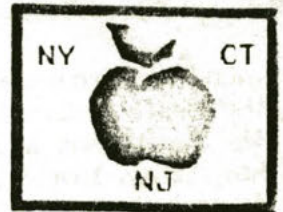


our Special JOY



Tri-Ess Sorority



Metropolitan

***** CHI DELTA MU *****
Vol. IV, No. 4 CHAPTER April, 1984

RECORD ATTENDANCE SET AT MARCH MEETING



Attending the meeting were 33 members and potential members, 9 wives and girlfriends, a member's friend, and Muriel Olive. Our hostesses, Renata and Patricia, insured that all had a very enjoyable time. More on Page 3.

A very happy time enjoyed by all! Perhaps you will consider joining us at an upcoming meeting and celebrate with us a lovely.....

Spring

184

Executive/Finance Meeting

...On March 3rd members of these committees were the guests of Lynda and Marilyn at their home. We thank Lynda and Marilyn for their gracious hospitality, lovely dinner, and good company. Several items of importance were discussed and recommendations are as follows:

* The chapter should have an annual budget. This has been drafted and is presented for the consideration of the membership on Page 5 of the newsletter.

* As part of the chapter's fund-raising activities, a 50/50 drawing will be held, with tickets at 2 for \$1. The first drawing held at the March meeting resulted in \$10 for the chapter and \$10 for Terri. Thanks to all for their participation.

* Twice a year we will have a "Pink Elephant" and at such times sisters will be asked to donate a femme item they no longer want to the chapter for auction, proceeds going to the Treasury.

* It is recommended that the annual dues for the chapter be increased from \$10 to \$15. Services offered you as members (library, newsletter, meeting attendance, etc.), are well worth this increase in dues. The added \$\$\$ will, in turn, enable us to do more advertising, programming, etc. No increase in the \$10 meeting fee is proposed.

* Some discussion was had concerning the providing of our meals at the meeting. Jana and Eileen (NY), believe that two sisters should be assigned the responsibility of providing these refreshments; right now we have consistency in that Karen and at times Renata fulfill this responsibility. It was decided that we will remain with the present system. Of course, if our numbers continue to grow, we will have to consider alternatives (catering).

* A \$3 levy is recommended for those sisters who say that they are coming to a meeting but don't show up. There is some difference of opinion as to the issue of charging someone an extra charge who shows up at the meeting without prior notification of attendance. The committees ask for the consensus of the membership on this matter.

* As advertising will be important for us in the coming year, we'd like to know how our past experience has been. Please indicate on the form, below, your first contact source with TRI-ESS or the chapter. Send this information on to your Editor by April 30th. This is important for planning; thank you for your cooperation.

Encompassing most of these matters is the Proposed Budget for the year 1984-1985 (Page 5). Your suggestions, opinions, comments, etc., are needed on this financial plan. The budget will be voted on at either the May or June meeting.

"Send on an application..."



Singer's garb delays his trip

English pop star *Boy George* was detained for several hours after he arrived at Nice airport in France and presented his passport.

"He was dressed completely like a woman, in a dress and wearing full make-up," a spokesman for the French border police said Friday.

"French law ... requires that a person entering the country corresponds to the details on his or her passport," said the spokesman, who declined to be identified. "So when someone who looks like a woman presents a man's passport, we have to investigate and that took some time, a couple of hours."

My first source of contact with TRI-ESS/C.D.M. Chapter was:

— television

— radio

— newspaper ad/article

— magazine

— TRI-ESS library card

— TRI-ESS publication

— self-help group

— professional referral

— other (specify)

(Send in to your Editor, address on last page)

March Meeting

...The March 10th meeting in Westchester was the best attended yet. A number of potential members came; the unfortunate thing is that we did not know about it and were unprepared. The following is from the Chi Chapter (Chicago), March newsletter: "As you may have noted, we are having a large number of prospective members visiting with us recently on an introductory basis. These people are most welcome, provided they have been vouched for by a chapter member AND their attendance approved in advance by one of your Chapter Officers. However, we must remind our members to advise these prospective people that attendance by them at a chapter meeting requires a \$10 meeting fee!" The only thing that C. D. M. should change to this rule of the meeting is that your GAL's OK and voucher in lieu of a Chapter Officer is sufficient. Members should also remember that the location of the meeting place is confidential and should not be given out to anyone not vouched for. Our GALs will take the responsibility to advise potential members of the meeting place location.

