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Full membership \$17 per year  
Subscription (only) to TVIC Journal  
\$12 per year.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS  
Helen  
and  
Wilma Thordsen

Hi Girls:

Last night was a cold- wind blowing snowy - below zero night, but we had a brave eleven girls come to enjoy the evening with each other. Poor Michelle Ann and Dennie were really snowed in so that they could not be here with us, and this is the only thing that would keep Michelle from coming here. Of course all the girls missed the purple car setting out front. I know that every body missed you both.

Had two new members make their first appearance on this cold night in the person of Marcia from Schenectady, and Beverly from Rexford. Marcia was dressed in a pleated dress and long dark wig made her first appearance a good one.

Marcia brought her camera along with her and took some pictures of her new found friends.

Beverly our other gal finally made it here after a long five year battle of fright, should I or shouldn't I, come out and meet these sisters of mine. Beverly did a good dressing job on herself which she was afraid she wouldn't look good. Both girls passed with good ratings. The other members sure made them feel welcome.

The girls that braved the weather were: Karen from Saratoga, N.Y. Marcia from Schenectady, N.Y. Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Sue from Nassau, N.Y., Pricilla from Scotia, N.Y., Sheryl from Troy, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Dot and Alice from Colonie, N.Y., Eileen From Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Beverly from Rexford, N.Y., Wilma and I.

The meal for these girls was Roast chicken, Potatoes Au Gratin, corn, green and yellow beans almindin, cole slaw, olives, sweet cherry peppers, bean salad, rye bread and white bread, cake and coffee.

I sure had a lot of help in the kitchen this time, it seems they all had the same idea that they didn't see Dennie in the kitchen, so they better all help. Thanks again girls.

Our thanks to all the girls that sent us Xmas cards, it shows us that we surely have a lot of friends and it makes us feel good to know that we are able to help all these girls.

You know it seems funny that every time I am home for the day during the week and one of the T.V.'s call, they are surprised to hear my voice, right away they ask me if I'm sick. Glad to know that they all think of me. Right now I'm in good health.

Tuesday we had a nice visit from Cynthia and Sonya, seems they had to come to Albany for business and theymstopped in. We had supper together and enjoyed the evening with them/

All you T.V.'s down and around Tennessee way, Wilma and I are coming your way in July. We will leave on the 6th of July and hope to,return by the 16th We are going to the Worlds Fair and some of the other places of interests, like the Grand Ole Opera. We would like to see some of you in person and spend a few hours with you. If some of you would like to send us some info on some good eating establishments and sleeping accomodations. It would help us to plan what we will be doing. We'll be waiting to hear from you.

Say J.E. you would have enjoyed last night as you always say you like a small crowd, we sat around the table and enjoyed a sit down meal and we were able to talk with everybody. When are we going to see you. it has been a long time.

We may be loosing another of our lovely and dear couples, they sold their plumbing business and will be moving out West one of these days soon. Good Luck to them where ever they go. We will miss them much. Jean and Sally do keep in touch with us.

Karen was every thing all right with you last night? Every one wondered as to where you went, one minute they see you and the next your gone.

Well I believe I rattled on long enough to all my lovely gals out there in this big world of T.V.'s. so I'll close and do hope you all stay healthy, happy and loving as you all are.

See you all soon.

Love

Helen



W I L M A ' S V I E W S

TV INDEPENDENT CLUB; or TV. I. C.

Having quite a few beautiful friends who I trust to let them know me as I really am, I'm frequently asked, "Just what is TVIC?" My typical answer is, "we are people." That is a pretty good answer since that is exactly what we are. People from all walks of life. From rich to poor, all levels of education, virtually every trade and profession. From physician, to housewife, to welder to teacher, to unemployed. TVIC answers about 100 letters a week. Behind each of these letters is a human being. People sharing their joys and sorrows. Their hopes and dreams.

Many are from people who are just coming out of the closet. People who thought they were the only one. It is quite a revelation to find out there are thousands of others. (The major share of business for mail order houses which carry large size lady clothes is from us.) Much of what shrinks have termed "gender dysphoria" is nothing more than the combination of loneliness and guilt. Loneliness is easy to deal with. That is why we publish a monthly Journal and a membership directory. Guilt is harder. Much of the emphasis of TVIC is simply to communicate the one fact; that it is perfectly "ok" for a person to be their beautiful self.

