

Our Special Joy



Vol. V, No. 9
March, 1985

* * * * * CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER

FAREWELL, KAREN !

The Chapter's Vice President, Karen, will be relocating to the West Coast later this month. At February's meeting the membership gave her a solid round of applause for all that she has done for CHI DELTA MU. In addition to her position as Vice President, Karen served as the first GAL for south/central New Jersey and was the Chapter's official photographeress. Many of us will remember her for her generosity and perhaps, our own first photo EN FEMME taken by Karen.



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Karen, NJ-1305-K
(photo: Patricia)

Karen noted the Chapter's caring attitude and urged us never to forget that as humans who love each other and who are so caring we are solid, healthy people. "Our hobby is not wrong", she said and she related that her fondness for the Chapter and the members will always remain with her.

A good part of Karen's work for the Chapter went somewhat unnoticed in that she spent much time with potential and new sisters, especially those still very much under the "rock". "Those who benefited from Karen's effort in helping them will certainly never forget her", said Mary Jane. Karen will remain a member of the Chapter. Those who want to contact her can do so through the California mail service until she gets a new address (note: her code number will be CA-1305-K).



(SEE PAGE 5)

**The world's most
beautiful model
is really a MAN!**

The business meeting got started later than usual due to a number of ladies who were late in returning from the shopping trip (typical?). Patricia introduced the Chapter Officers for the benefit of those attended the meeting for the first time, and recognized new sisters/wives...

...Karen discussed PROGRAMS for the meeting. The electrologist who was to give a presentation at the February meeting had to cancel due to business obligations missed earlier in the week caused by bad weather. This program is now scheduled for the March meeting in New Jersey...No program has been selected yet for April's meeting in Westchester...The May meeting in New Jersey should be a busy one. In addition to Officer elections, Alexis will return for an excellent discussion and presentation on the selection and care of wigs. The Chapter will also be treated to a first! Brandy and Carol will have a re-enactment of their wedding and all attending will be invited to participate. This really should be a fun affair! Brandy and Carol will provide the evening's refreshments...The 1984 - 1985 meeting season will close in Westchester with June's Pink Elephant Sale. A repeat of last Fall's program, this event should turn out not only as a very good source of income for the Chapter, but one fine party for all!...Remember, the Chapter meets on the second Saturday of the month...

...Chapter Treasurer Lynda could not attend the meeting but passed on information concerning the status of the SPRING WEEKEND in the Poconos. Lynda received deposits from a total of 14 people as of a few days prior to the meeting. A number of sisters signed up at the meeting, and more indicated that they needed time to confirm the availability of that weekend on their schedules. The resort has been booked with a \$150 deposit from Lynda. A tentative decision has been made that should the Weekend have to be cancelled, all deposits will be returned and the Chapter Treasury will absorb the \$150 loss. This is unlikely to occur. So, if you are still undecided about coming, make your reservations now (\$50 per person), and don't worry. An updated status of Spring Weekend is provided

...The VOICE ad should now be running (look under "Personals" or "Leisure Activities"). Edie is coordinating this project with the help of the GALs. A supply of National brochures has been requested of Carol Beecroft, and all inquiries will receive this, our Chapter's brochure and a personal letter from the GAL who covers the location where the inquiry was made. The ad should run for a few months and the Chapter's ranks should grow considerably due to this effort...Edie and the GALs are thanked by all for their work! Those who join us this way will certainly be very thankful for this project...

...Renata has been HOSTESSING the Westchester meeting now for some two years and due to other obligations, can no longer perform this function for us. Fran has volunteered to help for the next several meetings, but the Chapter's leadership agreed that a long-term and equitable solution must be reached concerning the hostessing function. Those willing to help Fran (and Lynda and Marilyn in New Jersey), should let their offer be known. The tasks that must be done make the evening that much more enjoyable for all. Renata and the Chapter's leadership will also need someone to chair 1985 Family Day activities in Greenwich, Ct. on August 10th. All thanked Renata for her behind-the-scenes work in the hostessing function! she certainly made things most pleasant for us...These activities are what is making this Chapter great. If you agree, please pitch in and make things even greater!

...Victoria raised the issue of wives/girlfriends being MEMBERS of the Chapter in full standing. She wanted to pay \$15 dues for herself. Comment was made that the wives/girlfriends are already members, but your Editor does not believe that this matter was satisfactorily resolved. A suggestion is made that wives and girlfriends discuss this issue and present a motion for full discussion at a future meeting...

