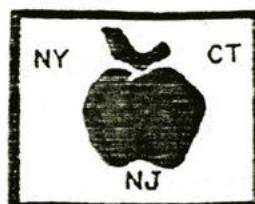




Tri-Ess Sorority

our Special JOY



Metropolitan

***** CHI DELTA MU *****

Vol. V, No. 7

CHAPTER

January, 1985



*My,
How
Pretty!*



Attending December's Gala Holiday Party were (seated on floor, left to right): Mary Jane (NY-1322-M), Janice (NJ-M), and Renata Lee (CT-146-W); (seated) Camile (NY-1550-Mc), Dorothy (NJ-1286-G), Jane (NJ-1308-T), Charleen (NY-C), JoAnne (NY-1635-S), and Lynda (NJ-1303-F); (standing) Karen (NJ-1305-K), Phil (Marlene NY-1335-B), Robin Ann (NY-1675-S), Eve (NY-1676-H), Arleen (NY-L), Fran (NY-1610-B), Barbara (NY-F), Hollis (NY-K), Doreen (NJ-1608-T), Karen (NJ), Brandy (NY-1677-H), Renee (CT-5-C), Eileen (NY-1317-J), and Carole (NY-1323-S).

(photo: Karen NJ-1305-K)

...Also attending our Holiday Party were the following: Marilyn wife of Lynda, Linda girlfriend of Robin Ann, Valerie wife of Eve, Bev wife of Dorothy, Millie girlfriend of Jane, Caroline sister of Renata Lee, Priscilla wife of Eileen, Cindy girlfriend of Doreen, Carol bride-to-be of Brandy, Cedric friend of Hollis, Paul and Marty of NY, Joyce (CT), Muriel Olive of Femme Fashions Expressions in New York City, Deirdre (NY-D) and wife Patricia, Jean (NY-1600-B), Jamie (NY) and girlfriend Deirdre.



DECEMBER MEETING
BREAKS ALL RECORDS
FOR THOSE ATTENDING!



...A warm welcome to new attendees! Charleen, Renee, Karen, Marty, Paul, Joyce, Jamie and Deirdre. We trust that you enjoyed yourselves and that we will see you at future meetings.

TO ALL SISTERS.....



a Prosperous
New Year



SPRING WEEKEND I, PAGE 11

WHAT'S GOING ON

...In the absence of our President, Patricia, and Karen our Vice President, Lynda (Treasurer), and I (Secretary), opened the business meeting at 7 PM. Karen joined us during the meeting.

...Lynda reported on the Chapter's enhanced financial position with members renewing and new folks joining us (see elsewhere in the newsletter)...Lynda identified a very nice place for our Spring Weekend in the Poconos; more next month...Your Editor related that 18 potential members for a new chapter of TRI-ESS in Western New York State have been contacted, but it is too early to say how things will develop with this project. Jill (OH-1581-W) and Diane who are leaders of the Cleveland-based Chapter, GENESIS, are helping in this effort. A "Western Edition" of O. S. J. will be sent to all these folks...Chapter organization efforts in the Philly area were not successful. A meeting was to have been held in early December, but according to Jane (NJ-1308-T), only she and one other showed up. Unfortunately, looks like the promising OPPORTUNITY Chapter lost its chance to accomplish something. C. D. M. folks are ready to help, but effort and willingness at the local level is necessary for success. Your Editor understands from Judy Ann (PA-1397-L), that the organization meeting will be rescheduled to another date.

...The Chapter is still looking for someone to coordinate a dinner in NYC (no dressing), to treat our wives/girlfriends/sisters and ourselves to a nice evening out...The I. D. card project is not forgotten, and Renata (CT-1116-W) has been working on this for us...Lynda and Marilyn believe that there is a need for them to start a G.G.A. chapter in New Jersey. This will not detract from their commitment to TRI-ESS and C. D. M., but is a project that they want to personally undertake. The meetings will be scheduled so as to not to conflict with our Chapter meetings.

...The membership was advised that Felicity (NY-1318-M), is in the hospital and they were asked to sign a card for her get-well soon...Your Editor spoke with Edie (NY-1558-G), at the meeting to learn that Kathy may have picked-up son Ned's pneumonia. I know I speak for all members in expressing our wishes to all members and loved-ones to get healthy soon!

...Sisters who have videotapes and who have the capability to reproduce them are asked to do so for the Chapter's Library. You will be

reimbursed for your cost. Please contact Chapter Librarian Edith Marie (NY-1340-W), as follows! Don [redacted] Draw R, Valley Cottage, New York 10989...Beginning in January wives/girlfriends/sisters will have the opportunity to meet BY THEMSELVES to discuss whatever they would like to discuss. Camile (NY-1550-Mc), has offered the use of her motel room for this purpose. Thank you Camile! The time will be decided at the meeting. Again, your Editor welcomes a column for our wives/girlfriends/sisters written by them for OUR newsletter.

...The January meeting will take place at the usual New Jersey location. Contact your GAL if you are uncertain as to where it is. Remember, the Chapter's Hotline (201-663-0772), should be called if weather conditions may cause the cancellation of the monthly meeting...The Chapter is opened to obtaining a meeting place on Long Island, and your Editor has asked several members from that area to pursue this matter for us.

...Karen, our Vice President, will be leaving us to move to the West Coast in early 1985. It is somewhat doubtful that she will make the January and/or February meetings. Karen said that during her association with C. D. M. Chapter she has noted many instances of a "very personal and caring touch" exhibited by the Chapter and its members. A solid round of applause was given for Karen's work which certainly added to that "personal touch" she spoke of. The Chapter is confident that Karen will remain associated with us through the newsletter.

