

THE TARTAN SKIRT




Magazine of the
SCOTTISH TV/TS
Groups

New Series No. 6
April 1993

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THE TARTAN SKIRT

The Magazine of the
Scottish TV/TS Groups

Editor: Anne Forrester

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THE TARTAN SKIRT

- WHY NOT WEAR IT ?

by Anne Forrester

I guess that as well as reading it, some of you actually *wear* a tartan skirt from time to time - and even if you don't you may have noticed that, contrary to common English thought, the real thing is not in the least like a male kilt. Indeed, even the very thought of a woman in a 'real' kilt is enough to make many true Scots shudder. The male kilt is a large and heavy affair - usually eight yards of material gathered in 4" pleats - worn with specific accessories such as a sporran, thick woollen hose, a broad leather belt and usually one or more edged weapons carried about the person. (Did you know that the *sgian dubh*, carried tucked into the wearer's hose as part of highland attire, is the only 'offensive weapon' that you can legally carry in public in Britain?).

So if the kilt is male highland wear, what does a highland lady wear? Well, if you are a real purist, certainly *not* a kilt - not even a light-weight one with shallow pleats: and never, ever, a sporran or any of the other male accessories. The answer, of course, is a tartan skirt that can be pleated or not, as the wearer chooses. But is this 'traditional' highland wear?

Historical origins

Back in the 18th century, when highland wear was beginning to adopt a recognised form and the male of the species was wearing the belted plaid (the forerunner of the present *feile beag*, or 'little kilt'), we ladies were wearing the

arisaid - a length of tartan material (incorporating a lot of white) some two to two and a half yards long, that reached from the neck to the heels. It was worn pleated and belted around the waist - although with many less pleats than the male kilt - and with the narrow way of the material wrapped around the upper body. The loose material above the waist was then carried up under the arms and pinned at the front with a length of material left hanging behind. Thus we have the forerunner of the long pleated tartan skirt and tartan plaid over the shoulder that we can see worn today as formal evening wear and by Scottish Country Dance teams. And Very attractive too !

Now, just as the **arisaid** was said to have been worn over a coloured petticoat and ornamented with gold lace and large buttons, as well as a large brooch to pin the material at the shoulder, so present formal wear finds plenty of reason to adorn the tartan skirt and plaid with jewellery, centring around a large (and often spectacular) silver brooch set with a Cairngorm or amethyst at the shoulder.

One development of the female highland dress is found nowadays only in highland dancing competitions - and indeed, it grew from resentment at the sight of little girls



The Arisaid

cavorting through the Highland Fling in miniature versions of Victorian chieftains' outfits, complete with flapping sporran. The Scottish Official Board of Highland Dancing and the Committee of the Aboyne Gathering devised a special female outfit that is indeed particularly attractive. A kilted tartan skirt is worn with a white blouse with either full or half-length sleeves, under a velvet sleeveless waistcoat and with a short tartan sash (not quite the length and breadth of a plaid) over the shoulder. Most girls these days wear flesh-coloured tights when dancing, and highland accessories (such as a sporran, etc) are forbidden in competition dancing. For we full-grown ladies, despite its origin as a dress for competitive dancing, the Aboyne dress is also an attractive alternative to the full-length tartan skirt, blouse and sash for evening wear; and a mid-calf length skirt looks most attractive with this outfit. (And if you are wearing a tartan sash, as an alternative to the jewelled brooch at the shoulder why not try one of the spectacular cap badges of the older Highland regiments - the stag's head of the Gordons or the St Andrew's cross of the Camerons, for example ?).

Today's tartan skirts

Sadly, however, when about our everyday comings and goings we can not always find the excuse (or often the money) to wear full length tartan skirts and plaids - or even versions of the Aboyne dress - and just as male highland dress became simplified into the shorter kilt for day wear, so did the concept of the *arisaid* for ladies. Today's Scottish lady is much more likely to be seen in a knee-length pleated tartan skirt worn with any of a variety of matching-coloured blouses or sweaters, and nylons or opaque tights. Indeed, in the country there is little more attractive than a kilted skirt in a hunting (green or brown) tartan, worn with a black sweater, contrasting dark-toned jacket, opaque black tights and low heeled shoes. On the other hand, for the city-bound business woman or casual shopper, a

brighter-hued (? red or light blue) tartan worn with a frilly white blouse, bright-coloured contrasting blazer, light or barely-black nylons and 2½" heels, is hard to beat.

Incidentally, do not ignore the way the tartan is cut when making a skirt. Although most conventional tartan skirts are made like kilts, with the square patterns of the sett hanging horizontally (as they appear in a plain length of tartan material), a full skirt made with the tartan cut on the cross - that is, with the setts laying diagonally as the skirt is worn - is not only very attractive, it also has a flattering slimming effect on the fuller figure.

What tartan ?

Of course, many of you may complain that your name does not appear in any of the lists of clan affiliations posted outside highland dress outfitters, so you do not have atartan to wear. Never fear, there are three answers to this. The first is that if you want to be 'proper' in your choice of tartan there are three that are recognised as 'universal' - that is, applicable to anyone without a family or clan tartan. The Caledonia (a red and green), the Jacobite (a yellow and red) and the hunting Stewart (a green) are all available to one and all.

The second option is that if your spouse has a family tartan then it is traditional practise for a wife to wear the tartan of her husband's family. As feminists and believers in sexual equality (you are, aren't you ?), why not go and do likewise, and wear your wife's tartan ?

Alternatively, of course, you could simply do what most ladies do in this case. Simply choose to wear the tartan that most takes your fancy. Do as you do when choosing any other item of female clothing, and go for the colour and the sett that you like best or that best suits your own colouring - or even your mood. Red, blue, green, yellow, or grey,

with or without white in the setts (the concept that a white tartan is purely a 'dress' tartan is a Victorian myth), the choice is yours.

And finally...

However you wear it, the tartan skirt is an attractive form of dress that sets the Scottish lass apart from those in England and much of Europe and north America, who have no national costume to show off - let alone a distinctive tartan to wear ! Whether you wear the practical day length or the full formal evening version, with or without plaid, sash and jewelry, wear the tartan skirt with pride. ■



THE CLOSETED CROSSDRESSER

by Ricky Hunt

Reprinted from *TV-TS Tapestry*, Issue 62*

I'm a happy crossdresser, but I'm still confused. Maybe it's just me, but why are so many of my sisters so dissatisfied with their lives, and those of their sisters? Lately, it seems that all I see are articles about how we must fight for our rights, demand that our wives, children, pets, and the general public accept us uncritically, and grant our every wish.

OK, so I exaggerate, but it does seem a little much. Do we really need to be accepted uncritically by the public? Do we even want to? Isn't part of the diversion of donning a dress in knowing it is out of the ordinary, just a little bit naughty? I know I get a thrill out of feeling my breast forms bounce when I go down the stairs. And in my heart of hearts, stockings and skirts are a way of thumbing my nose at our crazy society. I don't need to have anyone watch me to enjoy being in a dress. In fact, I feel downright uncomfortable even with my wife, who is as understanding as any woman can be.

Why must there be so much emphasis on going out and passing in public? If you have that particular passion, I would be the first one to give you all the help I could to make it happen. I'd even escort you, and back you up the first time. Where I get annoyed is when someone intimates that I'm shirking my duty to my sisters by just enjoying a bra and panties around the house with the curtains closed. I don't need a guilt trip because I'm not constantly screaming at the barricades of society and demanding my 'rights'

*An edited version of an article that originally appeared in *Cross-Talk* (California).