...Those attending the SHOPPING trip organized by Barbara were! Arlene, Fran, Janice, Michelle, Robin Ann and Linda, Brandy and Carol, Dorothy, Linda, and Barbara (NY-F). All were quite pleased, and the store's management and personnel were quite pleasant and eager to help us shop,

WHAT'S GOING ON

under the "Treasurer's Report". All deposits and checks should be addressed and made to L. Frank, P. O. Box 8182, Morristown, New Jersey 07960...

related Barbara...The membership requested the Chapter Secretary to write the store expressing

*---- more ---->>>

our thanks for the courtesies the staff extended our members...Barbara will look for other stores, and even look into the possibility of having a social get-together at the nearby Evening Dinner Theatre...If you are interested or have other ideas for shopping contact Barbara as follows: B.

██████, P. O. Box 369, Brooklyn, New York 11235. Thanks, Barbara.

...The Officer NOMINATING Committee met after the business meeting to discuss progress to date...Procedures for voting will be as follows! The Committee will make recommendations to the membership at the March meeting. At April's meeting nominations from the floor will be made. Immediately after April's meeting ballots will be mailed to all members. They must be completed and either mailed to Patricia (who is not running for office), or brought to the May meeting. All ballots will be counted at the May meeting and the new Officers will be announced...If interested in running for office, see a member of the Committee (Renata, Jane, Edie, Robin Ann, Fran and Mary Jane)...

...ETC...The Chapter thanks Millie, girlfriend of Jane, who made a donation to the Chapter. Millie sells a wide assortment of costume jewelry at the meeting! be sure to see her collection the next time you come...Karen reports that 14 of the individual photographs taken at the meeting were ruined by the film processing company, so if you don't receive your photo that is the reason. Karen regrets this but nothing can be done...Please, if you have any question about dues, or want to join/renew, do so with our Treasurer, Lynda, and not your Editor...A usual but not taken for granted thank you to Fran for the flowers, and to Linda, girlfriend of Robin Ann, for the Valentine's candy...The Chapter continues its search for a meeting spot in Long Island (Nassau County ?), and (further south) in New Jersey! please help if you have any ideas on this matter...As usual, the GALs are encouraged to organize social activities in their areas, perhaps mid-week so that more sisters who can't make a weekend may attend.

EXCITING EVENT!



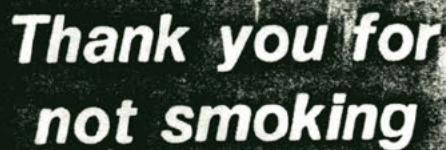
Attending February's meeting were (seated, left to right): Deirdre (NY-D), Janice (NJ-M), Renata (CT-1116-W), Karen (NJ-1305-K), Linda (NJ-1568-B), Dorothy (NJ-1286-G), Frances (NJ-1772-P), and Caroline sister of Renata; (standing): Arlene (NY-L), Barbara (NY-B), Yvonne (NY-1342-R), Barbara (NY-F), Mary Jane (NY-1322-M), Fran (NY-1610-B), Robin Ann (NY-1675-B), Michelle (NJ-B), Jane (NJ-1308-T), Hollis (NY-K), Edie (NY-1558-G), Eve (NY-1676-H), JoAnn (NY-M, Queens), Brandy (NY-1677-H), Jean (NY-1600-E), Patricia (CT-1113-G), and Betty (NJ-S). (photo: Renata)

Oh! Look at me!

Also at our meeting were: Carol bride-to-be of Brandy, Millie girlfriend of Jane, Terry wife of JoAnn, Victoria girlfriend of Yvonne, Liz wife of Betty, Valerie wife of Eve, Tom (Tex, NY-1745-L), Cedric friend of Hollis, Jane wife of Jean, and Patricia wife of Deirdre. Richie (Gail, NY-S), and Pat (NY) joined us for a brief time.

Propose No Smoking Policy

The majority of attendees at the meeting do not smoke. Smoke bothers a number of people who do not smoke, and it has a tendency to get into your clothes/wig and stay there. To complicate matters, the larger attendance at the meeting this year has cut down on air circulation in the conference room, which is poor at best especially at our Westchester location. It has gotten to the point where one long-time and loved member has told your Editor that she will no longer come to the meeting because of the smoke. For the



**Thank you for
not smoking**

good of all members perhaps it is best that the Chapter now consider a ban on smoking in the conference room, say from 6 to 10:30 P.M. For those so addicted (like your Editor), you can step out of the room and puff away. Losing attendees due to the smoke is a serious matter and one which demands the attention of the Chapter as a body. A no smoking policy will be considered as "new business" at the March meeting.

Family Day '85

As this issue of O. S. J. was about to go to press, a last minute "glitch" developed concerning our plans for Family Day on August 10th. The Town of Greenwich lost our Clambake Area reservation for that day. The only other available days at this site were August 31st and the Saturdays in September. We've tentatively booked for the 31st, but this is the Saturday of Labor Day Weekend and may cause problems for a number of folks. Our options are to stay with the 31st, take a Saturday in September (if available by then), go back to the Cow Barn Area on August 10th, or pick another location. In any case we must make a final decision on this at the March meeting. Come with some ideas as to how we can celebrate the Chapter's 4th birthday with our loved ones.