...Items suggested at the March 3rd Executive/Finance Committee meeting were related to those in attendance by your Secretary/Editor (see Page 2).

...Vice-President Karen said that several new spots for the meeting in New Jersey are being evaluated by her and members of her Search Committee. Right now we can plan on having the June meeting in New Jersey, and further details will be provided as they develop (note: this is a change from what was included in the March newsletter).

...Those who plan on staying over at the motel for our meeting are reminded to ask for the TRI-ESS special room rate. You can get \$10 - \$15 off the regular rates, and if we have sufficient rooms rented, the chapter gets a break on the conference room. You would also get a room close to the conference room.

...Edie suggested that when the media does a favorable article or show promoting TRI-ESS, that we as members should write them and express our gratitude for their efforts. This is appreciated by the media. Edie also said that membership should consider having discussion groups during part of the meeting.

...At future meetings we hope to have "Hello, my name is..." stickers.

(continued on next page)

Attending the March meeting were (left to right, sitting on the floor): Trudy, Carole, Jana, Lynda, Renata Lee and Dorothy; (sitting): Frances (NJ), Camile, Nancy, Janice, Jamie, Felicity, Cynthia Jane, Hollis and JoAnn (Ct); (standing): Patricia, Joan (NY), Robin Ann, Leslie, Barbara girlfriend of Stephanie, Stephanie, Linda, Frances (NY), Yvonne, Edie, Mary Jane, Karen, Eileen (NJ), and Terri. Also attending were: Victoria, GG friend of Yvonne, Isabelle wife of Leslie, Sonya wife of Cynthia Jane, Agnes wife of Mary Jane, Linda, GG friend of Robin Ann, Bernice, GG friend of Frances (NJ), Bev wife of Dorothy, Marilyn wife of Lynda; and...Wilma, Michele, Sedrick friend of Hollis, Cindy, Suzie, Muriel Olive, and a visitor whose name I did not get. (Photo: Patricia)

...As to programs for upcoming meetings, Program Coordinator Jana related:

* April 14th (at usual N.J. site): possibly a feminist speaker from N.Y.C. Mayor Koch's Office;

* May 12th (at usual Westchester site): professional cosmetics demonstration;

* June 9th (at new, N.J. site): open as of now.

Jana said that there is a possibility of a summer affair at Muriel Olive's penthouse on 57th Street in New York City. Renata mentioned that the membership may want to consider a non-dressed clambake at Todd's Point on Long Island Sound in the Town of Greenwich, Connecticut. Jana also said that as a number of members can not make the Saturday meeting, that perhaps a mid-week meeting should be considered during the summer. Reaction to this was favorable, but attendance would depend upon when and where. If you have any suggestions for a summer event or any other type of event, contact your Program Coordinator, Jana. If you don't have her address, send your letter on to your Editor and I will see to it that Jana receives your ideas.

...A very special thanks to Joan (NY) for bringing her VCR and various Donahue tapes and other videotapes to the March meeting. Each showing was more than sold-out, and the next time we do this a television will be rented for the larger conference room to accomodate all.

...Those of you who have wives/girlfriends who are fearful, skeptical, etc., or who just want to make contact with another female to discuss matters should be happy to know that Bev, wife of Dorothy (NJ-1-G), and Marilyn, wife of our Treasurer, Lynda, are more than ready to help. You can contact them by way of Lynda (address on last Page). Thank you Bev and Marilyn for this needed chapter service.

...Several stores have expressed interest in advertising in the newsletter and rates, sizes, editorial policy, etc. will be developed. How's about an O. S. J. "Classified", where you can sell that blue maxiskirt that has been hanging around unused for several years, seek or solicit a job, promote the services of your business, etc.? These efforts would be great-to do business with your sisters and at the same time generate added \$\$\$ for the chapter. Comments?