...Karen's departure will leave a vacancy in this important position. According to Section V of the Chapter's By-Laws:

"Nomination of officer candidates shall be made from the floor at least one month before balloting is conducted. Only candidates so nominated may be elected. Balloting shall be by written vote delivered either in person or by mail to the Treasurer no later than the date set by members for such elections...In the event of a vacancy in any office other than the Presidency, a special election shall be held as soon as practicable, following the procedures outlined above. Such a specially-elected officer shall serve only until the expiration of her predecessor's term"

...With these considerations, it is suggested that if someone is interested in running for this position, that they advise your Editor so that I can include this information in the February newsletter. You will receive this edition before the January meeting; we can have nominations then (if you want), with an election at the February meeting...A special nominating committee for officers to be elected effective July 1st is forming and this will be discussed at the January meeting.



...The Chapter is asking those who are committed to TRI-ESS and our Chapter to give serious consideration to run for office.

...Our fiscal position is quite healthy, so the membership decided to donate the Chapter's share of the 50/50 to the management of the motel the Chapter uses in Westchester as an expression of our gratitude for their very nice treatment of our group throughout the year.

...January's program in New Jersey is scheduled to feature Alexis J's Wiggery; programs for February, March and April are still open. At the May meeting we may see a re-enactment of Brandy (NY-1677-H) and Carol's wedding which will be in late March. No bets are being taken as to who will be the bride, and we may even have the Chapter's first shower then. The Pink Elephant will be repeated sometime during the first part of 1985. Other program matters will be coordinated by Fran (NY-1610-B) and Doreen (NJ-1608-T), and Karen's successor.

...The Chapter thanks, again, Muriel Olive of Femme Fashions Expressions in New York City for coming to the meeting and bringing two potential members of the Chapter...As usual, our hostesses Renata and Caroline, assisted by Camile, provided all the necessary touches for a lovely evening. Again, Fran added a beautiful display of flowers to grace the table the officers sat. Thank you so much!

Share

the joy

1985

1 9 8 5 CHAPTER MEETING SCHEDULE

January 12

April 13

July 13

October 12

February 9

May 11

August 10

November 9

March 9

June 8

September 14

December 14

A REVIEW OF A REVUE

* * * * *



"Bebe's Cabaret Revue"

Music Hall, Tarrytown, NY 12/1/84

This was one show that I thought most appropriate to go to "en femme". With my black dress and black high heel pumps and my friend in his black jacket and tie, we were properly attired for a special event. I have never seen female impersonators in the flesh before and I was quite anxious to "see how it's really done".

First we had dinner at the Pickwick Post (a very nice place if you're a crossdresser in Tarrytown - they treated me like a lady) and then went to the show. They had a fine four piece band on stage and the producer of the show, Sylvia, danced on stage in a long white gown slit to the waist. Sylvia is thirtyish with nice legs. She organized this show (she also had her own little local fan club in the back rows) and she kicked off the show by welcoming everyone and introducing the girls. Then in came the sensational Bebe Scarpi. Bebe is a beautiful lady and has been in the business for at least ten years. I think she is a transsexual. Her voice is a kind of a low Joan Rivers and she has a rather curvaceous body with alabaster skin. With a very feminine face on a slender neck, she looked quite stunning in a long gown and high heels because she is at least 5'10" tall. Bebe is a terrible singer but she has great stage presence. She is an old pro at pleasing a crowd and she knows how to silence hecklers with snappy one-liners. She introduced the other ladies: Deseri, Frankie, Frenchy and Coco.

Deseri did the first number. She is a tall gorgeous black girl and she came on in a long bronze ruffled gown to sing and dance "Fame". Too bad she couldn't sing as well as she looked. She also got tangled in the miles of cables and disconnected her amplification several times but kept going. She then sang a slow ballad and

everyone wished her amplification was disconnected again, but no such luck.

Then Frankie came on. Frankie (the last name escapes me) is a 40-50 year old seasoned pro who must have been clicking around in high heels on the stage for the last 20 years. She seemed well known here. She sang "The man in the moon is a drag queen" while her white gown sparkled. Bebe then came on and the two of them sang "Bosom Buddies" while engaging in some funny feminine back biting: Bebe to Frankie: "Remember how we all wanted to look like Elizabeth Taylor? Well, now she does!" Frankie to Bebe: "Your dress looks like a nice table cloth. - ..covering a table."

Next was Frenchy, a short (about 5'5") beautiful little Latin lady who could make some great dance moves. Her costume was a knockout - a red sequined dress with a red feather hem and matching red high heels and, of course, a red feather boa. She did a disco number and sang a song.

Then Coco came on. Coco is a fortyish black lady who looks and sings like Pearl Bailey. She was fantastic and brought the house down. Bebe ended the first half with a strip tease. Now, I'm no authority on such things, but I thought she was excellent. While the band blared out the appropriate music, she started out in a long blue gown and gloves and ended with considerably less. She used two huge blue feather boas and part of the stage curtain to deliver the 'coup de grace'.

During intermission I got a chance to see who was in the audience. A surprising number of well-dressed young women were there - either with girl friends or boy friends. There were also a good number of cross dressers there - I saw at least ten or more, dressed up for the occasion. The crowd was very frisky that night - they all seemed to be really into impersonators.

The second half started out with all the girls on the stage in very sexy costumes. Bebe wore a skin-tight leather dress and Deseri had on a

(continued on next Page)



showgirl outfit: black leotard with a silver sequined jacket and high heels. They all sang "Big Spender" together and then Deseri did a dance solo to a feverish drum beat. She looked much better than her first number and I gave her a big hand. Frankie then came on again and started to sing "I'm Just one of the gals who's just one of the boys" but she forgot the words and ended up just throwing out one-liners. But the crowd was with her and she wore a ravishing gown with a red sequin flame design so it wasn't a total loss.

Next was something unusual - a male exotic dancer. Now, I'm not into male dancers; I came to see the ladies. But I can tell you - this guy was awesome. His stage name was Stil-etto and he must have studied gymnastics for years. He did back flips and gyrations that defied gravity - a class act to put it mildly.