Wives/Girlfriends/Etc. Meeting

...The group met again at February's meeting for about an hour. Your Editor does not know what was discussed, but these meetings do seem very important for the participants. The Chapter encourages their continuance. Thanks to Betty and Liz for allowing the group to use their motel room...Perhaps for their next get-together the ladies could come up with a better term than "wives/girlfriends/etc." to describe themselves (significant other female ?)...Having such a group is a very important asset for the Chapter! for new wives/girlfriends to meet and share with their counterparts, for other wives/girlfriends to "compare notes", trade gripes, etc., and for the crossdresser who has assurance that the Chapter is not only concerned about his welfare, but also that of the wife/girlfriend/other. This Chapter benefit should be viewed as an opportunity for both the crossdresser and the wife/girlfriend/other.

Western New York Project

Donna Marie (NY-1634-H) relates that the Eon Group in Syracuse has affiliated with another organization which is not part of TRI-ESS. She still hopes that enough TRI-ESS members in her area would be interested to form a Chapter, but that remains to be seen...meanwhile, Hazel who lives between Buffalo and Rochester has expressed interest in hostessing a get-together at her home. This would be ideal for it would not be too far for those sisters who live in Buffalo or Rochester (and points south), and Hazel says that she has a lot of privacy with some 20+ acres.



Western
Edition

The March O. S. J. Western Edition will soon go out to some 15 - 20 sisters upstate, and maybe by the Spring we will have a meeting going there...CHI DELTA MU is very happy that several sisters from the upstate area have joined the Chapter, even though they most likely would not be attending the meeting due to distance.

Gals, eat your hearts out . . .

(from Weekly
World News.)

World's most sensational model is a man!

By SUSAN JIMISON

The sexiest woman in Brazil is a man!

She's stunning Roberta Close, a curvaceous model whose sensuous beauty men find irresistible — even though they know she's the wrong sex.

The 5-foot-10 raven-haired transvestite is a magazine cover girl and has even been in Playboy magazine. And although the whole world knows she's not the gorgeous girl she appears to be, no one seems to care.

"She's the talk of Brazil," magazine writer Regina Rito told The NEWS. "She's not an actress, she doesn't sing, she's just a boy being a girl."

"In terms of her effect on people, the only comparison I can make is Marilyn Monroe, transformed from a timid blonde into a fantasy woman," gushed an editor of Brazil's Playboy, Ivo Cardozo. "As far as I'm concerned, she's earth-shaking."

Roberta, 22, was born one of four sons of a middle-class family in Rio de Janeiro. She was christened Luiz Roberto Gambine Moreira, but although she appeared normally male she says she never felt like a boy.

"Ever since I knew I was human, I knew I was a female," she said. "The old story about 'boys' who love to play with dolls, who enjoy playing house, who hate violent sports — that happened with me, too."

When she was 16, Roberta's parents were so concerned about their son's femininity that they took their child to a doctor. Tests showed that Roberta was suffering from a lack of male hormones, but, although the disorder could easily be treated with hormone shots, Roberta refused them. "Clinically, it would have been easy to begin treatments to give me a beard, a deep voice and all those things," she said.

"But I absolutely didn't want to change.

"I always felt that I was a girl and I wanted to have female hormones to preserve my

real nature. I was sure that I'd never be a macho male — with or without treatment."

At the age of 17, Roberta was photographed at the beach by an Argentinean magazine and her rise to fame began. Since then, she's won beauty competitions, appeared in magazines and newspapers, and made television commercials. Famous singers write songs about her, people pay her to show up at their parties — and she's been offered work as a top model in Paris.

"The job market for transvestites and transsexuals is extremely complicated," she said. "I'm an exception. Everything has been much easier from the moment I became famous."

"Now everybody wants Roberta Close, everybody wants to invest in me."

"Actually, this pace scares me a little bit. Really, I was



***Mags wild
about
gender
bender
Roberta***

never prepared for success."

The eye-popping model says she's considered a sex change, but fears it would destroy her image as the world's most stunning transvestite. Besides, her confusing sexuality has not hurt her love life.

(see next Page)



Ira Siff: as Vera Galupe-Borsckh

Thanks,
Diane
(194)
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AT THE TIME La Gran Scena Opera Company was founded a few years ago, the only attention it received from the uptown real opera world was when conductor James Levine gave the diva Mme. Vera Galupe-Borsckh a ride home in his limousine.