Another large area of our communication is from people who write about problems with their wives. Wives of cross dressers certainly do have some concerns beyond those of their sisters who married a straight guy. Fear that the neighbors will find out or that it will get around the school. There is no sense denying that few women can totally accept their husband putting on a skirt with the same detachment that they have been putting on front-zippered pants. Some are so naive as to believe they will end up "curing" the guy. There is certainly no such thing as a pat answer. Some responsibility must rest upon the shoulder of the cross dresser himself. A wife has reason to be upset when she is in grubbies doing the laundry while he is in pretties doing his nails. And it is especially unfortunate for a gal to find out after they get married. Still, in the final analysis, a woman has the choice of either accepting her husband for what he is or not accepting him. The guy has a similar choice.

Many people inquire about passing in public. It is, of course, an art. I had had an interview last month with a male woman, dressed and out for the second time in her life, who passed perfectly. A few weeks later I had an interview with a transsexual planning surgery who would read ten blocks off on a rainy night. When we are coaching someone we go through the standard things about beard, hair style and details like the fact that women usually don't have hair on the nap of their necks. Mostly it is up to the individual. It takes work and practice to develop the manner, voice, and appearance of a woman. Most anyone can become very accomplished at the art if they want to badly enough.

There probably is not a TV alive who has not at least thought once or twice about going transsexual. Here again the waters can be muddy to no length with big words and scholarly opinions. A transsexual is nothing more or less than a woman in a genetic male XY body. All of the elements of the TS procedure are merely ways to allow that woman to be better able to express herself in this society. As an interesting sidelight, there is a syndrome called #testicular feminization# where a male fetus does not make the switch-over necessary to develop as a male child. The result is nature's own woman residing in an XY body. The trick is that in this society there are trade offs and advantages and disadvantages to being a man woman. And, of course, the TS procedure itself is quite expensive. The mission of the TVIC is to provide a framework in which people can come to totally accept themselves for what they are. When that point of understanding comes, one can intelligently decide for themselves the role they wish to play in life and the extent to which they wish to modify their equipment to play that role.

So what is TVIC? It is people. Men women, who have a certain love for one another. People who are supportive; people who care.

It is the most fantastic bunch of people I have ever met in my 72 years of life. And in these 72 years I am happy to say I have met over 5,000 of them in person.

Scychiatrist and medical since havent been able to do much for TV's. So the best thing to do is to relax and learn to accept ourself as a TV. Be happy and adjust to it. Do not be fearful, lonely or self condemnation. I have followed this over the years and it has saved me much suffering.

I do not sell, or rent names on my mailing list. My mailing list is strictly confidential. All information I receive from you is held in strictness of confidence whither it is personal or otherwise. Should you ever want your name removed from my mailing list - just drop me a line with your request.

W I L M A



PARTY'S

Do to the bad weather this month we had only 13 people present. All of our members were snowed in at home, with 12 to 30 inches of snow depending on where you lived. In one part of New York state they had 52 inches of snow in 3 days.

Our next 3 parties will be held on Feb. 20th - March 20th and April 17th.

NEW MEMBERS

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of 4 new members this month. They are

THOMAS M.... N.O CHARL~~ston~~....S.C.... ANN S.....WILMINGTON.... N.Y.....  
GEORGE B.... SCHENECTADY..... N.Y... RACHAIL J.....BROOKLYN..... N,Y.....

Its a real pleasure to have you among us and we hope that you will get to meet many of our members and be able to attend some of our monthly parties.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO O

Alice	.....FEB.	1.....	Mara	.....Feb.	20.....
Lee	....."	2.....	Nancy	....."	19.....
Diana	....."	9.....	Roger	....."	23.....
Andre	....."	15.....	Danna	....."	24.....
Velvet	....."	26.....	Francis	....."	26.....
Kathy					

HAPPY ANNIVERSERY TOO

Deanne and Gloria Baily.....Feb. 14.....