Let's see - what was next? I think Bebe sang a bawdy song, Frenchy did two more songs, Coco gave another show-stopping performance singing "Bridge over troubled water" in a beautiful lavender gown and then all the girls wound up the show singing the old Fats Waller standard, "This Joint is Jumpin". It was quite a show.

A funny thing happened to me while I was watching the ladies. I got to wishing I could be up there on stage, dressed in some gorgeous outfit and singing and dancing like Liza Minelli. Fortunately this is only a

temporary affliction and I'm sure it will go away as soon as I buy a red sequined dress like Frenchy's. I wonder what kind of life people like Bebe live. Could you imagine making a living as a female impersonator? I'm sure there are stranger and harder ways to earn a livelihood, but I can't think of one at the moment. For any of you who are interested in the subject, I can suggest a fine little book, "Mother Camp" by Esther Newton. In the book she writes about a number of impersonators who worked in the Kansas City, Chicago and New York areas in the late sixties. She reveals that most impersonators don't lead glamorous lives like Jim Bailey and Danny LaRue. Instead they must often endure performing in seedy dives with performance fees that wouldn't pay for half a tube of lipstick. If they look like glamorous women it might help their careers, but that isn't all it takes. They may have to sing or dance or both, be a stand-up comic and please all types of crowds - straight, gay, young or old. Bebe and her entourage of she-males were a mixed bag of uneven talent, but they put on quite a show - sleazy and sophisticated, silly and exciting. If you ever get a chance to catch her act some day before she retires, you will probably have a good time.

HOLLIS



(Editor's Note: We have "Mother Camp" in the chapter library. Thank you, Hollis, for taking the time to share your thoughts with our readers.)



Dressed to thrill:

Jagger's secret project: a dressy video series

MICK Jagger, the Rolling Stone who refuses to settle down and gather moss, is making a video serial to promote his long-awaited solo album — and it will tell the story of a rock star down on his luck.

"It's the reverse of rags to riches," said a source. "He's an aging rock star who's becoming a has-been. He was very successful and had lots of money and becomes a regular guy. I think at one point he winds up in jail."

Like the old Saturday afternoon serials with the cliffhanging, to-be-continued endings, the clips will lead into each other. Putting them all together, Mick, the star and director, will have a 55-minute feature.

The serial is a departure from the standard practice of making separate videos for each song. Mick apparently decided it would be more interesting to string them together into one plot.



HE'S GOT BETTE DAVIS EYES

THAT incredible master of disguise Charles Pierce (above) is again holding court as Tallulah Bankhead, Mae West, Katharine Hepburn, Joan Collins, Bette Davis, and other famous ladies, at Freddy's, 308 E. 49th St., through Dec. 9. Cover, \$13; two-drink minimum; call 888-1633 for reservations.

He flew down to Brazil with Jerry Hall last week to shoot the series on a three-week schedule, sources said.

It is not known if the tentative title, *She's the Boss*, from one song on the album, is autobiographical or not.

The crew brought along a \$30,000 wardrobe of about 40 outfits designed by Andre Van Pier, the 26-year-old boy wonder of Seventh Avenue, who also supplies Julio Iglesias with cashmere suits at \$4000 per.

According to a spokesman for Van Pier, the costumes Mick will be wearing in the video include a \$3000 brocade and silver lame jacket, long Johns, ski pants, knickers and a tuxedo.

"Mick, at least in one part of the video, will be seen in a red dress," said our source. "He was fitted for it in his apartment."

Model Jerry Hall — Mick's flame and mother of his baby daughter — will get to go before the camera in a white terry cloth robe with gold trimming.

A spokeswoman at Columbia Records said she couldn't confirm any of this because Mick doesn't even keep the company posted on the secret project. "He has full artistic control," she said.

The album — Mick's first solo effort in 20 years with the Stones — was produced by industry hotshots Nile Rodgers and Bill Laswell and features such rock legends as Peter Townshend of The Who, Jeff Beck and Herbie Hancock.

A duet with Michael Jackson, recorded at the same time as "State of Shock," on Jackson's Victory album, will also be included.

And on the cover? A photo of Mick himself — reportedly living in bed.

Type casting

OK, so you've seen one zillion magazine covers, from teen mags to rock rags, featuring the pancaked mug of Boy George. But now readers of *Harvard Magazine* can also have the Boy experience. Yes, the Mascaraed One is the face gracing the January-February issue of the mag — even though he's not an alum. His mug appears in connection with an article on androgyny.

Anyone interested in doing a review of this article?

LES Ballets Trockadero de Monte Carlo, an all-male dance company that playfully presents classical ballet in parody form, performs complete with hairy legs and tutus tomorrow at 8:30 p.m. at Queens College's Colden Center. Tickets, \$9-\$11; call 718-793-8080.

PAGE SIX

President's Corner

To all our Chi Delta Mu members, wives and friends, seeing that this will be my last holiday greeting as President of this Chapter, I want to wish everyone a prosperous and fulfilling New Year in '85 and I hope everyone had a Merry Christmas and Hanukkah.

Being the first President of Chi Delta Mu has been a great honor, and I want to take this time to personally thank you for the support and help you gave me for the last two years and I know you will give our next President the same help.

I want to talk to you on the subject of 'Uniforms, and what is in them'.

This came to mind at a dinner party my wife and I along with two other couples were invited to. As the eight of us sat around the table having coffee after a lovely dinner, one of the men who is a sergeant in the New York City Police Force told us about two transvestites being arrested one night. You could see on his face the low regard he had for these two men as he described one as being over 6' and over 250 lbs. and the other smaller and slimmer in build.

He laughed as he told us that the slim one pleaded with him if he could be arraigned as soon as possible, for he wanted to get home and change clothes before his wife, who works nights as a nurse, got home from work, for it was her clothes that he had on.