...Renata has spent considerable time in developing a draft of an I. D. card for us, including space for male/femme pictures, a contact source for a police officer such as the ACLU, and other useful information. If you have any suggestions on this, contact Renata. And, on behalf of all in attendance at the March meeting I want to thank Renata and Patricia, our hostesses, for the outstanding job they did to insure our comfort and enjoyment. These ladies really spend a lot of their time preparing for the meeting, and it shows! Again, a warm thank you.

A very warm welcome to those who came to our meeting for the first time and their mates! Michele, Leslie, Nancy, Cynthia Jane, Robin Ann, Stephanie, JoAnn, Trudy, Cindy and Suzie. We hope that you enjoyed the company, and that you have found that the chapter and TRI-ESS are for you. We hope to see you at future meetings. It is also good to see a number of new members return to the meeting; we must be doing something right! As always, your Editor greatly appreciates the letters of new members on their reaction to the meeting; your comments may encourage others who have never ventured out to have trust in their sisters and come to a chapter meeting.

1984-85 Proposed Chapter Budget

...At our combined Executive/Finance meeting all agreed that we have reached the point in the development of our chapter that we should have a formal budget for the year beginning July 1, 1984. Although this is not required of our by-laws, we felt that a financial plan or budget is necessary for our continued growth.

...We appreciate your input on the budget: suggestions, comments, etc. A vote of approval will take place in either May or June. The budget as proposed is presented below for your review. Important items relating to this plan also follow.

* The chapter dues are recommended to increase July 1st from \$10 to \$15 per year. All felt that the services provided were well worth the cost. No increase in the meeting fee of \$10 is proposed.

* It is estimated that as of 6/30/84 we will have some 65 currently-paid members, and of that number some 90% or 58 will renew their dues in 1984-85. Also, it is anticipated that with continued growth, there will be some 45 additional members added to the chapter in the coming year. This is roughly a 70% growth in membership, and approximates our growth in 1983 vs. 1982.

* It is recommended that \$1250 will be spent and realized for "special events". This includes

\$250 for a special activity during the summer or a summer meeting or two. \$1000 is budgeted for a C. D. M. weekend at a resort, to be held if enough interest is there either in the Fall or Spring of 1985. Anything realized beyond these anticipated revenues would return to the Treasury, and the Treasury would cover any losses. However, it is expected that before these events are held we would be reasonably assured that there would sufficient attendance to meet the expected costs.

* If all goes according to plan we should have reserve funds approximating \$1000 by June, 1985. This would come from the \$400 budgeted as "Transfer reserve" plus an estimated ending cash balance for the January-June, 1984 fiscal period of \$600. These reserve funds would be very useful for the chapter should unanticipated circumstances develop.

* Use of the contingency monies would require special approval of the membership. Procedures also have to be developed as to who can charge the budget for expenses and in what amount.

* Reflected in this proposal are receipts from the suggested 50/50, the pink elephant, and no-show meeting contributions of \$3. Anticipated motel price increases and increased meeting attendance (average of 21 paid members), are also included in the amounts listed. Quarterly reports of actual experience in expenditures and receipts vs. budgeted amounts will be provided in the newsletter. Changes to the budget, when necessary, will be made by the membership.

* Once again, your comment on this plan is not only welcomed but encouraged.

PROPOSED 1984-1985 BUDGET OF CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER
for the year July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985

REVENUES

Dues renewal.....\$870
Dues new.....675
Donations.....250
Meeting fees.....2100
Book auction.....30
Interest.....10
Special events....1250
50/50.....100
Meeting no-show....60
Pink elephant.....75

TOTAL.....\$5420

EXPENDITURES

Postage.....\$600
Newsletter.....200
Refreshments....600
Motel.....1300
Advertising.....300
Hostess gift....20
Special events.1250
Book purchase...150
Office supplies..50
Printing.....200
Programs.....150
Transfer res....400
Contingency.....200

TOTAL.....\$5420

Our Readers Write

"I would like to thank you for helping me to get together with TRI-ESS; it has already changed my life around and made me see the light which I thought had gone out. Enclosed please find an item I wrote for O. S. J. I'm not a writer, it's just the feeling I have and would like to share.

2/6/84. When I made my mind up to try to help myself out of the depression I have had for many, many years. I called my county mental health service and asked for information on TVs. They gave me another phone number to call and this went on for six calls until I contacted the Westchester Self-Help Clearinghouse which put me in contact with TRI-ESS.