I will grant that there are common elements in our situation and that of the civil rights movement in general. I would ask you to think back to the sixties; at least those of you who are old enough to remember them. The whole thing started with the radicals who were willing to make a fuss and get noticed. We could not have changed our society without them. The radicals and the folk on the fringe are a necessary part of change. But it takes two other types to make those changes last. First come the quiet ones who work behind the scenes, writing the laws, organizing the small community groups, doing the detail work. Then come those that do their part by living their life in accord with the dictates of conscience. They are not flashy, and you probably don't recognize the few of them you know, but they are as utterly necessary as the emotional face on the television screen demanding whatever civil right this demonstration is for.

I refuse to accept the guilt being laid on me for not demanding my "right" to wear a dress in public. I'll cheer the radicals who are trying to broaden the borders, and I'm very thankful to those who do the scut work that allows me to go to a convention or read a publication about crossdressing, but I am most at home with those who sit in the background and attend the local chapter meetings, or just sit in pantyhose at home and write letters once in a while. There is room in society in general for all three types, and our little segment of society should be broad-minded enough to accept all our sisters and affirm their needs. Crossdressing should be enjoyable; we have enough social guilt to cope with without another layer from our sisters. ■

---oooOOOooo---

Q. Do you know how many crossdressers it takes to change a light bulb?

A. **Three.** One to change the bulb, one to hold the ladder, and one to take the picture.

WIG CARE - WASHING

-Most wigs used by cross-dressers are made of synthetic materials, for which these instructions apply.

-Before washing, gently brush the wig to remove any teasing or tangles.

-Use a small amount of wig or baby shampoo in a bowl of tepid water. Never use hot water. Soak for approximately 5 minutes, then gently dip up and down. Do not rub.

-Rinse thoroughly in cool water. In the final rinse, the tiniest amount of fabric conditioner can be added.

-Pat out excess water with a towel. Do not brush or comb until thoroughly dry.

-Hang up to dry or lay flat on a towel.

-When completely dry, brush with a wig brush. The wig's pre-set body will quickly bounce back to the original shape.

-Do not expose to excessive heat and be careful when opening the oven door.

Reprinted from the Beaumont Bulletinn, Volume 24, No 5

[Alternatively, wash in a mild solution (one cap-full to two or three pints of tepid water) of a fabric conditioner such as *Lenor* or *Comfort*. This will give the wig extra softness, and as the formula of these fabric conditioners is almost identical to that of wig shampoos they are completely harmless to the wig fabric. After rinsing, place to dry in the airing cupboard sitting on a can of hairspray, or something similar that will allow the air to circulate around the wig. It will dry quicker this way, and without damaging the fabric. But **do beware that oven door**. Blasts of hot air from an oven have been known literally to melt the fibres of some wigs - Ed.] ■

RAGING FIRE

Have you ever had a raging thirst
That burns right to your soul ?
Water can not quench that thirst
For the fire is out of control.

Have you ever had a burning desire
That never goes away ?
It lives within you, day and night,
You know it's here to stay.

I have a secret hunger
That burns right to my soul,
For I'm only half the person I can be,
And I long now to be whole.

Susan ■ ■

:::xyXXYxy:::

AND IN LIGHTER VEIN...

There was a young lady from Skye
With a shape like a capital 'I'.
When they said "it's too bad",
She learned how to pad.
Which shows you that figures *can* lie.

Anon ■

ACTING LIKE A LADY

LEARNING FEMALE DEPORTMENT

by Anne Forrester

Sooner or later most cross-dressers - and all transsexuals - want to go out dressed *en femme* in public. Unfortunately, not everyone takes into account all of the necessary factors that will enable them to 'pass' successfully.

Creating a realistic and successful image consists of four 'C' factors: Costume, Camouflage, Cooing and Carriage - or in other words dressing, makeup, voice and deportment. Of these, deportment is the factor that is all too often given insufficient attention; but it is also the factor that can be a massive give-away if you haven't got it right.

Basically, what deportment is all about is that you should not just *look* like a woman but also *act* like one. Every action a woman makes differs from those a man makes - sometimes obviously and sometimes subtly. Whether you consider basic movements like sitting down and standing up, more complex actions like walking (and sometimes running), or everyday actions like eating and drinking, women move differently to men. We may not always realise that there are differences (let alone recognise them), but if we produce the 'wrong' movement for the gender that we are seeking to represent it will be instantly recognised by others as out of character, and will attract attention that almost invariably means being 'read'.

Now I would not want to suggest that all women are the same, or even that all women are stereotypically feminine in their actions and movements; but if you want to pass unnoticed and blend into the scenery, then the most suc-

cessful way of doing so is to be stereotypically feminine yourself. After all, unless you are *very* young and can get away with the modern girl's near-androgynous style, it is the 'butch' type of woman who attracts attention from others, even if only because she tends to stand out from the crowd. The women that you don't notice unless you set out to study them are the stereotypes - the woman dressed conservatively in a dress or skirt and blouse who *moves and acts* in a feminine manner.

So what are these gender differences that tell us apart, and how can we learn them? Well, the best single approach is to watch genetic women as they go about their everyday activities, and then 'go and do thou likewise'. Adopting feminine deportment is really a form of acting, and any actor who is seeking to portray a particular type of person will study that type of person in order to emulate them. All right, so not every woman sits down and stands up the same way, but there are basic similarities in the way that all women move - many of them determined by the way that female anatomy differs from the male equivalent - and as you study them you will soon see a general pattern emerging.

Personal space

Some things are fairly basic. As a general rule men take up more personal space than women; they tend to adopt an open body posture that keeps others at their distance. Women, on the other hand, take up little personal space and keep their arms and legs close to their bodies, allowing others to come closer to them when talking together. And this difference in the amount of 'personal space' used by men and women is at the basis of much of the difference in deportment. The other basic difference is also due to the anatomical and physiological differences between the sexes. Whereas men tend to keep their legs apart - often standing astride or spreading their legs when seated - women tend to

keep their legs close together at all times, whether standing, sitting, or walking. Partly this is due to the tendency of men to stare at women's legs, and partly because of a lifetime's habit of coping with their monthly periods. Probably the most important thing to remember when *en femme*, therefore, is always to keep your legs together. Try to ensure that you can always feel either your knees or your ankles touching and you won't go far wrong.

Sitting and standing

When a man sits down he usually just plumps himself down, then adopts a relaxed - often slouching - attitude, frequently spreading his arms across the arms or back of the chair and spreading his legs out. A woman, by contrast, will generally first look at the seat of the chair to make sure that it is clear (and clean), and will smooth out her skirt under her as she sits down, generally on the edge of the chair before settling herself into a more comfortable position. (Incidentally, even when wearing slacks a woman will often unconsciously 'smooth' it under her as she sits down, as though she was wearing a skirt). She will keep her arms close about her body and tuck her feet in under her, with her knees together or her legs (or at least her ankles) tightly crossed. Put simply, a woman is more precise and neat with her movements and keeps her body more 'closed' than a man, who spreads himself and takes up his usual greater amount of personal space.

When standing up, whereas a man just hauls himself to his feet in a more-or-less single movement, a woman will plant her feet in front of her, ankles together, then move her bottom to the front of the seat before straightening herself from the knees upwards.