SPECIAL THANKS

T O O - Barbara Gaj - Velarie Costellana & Anna Montiel for the extra \$ sent in to help with the postage.

T O O - Joan Fashion - Valarie Costellane - joan S. - Marilyn Kilderhouse - Krestiana Horne - Terrie Downs and Marcia Bremser for the lovely photos they sent in.

T O O - Marlyn Kilderhouse - marilyn Huges - Connie Nichols & Mara Lynn for the cartoons sent in.

T O O - Priscilla Evans For the Jokes sent in.

T O O - Connie Nichols for helping keep our TV Directort up to date by sending me the front of the envelope of members whos mail was returned because they moved . Everybody out there can do the same and help in this matter.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH

Helen Thordsen wants to know who is ready to take over TVIC in the coming years. (thats a good question - I'd hate to see the 28 years I put into this club go down the drain after I'm gone.)

RANDOM NOTES

TEL AVIV: ISREAEL: Lil Shoshani was jailed for 3 months for dancing with men in a niteclub! Lil is a GG! maybe they want guys to dance with guys in Isreal

WICHITA, KS: A doctor sliced of a missouri farmer's balls by mistake! This caused Harris T. Stevens of Carrolton, Mo. to have tempotary increase in breast size plus voice change. He was awarded an \$85,000 settlement.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA: A TS had her sperm frozen before sex reassignment surgery for possible later use. The spermies were destroyed by a power failure. Kris Fong-Moseley was awarded \$50,000 The company is no longer in business, so she probably won't collect.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA. The Bohemain Club caters to the super rich. Former bordello madam Ms Brandy B aldwin states that the members would performe in drag. Her girls always brought exotic undies with them.

N E W S: At one time the wearing of trousers by men was forbidden by law punishment included banishment and loss of property in the Roman Empire.





Dear Wilma;

The question of the month hit me right on the head. I told you that I'm a transsexual in transition. I now live full time as a woman in preparation for surgery. But did I tell you that I'm completely bald? Don't ask me about wigs! Every expert sells me something and styles it. Then I find out that it is not for me, and I start all over again.

I stopped at a wig shop downtown. They do nothing but sell and style wigs. they depend on it for a living. I asked (while dressed as a man) "would you style a woman's wig for me?" "For you---NO!" That was the end of that. There is a transsexual who runs a hair styling place for women. I approached her and received a polite answer, "I would not want to make my regular customers upset by the presence of a bald man." Her customers are not upset, but I am.

Someone told me of a beauty parlor that would style my wigs. I rushed immediately to the address and found that they had gone out of business. I naturally tried the phone book. In this city of 200,000 there were 3 wig places listed. One catered only to men, another dealt only with non-English speaking patrons, and the third was out of business.

I went to a gay bar to cry in my whiskey sour. (don't you know that water is no good in your whiskey sour.) The bartender asked what's wrong. I sobbed my story of a sloppy wig, and he turned to another customer. Oh well, at least he listened. He returned in 2 minutes and handed me a note and said, "call this number. The beautician is gay. He will work with you." Now I have no problem.

So don't tell me that transsexuals should not go to gay bars - and don't talk to me about wigs! I've got dozens of them - all styled by a gay beautician. One word of advice - don't leave a wig somewhere to be styled and returned. The styling should be integrated with the wearer. The best bet is to go as a woman and bring your wig.

JOYCE D.....HARTFORD....CONN.....

Dear Wilma;

My answer to the question of the month is I take my wigs to the store where I bought them and have them cleaned and styled. The woman knows that they are my wigs. She styles them on my head. She tells me that she has other customers that are TV's who come to her store.

ROSEMARIE E.....VANCOUVER.....WASHINGTON.....

Dear Helen & Wilma:

I thought you might like to know -Halloween night was a great success for me!

Sonya and I, with Leslie and Isabelle, dressed and went to Bridgeport Holiday Inn lounge. Sonya went as a devil, Leslie went as Leslie, Isabelle as a tramp, and I went as a cowgirl. The success was that I won third prize!