I asked him what they were arrested for? He looked at me in surprise that I would ask, and said, "I guess solicitation", and gave a gesture of a b--- j--- with his fingers and open mouth; he added: "all these fags are all the same", lumping all crossdressers together in that category. I wanted to ask this narrow-minded person what if they were not homos but heteros and just dressed in women's clothes to express their feminine side, would they still be arrested? Or does the public think that it is OK because it is CUTE for a woman to express her mannish side, but not CUTE for a man to express his feminine side. Sorry, I thought better of it, remembering where I was and bit my tongue and did a slow burn.



Chapter President

Patricia

Most of the people believed every word he said mainly because he is a police officer and in wearing that uniform can say no wrong. I wish the public could learn to accept one another for what they are, and not try to change them into what they would like them to be. As long as they are not doing anyone harm, let them express themselves the way they want.

Now there are all kinds of uniforms, even our everyday clothes are uniforms. The purpose is to convey by sight what you want the public to conceive you as. And you expect the public to accept you in that uniform. Like those worn in sports - baseball and basketball - and each branch of the military as well as firemen, policemen, mailmen, clergy and it goes on and on. The public has accepted women in these uniforms. I have worn four uniforms, but only have been accepted in three. I hope to be accepted in all someday.

One of the main complaints the public has is, 'What if he should use the ladies' room? I say, 'so what'. None of us is going to flout their sex, especially in a public rest room, and as we all know there are individual stalls, so no one is going to see your private parts. They should see some of the rest rooms outside of this country; that complaint is really unfounded. I bet there are a lot of women who shared a ladies' room with a crossdresser and never even knew it. Like I say, 'so what'.

I also say, 'if you have respect for others and the uniform you are wearing, you should receive the same respect back'. I believe there is hope for us yet with the education of the public not to be narrow-minded.

Stay well, and 'keep your powder dry'.

Sincerely,

Your President,

Patricia.

A WEEK TO REMEMBER

* **** ** *****

There are times, I think, when you spend too much time planning every little detail of some task you want to do or some trip you want to take. The feeling of satisfaction in what you have achieved is dulled by unhappiness with some minor detail which did not work out exactly as planned. Then, by contrast, there are times when you do a minimum of planning and everything seems to magically fall into place. Details that you never would have thought of work out beautifully. The result is not only satisfaction, but enjoyment and, yes, even elation. The second week of May was a perfect example of this. It was a fantastic week I shall long remember.

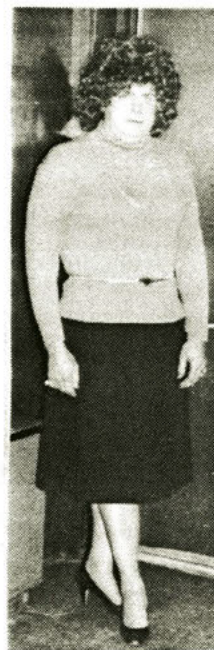
There were only two things that I had planned to accomplish during the second week of May: paint our three bedrooms and attend the Chi Delta Mu chapter meeting. My wife and I had arranged to take our Spring vacations that week so that we could tackle the painting together and I had been planning for a long time to attend the chapter meeting in Westchester the second Saturday in May. In mid-April two difficulties which threatened to interfere with my plans began to take shape.

My wife's office was beginning to get very busy and as each week passed it seemed more and more likely that she would have to postpone her vacation. The week before our "vacation" the decision was made. Her vacation would have to be deferred.

We had been expecting to receive an invitation to our niece's college graduation for a long time. The college is some distance upstate and we were rather looking forward to a pleasant outing. The children would also be invited, of course, and we would have a great time sharing the day with all the other relatives who would attend. When the invitation

finally arrived, my heart sank when I discovered that the graduation ceremony was to be held the second Saturday in May.

Painting is not one of our favorite indoor activities and I think my wife was not too unhappy with the prospect of missing the week of domestic togetherness. "It's just as well," I thought. With her at work and the children in school, I could accomplish a lot without any interruptions. Then it occurred to me - with the house to myself all day, why don't I let Fran, "herself", do the painting for me? So, while most people would wear a tee shirt and an old pair of slacks for such a job, I donned a dress (not my best, to be sure), high heels, wig and makeup and enthusiastically started the painting project. One thing I soon discovered - painting ceilings is much easier when wearing 3" heels and I highly recommend it. Of course, I had to work extra carefully to avoid splattering myself, but in spite of this, the painting progressed very quickly and I was finished by Wednesday. I was almost sorry to see the job end. What would have been a miserable chore for Frank was a most delightful experience for Fran.





The question of what we would be doing Saturday was a more serious matter, although there was never any doubt in my mind that I would have to miss my niece's college graduation ceremony. My wife knows of my hobby and she tolerates my going to monthly chapter meetings, but she does not accept it and, of course, refuses to go to a chapter meeting with me. If she would only go once, I am sure that many of her fears would be put to rest through discussion with the other wives and she would see that this crossdressing thing is really a harmless pastime. Certainly, she would learn that she has no reason to feel threatened or to feel that our relationship would be impaired in any way. Well, that's another story entirely, so let's get back to the "week to remember".

On Thursday, having finished the painting, I decided to take my two wigs to a wig shop in a nearby town to have them washed and set. I asked the very pleasant owner of the shop if I could pick up the red wig the next day and she said it would be no problem. Then I got a little brave and inquired how much a makeup do-over would cost. She said it was Mother's Day weekend and they would be too busy to handle any. I never said who the makeup do-over was for, nor did I mention who owned the wigs.

