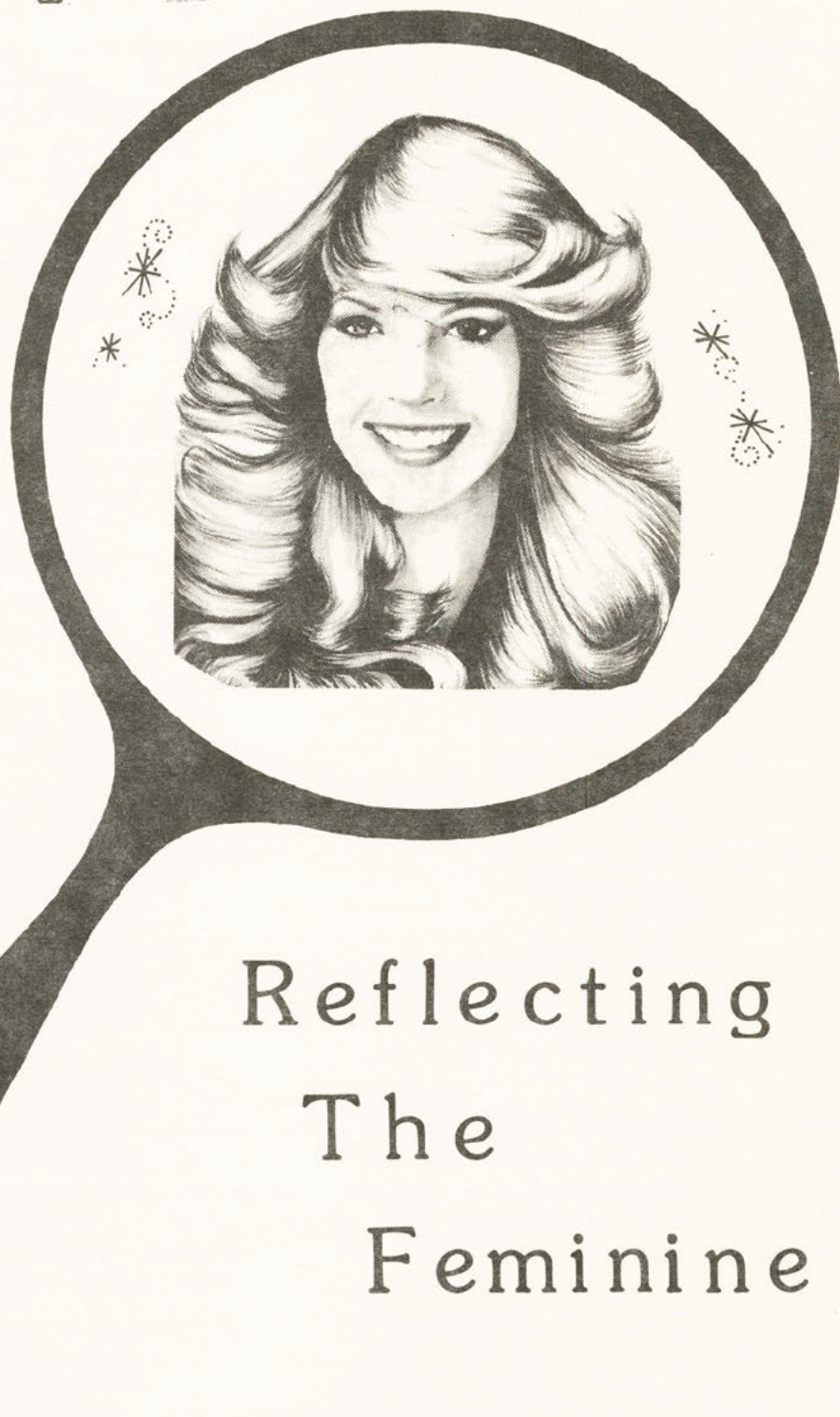


Femme Mirror



Tri-Ess Sorority



Reflecting
The
Feminine

FEMME MIRROR

Volume 7, No. 1 1982

Reflecting the Feminine



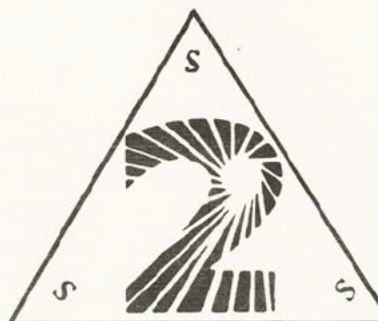
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EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR: Carol Beecroft

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Tri-Ess Sorority



SPEAKING OUT

Carol Beecroft
EDITOR

Well, it has been quite some time since you received our magazine and I can only plead that my regular business has gotten so involved that it has taken more of my time than I actually wanted to give it. In addition, I have been physically and emotionally in the dumps for a number of months and it was only a few days ago that I felt like my "old self."

Anyway, things seem to have gotten better for me and the business is rolling along nicely and I feel better so I have plans to catch up with the Femme Mirror.

I should mention that it was not a case of doing nothing. I still managed to get out the supplements to the Directory, write hundreds of letters and with the help of Marlene, managed to forward all of your letters and send out packets to the many people who have been inquiring about our sorority. In addition, Marlene has been helpful in getting the dues and new members onto the records. That's a lot of work in itself. She is most helpful to me but unfortunately, she is not able to come over very often.

I thought that I had things well in hand about 6 weeks ago when I employed a young lady in the Chevalier office. She was very understanding of crossdressing and quite fast at this typesetting machine. But no sooner did I get Rhonda started then she was assaulted and raped in her home and now has left the area. I even had her picture in the last issue of Transvestia. So much for help!

Things are running smoothly again and I hope to see some progress in catching up with the Femme Mirror.

Before I forget, some of you have forgotten to send in your dues for this year and I have inserted a note to that effect. Please support the sorority in a financial way. The cost of putting out a single issue of the Femme Mirror, including postage, runs about \$1000 to \$1200. It would be more if we didn't do the typesetting here at the office. So we do need the assistance of all of you in a financial way.

One way that I thought that I could lick some of the problems that keep me away from doing more with the Femme

Mirror, etc., is that if I had a dictating machine and dictated my letters into the machine instead of typing them the slow way that I have been doing. Then I could hire some outside help in the way of a young lady who could put the earphones on and transcribe what was on the tape into presentable letters. This will cost some money and I do not want to charge it off to the regular expenses of Tri-Ess since we have enough bills at this time. What I would like to know is if you girls out there would like to make a donation to the cost of getting some quality dictating equipment that can be used here in the Tri-Ess office? It doesn't have to be much but if each gal could send along several dollars, I could purchase the necessary equipment. I will put it this way: I am looking for financial donations from Tri-Ess sisters that will enable me to purchase some dictating equipment that will ease the bottleneck that exists around here and which bottleneck keeps me away from putting out the Femme Mirror and other things that need special attention.