And just as successful was when somebody wanted to walk around me, said "excuse me, miss," It's moments like this that make dressing rewarding.

CYNTHIA M...NORWALK...CONN...

Sing to "Bye,bye blackbird."

Pack my blouses,skirts & suits  
Sandals,pumps & high heeled boots,  
Undies, bras & pantyhose,  
I'll be needing none of those,  
Bye, bye, tv's  
Never thought I'd live to meet  
my doo-oom  
But they caught me in the ladies  
roo-oom  
Lock the door, put out the lights,  
I'll be gone for ninety nights,  
TV's, bye bye....

Lyrics by  
DEE DEE W..HARTFORD..CONN....

Have you heard that Karen Goyer entered a dress shop and said to the manager; "May I try on that 2 piece dress in the window?" "Go right ahead," the manager replied. "It might help business."

Have you heard that Winne Brant thought a mushroom was a place to neck.

Have you heard that Michell Bolis wanted to be a BUBBLE DANCER, but Dennei said NO SOAP.



"A desire to 'be on the winning side,' Mr. Walsh, is not sufficient justification for a sex-change operation."



Dear Wilma;

When I was first going out with my wife, or more to the point, living with my wife to-be, and told her of my dressing and even dressed two or three times for her. She tried to enjoy it but I could tell her heart wasn't in it. I dropped the subject and have not dressed in front of her since. I have a home away from home, because of my work, and I do all my dressing here.

I have no desire to live my life as a woman. I like being a man because if I wasn't a man, I couldn't be a TV. (you could be a woman and be a female to male TV) Hows that for circular reasoning? I love my job and what my job does for me. I am in engineering and construction and that is a kind of macho profession. When I am working, I am in to it with both feet. (don't you use your hands too) When I want to relax and unwind from the job, then I dress and makeup and hope to look like a woman. I'll two or three hours getting made up and dressed, then spend one hour as the finished product, and then take another hour or two to get washed off, wiped off, polish remover etc. It might seem like a waste of time to some people, but to me, it is complete relaxation and I love it.

I buy all my wigs prestyled from "Fredericks of Hollywood". They cost 20 to 30 dollars and if you keep them brushed, they last for at least two years. If they start to get "ratty", throw them away. In this area, a good bet is your local K - Mart. They have reasonable prices and current styles. Unless you have a high priced human hair wig, you don't need a hairdresser. I have a very large friend (not a TVO who takes his wife's wigs to the hairdresser all the time. His wife sends a picture of what she wants from a magazine. Taking a wig to a hairdresser is the same as taking your wife's (or your) dress to the drycleaner. Why worry, be brass not assertive or overbearing but interested, because it is natural that a husband would want his wife to look good. If you don't have a wife, well lie a little.

One of the girls wrote in recently of being "Horrorified" when a friend suggested she join her in visiting a "Gay Bar". I, for one, would rather go to a "Gay Bar" than "Price Chopper" because I know I wouldn't get thrown out of the bar. One thing must be remembered, TV's are just like people, some are "gay" and some are not and some are "Bi". In todays age of changing times and coming out of the closet, you have to look for kinder souls and "Gays" are ours, like it or not. Going to a gay bar does not imply you are gay. If you are the type person who likes to go to a bar to drink, and if you can reasonably pass as a female, then the gay bar is ideal as a place of recreation. The gay faces the same misunderstandings as the TV and therefore will treat the TV better than a straight friend. The first time I went "Public", I went to two gay bars with a TVIC sister. I was astonished at the total indifference I had expected laughter, finger pointing, etc., but such was not the case. People did talk to me and I did get propositioned but I got respect when I said "N O". A couple of people asked me, point blank, if I was a real girl or a made up guy. They weren't sure and that made me feel real good. I had a hell of a good time and I intend to do it again. I guess what I'm trying to say is, that if you are a social type person, the gay bar is your only outlet in this day and age. Maybe a hundred years from now, things will be different, but today you have to take what you get,. I would strongly suggest that if you go to a gay bar that you go with someone who has been there before.