Friday I went to pick up the red wig. As the owner was preparing to place the wig in a box, she asked, "Would

you like to try it on?" I gulped with surprise and began to feel a bit nervous, but her matter-of-fact attitude put me at ease. "No thanks," I answered. Then, getting a bit braver, I pointed to an artificial nail kit display on the counter and asked, "Can you tell me how these work?" She explained the cost and the way she applied them, but then she took my hand and said, "Look, the male thumb is too large for the type of nails we have." She asked if I needed any blusher or other cosmetics. I felt so relaxed and relieved to be able to talk with someone like her that I ended up buying a lipstick and jar of nail polish in a beautiful shade she suggested. I also picked out a tan shoulder bag and when she totalled up my purchases, she said it was such an attractive shoulder bag that she would like to borrow it from me sometime. I chuckled and said, "Sure. Why not? I won't be using it too often, anyway." She said the other wig would be ready the following day. I thanked her, paid for my purchases and left.

When Saturday dawned I was tingling with excitement. Shortly after a late breakfast my wife and the children left for our niece's graduation. Once again I had the house to myself for the day. I took the opportunity to sort through Fran's wardrobe and I decided then that I would let Fran, for the first time, drive to the chapter meeting. Deciding what to wear was not difficult; I selected the new outfit and shoes I had recently bought at Lane Bryant. With makeup carefully applied, red wig brushed and combed just right, I filled my new shoulder bag with all the necessities, checked myself in the full-length mirror one last time and sneaked out the side door and into the car. I was on my way.

The route to the chapter meeting took me right through the town where the wig shop is located and I decided more or less at the last minute to stop in and pick up the other wig. When I parked the car, I promptly stepped out

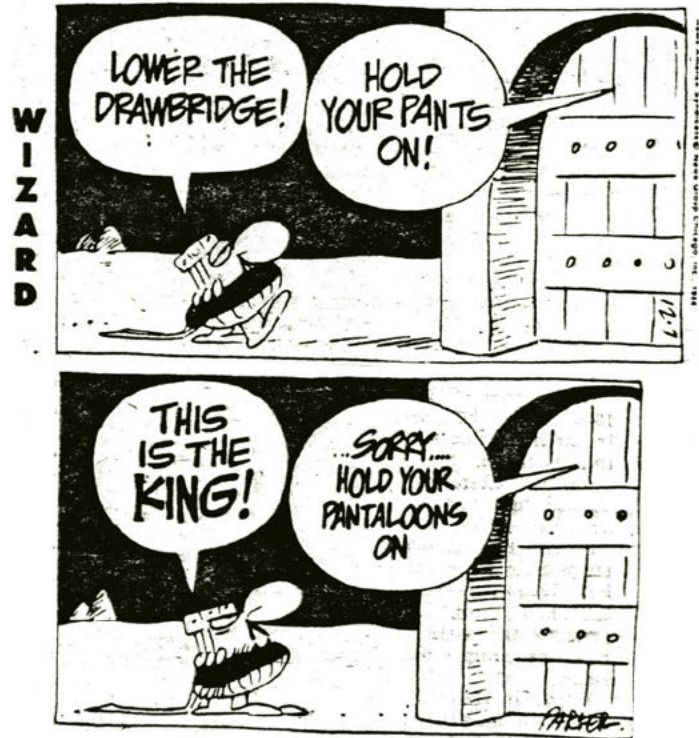
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and started to walk toward the store. I knew that if I had sat there awhile to gather my thoughts, I would have "chickened out". The one block to the store seemed like a mile. On the way I passed at least two dozen people and nobody took notice of me. What a great feeling; Fran's "act" was working! I felt good inside and really began to enjoy my femme identity, but my heart was pounding with excitement. There were three women customers in the front part of the store and that made me even more nervous. At close range, would some of them see through my disguise? I walked past them to the wig department at the rear of the store and pretended to be looking at wigs. After a short while, the store's co-owner approached and asked if she could help me. When I told her that I came to pick up the other wig I had left on Thursday, her eyes opened wide in amazement. "Yes, yes, of course. Your wig is ready," she said. Then she asked, "Who did your makeup?" When I told her I did it myself, she said, "You look great." "Thank you," I said, "but right now my heart is pounding so much I think it will beat its way right out of my chest." "Relax," she said, "take a few deep breaths. Don't worry, you look great."

The meeting was very enjoyable, as usual. Afterwards several of us went over to the restaurant for coffee and dessert and more conversation. In some ways, this was the highlight of the meeting for me. By the time I returned home, still dressed as Fran, my wife was sound asleep in bed. It was 3:20 AM. A most enjoyable and most unforgettable day, indeed.

FRAN (NY-1610-B).

I DO IT.





Are you already tired of Winter and it is only early January? Miss the mild weather when a warm breeze was felt on clean-shaven legs and you were with your sisters at a meeting? Well, what we have for YOU is the....



CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER

WEEKEND

MAY 31ST &

JUNE 1ST & JUNE 2ND



IN THE BEAUTIFUL

POCONO MOUNTAINS

E-N F-E-M-M-E

Yes! The Chapter has booked a very nice resort in the Poconos for us this Spring, and that should help all of us be a little warmer in the coming months. The management of the resort is totally understanding, cooperative, and supportive...The schedule is arrival Friday evening with a meal, three meals on Saturday, and two on Sunday. Departure would be Sunday afternoon...Of course this will be a totally EN FEMME weekend...We will have rap sessions, dancing, swimming, bathing beauty contests, a Miss Congeniality contest plus a host of other activities to allow you to express your personality for a whole weekend!...

...Now, the total cost for this is \$90 per person. This includes the basic cost of room & board at \$70, another \$10 for tips, plus another \$10 we believe we need for chips, beer & wine, and other goodies...So, \$90 is your TOTAL cost for what will be a very enjoyable weekend. Remember, this includes lodging, six meals, all tips, and provision for refreshments...Couples are especially encouraged to come as we plan on having a wives/girlfriends rap session and other couples-orientated activities. Single sisters are also encouraged to come...