TRI-ESS GIRLS WHO ATTENDED THE HOLIDAY EN FEMME WERE ON CLOUD "9" FOR FOUR DAYS

New Orleans event so successful that we are planning to go there again in 1983. Start making plans, NOW!!

Those Tri-Ess sisters who attended the Holiday En Femme will certainly remember this occasion as one that was well planned (Thanks Janice, TX-1-M) and where the weather and the public cooperated with us to a marvelous degree. From the desk clerks and waitresses to the shop keepers and general public, there was complete cooperation and a high degree of acceptance. This enabled we girls to spend four days "en femme" in this famous part of New Orleans (French Quarter).

Every one of our girls behaved properly and tried their best to bring out the "girl within" them for maximum effects. The clothing worn by our sisters was proper and appropriate for New Orleans for

March. Although we were "read" a number of times, we were not bothered by others, probably because we were trying very hard to be girls during our "Holiday." Your Editor especially appreciates the efforts each girl took to be a dignified lady and by the results we achieved, we were most successful!

The Hotel was most receptive and courteous and even though the staff knew all about us, they did not snicker or put us down. That was a tremendous lift and allowed us not to be interrupted in our efforts to be ladies. The two hotels were very comfortable, beds were soft, yet firm, and the staff did plenty to make us happy and comfortable. All of the girls decided to come again and stay

at the hotel next year.

Many of us went sight-seeing each day, walking down the old streets and thoroughly enjoying ourselves. The shops were especially interesting to investigate, restaurants were plentiful and we ate at an elegant restaurant each evening. Never did we have a rude waitress or waiter and were always treated as ladies. A lovely feeling! The food at these restaurants was good and the prices were in line with restaurants in other cities. We were especially happy to have several wives attend and they made the occasion a bit better for all of us.

When people did "read" us, like in several restaurants, it was more of a case of curiosity, rather than one of being offended by us. Your Editor especially noted that many of the younger women in restaurants and on the streets were very understanding and sympathetic. Some of them had big grins on their faces when they "discovered" us, but they never appeared insulted or offended. It was a pleasure when we were "found out," to see the people carry on a conversation with us and be thoroughly enticed by the whole situation.

Nite life was great and those who could, did manage to attend late-nite activities in show-bars and nite clubs. Among the pictures that follow, you will see a number which feature the "Too Late For Mardi Gras" party. This was one party where everyone could let their hair down. We so greatly enjoyed ourselves that we plan to come back next year at the same time. How nice it was to put our male clothing away and don the soft, lovely clothing of a woman. If you are interested in attending next year's Holiday, start planning for it and notify your Editor.



Now don't these girls look pretty, lined up outside the ladies room of the local jail. Actually, one of the jail guards was taking the picture and he had told them that as soon as they submitted to a 'strip search' that they would be released. I guess that they figured that he was going to get the surprise of his life!



Now, here we have Dee and Lois, posing so prettily as they prepare to leave to go out "on the town" that morning. They do look so nice. All of our girls tried hard to look correct and authentic!



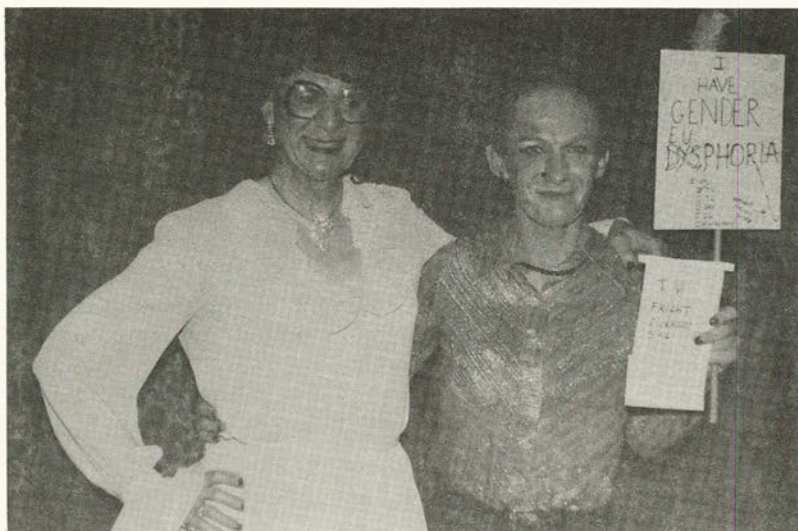
Now here's Dorothy (TX-15-H) posing outside of the Honfleur Restaurant. Dorothy was one of our best "passable" sisters. She really tried hard to pass as a woman – and not counting the six times that she was arrested for impersonating a female, she did pretty well during her four days in New Orleans.



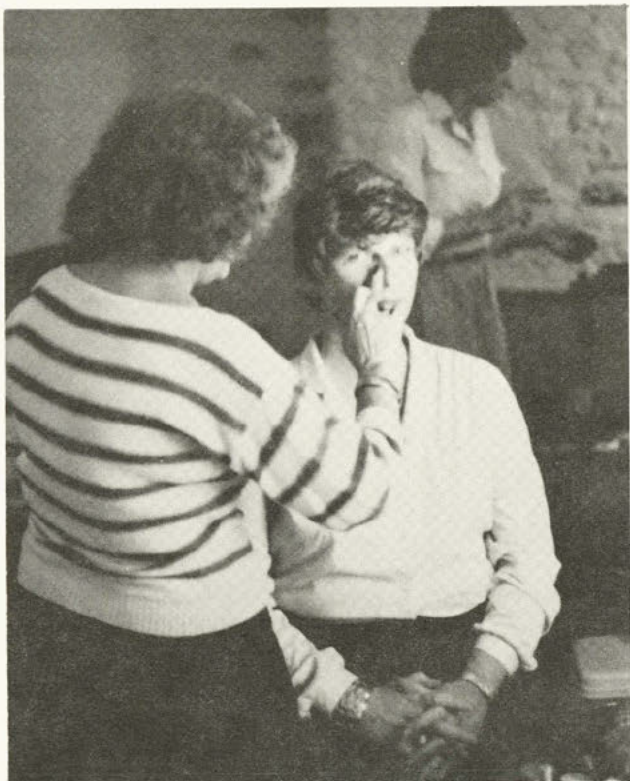
Toni, in her daring costume for the Too Late For Mardi Gras Party. She certainly had a good time.