The monthly meetings of TVIC is another means for the social TV as are meetings with TVIC sisters at your or their homes. With the big push against drinking and driving, one must be extra prudent when dressing, drinking and driving. Be social, but be carefull. I never say, "drive slow" but I always say "drive carefull".

MARILN H.....GUILDERLAND.....N.Y.....

Dear Wilma:

My first transvestite inclination occurred at the age of 5 when my mother threatened to dress me in silk bloomers if I did not behave my self. After that I did not have any wish to dress as a girl untill I was 14 years old. Left alone in the house, I had an urge to wear my sister's clothes, and I put on her underwear. I was thrilled at the feel of the silken garments. I have a complete wardrob of clothing a woman wears. I have never appeared in public in feminine attire. I usually rent a hotel room and dress in femine garments for my own satisfaction. I sometimes wish I could find a woman who would help me dress and advise me about my makeup. I have never met anyone who would sympathize with me.

KATHERIN R... NEW YORK CITY...N.Y.....

Dear KATHERIN; We who do not make laws find it difficult to understand them sometimes. It should be the privilege of everyone to wear the clothing of his choice. Social and conventional laws, together with traditions, are sometimes more powerful than the laws of the land. If you want to practice transvestism, there is no reason why you should not.

WILMA



"You really do have a figure problem, Mr. Sims!"



FEDERAL AGENCY AUTHORIZES AID FOR TRANSSEXUALS.

In a major victory for transsexuals, the Rehabilitation Service Administration of the U.S. Department of Education has authorized state agencies to provide counseling and other services to persons seeking sex reassignment surgery.

Under new guidelines established at the urging of Joanna Clark and Diane Saunders of the ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee, the federal Government has agreed to treat transexualism as a physical or mental disability.

The decision means that transexuals will now be eligible for employment counseling, hormone therapy and other services denied them under the previous rules.

Diane Saunders, a preoperative male-to-female who was instrumental in having the guidelines changed, said that even through the rules are subject to state interpretation, the reversal of federal policy was a major victory for transsexuals.

"This represents a big victory for us and the transsexuals nationwide," she said. "Now transsexuals who have not been able to obtain employment because they are transsexuals can go to a state department of rehabilitation and apply for services." Before now, that wasn't possible."

According to the new guidelines, state agencies may now use federal funds when available to provide the diagnostic services needed to determine the eligibility of transsexual applicants. The guidelines do not provide coverage for the actual sex reassignment, however.

Sent in by RENAISSANCE U P D A T E.

JOANNA M. CLARK VS U.S, ARMY RESERVE.

On May 13, 1981, Francis Plant, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Department of the Army, ordered the Adjutant General - U.S. Army to correct the official record of Joanna M. Clark.

Joanna had enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserve in February 1976 and served nearly 19 months before the Army voided her enlistment. The Army Board for Correction of Military Records, however, found (after a four year battle) That an injustice had occurred and that Joanna Deserved a honorable discharge.

The battle is not over, however. Joanna had filed claims against the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army, and Merit System Protection Board in the U.S. Court of Claims. With all administrative appeals now completed, the case will proceed.

Despite Joanna's problems with the Army, She has found time to successfully lobby for the introduction and passage of AB-385 and the defeat of SB\*22-00, two important pieces of legislation affecting California transsexuals. Additionally, she was responsible for the establishment of the first ACLU Transsexual Rights Committee and, with Diane Saunders, succeeded in getting the Rehabilitation Service Administration of the U.S. Department of Education to change its 1973 policy towards transsexuals.....

(Sent in by RENAISSANCE U P D A T E .)