Now that singer, who is really Ira Siff (all roles are sung by men), has received Roberta Peters' "Merry Widow" costume to wear in his debut as "Tosca" when La Gran Scena plays Town Hall Saturday and Sunday. I hear that when the company performs its critically acclaimed parodies of grand opera in San Francisco in March, Renata Scotta herself intends to be in the audience to check it all out.



SIZZLING supermodel Roberta Close touches off riots whenever she's seen in public throughout her native Brazil. 'As far as I'm concerned she's earthshaking,' said a magazine editor.



PAGE SIX

Our Readers Write

"It would take a very important appointment to miss one (Chapter meeting) now that I have found this new way of life. The people are so caring and considerate. There is such an interest shown, especially to new members as myself. Rarely have I seen such caring and sharing at any function. I believe that it was Destiny that I found this program - or it found me...". Charlene Ann QNY-1756-C)

(Ed. note! Charlene Ann was ill and couldn't make February's meeting! we hope that you'll be all recovered for March!)



"I found the above in our neighborhood paper, 'The Port Richmond Star'...The letters 'K & A' depict the crossroads of a shopping center in our area...it is not to be confused with a mall. Picture an el overhead, row houses with store fronts, plus an occasional one with 3 or 4 fronts combined". Lora (PA-1392-W)

ROGER'S NOTEBOOK

by Roger E. Peo, PhD

One of the problems faced by all cross-dressers is who to tell about their needs. The next problem is when and how to make this disclosure. It seems to me that it is neither desirable nor necessary for most cross-dressers to come completely out of the closet. However, opening the door and letting in some light is necessary for support. Telling someone about your cross-dressing is scary and risky, for there is always the chance that the relationship will be irretrievably damaged by your disclosure. There is no simple or right way to go about telling someone but there are some guidelines that can be helpful.

First, how to decide who to tell.... A good rule of thumb is that it is necessary to confide in persons who can be effected by your needs. This can be a wife or girl-friend or perhaps some close relatives or friends. A guiding principle in making the decision is whether a particular relationship is being influenced by your need to hide your cross-dressing. For example, if you become moody and withdrawn because you can not dress when you feel the need and you can not explain this to someone in an intimate relationship with you, that can be an indication that you should confide in her.

When to make this revelation.... It is usually advisable to do this as early in the relationship as seems possible. For some relationships this might be in the first month and for others it might be in the first year. The longer that you wait before divulging the information, the more the other person can feel deceived when they find out. This feeling of deceit can cause them to react with anger and rejection. Further, they may feel they can no longer trust you. The exact timing is up to you. I have found from my study that once both people are committed to the relationship it is nearly too late to easily make the 'confession'. This is especially true if the relationship is leading toward marriage. Since the only 'cure' for cross-dressing is acceptance and working out appropriate times for its expression, going into a long-term intimate relationship without working out these details can lead to significant problems later. Telling your own children is a very special situation and should most probably be delayed until they are in their teens or later. There are no studies that show the effects of telling young children but this information adds to the many other things they have to deal with as they mature.

How to gently provide this information to the other person is probably the most difficult part. You -- the cross-dresser -- will most probably be very nervous and on the defensive. Just think how the other person must feel. She (or he) most probably knew something was wrong but most probably had no idea what it was. Then too, she probably has very little understanding of cross-dressing and may confuse it with either transsexualism or homosexuality or both. YOU have to be sensitive to HER needs. Do not try to bury her with information but answer her questions truthfully and simply. Make the disclosure in stages, for the worst thing you can do is to overwhelm her. Sometimes pictures are a good place to begin. Be very sensitive about letting her see you cross-dressed for the first time -- which MUST be done gently and preferably in a private situation. While the first time may be the hardest, she will have to see you cross-dressed several times in private before either of you will know what her reactions and feelings really are.

If you follow all the above guidelines you have a chance that the other person will at least be tolerant of your cross-dressing. Keep in mind that even if you do all of the above, she may not want to see you dressed or participate in any of the activities that involve cross-dressing. Here is where you must be sensitive to her and not press for acceptance or participation.

Thank you Dr. Peo. No, Dr. Peo and your Editor are NOT one and the same person! We happen to share the same Post Office in Poughkeepsie. Dr. Peo's Box Number is 4-8-8-7, and your Editor's Box Number is 4-9-8-8.

If you have any question that you would like to see Dr. Peo answer, please write him. Should you prefer a individual (private), reply, please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope.

Roger E. Peo, PhD.
P. O. Box 4887
Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

EARLY MEMORIES

Dear Edith Marie,

Your article in the January (1984) issue of "Our Special Joy" on your earliest recollections of cross-dressing prompted me to write to you, after much deliberation, to tell you of my earliest memories of how I became aware of the woman within me. I would like to share my story with the other Chapter members.