After hanging up the phone I wrote a letter asking for information. The next evening I received a phone call from Mary Jane. She explained the group and said she would forward information to me. At this point Mary Jane asked me for my femme name which I had not chosen because I had been in the closet except for my girlfriend, Linda, knowing for the past three years that I like to crossdress.

When I received the information I decided I wanted to attend a meeting. On March 10 I woke up wondering what a TRI-ESS meeting would be like as I had every morning after I received the information from Mary Jane. After Linda's children went their ways for the day, she and I got my clothes and other things together for our trip from our home in the Catskills to the TRI-ESS meeting in Westchester. We left home at 10 AM; on the way we stopped for lunch and did some shopping. At about 2 PM we arrived at the motel, got a room and started to get ready for the meeting which I thought started at 4 PM.

Around 4 PM I sat in a chair for Linda to comb my hair. My knees started shaking and wouldn't stop. At this point I wanted to chicken out. Linda told me 'no way' was I going to chicken out now. At 4:10 Linda got me out of the room and we walked down the hall to the meeting room. Coming from the room we heard normal male voices. At this point I saw for the first time people like myself.

Patricia said 'hello', and invited us into the meeting room where she introduced us to the sisters and Marilyn. After a few minutes talking to everyone in the room I felt at home and not alone after so many years of not knowing who I was.



As more sisters came in the feeling of belonging got greater and greater. The atmosphere created by this group is unbelievable. I didn't want the day to end.

At around midnight many sisters began to turn into pumpkins; Linda went back to our room. Jana showed a tape of a Pocono weekend to some of us that had been too busy during the night that we didn't see it. We talked and at 1:30 I decided I had to go back to my room and what I found out was an A Plus woman I had been living with for the past six years.

After returning to my room Linda and I talked about our day until we fell asleep. In the morning we talked more about our day and our lives than we ever have.

After being home for not more than a few hours Linda's 16 year-old son told her I seemed different to him; happy and talkative which is not like me.

I can only thank TRI-ESS for opening my eyes and showing me how lucky I am to have an understanding woman to help me. I now feel I can live a happy life with myself and my family not alone like I have been for many years. Thank you TRI-ESS. Robin Anne".

(And Thank You Robin Anne for your beautiful letter. Perhaps it will encourage another sister to come to the meeting. A warm welcome to you and Linda to TRI-ESS and our chapter! Ed.)

"The HBO film will actually be on Cinemax (owned by HBO; I just received this information), and will be shown in early summer as part of the Eros America series. We will be toward the last.

I was also on television this last Tuesday, in L.A., doing a program for the series The Intimacy File, which is shown on ON TV. This is actually a cable-type thing and certain cities, like L.A., Chicago, and Miami have it. Perhaps you folks in New York also have the cable. I really enjoyed myself - Norma and a psychiatrist were also on the film. Things went rather well and I felt great - had a new beautiful wig and the make-up gal was super. I must have looked around 35. Everyone was most professional. I told them I was ready for another go-around with them. The producers liked my appearance and what I managed to say. Really fun!

Best regards. I am most happy with the gals at CHI DELTA MU." Carol Beecroft, National Leader

"A LETTER FROM A WIFE TO OTHER WIVES"

"Lynda and I just celebrated our thirtieth wedding anniversary and I did not know about his crossdressing then! and looking back over the years, with many days of doubt, I know given a choice I would have married him anyhow. I have experienced the same frustrations as we all do and 'where are we going type questions'. But if you could see your way to accept this, you will be surprised how much easier it is to conquer the everyday problems in a marriage. There seems to be a very special bond between us.

The other day I was listening to a Walt Disney tape with my Granddaughter and came across this song. —→

Publicity

The Susskind program will be taped on March 24th. We do not have an airing date yet, but it will be on a Sunday, at 11:30 PM, on WNEW Channel 5...We trust that CHI Chapter will advise us as soon as they can as to when the Donahue program will be repeated...As of this writing (3/18), no word on the Rockland JOURNAL-NEWS article on our chapter...If you have any media contacts, let our Publicity Chair Eileen (NY) know...As a reminder, please send in the form on Page 2 to help our advertising and publicity efforts. Thanks.