Even when just standing still attitudes differ as between men and women - and even this can be a 'give away' if you don't get it right. As with sitting, women take up less

personal space than men, tending to hold their arms close to their body, usually in front, whereas men frequently stand with their hands behind their backs (often with their legs astride) - a stance women virtually never adopt. Women also usually stand with their legs together and as with other stances, the typical female stance is to keep the knees together. Remember that basic rule and you will not go far wrong.

While men often 'slouch' when standing women tend to adopt an upright posture. The old army ritual - 'head up, chin in, stomach in' (although not often 'chest out' - at least, not consciously) - is a good guide when emulating female deportment.

Hold your head up

When in the presence of others, and especially when you go out, keep your head up and don't give in to the temptation to look down and avoid eye contact with others. Head held up, with your chin tucked in, will help the way that you hold your whole body, and always looks good. You need not necessarily *seek* eye contact with others, but don't avoid it either. If someone looks you in the eye, look back and don't avoid their eyes. Looking away whenever anyone makes eye contact with you is generally seen as a sign that you are ashamed or have something to hide, and consequently attracts even more examination of your whole appearance.

Above all, **SMILE**. Women tend to smile far more than men. (All right, I know that some women look as miserable as sin - but they also tend to attract attention because of their miserable expressions. A smile is the norm: and you should always seek to appear normal). You need not give everyone a 'come on' smile accompanied with a sly wink (or anyone, indeed, unless you are deliberately making advances to them), but a pleasant smile will generally

induce a smile in return and get you past most people's passing glances and chance eye contact.



Imagine that a string is attached to the top of your head.

Walking (and running)

Walking is rather more difficult than just sitting and standing. While men swing their legs from the hip and stride out, women move much more from the knees and take smaller steps. They also swing their legs more from the hips, due to their different shape. However, **do not** sway your hips as though on a fashion show cat-walk. If you sashay across the room you will attract everyone's looks.

Walk by placing your feet as though you are walking along a chalked line on the floor. Basically, the best way to develop a female walk is to try to let your knees brush together as you take each step. This will give you the hip and leg movement that women adopt naturally as a result of the different shape of their hips.

When you swing your arms, do not overdo it. However, again due to their wider hips, women tend to hold their hands with the palms facing half forward rather than directly inwards, and this is also a movement that you should copy.

Women tend to run rather less than men, and if you can possibly avoid it, don't run while *en femme*. You will attract attention, and the movements are more difficult.

There is really only one way to learn to walk as a woman. Go and buy a coffee and sit down with it in some public place - a shopping mall or a railway station, for example - and just watch the way that women walk as they come and go around you. They do not stride out, nor do they swing their arms as much as men. Watch the movement of the legs (and a girl in a mini-skirt, seen from a short distance, as from across the street, can offer the best illustration of whole-leg movement), and try to analyse just how the movements are made: then go and try to move your own the same way).

Eating and drinking

And don't forget eating and drinking. Even such simple everyday acts can give you away. Generally speaking, men eat and drink in a rather gross way, gulping their food as if trying to beat the clock, and slurping large volumes of fluid, often noisily. When eating, women tend to take small amounts into their mouth at a time, laying down their knives and forks between each mouthful; men, on the other

hand, often tend to 'shovel it in', as though in a race. Just slow down and take your time. It will be better for your digestion, too.

When drinking a cup of tea or coffee it is not necessary to cock your little finger outwards (although many older ladies do so), but do try to sip rather than gulp. And when you have finished, if out in a cafe or restaurant, try not to leave lipstick smears on the cup. Take a tissue and wipe any smears off before you leave. This is simple good manners.

If you are out for a drink in a pub, then although women do sometimes drink pints this is not the norm. (You may be interested to know that one landlord in a west of England pub is being sued under the sex discrimination laws for refusing to serve women pints of cider: they can have two half pints but not a whole pint. The landlord does not think it 'proper' for a woman to drink pints !). If you are drinking beer or cider, then order it in half pints. It certainly looks better, and may save argument. More likely, a woman will order a glass of white wine or a gin and tonic.

Finally, after a meal (or even a cup of coffee) you will probably find that your lipstick has become smeared. Most women will go to the ladies' room to repair the damage before leaving a restaurant or cafe. If you are happy to enter this sanctum, repairing makeup there is more socially acceptable than doing it at the table - and either is preferable to going out into the outside world with your lipstick smudged and smeared. To be on the safe side, always take a quick glance into your handbag mirror (you do carry one, don't you ?) to see if emergency repairs are necessary.

As with general deportment, the best approach to eating and drinking is to observe what other women do, and then do likewise.

And putting it all together

Remember, the whole secret of successfully passing in the other gender is basically a combination of dressing, camouflage, producing a reasonable speaking voice, and acting. The other factors will be the subjects of future articles, but make no mistake, the acting (or deportment) is essential if you are to pass successfully. Spend a lot of time observing, copying, and practising in private, until you are satisfied that you have it right; and then practise some more. If you can videotape yourself, all the better. You will be shocked at how you look until you have got it right.

However, it is no use just having your deportment right in quiet moments in your own room: can you keep it up under stress, when things go wrong in public ? Can you keep a perfect female image when being patronised or insulted by macho men who think a skirt is the equivalent of zero intelligence ? Can you keep a perfect and dignified female walk when being whistled at when passing a building site ? Can you hail a taxi without whistling and running full pelt after it ? Can you run for it in a dignified and 'ladylike' manner when some under-brained idiot in an over-powered car tries to run you down as you cross the street ? Can you behave in a timid and retiring manner when bullied by shopkeepers or traffic wardens ? Only if you have practised sufficiently for the movements to have become second nature can you be sure of reacting correctly under stress. Remember, if you are seeking to experience a female lifestyle you are entering the world of the second class citizen - and you will have to behave accordingly, and keep your deportment correct even when you are stressed, insulted, or seething inside. It is not easy - but it can be very satisfying when everyone calls you 'Madam'. ■

---oooOOOooo---

HIGH HEELS ARE BAD FOR YOU*

Do you know the difference between a transsexual and a crossdresser ? No ? Well, when the TS gets home she kicks off her high heels as she comes through the door; the crossdresser keeps hers on even in bed.

I am sure that most of you love wearing high heels as part of the 'glamorous' female image - but do you know how bad they can be for you ? Not only may you be hurting (and damaging) your feet by squeezing into them, but if you wear them regularly you may also increase the risk of developing back pain, and even the chronic and painful condition of osteoarthritis.

Basically, the 26 bones in each of your feet support the whole of your body weight - as much as 200 lbs (91 Kg) of it on a large male skeleton, distributed basically on two heels and the balls of your feet, totalling only some 24 square inches. Your feet also act as levers, propelling you forward when you walk and run. However, when you put on high heels, by raising the back of your feet relative to the front you tilt your body forward so that, even if you are not consciously aware of it, the part above your hips has to lean backwards to compensate and to prevent you from toppling over. In turn, this backwards leaning tilts the pelvis forward so that your lower back becomes curved, resulting (sooner or later) in backache. It also restricts the movements of your knees and ankles, eventually increasing wear on the joints of the leg and possibly leading to osteoarthritis - a painful condition in which the joints

* The author of this article is a qualified chiropodist.

appear to 'seize up' as a result of bony outgrowths and damaged cartilage, and leaving you with your overall freedom of movement drastically restricted.