...The number of guests for the Chapter's Spring Weekend is limited, so please make your reservations with Chapter Treasurer Lynda as soon as you can...Reservations are \$50 per person which is non-refundable. The closing date for reservations is February 15th. The balance of payment will be at the Spring Weekend...



...So, ladies, if you want to enjoy the pleasure of full-timing it for a few days, here it is, at a very reasonable price. It will be an experience we'll never forget! Start thinking of what dresses/skirts you'll bring (remember it will be May/June), appropriate nighties (yes, of COURSE we'll have a slumber party), and a swimsuit (FEMME). More on the Spring Weekend in future newsletters, but THINK SPRING (it will keep you warmer), and RESERVE EARLY.

The Other Side

by Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.

I recently completed a study of 55 women who were in current relationships with transvestites and I want to tell you their story. My intent is to describe the woman's view of a relationship between a woman and a man who crossdresses.

The most striking insight that came from my study was how isolated and misunderstood such women are. Any male who crossdresses knows first-hand the anxiety and isolation that goes with this behavior, especially in the early years. There is always some concern about being discovered. Can you imagine why a male would want to wear women's clothing, for to her it is her normal clothing and usually has no special feeling associated with it. When you add to this confusion her concern that her partner's crossdressing might become public knowledge, she can be in a terrified state. She may also worry about being a lesbian and about her partner being gay. Because crossdressing (unfortunately), is not generally acceptable in this society, she may be afraid to confide in anyone because so far as she is concerned her partner's behavior reflects on her. What will people think of her if she tells them her partner likes to wear women's clothing?

Further, many counselors and therapists do not understand crossgender behaviors and so may be of little help to her or may switch their attention to her partner because he is 'more interesting'. In addition, there is little information available to her to help her understand his behavior or her own feelings. If she reads typical transvestite literature, she may think that the fantasies in them are real and that her partner wants to become a full time woman and leave her. Thus the social stigma attached to crossdressing coupled with a lack of information serves to isolate her.

These women and their partners were (from outside appearances), typical middle class couples. Only about half of the women and about half of the men had ever been in counseling for any reason. The women in my study were probably not typical of many women who have a crossdressing partner because most of them had some connection with an organization that supported crossdressing males.

The women said that their partner's crossdressing needs often put strains on the relationship but they stayed because they loved him and/or because their relationship has other aspects that were good -- balancing out the negative aspects of the crossdressing. There appeared to be an undertone in some responses which indicated that it would be difficult for the woman to leave the relationship because she was economically and/or socially trapped.

Another finding that was significant (keeping in mind that the women in my study had chosen to stay in the relationship), was that the earlier in the relationship the male told her about his crossdressing, the more probable it was that she would be accepting (to some degree), of his behavior. Just when she was told (or should be told), was not clear. The women who were told about the crossdressing in the first year and definitely before marriage or living together were the most accepting or tolerant. Also, the more sensitive her partner was to her needs and concerns, the more likely it was that she would elect to stay in the relationship -- if she had a choice. Her acceptance or tolerance of the crossdressing should not be confused with enjoyment or encouragement. What it probably meant was that she had come to terms with the crossdressing, learning that it was an immutable part of her partner's personality. Her decision to stay may also imply that she had developed some skills with which to cope (ignore) the problems associated with the crossdressing. High on the list of support for partners of crossdressers were the other women she met through the wives groups that were associated with crossdressing organizations. Unfortunately, most of the women in my study did not find out about these other women until some time after the initial disclosure which meant they were isolated for some period of time -- perhaps years!

Now I have heard some crossdressers say that what their partner thinks or feels is immaterial so long as she totally accepts his crossdressing needs or gets out of the way so that he can be free to express himself. My belief is that ALL relationships have to be built on a mutual give and take arrangement if they are to survive in a meaningful way. What many of the women in my study said was that they were as supportive of their partner's needs as they knew how to be but he often did not consider her needs or feelings. The study results highlight areas of the woman's

(continued on next Page)

In Case You Missed It

There's no easy answer

Dear Ann Landers: Problem: Our 13-year-old son. As a small child he liked to dress in women's clothes. He loved my silk and satin garments and high-heeled shoes.

Last week I discovered he had cut up a pair of his old trousers and made himself a mini-skirt. I'm sure he has been wearing it when he is alone.

The boy does not look feminine. I see no signs of homosexuality. Will you check with your experts, and tell me: How did this behavior get started? Is it related to his environment or was it built-in at birth? What can be done, if anything, to put a stop to it? Would counseling or therapy help? Does this mean the boy is homosexual?

He had a loving home and good upbringing. I am sure we made mistakes, like all parents, but I know of no reason for him to turn out like this. Thanks for any help you can give us.

— Parents In Search Of Answers

Dear Parents: I spoke with an expert, a psychiatrist at UCLA. He pointed out the need for psychiatric evaluation to determine what type of cross-dressing is present. Some cross-dressers want to be women. Others cross-dress to experience erotic pleasure when they put on women's clothes. Still others do it for homosexual fun and games.

The causes of cross-dressing are multiple, complex and still not understood. There is no evidence in most cases that it is biological in origin. In the case of those who cross-dress for erotic excitement, many report that they were dressed like little girls as punishment when they were young.

You ask if this practice can be stopped. The expert I spoke to made it clear that it is very difficult to get a cross-dresser to alter his behavior,

Ann Landers

Syndicated columnist

even with intensive treatment.

He also stressed that cross-dressers are not usually homosexuals, nor do they present a danger to society.



(The Other Side - continued)

concerns that can be talked over between the two people in order to find a mutually acceptable solution for their relationship. So it seems quite possible that crossdressers can 'have their cake and eat it too', because with a little perception and some concessions they can continue to be in a relationship with a supportive woman and still enjoy the pleasures of crossdressing.

(Ed. Note! thank you very much Dr. Peo for a very interesting and insightful article! comments from sisters AND wives/girlfriends ???)