IT'S NOT EASY.....

He has the head of a camel,
The neck of a crocodile. It sounds
rather strange.
He's both a fish and a mammal,
and I hope he'll never change.
'Cause it's not easy to find someone
who cares.
It's not easy to find magic in pairs.
I'm glad I found him. I love him.
I won't let him get away,
'Cause it's not easy.

You say the head of a camel,
The neck of a Crocodile? And the ears
of a cow!
It's clear that friends can be
different.
Yes, I understand you now.
It's not easy to find someone who
cares.
It's not easy to find magic in pairs.
Now that you have him, hold him.
Treasure him from day to day.
It's not easy.

Life is lollipops and raindrops,
With the one you love.
Someone you can always be with,
Argue and agree with,
Climb the highest tree with.

It's not easy to share somebody's
dream.
It gets easy when you work as a team.
You've got to tend it, fan it.
That's what I plan to do.
Oh, I had one friend by my side,
Now I hve two -- him and you!
Him and me.
And it's so easy.

Yes, they are different and it's not
easy, but we do love them. Come down to the
meetings and share with other wives; we all need
each other's support." Marilyn, wife of Lynda
our Treasurer. (Beautifully put, Marilyn, and we
hope that these words will help another wife or
girlfriend, Ed.)

Reflecting The Feminine

In Case You Missed It

Actress undergoes a sex change

By Jerry Buck
AP Television Writer

LOS ANGELES — Robyn Douglass found that even after she put on the wig, beard, moustache, body suit and men's clothing, it was still a tough acting challenge to convince people she was a man.

Miss Douglass stars in Monday's NBC movie "Her Life As a Man" as a young woman who found it so hard to land a job as a writer that she decided to temporarily change sexes. The sports magazine that turned her down as a woman then hires her as a man.

"I couldn't be just the opposite of a woman as a man," she said. "If I was a dainty woman I couldn't be a slob as a guy. I had to learn to itch like a man, cough like a man, walk like a man, stand like a man. Even the way I held a pencil was important."

"When Dustin Hoffman played 'Tootsie' all he had to do to be a woman was add. But in playing a man you have to take away, to bring it down."

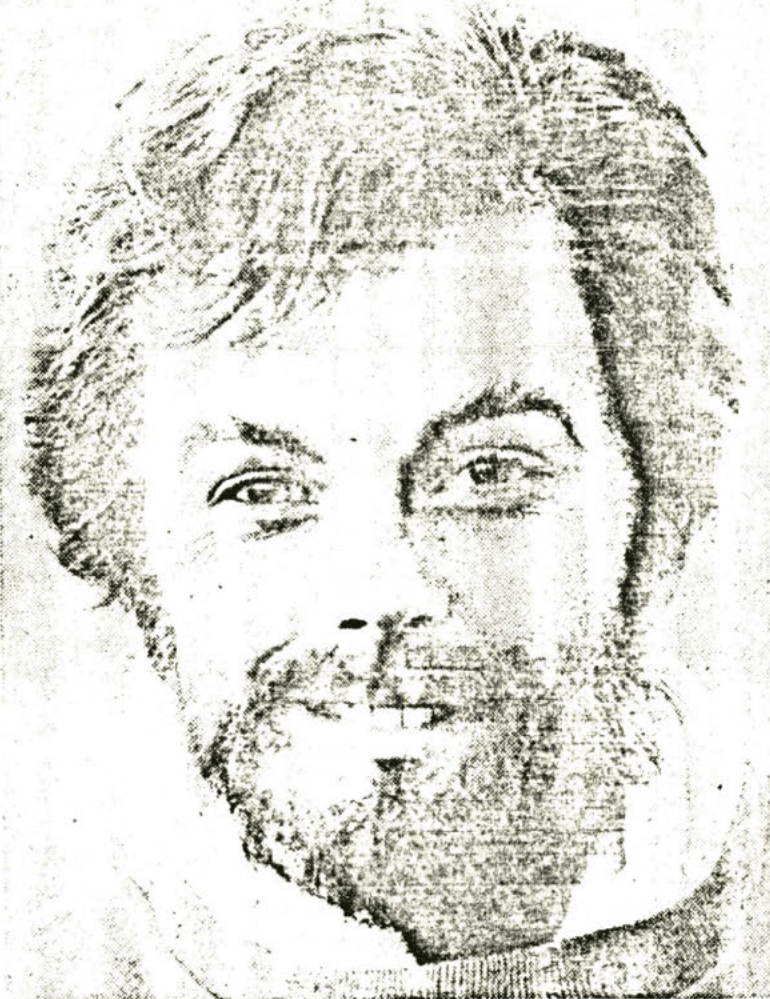
The two-hour movie also stars Marc Singer as her boyfriend, who tries to be understanding but really doesn't want a "man" for a girlfriend. Robert Culp is her chauvinistic editor, Laraine Newman is a colleague relegated to doing "women's stories," and Joan Collins makes a special appearance as the glamorous but hard-driving owner of a professional football team.