Two silly girls, Nicole and Sabrina, ham it up at the Too Late For Mardi Gras Party.



Carol and Rhonda (she looks a little different in this picture), spend a few minutes laughing at Rhonda's sign. It appears that Rhonda does have "gender Dysphoria," although the "DY" on the sig crossed out and an "EU" added, thus reading GENDER EUPHORIA. That's more like it, honey!



Well, what do we have here? Is Leigh Coste, our beauty Consultant, pushing Samantha's (TX-304-W) nose sideways to see how Samantha likes breathing out of one side of her nose? No! Leigh is just applying makeup to Samantha's pretty face. And Sabrina (CO-204-G) is waiting in the background, holding up two fingers to indicate that if Leigh doesn't hurry up that Sabrina is going to "goose" her. What a naughty thought!



Whatcha smilen' at, Carol? Your Editor must have been in a very good mood when the picture was snapped. Or was it a case that she just learned that one of her critics had blown all four tires of her car when she was driving in a downtown area of New York City and she was only wearing a bra and panties at the time?!



Now, don't be deceived and think that these girls, gathered around the table at a famous New Orleans restaurant are actually Tri-Ess girls. No indeed! Actually they are a local group of "street walkers" (honest!) who have gathered together early in the afternoon, to discuss chossing up territories for the evenings "business."



Time out for dinner at the Imperial Palace, a VERY good Chinese Restaurant. L to R: Sabra, Janna, Rhonda and Samantha

ABOVE: Time out for dinner at the Imperial Palace, a very good Chinese Restaurant. L to R: Sabra, Janna, Rhonda and Samantha.

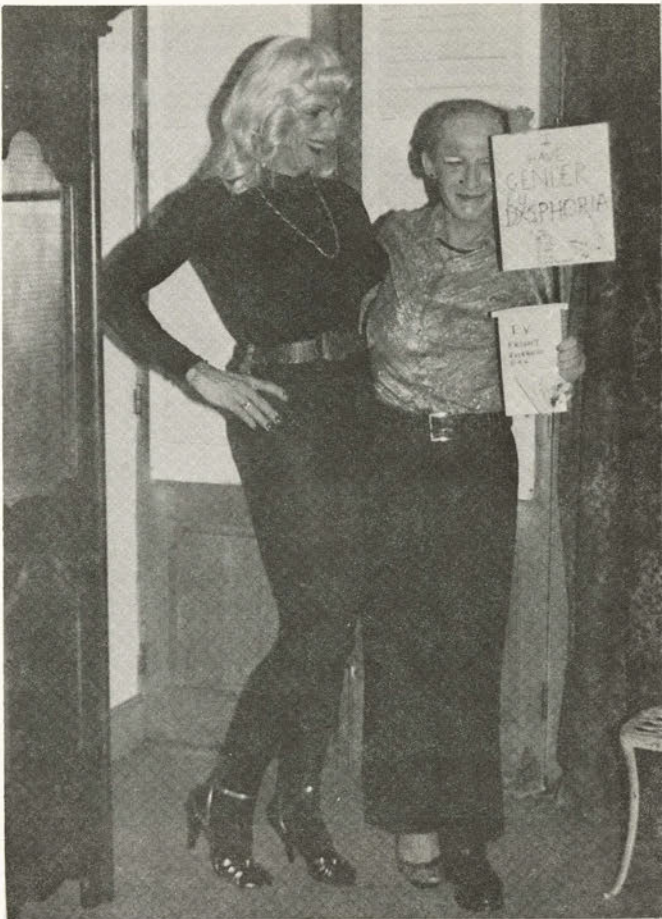
BELOW: Nichol and Vivian clown at the "Too Late For Mardi Gras" party. Characters!!



ABOVE: Some more of our "characters" at the Too Late For Mardi Gras party. L to R: Michelle, Fran, Rhonda and Toni.

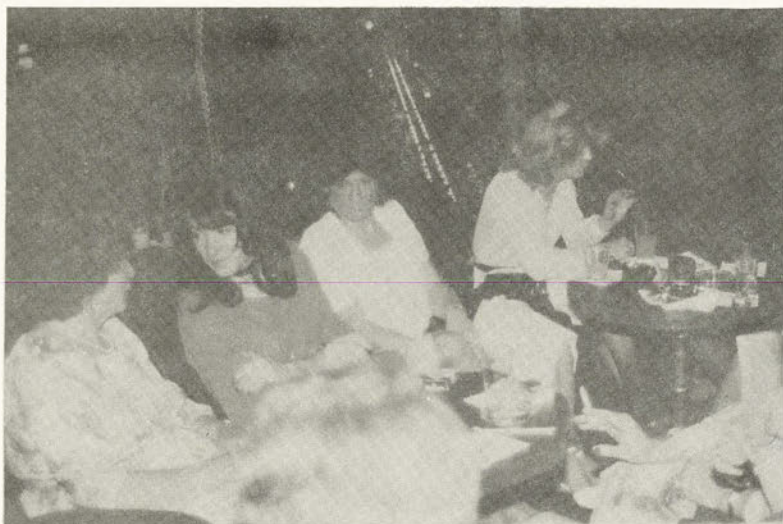
BELOW: Sabrina, our Colorado sister, poses convincingly on Jackson Square. It's so nice to get out in public and do your thing.





FUN AT THE "TOO LATE FOR MARDI GRAD" PARTY!!!





ABOVE: Lois, Vivian, Toni and Rhonda enjoy cocktails and the fabulous view of New Orleans from the Top Of The Mart Nite Club.

BELOW: Laura and Michelle really enjoyed themselves at the female impersonator show held at Travis'.



ABOVE: Sabra, Janna, Rhonda, Samantha and Lois watch the female impersonator at Travis'.

BELOW: Lois gets her salad at the ANYTHING GOES Restaurant. Sabra and Nicole (partly hidden) await their turns.





ABOVE: Nicole relaxes with a meal at the Creole Courtyard.

BELOW: Fran spends some 'open time' in the courtyard by her room.



ABOVE: Janna and Lois spend an evening at Creole Courtyard Restaurant.