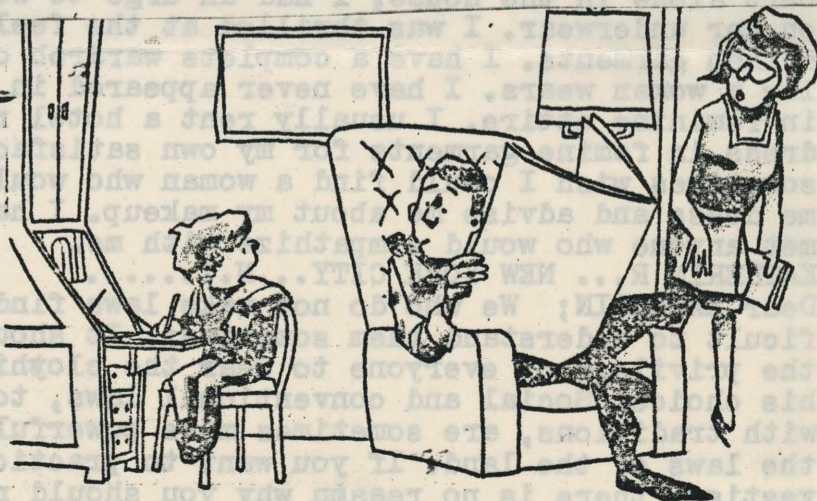
Dear Wilma;

I am an occasional transvestite. From time to time I enjoy dressing as a woman. it gives me a lot of pleasure, and I'm not hurting anyone. I always dress up privately because I can't afford to have this side of my life known. My problem is shopping for clothes. I want my garments to fit well. Most shops will not allow me to try on the dresses in the dressing rooms. I admit it may seem odd for a man to be buying a blouse or an evening gown for himself, but the rooms are private and I would offend no one. When I shop for a suit in a men's store. I need to try it on for size to see how it looks on me. Why shouldn't I have the same privilege when I shop for a dress or a pair of high heels? Do you have any suggestions on how to handle the problem?

JOHN K...FRANKLIN...MISS...

Dear John::: First I think you are a phonie. While your "problem" is not inconceivable, you blew your cover and I will tell you how. (1) Your letter was mailed from New York City, N.Y. not Franklin, Miss. (2) My letter to you was returned underiverable.

(3) A cross-dresser who says he cannot afford to have this aspect of his life known is not about to try on high heels in a shoe store, nor would he select dresses openly and ask to be shown to a dressing room. I could be wrong in this reply if so contact me again. WILMA



HAVE YOU HEARD that CHERYL McBride went to a TV ball and wore a newspaper dress. The dress caught on fire, BURNED HER ENTIRE "FRONT PAGE, SPORTS SECTION AND ALL."

"Pop, what's the word for wanting to dress like a girl?"



# How to pick an electrologist

By Marian J. Meyers

Staff Writer

The stories are common: Men and women with unwanted hair on the face, legs or other parts of the body go to an electrologist for permanent removal of that growth. But what they get instead are permanent scars or pit marks caused by incompetent or unethical electrolysis.

But far more common, according to Annelizabeth C. Wormer of Albany Professional Electrolysis Services and her husband, Douglas C. Wormer, is malpractice caused by electrologists who keep their clients returning when, if done properly, the treatments would have permanently removed the undesirable hair.

"To trade hair for scars is unfair," says Mrs. Wormer. "On the other hand, when you're paying \$1 a minute for a service, you have every right to expect a fair, competent, effective service that's being rendered by people who know what they're doing."

Electrolysis — the permanent removal of hair by destroying its root with electricity — can cause hair to grow back thicker and darker than originally if sufficient electricity is not used. In that case, treatments can continue for years without permanently removing hair.

"If it doesn't hurt, it's not working," says Mrs. Wormer. "If it doesn't hurt, you're not doing damage (to the hair follicle)."

Because it is to the electrologists' advantage to keep clients coming back, says Wormer, who specializes in the treatment of men, many continue to incorrectly treat their clients so the hair is only temporarily removed. Too often, he maintains, people don't know what to look for in an electrologist "until it's too late, that they've been ripped off."

For men and women with unwanted hair who are considering permanent removal, the Wormers offer these guidelines to choosing an electrologist.