The film was inspired by an article Carol Lynn Mithers wrote for the Village Voice about her experiences. Joanna Crawford and Diane English wrote the screenplay and Robert Ellis Miller directed.

Miss Douglass learned that being a man imposed its own measure of behavior modification — on her and on other people.

"I became calmer in a crisis than Robyn Douglass would be," she said. "It calmed me down. I thought things through more. It had a tranquilizing effect on me. And the more that happened the more the crew responded to me as a man. I got more respect. My opinions became more acceptable."

"My reaction is that there were pros and cons. I found a lot of good things about men. But I wouldn't



want to be a man. I like being a woman. I like crying when I want to, I like making eye contact, being emotional. When I was a man I felt more powerful, less submissive. It was all in the head."

She thought for a moment, then added, "Well, it wasn't all in my head because people reacted differently to me."

Miss Douglass endured a lot of physical discomfort in her role. The wig gave her headaches. The glue for the beard burned her skin. The body suit that changed her form and added muscles was hot and gave her a rash that lasted for weeks.

In a barroom scene several women extras were unaware she was really a woman. "They'd flirt and get giddy and touch me," she said. "I felt very strange." (To maintain her concentration she stayed in character off camera, as well, once she got into costume.)

She was selected for the role by NBC casting director Joel Thurm, who had seen her in several auditions and in a pilot for NBC called "The Ninja."

Miss Douglass was born in Japan, where her father was an army doctor. She was raised in San Francisco, and started her career in Chicago with the Second City comedy-theater group. In 1974 she was on the cover of Playboy's Christmas issue and soon afterward made her film debut. She was in "Breaking Away," "Partners," "Romantic Comedy" and stars with Steve Martin in the current release "The Lonely Guy." She has also been in a number of television movies.

"Everyone has a male and a female side," she said. "It's good to explore the other side. It's a trip only Dustin Hoffman and I and a few others have experienced."

So what else is new? ~~~~~>!!!

PANTIES . . .

Size Nine! to Weight-Watchers I'd be inclined.

Eights! are just (too) great!

Sevens! pink, with lots of lace, and I'm in heaven.

Six! in my red knit dress, would not well mix.

Five! used to be nice, but now I need to breathe to be alive.

Four! as a teen, put on behind closet door.

Girls' five! with Raggety-Ann designs, or sometimes Little Bo-Peeps, last donned when I was nine.

Girls' three! bowed, rumba-style, an introduction to life so sweet and lovely!

Hip-Hugger! a thrill to look at, but impractical if you've got extra blubber.

Bikini! can cause problems if your private parts are not teeny.

Pantyhose! a run in one leg, and to the trash the whole thing goes.

Garter Belt! worn outside, tacky (?), but inside can be felt.

Boy-Legged! for a female TV you'd be pegged.

Panti-slip! two in one, and twice the fun!

Brief! instant relief.

Vanity Fair! lacy elegance, handle with care.

Bloomer! worn only by those with a sense of humor.

Red! when lacy and worn under your gym shorts, sure to turn a head.

White! required, when your slacks are light.

Day-Of-The-Week! every day is what we seek!

Black! matching camisole and petal slip never should you lack.

Green! with bright yellow roses are rare to be seen.

Flowerly! with a long day at the office, thought of hourly.