Don't forget the direct effects on your feet, either. The higher your heels, the harder your toes and the broad part of your foot

are squeezed into the front of your shoes. Your toes then become squashed together into a narrow and unnatural shape, so reducing movement. Not only is this uncomfortable, it causes corns to form and can eventually lead to corns, callouses and bunions - a painful swelling of the joints of the big toe. Regular wearing of high heels also tends to shorten the muscles and ligaments in the calf of your leg, so that when you go back to wearing flat heels (as with ordinary male



shoes) you get pain in the back of your legs. Sounds terrible, doesn't it ? However, don't despair. Like most medical facts, a little knowledge may not only be a dangerous thing, it can also cause unnecessary worry. All of these damaging effects are only a problem if you wear your heels sufficiently high, and for sufficiently long

periods. Four inch heels will do more damage than 2" heels, and all-day long wear will do infinitely more damage than occasional outings. Even if you are *en femme* all day long, you would be wise (not to say a lot more comfortable) to wear 'flatties' - or at least heels not more than 1" to 1½" high - for going out and about, work about the house, and carrying heavy shopping, *etc.* In particular, please **don't wear high heels for any heavy carrying or lifting.** For that, it is vital that your pelvis and spine are correctly positioned to avoid permanent injury. You really would not want to slip a disk, now would you ?

If you wear low heels or 'flatties' for everyday tasks, reverting to high heels only for special occasions, you will be doing the same as most genetic women. A recent survey showed that for their everyday wear (including going to the theatre) 96.0% of women wear low heels (that is from trainers and flatties up to no more than 1½"), a mere 3.6% wear medium sized heels (*i.e.* up to 2½"), while only four women in every thousand wear higher heels while out and about - and even those are usually no more than 3" to 3½". Just look about you. Not many 'real' women wear truly high heels for anything more than a party or for a special outing with friends or a partner. High heels may certainly **look** good, but because they are not the norm for genetic women they will certainly attract (possibly unwanted) attention to you - and if worn for prolonged periods it is equally certain that they won't **do** you any good ! ☺

"Women who love shoes" it has been said "know that life without the right shoes is a dull, lack-lustre expanse of grey days and sleepless nights" (Anon). ■



BE ADVISED !

Do not be fooled if you see any publicity for The London Gender Clinic. **This clinic is not of any relevance to you, nor is it concerned with gender,** but is sadly mis-named in that respect. The London Gender Clinic has been established in a semi-detached house in Hendon for the purpose of seeking to offer women the chance to conceive a baby of the genetic sex of their choice (*i.e.* a boy or a girl), by selective artificial insemination.

Whether or not the procedure being offered is successful in what it seeks to achieve (at a cost of £ 650 *per* treatment) has been questioned by many scientists, and the clinic's work has been condemned by the British Medical Association as being unethical; but it is a pity that when naming their clinic the proprietors did not bother to distinguish between **sex** and **gender**. We all know that few people outside our own community recognise the difference, but one might have hoped that those working in the field of sex determination (*not* gender assignment, please note) would do so, and would have avoided confusion on this point. ■

THERE'S ALWAYS A SNAG...

I'm sure that when you dress to go out you always make sure that everything is just right - including the fact that your clothes are clean and tidy and your tights (or stockings) are free from snags. Pity, then, the poor office girl - and beware if you do any office work yourself while *en femme* - for the office has been implicated as a disaster zone for the fashion-conscious woman. In fact, even around the home - and especially in the kitchen - many of the same hazards occur for anyone in smart female dress.

A recent survey found that at least three out of every four secretaries have had clothes ruined by badly-designed or damaged office furniture or equipment, with tights and stockings the most vulnerable items, being regularly snagged on chairs and desks. Blouses seem to get splashed with just about everything, from glue through ink and correcting fluid to photocopier toner and copying fluid, while jackets, jumpers and skirts are all prone to catch on filing cabinets and door handles.

It is reckoned that as many as two out of every three women office workers had ruined tights or stockings, half have torn their skirts, and over a quarter have damaged blouses and shoes. Around the house, of course, the risks are much the same. Rough wooden edges under tables and on chairs snag hosiery, while the kitchen is worse than the office substances in harbouring substances that can stain nice clothing - from grease and fat while cooking through tea and coffee spilled while drinking, to such irremovable stains as blackcurrant juice. And door handles and loose carpets can cause as much havoc catching clothing and shoes in the home as ever they do in the office.

Although men are said to be less 'accident-prone' than are women in this respect, at least a third of male office workers have also reported damage to shirts and shoes, and many of the mainly-male workplaces - such as factories and workshops - are intrinsically more dangerous places than offices in any case.

The hidden difference, of course, is that women (not to mention those of us who are bi-gendered or transsexual) generally take more care with - and pride in - their appearance, and so are less likely to slop around at work or in the kitchen in safety shoes, overalls and rough working gear. The moral, therefore, must be that when *en femme* it is necessary to be more than usually careful with your clothing. After all, if we take the trouble to buy nice blouses, skirts, shoes and hosiery, and to spend ages in front of the mirror trying to make ourselves look as attractive as possible, why waste all that effort by a little carelessness? ☺

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Men are a different breed, but it takes women forever to realise it. I'm sure there are women in their sixties who still think men are like women except for the dangly bits. But it's *not* the dangly bits that are different, it's the head that's the most different part, and that's what causes most of the problems women have with men"

Nina Myskow
*In Love, Sex and the
Pursuit of Chocolate*

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MACHO MAN LIVES !

All members of the gender community recognise how horrible the so-called 'macho' part of male society can be; and it has always been widely seen that Latin men are amongst the most macho of all (or the most red-necked, if you prefer). Well, the latest example of unlovely manhood comes from Brazil, where the *Brazilian Macho Society* (yes, really !) recently had as the first prize in a raffle at its National Convention of the Macho Male, a **chastity belt**. This mediaeval device is the symbol of the society, which has also published a booklet of 'manly phrases' that pour scorn on feminism, and which it claims has 'sold well'.

Senor Luiz Mario Ladeira, the society's leader, insists that the members of his society are not actually *against* women, but that they "adore and admire real women who cherish natural values" (whatever they may be), and that they want to "restore the traditional and rightful place of the male in society" (whatever that may be).

Not surprisingly, gender diversity is not tolerated in 'macho' Latin societies (although I have met one or two Mexican transgenderists). With such 'macho' values as seem to obtain in Brazil, maybe there are few enough 'real' men there (*i.e.* those who appreciate both the male and the female attributes in us all) who would even want to join us.

Perhaps it's about time that the feminist movement got a strong foothold in Brazil, and all other countries with similar male values. What about it ladies ? Why not 'go on strike' and, like the ladies of ancient Greece, withhold your 'sexual favours' until the men come to heel ? Then we might see how 'macho' the Latin men really are. ♂ ♀ ■



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WRAP UP FOR SAFETY

Keeping out of trouble when you are out in public can be even more of a problem for cross-gendered individuals than for genetic women, especially if one is not totally convincing, and some simple but valuable advice given recently to alert women to the dangers of being attacked and how to avoid trouble came from Rosemarie Ford, the television personality, on behalf of the Metropolitan Police.

Rosemarie said "If you're travelling by public transport and you're going out somewhere special and you're dressed up to look good, then it's a sad fact that you may attract the attention of undesirables. So make sure you're wearing a voluminous coat to hide your charms - and don't obviously show off your legs. Avoid empty back streets and try not to use a multi-storey car park if you are alone". In other words, avoid attracting undesirable attention by dressing down, avoid dark and lonely places, and don't flaunt yourself.