- All consultations and demonstrations should be free and thorough, with all questions answered satisfactorily.
- The electrologist should have malpractice insurance. ("It's the only thing that guarantees the consumer they've taken even the minimum course in electrolysis," explains Mrs. Wormer.)
- Treatment should not be interrupted by phone calls or other distractions, and the cost should only be for the actual time the electrologist spends working.
- The electrologist should have at least graduated from high school. Check for college experience, biology courses or medical background.
- The probe and tweezers should be put in a bead sterilizer, and the electrologist should wash his or her hands before and after treatment. Look for a bead sterilizer and a sink in the office.
- The electrologist should not wear street clothes while working. A white lab coat is preferred, and long hair should be pulled back.
- The office should appear clean.
- Confidentiality should be guaranteed.
- The charge should be pro-rated, so that 15 minutes from an electrologist who charges \$60 an hour will cost \$15, not \$20. Fifteen minutes with a \$40-an-hour electrologist shouldn't cost \$15.
- The electrologist is available 24-hours-a-day for emergencies and should not pressure the client into treatment.
- Consultation cards should be signed by the client.

After having chosen an electrologist, the length of time spent in treatment

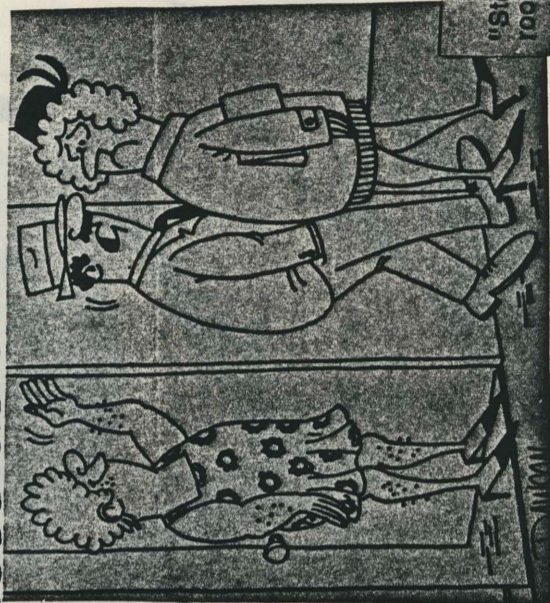
will vary according to how often treatments are scheduled, texture and density of hair, and the condition of skin and hair follicle. While the client is undergoing treatment, Mrs. Wormer recommends combining shaving, bleaching and depilatory with electrolysis to clients concerned with visible hair growth.

Bleaching and depilatory require the

client to wait a week before the next electrolysis treatment because the combination can create a chemical reaction. A few days' hair growth are generally required after shaving.

Waxing and tweezing, however, are not recommended because they distort follicles, which causes permanent removal by electrolysis to take longer.

## Transsexual tells of new life of happiness as a female



for 16 years after having lived for 37 years as a man — and a miserable one at that. I could not have gone on living had I not had the sex-change operation. I thank God every day for those doctors who make this change possible.

For every transsexual you read about who is "sorry," there are thousands who owe their lives to the operation that made them free to be themselves. Many marry and adopt children. But you don't hear about them, because they want to forget their past. They change their names (legally) and refuse to be interviewed. I'm not blaming them. They just want to be left alone.

Today there are many transsexuals who desperately want a sex-change operation, but when they read about only those who regret having had the surgery, they become discouraged. I am only one happy, successful, "born-again" transsexual, but I speak for thousands.

— ELIZABETH

DEAR ELIZABETH: I know. Through this column I have heard from a surprising number.

## Men Who Were Raised as Girls

During Victorian times, mothers often dressed little boys as girls for their first few years because dresses made diaper-changing easier. But some mothers, before and since, carried this practice to extremes. For example:

North Pole explorer Robert Peary's mother sent her little "Bertie" out to play in frilly clothes and a sunbonnet.

Gen. Douglas MacArthur often said, "My first memory is that of a bugle call." His next memories perhaps were those of being dressed in skirts and wearing his hair in long curls until he was 8. Author Ernest Hemingway was another "macho" man whose mother's whim was to dress her son in feminine attire.

Artist Peter Paul Rubens, at the age of 12, served as one of three pages at the court of Countess Matilda de Lalaing. For amusement, Matilda and her female friends dressed the three boys in lacy underwear and sumptuous gowns, plucked their eyebrows, and made them wear women's wigs and makeup.

