that she was only an inch or two shorter than me and a few pounds lighter. That gave me the motivation to lose a few pounds myself. The greatest advantage of reading of the case stories in Transvestia is that it makes one feel so much more normal and relaxed about cross-dressing. CECILY (FCO-2-C)

Dear Carol: I've never felt better! I've just finished reading Understanding Crossdressing and my heart is relieved and filled with joy. This is such a wonderful thing that we are doing. It's too bad that others are not as liberated as are we. The only thing in Virginia's book that helped me most were her suggestions on getting past the sex part of crossdressing — and enjoying feminine Gender — thus helping a more total understanding of your whole self. The first batch of pictures that I took for the directory didn't come out so well and my wife insists they're not good enough to put in the directory. MARY (Akron, Ohio)

Dear Carol: Having checked into several Tv organizations in recent date, I've been turned away by the homosexual and heterosexual mix. When I read the brochure I believed that I could almost have written it since the Society and its focus suits tailor-made for me. JOAN (NJ-206-M)

Dear Carol: For the last forty years I have been in a closet. I did get dressed once but it all ended up at a local police station. I did not dress for another ten years. Now I am back to wearing women's clothes from the top down. This letter is the turning point of my life. I have new friends to talk to. CHARLOTTA (Florida)