

Skirt trouble

By Helen Emery

NINETEEN-year-old Crawford McGhee, from Swindon, who is waiting for a sex change, stunned Bath magistrates today when he appeared before them charged with stealing a woman's skirt. He wore a skin-tight miniskirt and black stilettos.

Crawford, who uses the name Elenka Ashford, pleaded guilty to the charge as he stood before the court with flowing peroxide hair, perfect make-up, matching bag and shoes and large yellow earrings. He was put on probation for two years and ordered to pay £24 costs.

Defending solicitor Mr Steven Dove asked the magistrate to adjourn the case for psychiatric reports which he said were expected to be ready today.

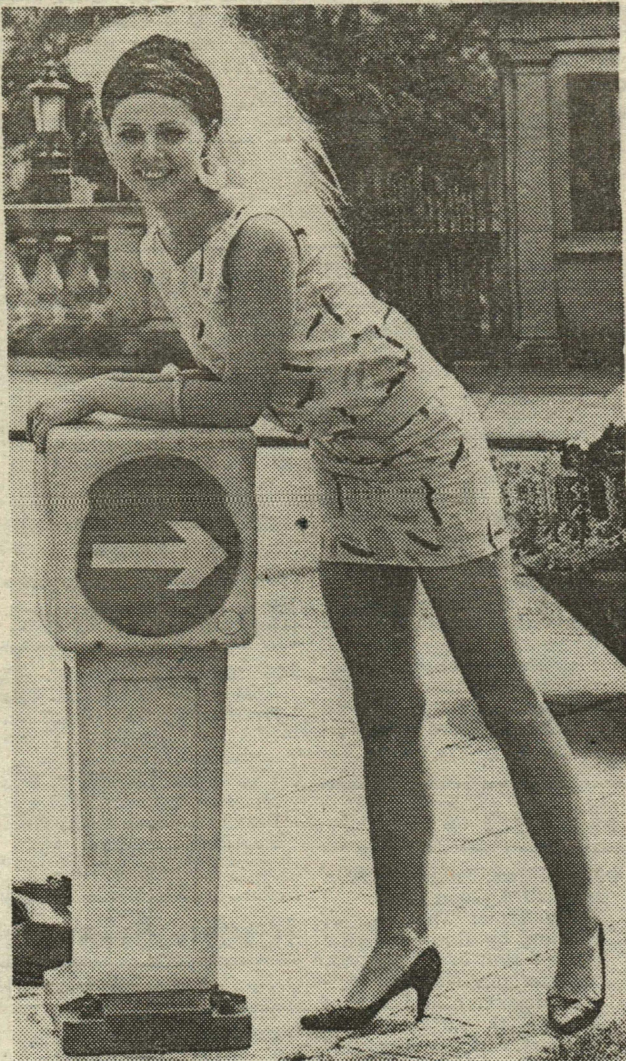
But he explained Elenka had missed her appointment with the doctor because she (Elenka) was having electrolysis treatment in Sheffield.

"None of us can imagine the turmoil my client has to live with day to day bearing in mind she desires to be female. She is quite a public figure, subject to ridicule, fun and innuendo and not inconsiderable notoriety with the press," said Mr Dove.

He explained the psychiatric reports would help Elenka have the sex change operation 'she so desperately seeks,' but the magistrates decided not to wait for reports and finished the case.

Speaking after the court appearance, 5' 6" Elenka, said he was hoping to have the sex change operation at King's Cross Hospital in London within two years, but he had no idea how he would raise the £3,500 needed.

Elenka, who only has women's size eight clothes in her home at Ventnor Close, Moredon, Swindon, said she had been undergoing hor-



Elenka — waiting for a sex change: Picture by Kevin Bates.

more treatment for four months. Although he no longer lives at home with his parents, Elenka said they were very supportive towards him and she even swapped clothes with his three sisters.

"I have got a boyfriend I have been going out with for

two years. He offers me some security at home. My parents are very good about it. When I told them I was going to have a sex change they were a bit shocked, but my dad now introduces me to people saying, "This is my son who is soon going to be my daughter."