BELOW: Sabrina poses in the Louisiana State Museum where photographs are strictly forbidden. Bad girl!





Farewell Dinner at the Creole Courtyard: (Clockwise) Michelle, Vivian, Toni, Sabrina, Rhonda, Samantha, Fran, Laura, ? , & Carol.



ABOVE: Dorothy, out shopping in the "Quarter." Note the iron work on the balconies. A beautiful place to visit.

BELOW: Farewell dinner (L to R, front row) Fran, G.G. (K), Sabra, Nichol, Rhonda, Toni & Dorothy. (Back row) Janice, Samantha, Sabrina, Janna, Laura, Vivian, Michelle, Lois & Carol.

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BELOW: Here we have Vivian, having a good time at the Imperial Palace Chinese Restaurant at the Hyatt Regency.





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ABOVE: Fran, Janna and Carol waiting for a table at the Anything Goes Restaurant. By all means, go to this 'unusual' restaurant.

BELOW: Nicole, Michelle and Carol at the Imperial Palace at the Hyatt Regency. Firstclass all the way.

ABOVE: Janna (near left) Sabra, Michelle, Vivian and Toni are having a good time at the Creole Courtyard.

BELOW: Vivian, Toni, Samantha and Michelle are out for a night at the International Trade Mart. We went to the best places.





14 ABOVE: Your Editor is smilin' about something that her Tri-Ess sister told her. Must have been rather naughty since Jana shows surprise in how funny Carol took it. BELOW: Lois (WI-13-V) and Vivian from Texas (black hair) are just being two ladies who happened to stop for a few minutes for a meal at a nice restaurant.



ABOVE: Samantha and Jana blend in very well as they eat a pleasant meal at the Court Of Two Sisters Restaurant. Very nice!!
BELOW : Janna, Lois and Samantha are all dolled up to go out for an evening of fun. They certainly have on nice clothes.





National Publicity Program Ready!

Tri-S is about to embark on an ambitious, yet low-cost publicity program. It's a program that's intended (1) to raise the general public's awareness and understanding of TV-ism and the plight of TV's and (2) to get the word about Tri-S out to TV's especially closeted TV's, who are looking for social contact.

The program is geared primarily to the so-called "Straight Press", and is built around two key elements. The first is a Tri-S press packet. It includes four items: (1) a feature story written by yours truly and previously printed in the *Femme Mirror*, (2) a set of photographs of consenting Tri-S members, (3) a cover letter from Carol Beecroft to each newspaper's features editor, explaining Tri-S' purpose in sending the packet and informing them that nearby Tri-S members are willing to be interviewed, and (4) a copy of two interesting feature articles that appeared in the past year (in the *Rockford, Illinois* and *Green Bay, Wisconsin* dailies) in response to two such interviews and to the background info supplied by the other parts of the packet.

The second key element in the program is you, the Tri-S membership! That is, we're going to need an ample supply of volunteers to fill several important roles.

For starters, in the past

year of pre-testing the program, we've found that the press packet alone is not enough to get an article into the local papers. It only gets their attention, and makes them want to do their own article.

For this they want a real live body, preferably someone who lives in their area, to come in and tell their story. It localizes and personalizes the article, making it more likely to be read.

So, we need a few dozen members who are willing to be interviewed, either in their hometown or somewhere within a few hours drive. (Thus far we've found the local papers to be sensitive to the security needs of our member—perfectly willing to use pseudonyms and not pressing for personal photos) If you'd do the interview, the national office would provide you with any background info and advice that you think you'd need to do the job. (For example, we could give you a list of points to try to make during the course of the interview.)

We also need Tri-S members who will either feed us the names and addresses of their local newspapers or who will take copies of the press packet and send them to their local paper. In the former case, the national office will be happy to send out the packet to the newspapers that you name. In the latter case, the national office will be happy to send you as many

copies of the packet as you feel you'll need.

We also need Tri-S members who are willing to monitor their local newspapers—to read them carefully day after day—once we've sent out the press packet in their area, and especially after an interview has been completed. We'll need you to clip the story if and when it does run, and send a copy to the national office.

If you'd be willing to serve as a monitor in your area, the national office will make sure that you know when to start your vigil.

Finally, we need members who are willing to do a little lobbying with their local paper. The *Green Bay* paper sat on our press packet for over three months before deciding to contact us for an interview. The reporter who did the interview suggested to Karen (IL-3M) and I that, in the future, it'd be smart to give a follow-up call (or at least drop a follow-up note) to all features editors who receive the packet and do nothing with it. In the call we'd ask if they remember receiving it what they plan to do with it (if they do remember) and perhaps try to convince them to assign a reporter to do a story (e.g. remind them that we can make a member available for an interview). The *Green Bay* reporter felt that this kind of contact could make or break the newspaper's response to us.

So, let's get on with it! The program is basically ready to go. The packets are at the printers. All we have a member-fill in the name & code number who'll serve as program coordinator out of the national office. What we need now is a show of interest and commitment from you. If you'd be willing to help out in any of the aforementioned capacities, please drop a note to Carol Beecroft as soon as possible. Good luck to all of us!

RUTHANN



TEE VEE TIPS

HOW TO ORGANIZE YOUR CLOSET AND YOUR CLOTHES THINKING

A well-organized and very well thought closet can make the problems of what to wear when much easier. Unless you've already perfected the art of organization, you've undoubtedly spent some frustrating minutes standing in front of your closet trying to find the peach blouse that goes with the rust skirt. After a few futile attempts, you're likely to chuck it and settle for the old faithful beige dress you wore yesterday because it's right there in the front of the closet where you hung it last night. If you're wise enough to realize the importance of clothes in creating the kind of self-image you want, it's foolish to make less than optimum use of the clothes you own just because your closet is a disaster.

Organizing your closet is a simple and self-perpetuating process. Once you've really lived with an organized closet, you won't be able to stand a messy one again. We suggest this organizational idea for several reasons. First hang similar things together: all the blouses, all the skirts, and do the same with pants and jackets. Keep color and mood in mind, too. For example, move from white and beiges into colors, keeping things in color families. Keep the casual things together and keep dressier ones together. One unbreakable rule—don't hang one thing over another, such as a jacket over a pair of pants or a skirt. All this may sound

like an overly fastidious or even neurotic approach, but have faith. It's not. What it will do is make finding any particular thing much easier—you know a shirt has to be hanging with other shirts or a skirt with other skirts. Even more importantly, it will open up a whole new range of put-together possibilities for you which could mean you'll end up with a lot more looks than you thought you had.