Of course, no matter how careful you may be, you may still run into trouble. Remember, the law does not consider it acceptable for you to carry *anything* in public in the way of a weapon - even for defensive purposes - and you are allowed to use only 'reasonable force' in defending yourself. So if you carry a baton, a spray can of Mace (readily available on the continent, but illegal here), or - especially - a knife, and use any such item in self defence, it will be you who will be arrested, and possibly accused of assault. For safety's sake, the best items to carry for self-defence are normally harmless ones like a can of hairspray or a bunch of keys. And if out alone at night, carry them **in your hand**, not in your bag, where they are not immediately available. At the least, carry a rape alarm. They may not defend you, but they do deter and scare off attackers. ■

PLEASE TAKE CARE

We all know that there are risks involved in going out dressed, but we do tend to think that if we are driving we are relatively safe. After all, people tend to look at cars and not at their occupants, and so from the viewpoint of being 'read' we are indeed safer in a car than in many other situations. However, it is often too easy to forget the risks that every woman faces whenever she is out on her own. This was brought home to me recently when my daughter's best friend stopped her car in a quiet country area to help another motorist who had apparently broken down. However, she was then brutally beaten about the head and left to die by the roadside while her attacker drove off in her car. The fact that the police quickly apprehended a youth and charged him with the murder did nothing to alter the fact that this innocent young woman, who had tried to act as a 'good Samaritan' and help someone, was dead; and her family and friends will grieve for the rest of their own lives over this most tragic waste of a loved one whose life had been so brutally cut short.

No, this is not meant to be just another harrowing 'scare' story, but a warning. It is believed that in the case of my daughter's friend the murderer had already spoken to a man who had stopped to offer help, and had not attacked him; but a woman was clearly a much easier target. The lesson is that if you are going out dressed, even in your car, do remember the vulnerability that every woman lives with every day of her life. Sadly, there are too many (mostly younger) men around whose misplaced conception of their own macho character seems never to be satisfied unless they are throwing their weight around and seeking to 'prove' (to themselves, as well as to their equally mindless cronies) that they are quite capable of beating up - and even killing - defenceless women: and if they perceive you as

one of those 'defenceless women' you are equally likely to be attacked. (Worse, if they then find out your true identity, their own *machismo* is likely to seem threatened and you are likely to be attacked with even greater violence).

The sad lesson is that when out driving while *en femme*, you must learn and remember the same safety lessons that are regularly being directed at genetic women. Sadly, you should *never* stop to offer help to any man who appears to have broken down. If you do ever stop to see if someone needs help, don't get out but keep all your car doors locked and only wind your own window down an inch or so to enquire if help is needed. If it is, then simply offer to phone for help from a (well-lit and occupied) garage or service station. If you should be so unfortunate as to break down yourself, stay in the car with the doors locked, the windows up and your hazard flashers switched on, until help appears in the form of a breakdown vehicle from one of the uni-formed motoring organisations or a police car. If someone else stops and offers to help, with your window lowered only an inch or so just ask them to phone one of the motoring organisations or a garage, to come and help you. Best of all, of course, never go out in your car at all (whether *en femme* or not) unless you are sure that it is in good mechanical condition and is not likely to break down.

Finally, always carry a small can of hairspray ready to hand in your handbag. Ordinarily a harmless enough accessory, it can also be a valuable self-defence item if sprayed in an attacker's face. A rape alarm is also a useful item to have in your hand if approached by a stranger. Let off in someone's ear or face these alarms are so piercing as to shock the attacker into sufficient immobility to give you the chance to escape; or if you have got out of your car, at least to get back in and lock the doors.

Sadly, so much of male society today is sufficiently sick - and intolerant - that such self-protection measures have had to become second nature for women everywhere. And if you are dressed *en femme* that includes you ! ■

DID YOU KNOW ?

Happy - or gay ?

Did you know that the word **Gay**, used to describe male homosexuals, is not just a hijacking of the old word that means "Light-hearted, mirthful, carefree and merry" ? In California in the 1950s there was an outbreak of homophobia and 'queer-bashing', and the homosexual community launched a campaign to prove that each of them was as **Good As You: G.A.Y.** - get it ? And as Americans love an acronym, the name stuck.

or Transvestite ?

And did you know that the term '**Transvestite**' was first coined in 1910 by the celebrated German psychologist Magnus Hirschfeld - himself a homosexual and what would today be called a 'Gay-rights activist' ?

and what about "Trannie" ?

I'm sure you know that while the term "trannie" originally referred to a transistor radio, in England it is also used by some as an abbreviation of 'transvestite'. But did you know that it is also the 'in' term for someone who has had a heart transplant ? So if you do use this ghastly and rather ' twee' way of indicating that you are a member of the gender community, mind that you are not misunderstood and mistaken for a potential invalid.

or Transsexual ?

And to complete the set, the term '**Transsexual**' was not coined until 1949, just three years before the first big outbreak of publicity in 1952 about George (later Christine) Jorgensen, the former American GI who had a 'sex change' operation to 'turn him into a woman'. ■

HAVE YOU READ ?

Some Books Reviewed

Bodyshock by Liz Hodgkinson. London: Virgin Books.
Revised edition 1991. £ 10.00

Bodyshock is an unusually sympathetic and careful study of transsexualism by a non-transsexual journalist. Liz Hodgkinson is a freelance journalist and author (who, incidentally, has also recently had breast implants - and wrote about the experience in the January 1993 issue of *Cosmopolitan*); she is also a genetic woman, and so might be expected to approach the subject of transsexualism with more sympathy than the average male author. This she does, in true journalistic style, by basing her study on a number of interviews with both male-to-female and female-to-male transsexuals. However, despite a careful and caring approach she still seems to find herself baffled by the phenomenon. Although not overt, it is possible to discern a strain of radical feminism in her approach that rejects the concept that a genetic man *can* become a member of the female gender. While no-one would seriously argue that re-assignment surgery can change a person's *sex*, surely *gender* is another matter, and this is a distinction that Liz Hodgkinson seems to have some trouble in making.

One of the m-to-s transsexuals that she interviewed who appears to have had the strongest influence on her thinking was Rachael Webb, formerly Tim Webb a lorry driver who became a Labour Councillor in Brixton, promoting the feminist cause. Like Racheel Webb, Liz Hodgkinson places even the most successful post-operative transsexuals in a middle category defined as 'constructed females': "Trans-

sexuals are not 'real' men and women, any more than black people are 'really' white", she says (although this analogy seems to me to be rather far-fetched). While struggling to understand the views of other TS interviewees - including successful f-to-m individuals - she constantly returns to this theme of 'constructed' women and men rather than accepting the true gender nature of those who, to use a hackneyed but recognisable phrase, were 'born into the wrong bodies'.

Sadly, in a chapter devoted to 'Transsexuals, homosexuals and transvestites' (bundled together rather indiscriminately) the author accepts the popular perception (frequently reiterated by m-to-f transsexuals, who ought to know better) that *all* men who cross-dress - who she lumps together under the general pejorative title of 'transvestites' - do so for sexual and fetishistic reasons. As many of us know, this is much too broad a generalisation that is simply not true of a great many people. In her studies Liz Hodgkinson seems not to have come across the concept of transgenderism - crossdressing for prolonged periods - often even full-time - but with the individual stopping short of reassignment surgery. Transgenderism has no sexual connotations at all: indeed, many (if not most) transgenderists are frankly asexual in their interests.