*** CLASSIFIED ***

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12 months/issues! \$30.00

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Renewing with the Chapter are Jane (NJ-1308-T), Marlene (NY-1335-B), Doreen (NJ-1808-T), Frances (NJ-1289-B), Terrie (NJ-1307-R), Dorothy (NJ-1286-G), Felicity (NY-1318-M), and Josephine (FSPA-1540-C). New members are Kimberle (NY), Deirdre (NY-B), Charleen (NY-1756-C), Carroll (NJ), and David (NY). Thanks for your support and a warm welcome to your sisters. Dues payable in January are Vikki (NJ-1599-M), Jana (NJ-304-T), Sylvia Kay (FCFQ-1523-K), Joan (NY-1316-F), and Jean (NY-1600-E). The financial support of the ladies of the Chapter is important for our continued growth. Dues are \$15/year; please send on to Lynda, Chapter Treasurer.

Treasurer's Report *****

Item Description	November	December
Opening Balance	839.67	890.30
Receipts		
Dues New	30.00	45.00
Dues Renewal	90.00	30.00
Meeting Fees	190.00	240.00
50/50	0	27.00
Pink Elephant	10.00	0
Total	320.00	342.00
Expenses		
Newsletter	85.99	0
Refreshments	56.18	77.19
Motel	127.20	132.19
Total	269.37	209.38
Closing Balance	890.30	1,022.92

Quarterly Budget Status Report (July - December)

Item Description	Budget Amount	\$ Realized/ Expensed	% Realized/ Expensed
Revenues			
Dues Renewal	870	300	34.5
Dues New	675	220	32.6
Donations	250	55	22.0
Meeting Fees	2100	880	41.9
Special Events	1250	155.75	12.5
50/50	100	53.75	53.8
Pink Elephant	175	90.25	51.6
Total	5420	1754.75	32.4
Expenses			
Postage	50	27.12	54.2
Newsletter	750	430.90	57.5
Refreshments	600	241.22	40.2
Motel	1300	514.47	39.6
Advertising	300	0	0
Hostess Gift	20	0	0
Special Events	1250	283.33	22.7
Book Purchase	150	0	0
Office Supplies	50	0	0
Printing	200	0	0
Programs	150	0	0
Trans. Reserve	400	0	0
Contingency	200	0	0
Total	5420	1497.04	27.6

We seem to be pretty much on target with the status of the Chapter's first budget. Newsletter expenses will probably be greater than budget, and other adjustments will have to be made over the next several months. Upcoming advertising and a second printing of the Chapter's brochure will be experienced. Programming funds are available for use, and so are book purchase monies.





C. D. M. STATISTICAL REPORT

The information presented in the various tables indicate that the Chi Delta Mu Chapter has prospered and done very well in the year of 1984.

At the 1984 Spring Executive Committee Meeting I set a goal for the Chapter of reaching 100 members by the end of 1984. Well, the official count is 96, but I know of at least 5 folks who haven't signed up yet but who definately want to join us. So, I guess we've achieved this goal. By the end of 1985 I predict total membership of 200! That will take some effort, but as we all know so very well, there are sisters "out there", and through our publicity and programming efforts I'm confident that this will be the case.

Our relatively low cost/attendee meeting charge can in large measure be attributable to Vice President Karen and her food purchases. We will miss Karen and hope that a viable alternative can be found to maintain the meeting fee at \$10.

Meeting Cost/Attendee

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

1 9 8 4

Item Description	1982	1983	1984
-----	----	----	----
Motel	457.13	898.98	1236.04
Refreshments	321.16	448.40	598.95
Gift	5.00	0	0
Total	783.29	1347.38	1834.99
Paid Fees	720.00	1310.00	2160.00
Paid Attendees	78	131	216
Meeting Cost/ Paid Attendee	9.23	10.29	8.50

Chapter Meetings	1982	1983	1984
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX

Number	9	9	11
--------	---	---	----

Chapter Membership	1981	1982	1983	1984
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX	XXXX

New York	4	20	30	47
New Jersey	2	9	18	30
Connecticut	1	1	3	7
Pennsylvania	0	0	1	3
Other U. S.	0	2	2	7
Outside U. S.	0	2	2	2
Total	7	32	56	96

Paid Meeting Attendance

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Month	1982	1983	1984
-----	----	----	----
January	5	17	18
February	0	0	19
March	7	14	32
April	8	12	19
May	10	9	21
June	9	8	19
September	8	16	18
October	11	18	27
November	12	20	19
December	8	17	21
Total	78	131	216

(excluding Family Day)



Our Readers Write



"It is a pleasure to write to you today because I am very happy since I just returned from Paris where I participated at a meeting of Beaumont Continental (European crossdressers). The meeting was very interesting and I had the chance to speak with our sisters about the Chi Delta Mu Chapter. What was interesting about this meeting was the open discussion about the topic: 'how do you feel about going out dressed and even to have a gala all together dressed'...I spent three days in Paris; really fantastic. I will come back next March for the other meeting...I understand that crossdressing is growing up very fast. There is a big group in Zurich and I've been invited to go. Also, there is another group going in Venice, and when I know the details for certain I will go." (Josephine, FSPA-1540-C. Thanks, Josephine, perhaps you will be the European ambasadress for Chi Delta Mu? Ed.)

"By the way, your newsletter is superb. I mean! its got everything, like articles from the mass media, contributions from our sisters, nice layout, editorial, ... oh, by the way, again, how can I get a copy of JOY'S GREATEST HITS? I am really interested on that one...and, as I was saying, party reports, humor, finances, hints,

counseling,...I mean everything. Congradulations. Keep up the good work." (Diana, NJ. Thanks much for your kind words, and as you say, contributions from our sisters certainly make the newsletter what it is. Sorry, Diana, we are not in the production stage YET for JOY'S GREATEST, but maybe we will be in '86. Ed.)