A young woman recently came into our offices for a fashion makeover. She had written us saying that she never seemed to have the right things to wear for her job as a teacher. She told us a few things about the clothes she owned and how much she budgeted for clothes yearly. We were interested in her and invited her to come to our office because her problems seemed to have many elements that numerous readers could relate to. We asked her to take some pictures of her clothes so we could be thinking of what we could suggest she add that would make sense for her kind of life. She also took pictures of her closet. What we observed was that she bought many separates that matched—for example, a rust printed calico skirt and blouse and a floral-print shirt and skirt. We noticed that she photographed these items together and hung them together in her closet. We suspected that she, like many women we've run across, wore

How To Build A Basic Wardrobe

these pieces only with each other the calico-print top with its matching skirt and the floral-print top with its skirt. We could see immediately from the pictures that she sent us that there were several things each of these tops and bottoms could be mixed with to give her more options. Hanging them together had been limiting her thinking about how to use them in her wardrobe. If you separate all tops and bottoms physically in your closet, it will help you to separate them emotionally and open up a new range of possibilities for all the pieces you own.

When you're organizing your closet in this way, it means you're going to have to pull everything out. As you're doing this, try to look at each item with a fresh eye. Try putting different tops with different bottoms in ways you've never combined them before. We'll bet you come up with quite a few new and successful looks. Until you get used to wearing things with different partners, you might want to jot down on paper all the new, interesting combinations you come up with now so you'll remember them later.

Every big department store has a notions department that is filled with all kinds of hanger, storage boxes and bags geared to organizing and saving space in your closet. Some of them are a waste of money—we'll get to those in a minute—but others

are truly ingenious and really help you conserve space and make things easier to locate in the bargain. Here is a list of some we think are worth owning: **MULTIPLE BLOUSE HANGERS**, one hanger with a half-dozen shoulder bars that hangs a half-dozen blouses, making each one easy to get at; **MULTIPLE SKIRT HANGERS**, one hanger with a half-dozen clips to hang skirts; **MULTIPLE PANTS HANGERS**, one hanger with several bars to hang pants over. Be sure you pick one where the bar unfastens, rather like the bar in a safety pin, to make it easy to slide pants on and off; **CANVAS SHOE BAGS FOR DOOR BACK**, contains pockets to slip shoes in so they can be hung on the door, saving floor space, or probably more importantly, leaving floor space clean to give the psychological feeling of space; **CLEAR PLASTIC STORAGE BOXES**, used for gloves, scarves, belts, they make things easy to spot and get to; **BELT HOOKS OR BAR**, either a bar with several hooks attached to it or individual hooks that can be attached to a closet door make storing and getting at belts simple; **BATTERY CLOSET LIGHT**, if your closet is small, this is a particularly good idea because the extra light makes finding things so much easier; **EXTRA CLOTHES BAR**, a second bar to hang clothes on can literally double your closet space. If you have room, do install one. In some cases, you may have to move your original bar up or down to accommodate a second one, but it's worth the trouble. Put clothes used less frequently, such as off-season ones, on the most inaccessible rack.

Unworkable or unnecessary gadgets in your closet not only wastes your money, they can actually reduce your clothes options. For example: **GARMENT BAGS**, hanging things in garment bags takes up extra space in your closet

the bag is bulky and it makes getting to the clothes in them difficult. Also, what you can't see, you're not likely to think of and wear. When it comes right down to it, there are very few things that are so fragile they need a garment bag to protect them. Make it a practice to use bags only for out-of-season clothes and try to hang the bag somewhere else so they won't confuse the issue with clothes you're wearing everyday; **ORDINARY SHOE BOXES**, many women are in the habit of storing shoes or anything else that fits into them in ordinary closed shoe boxes. Because you can't see through the boxes, you're never sure where anything is. Since locating exactly what you're looking for is

hard, you often settle for what happens to be in the box you reach for first.

FLOOR SHOE RACKS, these racks are clumsy. You have to bend down and get your head lost in the hems hanging above to find what you want. Using a door shoe bag is simpler and leaves the floor space clear. **BAR-HANGING BELT RACKS**, if you have the choice between a belt rack that hangs on the back of a closet door or one that hangs in the closet on the bar, pick the one that attaches to the door. The belts hanging inside the closet among the clothes are hard to get at, and you must balance the weight so the hanger doesn't tilt. Since the door type attaches firmly to the door, it doesn't present this complication. **CLAMP SKIRT HANGERS**, hangers that clamp across the waistband of a skirt don't usually have a strong enough grip to hold one skirt firmly, and when two or more are clamped together they all get crushed. A hanger with multiple clips that allows skirts to hang one above the other is a much better idea.

One last thought. It takes a certain amount of discipline

to get in the habit of using all these organizational tools and techniques. If you take the trouble to organize your closet as we've suggested and then hang things wherever your hand hits when you take something off, you're defeating your purpose. Make a real effort to keep your closet organized for a couple months, and the benefits, we feel, will be important enough to make you want to continue.

One reason most people's closets are cluttered is that they contain countless garments no longer being worn. Psychologists tell us most people fall roughly into two categories—savers and weeders. We suspect that the balance is strongly in favor of the savers. There is one very simple rule of thumb that can help you become a weeder instead of a saver: If you haven't worn something for a year, you probably aren't going to wear it and it should be weeded out. This means you will need to go through your closet thoroughly at least once a year. Actually, we recommend you do it twice a year, once in the fall and again in the spring.

To show you how helpful it can be to give your closet a thorough going-over, let's run through some of the benefits. Start by pulling everything out and piling it all on your bed. As you remove things, pile them according to season, putting all the things for the coming season in one pile, all those for the past one in another. Try on everything that you have for the coming season. Even if you feel you definitely want to keep it, try it on anyway. As you try it on, take a good look at the dress, skirt or whatever. Does it still fit properly? If it doesn't, put it aside to have something done about the fit problem. If it cannot be fixed—it's too short for current styles and there's no hem to let down, for example put it in the pile to toss out. If it needs new buttons, seams re-

paired, or the hem fixed, put it in the pile for repairs.