Unfortunately this 'revised' edition of a book first published in 1987 contains at least two major editing/printing 'glitches' that leave the text confused and not making sense. Also, despite the revision, the recent attempts by Carolyn Cossie ('Tula') to challenge the British legal position on transsexuals in the European Court, pass un-noticed (and Carolyn is also a notable omission from those who the author interviewed when writing the book).

Despite these problems, however, and the author's sometimes naive understanding of the phenomenon, this book is probably the best all-round 'general interest' book on transsexualism that I have seen. Not as detailed on practicalities as the handbooks of the UK Gender Trust and the Gender

Dysphoria Trust International, and giving less of an insight into the mind of a transsexual than (for example) the biographies of Carolyn Cossie, Renee Richards and others, it nevertheless provides a good overall view of transsexualism by and for the non-transsexual, and is well worth reading - especially, maybe, by the crossdresser who is still unsure about his or her true feelings on sex and gender.

A.F. ■

THE WAY WE WERE

We take an affectionate look at the past through the pages of *Woman's Weekly*

Get those glad rags on, girls! In 1921 party outfits were frothy concoctions of chiffon and silk; lace, beads, buttons and bows.

GAY PARTY FROCKS!

With hints for those who are making new dresses at home.

SUCH a pretty little frock it was! Wild-rose in hue and sewn with crystal beads. The material was georgette, and it had an under-slip of paler pink satin. The design? Well, it was just what they call a chemise frock, straight up and down, all cut in one, and clipped in at the waist with a crystal girdle. You can do lots with a few crystal beads; they will outline the neck of such a frock and weight the hem delightfully.

THE sweetest little shoe ornaments are being made now. Butterflies of airy-winged tulle, sparkling with dewdrops which in reality are wee sequins, settle on the front of a dainty slipper. And then there are tiny fluffy tufts of feathers gaily coloured to match your frock, and fastened to the shoe with glittering buckles.



SHOCK HORROR...!

Crossdressing in the form of 'dressing up' for parties has been a part of western societies for centuries, and even in the highest of society it raises few eyebrows. However, the better known the individual, the greater the risk. The latest person who cross-dressed and who has been 'outed' - and not to the credit of the gender community - is none other than the late J. Edgar Hoover, legendary head of America's Federal Bureau of Investigation - the FBI.

In a recent biography of Hoover (*Official and Confidential: the Secret Life of J. Edgar Hoover*, by Anthony Summers), Hoover's whole reputation takes a steep dive, and it is shown that he was being blackmailed by the Mafia over his secret sex life. In particular it appears that Hoover was actually a closet Gay and had a long-standing love affair with his deputy.

It also appears that Hoover attended gay sex parties *and dressed up as a woman*. For example, in an account of what was intended to be an elegant private party at the City Plaza Hotel in New York, a Mrs Susan Rosentiel (who was present) tells how she was introduced to a 'woman' named Mary, who was dressed in a fluffy black dress, lace stockings and high heels. It was obvious to Mrs Rosentiel that Mary was no lady, and she later said "You could see where he shaved. It was Hoover". Later in the evening Hoover is said to have stripped down to a tiny garter belt.

Hoover's reputation as a tough enemy of organised crime has taken a heavy knock in this latest biography, from which it appears that he was not just susceptible to, but was actually the victim of, blackmail over his private life - which was well-known to Mafia bosses, who seemingly had photographs of Hoover and his deputy engaging in oral sex.

In today's climate being gay is much less likely to make a solid handle for blackmail, but there are limits. Further, cross-dressing is still not tolerated in western countries by society at large, and many crossdressers live in perpetual fear of discovery of their harmless interest.

If Hoover was Gay, we may well say 'so what?'. However, the gender community gets enough bad press without being dragged into scandal and stories like those which have surfaced around the late head of the FBI. In fact, the gender and gay communities should always work closely together to combat public ignorance and prejudice. However, as we all know, very few crossdressers are gay - and even fewer gay men cross-dress. It is a pity that very few commentators recognise - and make clear - the distinction: and an even greater pity that a very few men such as Hoover bring such disrepute upon us all. ■

THE WAY WE WERE

We take an affectionate look at the past through the pages of Woman's Weekly

We've heard of cauliflower ears, but in 1924 the modern complaint was side-car eyes!



THE GOOD-LOOKS CORNER

THERE is quite a new eye ill, the "side-car" eye. It comes with whirling through dusty country roads at breakneck speed. Into the eyes go all the dust particles; small wonder they retaliate.

Here is how to repair the damage. Bathe the eyes in a little warm water

ONE TOUCH OF
BEAUTY MAKES
THE WHOLE
WORLD KIN

(distilled), then lay a tiny strip of boric lint (dipped in cold water) on each eyelid, and rest for ten minutes. The same piece of lint can be used again and again, and distilled water can be bought at about 3d a pint. So your eye brightener scarcely merits the term costly.

THE LADY UNDERNEATH

For years I've hid the woman
Who's always shared my life.
But recently introduced her
To the woman who's my wife.
They got along rather well.
They laughed and talked a bit.
My wife began to teach her
How to walk and stand and sit.
Shopping trips for dresses.
Makeup tips and fashion, too.
My two best friends together.
Every experience was new.

Everyone has a secret
They hide without a trace.
Mine lies between my clothes,
Silks, satins and lace.
But my wife has met the lady
Who for years I've had to hide.
There's no problem, they are friends,
And always at my side.
The lady who for years I've hid,
And never left a trace,
Now is free to come and go,
And show her pretty face.

April L. ■

(Reprinted from ■

MORE ABOUT PASSPORTS FOR THE GENDER DIVERSE

Following on the items in our last issue about the issue of passports to transsexuals and crossdressers by the British and American authorities, and the position of British citizens re-entering this country in a gender role different from that shown in their passport, enquiries were made of the American Immigration Service about the position of British citizens seeking to enter the United States while in a gender role different from that shown in their Passport. The following reply, received from the US Department of Justice, Immigration and Naturalization Service, sets out clearly what you may expect if you seek to enter the USA in the opposite gender role to that shown in your Passport.

"Dear Ms Forrester:

This is in response to your letter of inquiry concerning international travel to the United States by aliens who are either transgendered or transsexual and how the issue of their 'cross-dressing' might impact upon their being admitted to the United States as either nonimmigrant visitors for business or nonimmigrant visitors for pleasure.

This Service, as a matter of policy, does not restrict in any manner the kind or type of attire which an individual must wear in order to gain admission to the United States. Such an issue is essentially a private one, one which we believe to be outside of the legal jurisdiction of this Service.

However, the issue of 'cross-dressing' does become a relevant factor in making a determination that the identity and nationality documents being presented by an applicant for admission do in fact relate to the applicant. Consequently, any inconsistencies between the physical appearance of an applicant for admission and the documents presented by that applicant must be satisfactorily resolved prior to making a determination regarding the admissibility of the applicant. It should therefore be borne in mind that, when such 'cross-dress' situations are encountered, the resolution of any inconsistencies could possibly necessitate a more intense or protracted inspection.

The Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) as a matter of policy inspects transgendered or transsexual applicants for admission in the same manner in which it inspects all other applicants for admission once it has been conclusively established that the identity documents presented by the transgendered or transsexual applicants do in fact belong to them.