BE A SOFT TOUCH

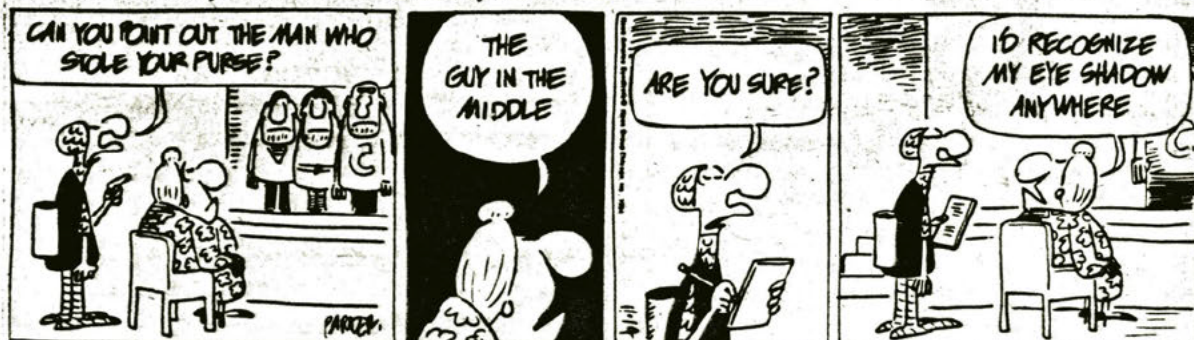


"I want to personally thank all those sisters and loved-ones who signed my get-well card which was sent to me when I was in the hospital. It certainly made Edith and I very happy to know that so many of you were concerned about me. Of course, I guess we wouldn't expect anything else from a group such as C. D. M. Your concern is most appreciated...I'm happy to report that I'm now feeling quite well and hope to be at the meeting. Again, thank you. (Felicity, NY-1318-M)

BLONDIE/By Mike Gersher and Chic Young



WIZARD OF ID/By Brant Parker and Johnny Hart



Thanks,
Edith
Marie.



Food For Thought

I'd like to share some feelings and beliefs I have concerning being ourselves and belief in God.

So few of the facts concerning us are known by psychiatrists and psychologists; that much less on the part of most clergy. Most people in the mental health field would probably characterize us as in need of therapy; I guess that most clergy would view us as candidates for damnation. Unfortunately, these opinions are usually arrived at by the experience of the clergy and the mental health professionals with the "fringe" TV element. These sisters can not cope with their feelings and desires, and due to good, old "society", can only exist (be accepted ?), by living as drag queens and others who are "off the wall". Some basis for forming clinical and theological judgements!

Several of you may not believe in God, and fine, your dressing does not cause you problems. Others may have chucked their religious beliefs and opted to pursue crossdressing and say, "live and let live". Some of you may be experiencing great difficulty in accommodating your femme selves, and still attempt to practice, with due diligence, your beliefs. This can cause you a lot of grief; I know, I've had it.

Many of us have described the self-acceptance of our femme selves as becoming a "whole person". That is very true. The war within is over. We can now devote attention to those outside ourselves. Our wives, family, good friends, etc. I don't mean that you toss all your male things and go around saying, "I'm me and I've accepted myself". Good, old "society" still makes the rules which we have to follow to put bread on the table. This is still, however, a most happy experience, even if your self-acceptance is



Tri-Ess Sorority



communicated to no other person than yourself, but much more so when you can share this "special joy" with your sisters.

Self-acceptance turns on a light in your mind. You become more interested in others than yourself. You become a more caring person. You look in the mirror in your favorite dress and feel good about what you see and about yourself. (Universally, mental health professionals say that a mark of good mental health is feeling good about yourself). You meet/write/phone your sisters and are concerned about them, and they you. You are happy !!!

You wonder, "why ? Why am I like this?" You accept yourself and you realize that there is no answer to the question "why". We are part of the great spectrum of humanity. Now, recognizing this, and assuming that you do believe in God, you may reach the conclusion that you are another manifestation of His/Her existence. Not that Father this or Rabbi that would agree with you at first, but its true!

With what the self-acceptance of your femme self gives you, and recognizing that you are in some way part of God's Great Plan, you become a better person. You acknowledge that God has made you, for whatever His/Her reason, the way you are. Being a "believer", and having accepted yourself, you begin to see that you can be a better husband, father, friend, helper. You are no longer wrapped-up in yourself, and you are more willing to "go the extra mile" for a particular purpose. In short, you become a better human being. Good signs, I think, of love of God and psychological health.

-- Ed.

May, 1982 O.S.J.

Joy's Greatest Hits (Vol. 11)

Side I

1. June In January
2. I've Got a GAL In Kalamazoo
3. Glad All Over
4. The Girl Can't Help It
5. For Once In My Life
6. Do You Want To Know A Secret

Side II

7. Party Doll
8. I Like It Like That
9. Make It Easy On Yourself
10. Whole Lotta Dressing Goin On
11. Girl Of My Dreams
12. The Way You Do The Things You Do

★
*Thanks,
Diane.*
★



"Today was show and tell in John's first grade and he brought in one of your TRI-ESS newsletters with the picture of you on the front page."

*Thanks,
Eileen*

★ Your Editor regrets that the newsletter is getting out to you later than usual, but a hectic holiday season, plus a lot of "goodies" that I wanted to include in this issue, took some time to finish OUR SPECIAL JOY for January. I want to express my usual thanks to all sisters who contributed items for the newsletter; I'm sure that all members appreciate their work. As you can see, 1984 was a very successful year for us. Let us all do what we can to make 1985 even better, for you, your mate and for all sisters in the Chapter. Enjoy!

★ **another year!** ★

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★ *Best Regards,
Your Sister,
Mary Jane* ★