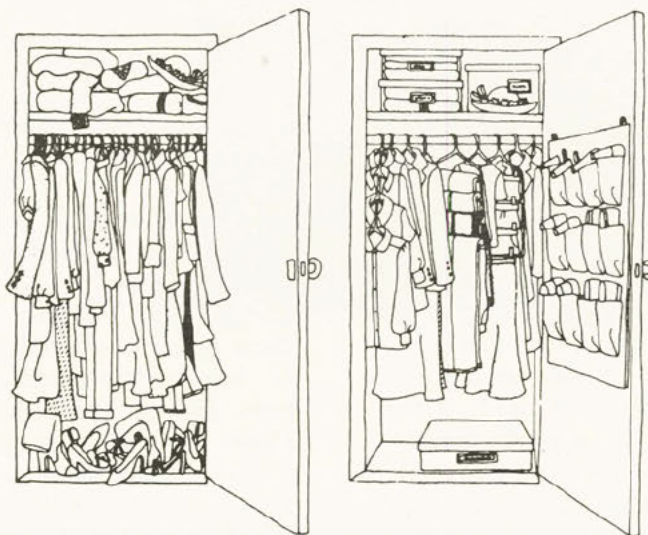
One of the best reasons to try on something is to see if it's "friendly." Do you feel comfortable, and attractive wearing it? If you don't and especially if you're remembering that you never really felt comfortable in this particular item, admit you don't like it, and that it was a mistake, and heave it. Before you do, however, study it to see where you went wrong so that you won't make the same mistake again. It's very difficult for most of us to admit we made a mistake with something, but remember, taking up space with that particular item can take space away from something that is infinitely more flattering and workable. If you analyze why you made the mistake in the first place, it will reduce the chances of your doing it again.

In going through your closet, you are bound to find a few things you definitely don't want to throw out, but that you really don't wear very often. These are likely to be special clothes—very dressy things, pieces oriented around a certain kind of weather or sport. You know they function, it's just that you don't need them often. It's best to find some other spot for these clothes so they don't use closet space needed for more frequently used clothes. Maybe you can fold them and put them on a high shelf or store them in luggage. Try to find some place besides your closet to keep them.

If you're short on closet space, especially if you live in a city apartment where closet space, always seems to be at a premium, it can often be worth the extra expense to take advantage of storage outside your apartment. Clothes for another season, special item clothes, or anything you won't be wearing for months, can be stored with your dry cleaner. Most neighborhood cleaners have storage facilities, often combined

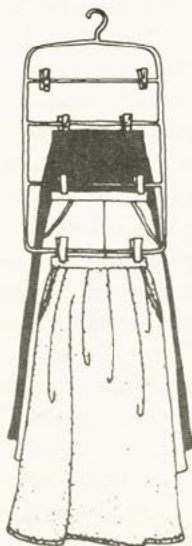
with dry cleaning service so that when the clothes are returned to you, they're clean and ready to wear. This service is expensive, but it can often be worth the money. If your alternative is to squeeze everything in the same closet, making it extremely difficult to find what you want because there are so many things in the way, it is worth the investment and better for all your clothes, to spend the extra money on storage. When

clothes are cramped into too small a space, you usually have to press fragile things such as soft shirts or lightweight dresses every time you want to wear them. You might consider it worth a little extra money to avoid this. If you have expensive investments such as a good winter coat or a fur coat, don't cram them in your closet from season to season, at least store these few things to protect them when they are not actively in use.



Is there any question which closet works better here?

Horizontal skirt hanger



Pocket shoe bag



Horizontal blouse hanger

Peace Comes To Donna

NJ-207-H

It all started around age seven or eight when I was staying overnight with my cousin who had a sister about my age, we started to play house. I ended up getting completely dressed up in her clothes panties, slip, dress and black patent leather shoes. What a strange feeling it was. Then time seemed to slip by till I was about eleven or twelve. Then one day I was going through my mothers rag bag and found an old nylon nightie that she had thrown out, as soon as I touched it that same feeling came back and I just had to try it on and from that time on I was hooked. I wore it to bed every night till it wore out.

Both my parents worked long hours and it gave me time after school to wear my mothers clothes panties, slips, bras, nylons, high heels etc., nothing seemed to fit too well but who cares at that age. I never had any guilty feelings during this period.

After graduating high school I went into the navy for six years. There were a few times in the navy that the cross dressing desires came back again. I would go to a five and ten cent store and buy some clothes, get a hotel room and get dressed

up and the guilty feelings would come over me -I would throw them in a trash can and think this is not normal, I will never do it any more. But I did it a few more times ending up with more guilty feelings maybe I'm turning gay but had no desires to go out with men.

I ended up getting married my last year in the service. This marriage lasted ten years with three nice children but ended up in a divorce, but nothing to do with cross dressing, just not capatable.

I remarried about a year later, then the same old feelings started to come back. My wife caught me with a pair of her nylons on under my pants. She said I was sick and if it ever happened again she would divorce me. I had better see a doctor and get cured. Back to the guilt feelings. Maybe she was right. I gave it up for a short while but back to the nylons and panties under my business suit changing in the mens room at work and hiding them under the seat of my car, once they got soiled I would throw them out, must have gone through fifty pairs of pants. However, the guilt feelings got so bad I had to do something about it. At this point I was on the edge of a nervous

breakdown. I got up enough nerve to go see a psychiatrist, what a shock he gave me, said there was nothing wrong or bad about cross dressing. Some people don't understand it or want to understand. He told me I wasn't gay, gave me a lot of insight on cross dressing. But my wife would not accept any part of it.

So I made a big decision the next day I told my wife that I was going away for the weekend and stay dressed up all weekend and once and for all get it out of my system. I went and purchased everthing I needed even make up for the first time and went to a motel in the next town, was this really what I wanted, this could be my last fling, or the bginning of a new life. After staying dressed all weekend and changing twenty times, I decided this is what I wanted I would never be happy with ou it. After the weekend I told my wife I would not give it up. We got a very fast divorce.

I had a secretary at work that I confided in and she seemed to understand my feelings in fact at Christmas time she gave me a matching half slip and panties. Only a TV would appreciate the meaning of a gift like that. Besides understanding my cross dressing she is the most loving person I've known. After the divorce we both moved to another state and got married. I have no more guilt feelings and out of the closet. She helps me pick out clothes and gives me help with my make up. We love each other very much.

I'm 51 years old, 180 pounds. I have not gone outside the house yet, but hope to soon. Its pretty hard to make a silk purse out of a sows ear, but its a lot of fun trying. I'll make the big step I'm sure.

Finding the Society for the Second Self and the Transvestia has been another great thing in my life. Keep up the good work.