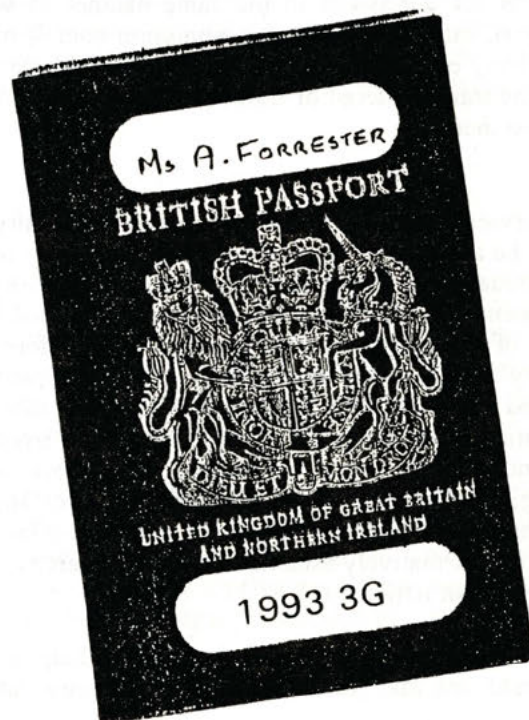
This Service normally considers a valid nationality document to be a passport, from an applicant's country of nationality, issued by a competent governmental authority. Such a document would usually also affirmatively establish the identity of an applicant for admission. We therefore do not generally accept other documents, such as identification cards and affidavits, which might in other cases substantiate the identity of an individual. This is our policy irrespective of an individual's sexual orientation. The above notwithstanding, this Service would normally consider any other documentation which an applicant for admission might present to affirmatively establish his or her identity (though not to establish nationality).

We trust that the above information will be helpful to you and would ask that you not hesitate to communicate with

this Service in the future if you feel that we can be of further assistance to you in this matter.

Sincerely
Michael D. Cronin
Assistant Commissioner
Inspections"

If anyone has any experience of entering the USA - or re-entering the UK - while cross-dressed, the Editor would appreciate hearing from you about it. ■



SOME COLLECTIVE NOUNS

I'm sure that we are all familiar with the concept of collective nouns - you know, there is a *swarm* of bees, a *flock* of birds, a *herd* of cattle, and so on. Well, why not try the following list of collective nouns for use in genderland. (And if you know of any others, please let us have them).

First of all, the people:

A closet of crossdressers
A galaxy of genderists
A triumph of transsexuals
AS WELL AS
A trollop of transvestites
A parody of pantomime dames
A degrading of drag queens

And then their friends:

A gaggle of girls
OR
A reference point of real girls
A delight of dressmakers
A marvel of makeup artists
A wonder of wig specialists

And their enemies:

A regression of rednecks
A mess of moralists
A basinful of Bible-bashers

Then their clothes:

A network of nylons
A constriction of corsets
A boost of bras
A lusciousness of lingerie
A swirl of skirts
A heightening of heels
A halo of hairpieces
AND
A colouring of cosmetics

And finally, who knows ?

A surplus of psychiatrists AND
A disaster of do-gooders ■



MORE ABOUT NAMES

If you are still looking for a *femme* name, you may be interested to know the most popular girls' names registered in England for new births in 1992. They were, in order of popularity:

Rebecca
Charlotte
and
Laura

In case you wonder what the names actually mean, *Rebecca* is derived from the Hebrew word *Ribkah* meaning 'a knotted cord', and used to imply 'a faithful wife'. *Charlotte* is, of course, the feminine form of Charles - a derivative of the Latin version (*Carolus*) of the old German word *carl*, meaning - perversely in this context - 'a man'. *Laura*, the feminine form of Laurence, comes from 'the Latin word *laurus*, meaning a laurel or bay tree, the ancient Roman emblem of victory and - more importantly for us - poetic inspiration. ■

♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥♥

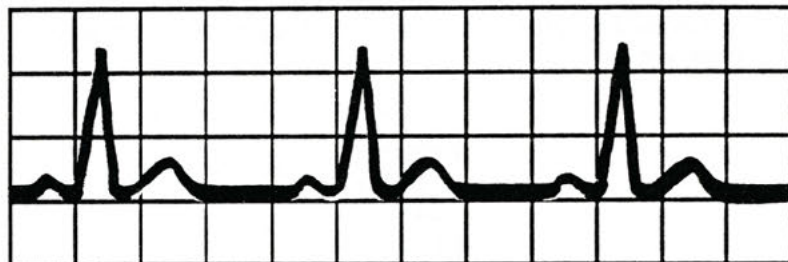
What people want

"Men should be saying 'I want to become a woman'. The world would be a far better place if more men wanted to become women, than women wanted to become men"

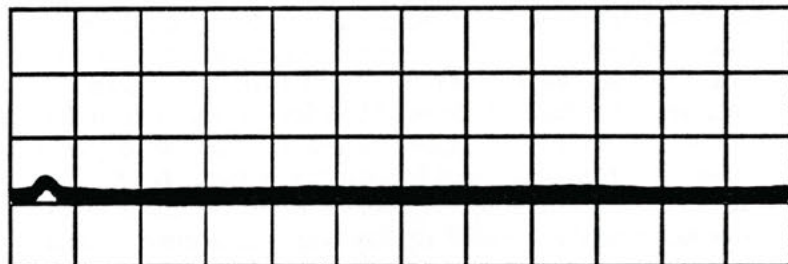
*Prof. Albert Halsey,
in the Sunday Observer
18 October 1992*



This is your Heart.



This is your Heart on hormones.



This is your Heart on too many hormones.

Hormones can change your life—for good, or for bad.

If taken under the supervision of a physician, they will, over the course of years, cause significant changes in the way you look and feel.

If taken recklessly, they can be harmful, or even fatal.

With hormones, more does not necessarily equal better. Taking excessive dosages of hormones will not feminize or masculinize you any faster than the proper dose, but will greatly increase health risks. To minimize your health risks, follow these simple guidelines.

- You should never buy hormones on the street, or take hormones meant for another person.

- You should take hormones only when prescribed by a physician, and only in the amount prescribed. Your physician should periodically monitor your blood chemistry, and if he or she does not, you should ask for blood levels to be taken.

- You should not take hormones without approval by a licensed mental health professional.

- Never withhold any portion of your medical history or any adverse reactions from your physician.

Abusing your body by overusing hormones will not get you from Point A to Point B any faster—but it just might get you to the morgue.

Remember: Too much of a good thing can be a bad thing.

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Name (CAPITALS PLEASE)

Address.....

.....Postcode.....

INFORMATION RESOURCE

One of the main problems facing crossdressers and transsexuals is getting at information - where to buy clothes, wigs, makeup, *etc*; where to find places to stay which welcome our lifestyle; is there anywhere where you can go to dress in security and comfort; where can you go for safe, sympathetic and competent electrolysis; which well-informed psychiatrists or competent reassignment surgeons you should seek out or ask your GP to refer you to; what books are available on transgender subjects; how to get instruction in makeup, deportment, *etc*. There is a whole lifetime of female experience to catch up on - the things that genetic females learn instinctively and from their mothers as they grow up - and it's not easy to find out all the answers.