German poet Rainer Maria Rilke was raised as a girl for his first six years. His mother had wanted a daughter and was

so disappointed that she even called him "Sophie." Another disappointed mom was Speranza Wilde, mother of wit and playwright Oscar Wilde. She clothed Oscar in blue velvet dresses and so many trinkets that one contemporary writer likened him to "a little Hindu idol."

Novelist Thomas Wolfe was the last of seven surviving children. Said his mother, "He being the baby, I kept him a baby." She breast-fed him until he was 3½, slept with him until he was 6. She curled his long hair every day and ignored his pleas to cut it. Once, when some older boys called him a girl, Tom opened his trousers to prove otherwise. At 9, Tom caught head lice, and his mother finally let his curls be cut.

Of all the famous men brought up as girls, wit and critic Alexander Woollcott probably enjoyed it the most. His older sister and her teenage friends took pictures of little Aleck in dresses and makeup. In college, Aleck founded a drama club and played the female leads in its plays. He even went to parties in women's clothes, handing out calling cards that read "Alexandra Woollcott."

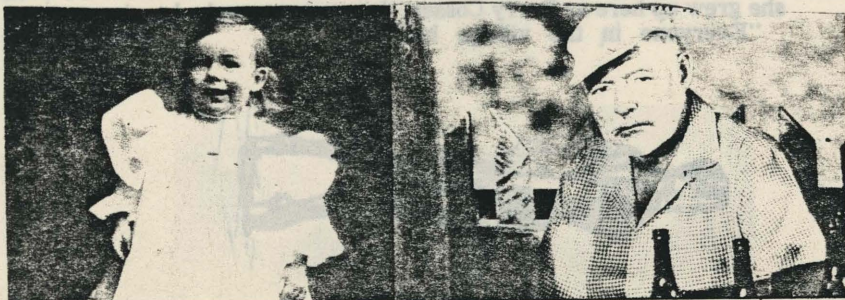
DEAR ABBY: I recently read an article in the Los Angeles Times about "Kris," an accomplished young San Francisco woman lawyer. She is a transsexual who, prior to her sex-change operation, was a male who graduated from Berkeley and served in the Peace Corps in Ethiopia.

Kris (formerly Ken) said that although she'd been born male, since the age of 5 she "knew" she should have been female. Ken turned to psychiatry and finally had a sex-change operation and began living a new life as a woman. Now she says, "I'm



Dear Abby

sorry I had the surgery."



This pretty tot eventually shed the skirts and became macho novelist Ernest Hemingway

"Stop worrying, Edna... It's traditional for college roommates to borrow each other's clothes."



# James Bond Beauty Used to Be a Boy



LOVELY Caroline (far left) with Roger Moore and latest Bon

The biggest shocker in the new James Bond thriller "For Your Eyes Only" is that one of the curvaceous bikini-clad beauties in the film used to be a man!

Astonishingly, knockout model and British TV star Caroline Cossey, 27, was raised as Barry Cossey in the tiny village of Brooke in southeastern England.

And it wasn't until just six years ago that Barry underwent sex-change surgery and emerged as Caroline, a slinky six-foot-tall lovely with a mind-boggling figure, say sources. One Bond film crew insider was absolutely stunned when he learned that Caroline used to be a he.

"She was one of the most attractive girls in the movie," he sputtered, "and no one can comprehend that a man could beat out hundreds of girls for the part."

Although Caroline denies she's a transsexual, others tell a different story. Cossey's neighbors in Brooke immediately identified the sexy siren as Barry when they were shown photographs which masked everything but the face.

"But I was flabbergasted when I saw the rest of the picture — a beautiful woman in a bikini," said village postman Ronald Mayes.

"There's no doubt about it — that gorgeous female was once Barry Cossey."

Harry Crook, who owns the village pub, said it was "really astonishing to think that this beautiful female was once a man — but she grew up here as Barry Cossey. "Everyone in the village has



Barry Cossey at age 9 in a school photo.

known for two or three years."

Cossey's parents would not comment, but friends said Barry was living as a woman even before the sex-change operation.

In addition to TV and movie roles — and working under the professional name of Tula — Cossey is a top fashion model. And has even been photographed topless!

— JOHN COLLINS