HERE AND THERE

For those sisters who enjoy writing letters, and having them forwarded by the Tri-Ess office, your Editor would like to request that when you write, in pencil, the name and code number of the sister to whom you are writing, that you write lightly. It has occurred several times that sisters have written so heavy, several times even in ink, that it was difficult to remove the notation made by the writer. In addition, please do not forget to write your own name and code number nearby and circle it.

Recently, Karen (WI-108-B) took it upon herself to DONATE several books dealing with crossdressing to several libraries in her area. Her letter appears in the "letters" section of this periodical. One of the best ways for us to get the attention of those interested in crossdressing is to provide an immediate accessible book that the reader can look at - now. Several people have done this in the past and Karen is still another sister who backs up her words with actual deeds. But your Editor would like to have more sisters do the same. There are so many people who go to libraries and find nothing there about crossdressing. I have committed myself and Chevalier Publications to giving a 50% discount to purchasers of *Understanding Crossdressing* and *The TV And His Wife*. Such books will be sent to the library designated by the purchaser by Chevalier. Why not write a letter to your local library, asking if they will accept the books. You can give out our address and your femme name - that way I can write to those sisters whose

donation was accepted by the library or libraries in question.

Enid (NV-10-S) suggests to her sisters that a touch or so of your favorite perfume at bedtime makes getting up easier! Try it!

"Men can dress like women and walk along the city's streets so long as they don't flaunt their assets," a Roanoke judge recently stated.

General District Court Judge Edward Kidd made the comment as he lectured eight young men convicted of making obscene exhibitions last week in the City Market area.

Five of the eight pleaded guilty, but three fought the charges by taking the stand to tell Kidd they didn't think there was anything wrong with dressing like women.

"Is it against the law to get in drag?" one asked.

"Nothing I ever wear is indecent...I don't pull up my dress or anything like that," another said.

Although Kidd wondered aloud why he had never heard of any young women who dress like men and stand on street corners, he agreed that there is nothing illegal about men walking around in public in women's clothing. It's the way they walk or what they do with the clothes, Kidd said.

"I don't care how they dress, as long as you don't get out there and try to sell it," Kidd told the eight.

Officers had told Kidd the eight were dressed like women, most wearing dresses, high heels, and 'fake bosoms.'

Although it appears that these crossdressers were not our type of dressers, still it is interesting to read where a judge was

understanding of crossdressers.

Chevalier Publications has reprinted the three volume *From Martin To Marian* and it is now available in one volume at \$9.00 plus 15% postage. It's a very good story.

I am looking for more pictures of chapter activities. I have some but need more. I am especially interested in getting quality ones for a new printing of the brochure which we send to inquirers.

Concerning the Directory, please note that the picture next to Julie CA-313-B is not Julie but Chrysis CA-314-R. In addition, the picture alongside Dyan ID-100-F is not that of Dyan but belongs to Vicki-ID-200-W' Evidently the printer switched the pictures.

A recent ruling by the IRS states that the professional removal of hair by electrolysis is another medical expense that can be claimed on tax returns.

Alona WV-100-M asks if some of her Tri-Ess sisters would like to organize a regional weekend gathering for those who would like to dress en Femme. She also recommends a magazine called BBW (Big Beautiful Women). She commented on the articles for larger women and said that there was a listing of retailers who handled larger sizes.

Barbara Sue DE-3-S, says that she recently met a family counselor who said that he had encountered crossdressing several times. He did admit that he knew very little about the subject. She asked if he would like to know more and he said he would. She then discussed her own experiences with him and gave him the "two books" to read. She says that she has

read in Transvestia and the Femme Mirror of other girl' contributions to public education concerning crossdressing but this was her first opportunity to make a worthwhile attempt of her own. She suggests that more sisters do a little more missionary work of their own instead of allowing others to do the work. Amen!

A recent issue of Newsweek showed Dusty Hoffman dressed as a woman. The picture she was working on was called Tootsie! Ah, come on, Dustin, you know you enjoyed the whole thing - it IS great to be a girl!

There are several other periodicals dealing with crossdressing, one named Transvestia, the same name Chevalier has been using for 20 years and still another called Transvestian. Both magazines deal with the whole spectrum of crossdressing including the sexual part. It seems that these magazines (especially TVIA published in NY) really lean towards the bi-sexual side of crossdressing. At this time, your Editor is trying to get the editors of Transvestia in NY to give up the name.

For those who want more information about removing hair from their bodies, write Inverness located at 565 Hackensack Ave, River Edge, N.J. 07661. It sells all sorts of hair removers to creams and lighteners. It is mainly for teenage girls but you can be one for the moment. Let us know what success you have.

Coreene MT-1-A suggests that those who want to exchange or donate clothing, etc, write to your Editor and makes your wishes known. We'll help!

Continued from page 24.

my ideas coming from him. Unfortunately, he will not go along with me so I may have to convert him to win over my wife. Have you heard of such a mess? Here I am a fairly well oriented hetero crossdresser fulfilling a male role in regular life but having to dress occasionally and still not wanting to hide it from my wife. As things are now, I dress in the evening, about once or twice a week. I tell my wife after supper about my intentions. When I am dressed, she retreats to another bedroom where she reads and watches television and refuses to have anything to do with my femme self. She'll probably sleep alone tonight and I don't mind that as I get all the bed. When I do dress up I do so with full attention to clothing, make-up wig and jewelry. I usually move about the house at will and she keeps her own counsel. But I don't think that I look too bad when I dress. I've told her that I don't mind a person being dumb but when they insist on remaining dumb, it rankles me. I'm not smart but I do try to learn about many things that concern me or that I am concerned with. I must take the bull by the horns and grab a little gusto for myself since I'm not going to get a second chance and I've already wasted too much time. I have no trouble in buying clothing, either in large department stores or small speciality shops and have always been encouraged to come back. I think that I have better clothes than my wife. M from the South.