Even worse, if you have problems coming to terms with your own gender feelings, or explaining these to your partner or your family, how do you set about this - and where can you turn for help? And is there anyone you can simply talk to on the phone, and discuss your worries or problems in anonymity and security?

For most of these problems there are straightforward answers; and if you can't find them yourself then why not turn to those who can?

3G, the Grampian Gender Group, is a support and social organisation for the whole gender community - crossdressers and transsexuals alike - and a comprehensive file is kept of information relating to most of the questions that you may wish to ask. A (genetic female) trained counsellor with considerable experience of gender problems is also available to help individuals with personal problems, either with their own feelings or with family relationships. If you

have a problem with your own sexuality, 3G also has a good working relationship with the gay and lesbian community, and can put you in touch with help there if you wish.

If you need practical information, help or advice, drop a line to:

3G Resources
c/o ADF Editorial Services
Tullochvenus House
Lumphanan
Aberdeenshire AB31 4RN

If you would simply like a chat, please give us a phone number and time when you can be contacted, and a name that we can call you by.

Complete confidentiality and sympathy are assured.

--- ♂ ♀ ♂ ♀ ♂ ♀ ---



WHERE ELSE TO GO

The following is a listing of UK gender Groups, with contact telephone numbers. If you are expecting to attend a Group for the first time it would be wise to contact the organisers first. (NB. Organisers: please let the Editor of The Tartan Skirt know of any changes to these details).

ABERDEEN. Grampian Gender Group ("3G"). Open to members of other Groups. Third Saturday of each month (except December), 1 pm for 2 pm. £ 2.00. Changing facilities or arrive dressed. Wives & partners welcome. Details: Anne Forrester, Tullochvenus House, Lumphanan, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, AB31 4RN. 03398 [REDACTED]

BASILDON (Essex). Trans-Essex. PO Box 3, Basildon, Essex, England SS14 1PT. Open meetings 2nd Fri each month. Details: 0268 [REDACTED] (7-11 pm).

BELFAST. Belfast Butterfly Club, PO Box 210, Belfast, Northern Ireland, BT1 1BG. Open meetings, 3rd Tues each month, 1pm for 2 pm. Details: 0232 [REDACTED].

BIRMINGHAM. Midland Connexion. 1st Tues each month from 10.30 pm. Details: 021 [REDACTED].

BIRMINGHAM. Central TS Support Group. Last Sunday each month 2.30 pm. Details: 021 [REDACTED].

BLACKHEATH (W. Midlands). St Michael's TV/TS Group. Open meetings Tues/Wed 7-10 pm, Thurs 5-10.30 pm, Sat 11am-5pm. Details: 021 [REDACTED].

BLACKPOOL. Open meetings Fri evening. Accomodation available. Details: Margaret Furguson, 0253 [REDACTED].

BRIGHTON. Sensible TVs/TSs welcome any time at Juggler Public House, 21 Western Rd, Brighton, England. Special TV nights every Wed. Details: 0273 [REDACTED].

BRISTOL. 4th Sat each month, Trinity Rd Library. Details: 0793 [REDACTED] or 0934 [REDACTED].

CAMBRIDGE. 2nd Sat each month, 6pm. Details: Judy, 0223 [REDACTED].

CLWYD (St. Asaph, Wales). Trans-Clwyd TV/TS Group. Details: Phone 'Di', 0745 [REDACTED].

COVENTRY. Cov-Trans. 2nd & last Fri each month, from 8 pm. Changing facilities, refreshments & storage facilities. Wives & partners welcome. Details: Julie or Maureen, 0203 [REDACTED].

DARLINGTON. Open meetings, last Sat each month. Wives & partners welcome. Changing facilities or arrived dressed. £ 2.50. Details Mavis or Norman, 0325 [REDACTED].

DERBY. TV/TS Group. c/o Derby Self-Help Project, Temple House, Mill Hill Lane, Derby, England, DE3 6RY. Details: 0246 [REDACTED].

EDINBURGH. Scottish TV/TS Group. Last Sat each month (except Dec), 12.30 pm for 2 pm. £ 1.50. Changing facilities or arrive dressed. Wives & partners welcome. Details: 031 [REDACTED] (7.30-10.00 pm).

GLASGOW. Crosslynx, c/o SGLS, PO Box 38, Glasgow, Scotland, G2 2QF. Open meetings, 2nd Tues each month, from 7 pm. Details: 041 [REDACTED].

HASTINGS. Hastings Haven TV/TS Group. Disco, snack bar, licensed bar. 1st Saturday each month. Details: Pauline 0424 [REDACTED]; Janet 0424 [REDACTED].

HULL. Brunswick Square. Open meetings. Details: Helen [REDACTED], 0482 [REDACTED].

LEEDS. West Yorkshire Group. 1st & 3rd Thurs each month, 8 pm. Changing facilities. Details: Norma & Mavis, 0325 [REDACTED]

LEICESTER. Chameleon Group. Open meetings 2nd Sat & 3rd Friday each month (at different locations) 7.30-11 pm. £ 2.50. Partners welcome, £ 1.25. Details: (ask for Chameleon Group and speak to Jolene), 0533 [REDACTED].

LIVERPOOL. Merseyside TV/TS Group, c/o 'Friend Merseyside', 36 Bolton Street, Liverpool, England, L3 5LX

LONDON, Shoreditch. TV/TS Group, 2-4 French Place, Bateman Row, Shoreditch, London, England, E1 6JB. Open meetings every Fri/Sat/Sun, from 8 pm. Changing facilities & refreshments. Group members £4, others £8. Details: 071 [REDACTED]

LONDON, Winchmore Hill. Open meetings with Anne [REDACTED]. 2nd Wed each month. No smoking, phone beforehand. Changing facilities. Details: 081 [REDACTED]

LUTON. Private meetings. 3rd Sun each month. Details 0582 [REDACTED]

MALVERN. 3rd Thurs each month 7.30-11 pm. Changing facilities. Details: Janet, 0684 [REDACTED]

MANCHESTER. Northern Concord, PO Box 258, Manchester, England, M60 1LN. Every Wed at Rembrandt Hotel, 7.30-12.00. Changing facilities, licensed bar, meals. Members £2, others £3. Accommodation available. Reservations: 061 [REDACTED].

NOTTINGHAM. Open meetings every Thurs 7-11 pm. Bar & changing facilities. £ 1.50. Details: 0602 [REDACTED] (8-11 pm).

SHEFFIELD. Rose's. PO Box 339, Sheffield, England, S1 3SX. Membership club. Details: 0742 [REDACTED]

SOUTHAMPTON. TV/TS Meetings. Open meetings last Thursday each month. Details: Rona 0425 [REDACTED]; Anne 0705 [REDACTED]

SWINDON. Transvestite Forum. Open meetings 2nd Sat each month. Toothill Farm Community Centre, Bodiam Drive, Toothill, Swindon, England. Helpline: 0793 [REDACTED]

Details of groups and organisations overseas are available on request from the Editor of The Tartan Skirt (address on page 2). Please say which countries - and in the case of the USA, which States - you are interested in and enclose a stamped and addressed envelope for your reply. ■

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NB. Personal 'For Sale and Wanted' advertisements of a non-sexual nature are accepted free of charge to members of any of the Scottish TV/TS groups. The cost to others is £ 3.00 *per* insertion for up to 30 words, and £ 1.00 *per* 20 words thereafter. Box numbers £ 2.00 extra. Complete confidentiality guaranteed. ☺

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