First of all, I would like to say that I am very happy I am a transvestite. I am happy to be able to have "Joanne" released so that she may enjoy the femininity she is entitled to. I truly believe she is a woman, having been born one.

I was a Depression baby. I had three sisters older than me and one brother four years my junior. Dad, like most fathers during those troubled times, toiled twelve or thirteen hours a day to keep a roof over our heads and food on the table. The Depression was a terribly worrisome period for our parents, but for us children, we had wonderful times playing and growing up together. Memories of those early days are mostly pleasant ones for me.

I know Dad did not neglect us, but he worked such long hours, we children got to see him only on weekends. The weekends were special. They were reserved for family fun activities. We would visit with relatives, go on picnics, church outings, hikes in the country and occasionally attend a movie matinee. They were low-budget amusements, but we all enjoyed them very much.

I don't think Dad spent any more or less time with me than the typical hard-working Depression-era father. Of course, my time with Dad had to be shared with my brother and sisters. With Dad away from home so much, most of my waking hours were spent in the company of females - my mother and three older sisters - up until the time I entered Kindergarten. I guess there were other boys in the neigh-

borhood, but I really don't recall playing ball or tag or any other of the rough and tumble outdoor games so popular among the boys. During those pre-school years I loved to play house with the youngest of my sisters, who was only fourteen months older than me. I remember having so much fun playing with dolls, dressing them in their frilly little panties and slips and fancy, colorful party dresses. Mother gave us some cast-off clothing to play with and my sister and I had a great time pretending we were grown-ups. Sometimes I would play the role of the mother in our little make-believe family. At other times my sister would be the mother and I would be the visiting Aunt Sadie. It seemed perfectly natural to me to play a female role. At times I would wear my sister's dresses or skirts and we would play outside. Mother knew about this, but never stopped me or made any kind of fuss over it. So, before I entered school, I was quite accustomed to wearing girl's clothes.



When I was about five years of age a strange incident happened that will forever be firmly imprinted in my memory. One of my little girlfriends in the neighborhood made her Holy Communion. Her mother made her a beautiful white, lacy dress and veil for the occasion. I remember going over to her house and seeing her BROTHER wearing her dress and veil. I was not the least bit shocked by this because I thought that other boys had the same kind of play experiences at home that I was so used to. I, too, wanted to try the dress on and my little girlfriend helped me into it.

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That was my earliest recollection of crossdressing away from home. I often wonder how her brother turned out. Up until the time I made my First Communion, I really thought that I would wear a pretty white dress on that special day. I had no idea of the bitter disappointment that lay ahead.

I enjoyed going shopping with my mother and sisters, especially when we went clothes shopping. I had household chores to do, the same as my sisters. We took turns washing and drying the dishes and helping with the laundry and the dusting. We learned to crochet, sew and iron, so to me this was all quite normal. "Joanne" was truly out in the open in those early days.

I entered Kindergarten when I was six and wore dresses around the house and in our backyard up until that day. Nobody forced me into it. It was something that I wanted to do and enjoyed doing and, as I said, Mom never made any fuss over it. Dad was probably not aware of my fondness for girl's clothes because on weekends I wore boy's clothes for our family outings. When I started school, Mom took a firm hand, though, and made me go to school in boy's clothes. I didn't care for that at all. As soon as I would get home from school, I would change into a dress. I did this for about six months, then got too lazy to change when I got home.

I was never the typical example of what a boy "should be". I did not care for sports or for any kind of roughneck activity. By the time I made my First Communion, at age seven, I was resigned to the fact that little boys just did not wear dresses. I had to suppress my desires for girl's clothes and direct my energies toward masculine activities. I became an altar boy and a Boy Scout and tried to go the way society demanded.

I attended parochial elementary and grammar schools. The codes of conduct and dress were very strict and the nuns ruled with a firm hand. One time, in grammar school, I was reprimanded for talking when I should have been listening. The good Sister told me that, if I continued talking out of turn, she would have one of the girls in the class bring in a spare dress and I would have to wear it. This

caused some amusement among my classmates, but I thought, "Oh, if you only knew. I could bring in my own dress." Sister thought the "petticoat punishment", as I learned it was called many years afterward, would embarrass me into compliance with the classroom rules. I wonder what her reaction would have been if she knew that I would have much preferred to wear dresses than boy's clothes? Yes, it was funny and I chuckle now when I recall the incident, but it was also supremely ironic.