With a message to pass! "Jockie Shortlass".

Pink! a favorite of ours, don't you think?

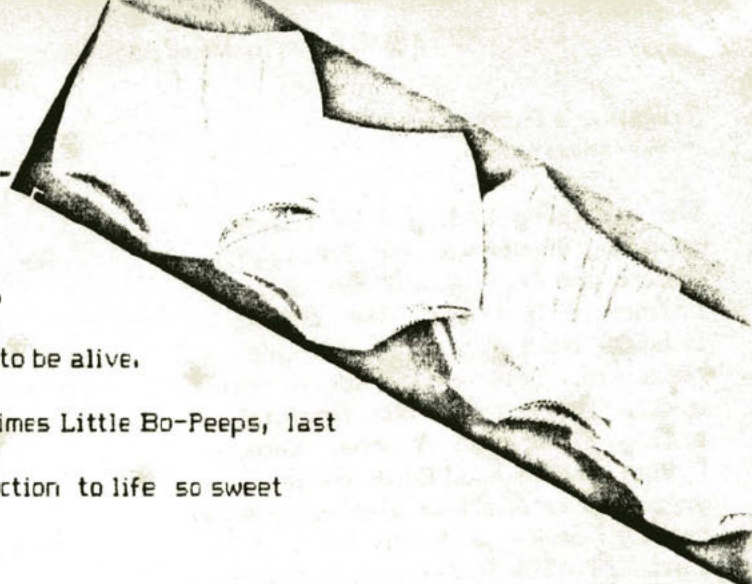
O. S. J., July, 1982



Chapter Benefits

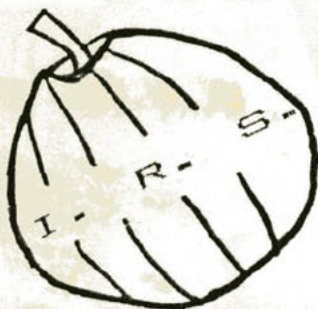
...At our meeting you may, if you wish, have two pictures taken of yourself by our Vice-President, Karen (even if your slip is showing).

These will be sent on to you at no cost. Karen will keep the negatives till the next meeting, and then destroy them if you haven't contacted her and asked for them (send a Self Addressed Stamped Envelop - Ed.). Complete confidentiality, and a great way to develop your photo album. We are most fortunate to have Karen provide this service for us...Our Chapter Librarian, Edith Marie, is adding to our great collection of books and other materials. Your only cost for use of the Library is return postage (usually \$1.00 per item). Contact Edith Marie for our latest listing as follows! Don [redacted], Draw R, Valley Cottage, N.Y. 10989.



Treasurer's Report

We are going back to the usual reporting format for the Treasurer's Report and this is why the opening balance differs from the closing balance cited in last month's newsletter. This will provide a more updated report of our financial status...Thank you Yvonne, Connie, Sylvia, Felicity and Edith Marie for your dues renewal; we also welcome new chapter members: Robin Anne (NY), Linda (NJ-1598-S), JoAnn (CT-1602-U), and Hollis (NY). New national members are: Doreen (NJ-1608-T), Jamie (NY 1603-M), and Fran (NY-1610-B), as reported by Marlene (CA-1046-L), who heads the Chapter Organization effort of the national...Thank you for your donations, Yvonne, Carole, and Daniel...Your continued support of the chapter and the national is most encouraging. Not only do you, yourself, benefit, but others who don't yet know about us will!



Opening

Balance.....\$520.77

Receipts

Dues new.....40.00
 Dues renewal.....50.00
 Donations.....12.00
 Meeting fees.....320.00
 50/50.....10.00

Total.....432.00

Expenses

Food.....81.75
 Rooms.....132.19
 Library.....19.18
 Newsletter.....34.64

Total.....267.76

Ending

Balance.....\$685.01

*Best Regards,
 Your Sister,
 Mary Jane.*

CHAPTER OFFICERS

PRESIDENT:

PATRICIA (CT-8-G)

VICE PRESIDENT:

KAREN (NJ-307-K)

SECRETARY:

MARY JANE (NY-206-M)

TREASURER:

LYNDA (NJ-307-F)

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(MARY JANE, EDITOR).