Dear Carol: Just returned from a 3 week business trip so I am

trying to get situated again. Before I left I had the opportunity to dress with Karen and Laura. It was the first time I have ever worn women's clothing in front of anybody! I was scared and yet excited. It turned out to be a most wonderful day as I made my debut and got to try on many dresses, skirts and wigs. Pictures were taken, too. When the day was over I was naturally reluctant to have to remove my wig and take off my pretty clothes - for I was just getting to know my femme self. It was heavenly! I look forward to a weekend when I can dress for 2 or 3 days Karen, Laura and I have been invited to the home of a nearby sister who has an understanding wife. It will be my first time dressed in front of a real woman. I am anxiously looking forward to the occasion. Kathy OK-302-F

Dear Carol: Well, it's been a year since I joined the sorority and I am ready for another year. I do enjoy my membership and the many friendships that I have made. I seem to have misplaced that questionnaire regarding membership policy (The next Mirror will give a breakdown concerning the questionnaire - Editor). I am in favor of things remaining the same as in the past. Personally, it took a little bit of time to convince my wife that I had neither bisexual or transsexual tendencies and NOW she's a super wife. But if the sorority were to allow the wrong types of people to get in, my wife would surely start having doubts and would wonder why I wanted to associate with such people if I didn't have the same inclinations. I have really appreciated your help in the past and look forward to continued friendship in the future. VICKI ID-200-W



The femme shopper



Undercover Wear
1038 Whirlaway Ave, Naperville, Ill 60540

They feature lingerie, panties, bras, garterbelts, nylons, long gowns. There is mail service available and carry extra-large sizes. Contact Sue Storm at 312-420-1334

Sigrid Luna, R.E.
2888 Long Beach Blvd
Suite 320, Long Beach, Ca

Associated with "Associated Electrolysis."
This is a change of address.

Nail Classiques
Pine Street, Spartanburg, S.C.
For Sculptured acrylic nails. The owner is happy to give any crossdresser an appt for after-hours. It costs \$30 for a full set of gloriously long and perfectly manicured nails.

Hansen — Fontana Hair Goods
230 Powell St
San Francisco, Ca 94102.
A terrific place to buy any wig (they have millions) and to have it and your other wigs styled. They are very understanding.
Call 415-982-6934

Creative Arts
Box 350, Escondido, Ca 92025

New and used dresses, gowns, skirts, lingerie wigs, purses, cosmetics, etc.

Private fittings by appt. Instruction in cosmetic application. Group parties arrang

Lydia's TV Fashions
Suite 222, 13906 Ventura Blvd
Sherman Oaks, Ca 91423

Should you be interested in the many clothes they will have for crossdressers, call 213-995-7195; They plan to help crossdressers exclusively.

D. Barbini, Bridal & Occasion Wear
536 Spruce St, Scranton, Pa.

They carry suits, dresses, gowns and make up special orders on formal wear for sizes and color. They also do alterations. You can try on clothes. Ask for Donna Barbini. It might not be a bad idea to call first -- 347-7905. After-hours appts made!

Tall Fashions
400 Northwest PLaza, St Anns, Mo 63074

During the day, ask for Jessie
In the evening, ask for Louise

Lamant Of A Chapterless Sister

I'm just your average male crossdresser
Travelling through this world of woe;
My dress looks great, my makeup's perfect,
Alas! I have no place to go.

I can't go out to see my mother,
She wouldn't recognize her son.
To get dressed up so very pretty
And not go out is not much fun.

I'm just your average crossdresser
Dreaming of a formal ball;
My evening gown cost me a bundle,
I am the envy of them all.

I can't go out to see my father,
He wouldn't understand his boy
And why he likes to wear high heels
Or why it brings him so much joy.

The evening's over, I must retire,
I put my dress and wig away.
I stash my nylons in the dresser
Until I dress another day.

Lori OH-200-K

Why do I have dreams like I do?
Why do I wish that my dreams would come true?
Is it in fact that I am running away?
To be someone I'm not, others do say?
They see what they see, not what I feel.
And it's this kind of thinking that
throughs me off keel.

They say that I must act in a certain way,
They don't feel what I do, so why should they say?
I have certain feelings, opinions and views,
But why should I tell them, just to be news?
The feelings I have are both tender and warm,
And I wish that I could have them all day long.
In a different gender, then they would see
and then understand that it is only SHE.

Janet Lee

POET'S CORNER



The Lonely Lady

What silken web
Is this
That clothes me?
Must I be a prisoner
In panties and a bra,
Bound by a girdle,
Covered with a wig,
Stranded
On Nylon covered legs?

Is it worth the price
To pine alone,
In apartment loneliness,
Gathering up my skirt
In mirrored pleasure?

The answer comes
On a whispered yes.....

Monica



The Editor's Mailbox

Dear Carol: You have thanked me for donating some of Chevalier's books to the Marquette University and Milwaukee public library. Both were delighted to receive them. You're welcome, of course, but it's I who should be thanking you.

As a Tv who in the early years suffered all of the classic guilts, fears and anxieties that would cause a super first class heart-break of psoriasis to pale into insignificance, I reached the conclusion that with such tools as we now have at our disposal, it was time that this gal got going in some way to help herself and her sisters. We both know that our cross-dressing world is far broader and far reaching than even any and all organization directories would indicate. It simply makes

sense in this more accepting society that all of us use this tool to promote better understanding of our sorority and ourselves. Ignorance is our worst enemy, Carol. I hope that all of my sisters will consider donating books as they are able as a joyful expression of their femininity. It is beautiful, you know. Let's all spread the word. KAREN WI-108-B

Dear Carol: Today I read in Feminform of your organization, which I wish to join. Please send me material especially that which will enable me to find contact with others like me. To find females who would be interested in me even though I crossdress, has been very difficult during these past years of my life, even while living in Denmark, sup-

posedly the most sexually enlightened place on earth. If there is one country in which permissiveness could be said to be the order of the day, this should be it,— but, only for others than myself. The attitude towards hetero crossdressing activity, expressed by my wife, is probably typical of that entertained by most women in this country -- "I know that you are a Tv and even if you are, I refuse to believe it." On the night she said so, I knew that our marriage was about to collapse. I am a teacher of English at both University and gymnasium (a school that prepares pupils for university entrance) levels. I believe that membership in your sorority in all probability certainly can do me no harm and may enable me to take a giant step in the direction of a happier life than I have ever known until now, as I stand poised on the brink of a new experience. ERC Denmark

Dear Carol: At the moment I am not too far out of the closet. I'll tell you how it is with and that is I've tried to be fair with my wife but it has gotten a bit out of hand - to the extent that she has taken a negative attitude about my crossdressing. I told my family doctor about my need to crossdress. He is of the 'old school,' and if he has seen any crossdressers besides they were troubled people. He continues to reinforce my wife's thoughts - the wrong way. And as long as my wife thinks that my doctor is more of an authority about crossdressing than me, it is going to be very hard to convince my wife of the innocence of what I do. My doctor does not think that I can win my wife over but I said that I could with a bit of reinforcement of