When I was fourteen I got my first taste of wearing grown-up girl's clothes - girdle, bra, nylon stockings, high heels, makeup, the works. I was home alone at the time and I was admiring myself in the full-length mirror in my oldest sister's bedroom when she came home from work sooner than expected. As I heard the front door open and shut and then her footsteps on the stairs, a sick, sinking feeling hit me in the pit of my stomach and my knees felt like rubber. I could not escape. I stood there, frozen in panic, as she opened the door to her bedroom. But, that's another story for some other time.

Sincerely,

Joanne (NY-M) (Long Island)

Dear Readers,

I apologize to you and especially to Joanne for not getting this story typed up for Editor Mary Jane much sooner than this. Joanne first wrote to me May 30th and we exchanged several long letters in the months which followed.

Joanne's story, I believe, is quite unusual, but how would I know? I have only my own early recollections to compare it against. Why don't more of you write to me and tell me of your earliest memories of crossdressing? I am sure that your true story will be of interest to our members.

Sincerely,

Edith Marie (NY-1340-W)

G I R L S

Library Corner

When people are seeking information, where do they go? To the library, of course.

March is Library Month. With this issue of O. B. J. you should receive three library cards. Please place the cards in libraries near where you live, work, and shop. Put them in the card catalog; they fit just right. More than one new member has found out about TRI-ESS and Chi Delta Mu through this means.

Many thanks to Lora (PA-1382-W) for her cash donation and for the many books she sent us. Also, thanks to new member Charlene Ann (NY-1756-C) for reproducing the video tape. The tape contains about six hours of television shows on our favorite subject and includes the Nine On New Jersey Show, The Susskind Show, Eros In America, and People Are Talking (VCR type).



What do Wallace Beery, Charlie Chaplin, Mary Pickford and Laurel & Hardy have in common? Yes, they were famous stars in Hollywood's early days, but what else?

Want a hint? James Cagney, Boris Karloff, Rod Steiger, Merle Oberon, Burt Lancaster, Katherine Hepburn, Sir Alec Guinness, Bing Crosby, Brigitte Bardot and Cary Grant also share this distinction.

Give up? Here's a final hint that is sure to give the answer away. In more recent times the following movie stars have joined the ranks of those above: Julie Andrews, Robert Preston, Tony Curtis, Jack Lemmon and Dustin Hoffman.

Yes, that's right. All have appeared in the movies dressed in the clothing of the opposite sex. Some were comedy roles and other roles were more serious. We are all familiar with the recent classic crossdressing movies! Some Like It Hot, Victor/Victoria, and Tootsie and the star

performances of the leading characters. But, did you know that the famous child actor of the twenties, Jackie Coogan, played a poor, unwanted lad in A Boy Of Flanders (1924), who dresses up as a girl to attend his girlfriend's party? His disguise is discovered when he gets sick from eating too many chocolate cakes.

In the 1974 movie Thunderbolt And Lightfoot, Jeff Bridges plays a young drifter who teams up with veteran thief Clint Eastwood to pull an armory heist. The intricate plot involves Bridges masquerading as a young chick to lure an over-zealous employee from his vital post. His excellent portrayal won him a supporting actor Academy Award nomination.

These and many more examples can be found in What A Drag! Men As Women And Women As Men In The Movies, a recent addition to the Chi Delta Mu Library. In 265 pages and more than 400 black and white photographs author Homer Dickens explores this fascinating subject. Thank you, Lora, for donating this excellent book.

We now have 58 books, four audio tapes and one video tape in the "serious" section of our Library. The fiction & fantasy section has 64 items. The privilege of borrowing from the Library is available to members and their spouses and the only cost is fourth class return postage.

Have you read any good books lately?

Edith Marie, Chapter Librarian

"In order to learn to be one's true self, it is necessary to obtain a wide and extensive knowledge of what has been said and done in the world; critically to inquire into it; carefully to ponder over it; clearly to sift it; and earnestly to carry it out."

Confucius.

To contact Edith Marie for a listing of the Library, write:

Don [redacted]
Draw R
Valley Cottage, New York 10989

Please send a stamped, self-addressed envelope for the listing. Thanks

For New Members

The Chapter has been fortunate to gain a number of new members over the past several months and a few words for them are in order. Again, a warm welcome to the group. If you haven't attended your first meeting yet, please consider doing so. All who attend the meeting have been through their "first" meeting and know how apprehensive a newcomer can be. The membership always extends a hearty welcome to newcomers and attempts to make them feel at home with their sisters. This welcome applies, of course, to the new sister's wife/girlfriend/family member who joins the group. The monthly meeting is the highlight of the Chapter's existence and you should take advantage of your membership by coming to the meeting. Other services available to you as a member should be used, especially the Library. The group is always looking for new ideas, vitality, sharing of expression, and help with Chapter development which results with a growth in membership. All members benefit alike from this expanding desire of the sisters for both self-improvement and Chapter enhancement.

In Case You Missed It

Dear Ann Landers: I am a transvestite who would like to offer some suggestions to the parents of the 13-year-old transvestite.

Don't encourage your son's cross-dressing, but don't prohibit it either. Trying to make him stop will force him to do it secretly. This could produce anxiety and resentment. If it bothers you, suggest that he dress up when you aren't at home.

Please be aware that there are millions of transvestites in America and the majority of them are heterosexual. The reasons for cross-dressing are many. Although one may stop occasionally, he will usually start again whether he has had counseling or not.

Experts say this is an OK way to release tension. It certainly has been for me. I harm no one and am a good husband, father and practicing attorney.

— ANONYMOUS IN CHICAGO

DEAR ANON: Thanks for a letter that should calm some fears. My consultants say you are right on.

*Thanks:
Lora,
Diane (NY),
Terry (Buffalo),
Edith Marie, &
JoAnn (Queens)
OUR SPOTTERS!*

Publicity

(Ed. note: the following letter was received by me on February 11th from California! It is dated January 24th)

"We are producing a 30 minute television program on the subject of sexual identity. The program is part of our weekly science series called INNOVATION, hosted by Jim Hartz. The purpose of our series is to present new research in a given scientific field to the layman audience in a form that is easily understandable...As part of our preparation for this show, we are gathering information on individuals and organizations dedicated to sexual identity problems. We would appreciate your sending to us information on the Society For The 2nd Self (sic) -- it's goals, it's approach, the need for it's work, etc. Also, we are interested in learning about other resource organizations in this field as well as individual spokesmen and spokeswomen...Because this show is already in preparation, we ask you to please send this material as soon as possible. Thank you. Sincerely yours, Duncan Scott, Producer". (WNET-TV, Ch. 13, Newark, New Jersey)

"I sent 'WNEW/13' an old copy of your newsletter, your brochure, a femme mirror, and a transvestia. I also suggested that they phone your hotline number...Looks like a great opportunity to educate the public and reach a few more sisters".
Marlene, CA-1048-L (February 5th)

(Chapter Publicity Chairperson, Eileen, NY-1317-J, was advised accordingly and will follow-up with Channel 13 and Mr. Scott. Ed.)

The producer and some of his staff may attend the March meeting to learn more about our group. No television taping will happen, for this is strictly an information gathering opportunity for some very influential media people. Your security, of course, would always be protected. This is, indeed, a rare chance for us to get our message out, out to some very important people. We hope that many of you will be able to join us. The presentation and demonstration by the electrologist may be rescheduled to the April meeting.

**MARCH 9TH MEETING
IN NEW JERSEY**

Treasurer's Report

The February Report will be part of the April newsletter, as will:

* (third) Quarterly Budget Status Report;

* Preliminary 1985 - 1986 Budget for the Chapter.

Comments concerning the Chapter's financial status are always welcome from the membership.

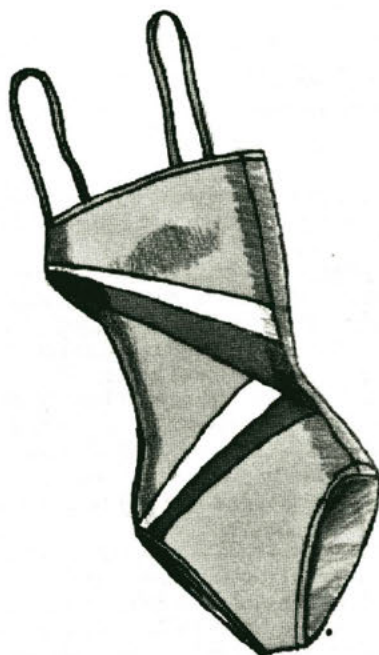
New sisters joining the Chapter during February were: Barbara (NY-B), Betty (NJ-S) and wife Liz, Tes (NY-1745-L), Michelle (NJ-S), "J" (NY-H, Rochester), Elaine Marie (NJ-1287-R), and Terry (NY-H). A very warm welcome to CHI DELTA MU's sisterhood!...New members of the National from our area are: Christina (NY-1781-B, formerly TN-3-B), Johnnie (NY-1762-P), Elizabeth (NY-1763-T), Frances (NJ-1772-P), and Joan (NJ-1775-G, formerly NJ-204-G). All new National members from the area are contacted by the Chapter and sent our brochure...Renewing with the Chapter in February was Jean (NY-1600-E). Thanks. ...There may have been more of you who have joined or renewed in February but the information was not available when the newsletter was written.



...Members whose dues are payable in March are: Elizabeth (NY-D), JoAnn (CT-1602-U), JoAnn (NY-1635-S), Wilma (NJ-1296-Y), Yvonne (NY-1342-R), and Andria (VA-1304-M). Again, if you've already renewed, thank you...Those sisters whose dues are payable in April are: Diane (NY-1674-R), Claire (NY-1324-B), Edith Marie (NY-1340-W), Tina (NJ-1243-E, due in 1984), Suzie (NJ-G), Diana (NJ-1311-L), Dorothy (NJ-1286-G), Renee (NJ-1587-P), and Marlene (NY-1335-B)...Should you have any question about your dues due date, contact Chapter Treasurer, Lynda. Chapter dues are \$15/year...Until recently, your Editor was under the impression that National dues were \$30/year; I received notice from National Membership Director Donna [redacted] to the effect that National dues are \$25/year. Clarification please.



...Last count is that over 20 couples and singles have made their deposit for the Chapter's Spring Weekend in the Poconos. Lynda will have a full report at the March meeting. Please consider joining us on what promises to be an affair never to be forgotten! Again! total cost of \$90 per person includes six meals and two nights' lodging. A \$50 per person deposit is required and should be sent to Lynda.



...Anyone wishing to serve on the Spring Weekend Program Committee should see one of the Chapter Officers. This includes wives and girlfriends, as special activities will be held for them during the Weekend.

Editorial

March is the month when I renew my dues with the National Organization. Now, some may say that my \$25 could be more wisely spent on other things, for Carol and National TRI-ESS have not provided all that was promised. True, a Readers' Digest Carol isn't. This is especially frustrating for those sisters whose sole affirmation of their second selves must be sustained by publications such as the FEMME MIRROR, for they have no local chapter to join nor sisters nearby to visit.

So why pay annual dues to the National? Well if no one or very few sisters paid National dues, there soon would be no National Organization. The next obvious question then is, why have a National Organization? Aside from the fact that had there been no National Organization there would be no CHI DELTA MU Chapter, having a National Organization has many important advantages. Sometimes these advantages are not so obvious. A National (really International) TRI-ESS Organization provides among other things:

- * the necessary machinery for a broad-based recruitment and publicity effort supporting the position of the male, heterosexual crossdresser;
- * the framework within which the chapters of the Organization are established, develop and operate;
- * a safety net for sisters and loved-ones buried very deeply under society's rock of norms and customs.

Perhaps the best rationale for the National Organization is summed up in the saying, "There is strength in numbers".

The financial statement published in the latest FEMME MIRROR indicates that over 3/4 of the National's expenses last year were for printing and postage. That's printed material sent to you in the mail as a member of the National Organization. The quantity may not be what we desired, nor what was promised, but it is better than nothing. When consideration is given to what is behind publications like the FEMME MIRROR, namely a National Organization and all that that entails, then the need for the National Organization should become that more obvious to those who are its beneficiaries -- we who are its members.

So, I'm renewing my National dues this month. I think it is a wise investment in my future. I hope that you agree and will also renew your dues or finally join us in total sisterhood for a better future for us all.

Question & Answers

(This is a new monthly column where a question will be asked of several meeting attendees. Maybe some new ideas will result or a different slant on a topic will be discovered. Let's try it!)

WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TO SEE HAPPEN IN THE CHAPTER IN 1985?

"Meetings closer to my area. I hope that the Chapter will grow more with a wider range of scheduled activities". Dorothy

"Weekend in the Poconos". Robin Ann

"Dinner Theatre party for the Chapter". Fran

"Make-up party - demonstrations - more help for newcomers. Demonstrate make-up application on a sister". Terry, wife of JoAnn (NY-M, Queens)

"Miniseminars on topics important to members and families. The group should decide the topic. They should be structured and short, and participation should be mandatory". Caroline, sister of Renata

(Ed. note: if you have a question you'd like to see asked at the meeting, please send it on to your Editor.)

Assistance

C H A P T E R

HOTLINE

(201) 663 - 0772

Joy's Brin Go Bra's



Side I

1. Darryl Girl
2. GALway Bay
3. Who Threw The Panties In Mrs. Murphy's

Chowder

4. Forty Shades Of Green
5. Clancy Lowered The Bloomer
6. MacNamara's Bandeau

Side II

7. My GAL's An Irish Girl
8. My Wild Irish Hose
9. When Irish Guys Are Dressing
10. It's A Great Day For The Fetish
11. If You're TRI-ESS Come Into The Parlor
12. Dear Old Donegal (shake hands with your sister Mike)



*Thanks,
Diane (NY)*



Berry's World



"Does Chi Delta Mu Chapter meet near here?"

CONGRADULATIONS

BRANDY & CAROL



ON YOUR WEDDING DAY

love, all your friends
in CHI DELTA MU!

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*Best Regards,
Your Sister,
Mary Jane*