

PRES: William M. [redacted]  
[redacted]  
Albany, New York

M E M B E R S H I P

NEWSLETTER EDITORS  
Helen  
and  
Wilma [redacted]

PHONE: [redacted]

\$ 1 5 P E R Y E A R .

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Hello Girls, Friends :

Rather a small group here for the Feb, meeting but it was a pleasant time for all as we sat around the table and talked, laughed, and joked with every one getting a good chuckle when Joan and Michelle Ann told us about their fast driving experiences, and Wilma with her encounters with the troopers for her fast drives, and Sue about her stories of truck driving. It sure didn't sound like a group of T.V.'s talking but it was fun. Some how I thought when these girls get together you would hear more conversation like ( clothing, make up, shoes or something in that line which would be more feminine. Oh! well I guess it makes for a pleasurable evening when they can talk free on what ever subject happens to come up. Of course Kathy was giving Michelle Ann and Sue the jibes when they were playing chess with Wilma, giving every body a laugh, sure think there was something in the spring water that Kathy was drinking.

The girls who came here through the first snow fall we have had were: Kathy from Camilus, N.Y., Michelle Ann and Dennie from Somerville, Mass., Joan and Phyllis from Colonie, N.Y., Susan from Albany, N.Y., Frances from Henrietta N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Judy and Jamie from Suffern N.Y., Wilma and I. Sorry the other girls couldn't make it.

The meal was : Meat loaf, mashed potatoes, butternut squash, corn, salad, rolls and butter, cake and coffee.

Frances and Kathy, we are sorry we goofed and didn't say the cake was for both your birthdays, hope we are forgiven.

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SPECIAL, SPECIAL SPECIAL NOTICE:

The T.V.I.C. meeting for the month of May was suggested to be held in the Boston area. Our good friends Michelle Ann and Dennie have offered their home to the girls for the meeting.

Would all members interested in attending this meeting please contact me as soon as possible before the March meeting so that we may know how many are interested in attending. To hold this party we would like to have at least 20 members to be a success. All those who will attend the party will receive a map of the area and Hotel accomadations, in the area close to their home. This will be in the envelope with the April Journal. A change of scenery broadens the horizons. I for one will enjoy going, as it will be a break from cooking and I'll be able to visit with some of the girls.

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Last night we had a first timer in Judy and Jamie. Judy has been writing to me for about a month , as she is confused as to what a transvestite is an why they are what they are. I had told her the best way to find out is to be at one of our meetings and she first hand what takes place at our meetings. She asked some questions which I know bother most wives when they first hear about their husbands dressing. Dennie gave her some ans., and Michelle Ann I do hope that she had a little better understanding when she left than when she came. We do try to help where ever we can , and am proud to say I have made some of the wives get over their fear of their husbands being a T.V. I only wish that some of the other wives had been here to help her over the big hurdle she has to concor. I am sure that in time she will be able to put her self in the position where she will better understand why her Jamie want's to dress. Most of us have this part behind us, and needless to say we as happy as can be with our married life. It is not an easy task to face when you are alone with it for awhile no one to talk to out in the open, how to go about finding some one who has experienced the same situation. Any wife who has a few minutes to spare and write of some of your findings of T.V.ism to me so I could send it on to Judy.

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Dennie B. says: The two cannibals killed the T.V. explorer, cooked him and drew straws to see who starts eating down from the top and who starts to eat from the feet up. Fifteen minutes later the winner asked the loser how he was doing, " Just having a ball," was the answer. "Then slow down," hollered the winner, " You're eating to damned fast."

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Well Good night for now and all of you stay healthy and happy untill we see you all soon. It was a pleasant night for all.

Love  
Helen

## W I L M A U S V I E W S

One of the most prevalent anxieties entertained by those of us who cross-dress and also those of us who have undergone the sex reassignment surgery is that we are going to be discovered or "read" and that we are going to be laughed at, embarrassed and teased when we encounter a crowd of people or strangers. Certainly most of us spend long hours before a mirror before we go out and many of us find it very difficult to pass in daylight yet among those of us who appear exceptionally feminine there remains this anxiety that someone is going to discover our guise. When these people who pass very well find that they are being stared at, smiled at, or otherwise that they have attracted some form of attention from a stranger they immediately panic and their reactions range from some display of anger to running to some remote corner of the room and burying their heads in their hands. It can easily be assumed that those reactions have a basis and indeed if they are being "read" we certainly have some deep feelings about them. However; if we examine the foundation for this looking we find that it may be approval. When a baby is born it is immediately determined that it is a boy or a girl and from that day on it is expected to follow a pattern or gender role established for its sex. At adolescence the boys begin to look at girls but the girls look only so long as they won't be discovered looking. This looking by the boys and not being discovered looking by the girls remains a pattern for a long time. When males then take on feminine garb, a wig, make-up, etc, they then become "lookies" and if they appear absolutely undetectable feminine they are going to be flirted with, stared at, eyed, whistled at, just as any female-would be. Most of us have heard women discuss their feelings about being made advances to. They all seem to view these advances negatively. Crossdressers and transsexuals can expect also to be scrutinized by other women, not that other women are trying to detect a male in women's clothes but women seem to look at other women as something to compare themselves with and this practice is more prevalent than one might think. All of these practices change when a person changes gender roles or wears clothes intended for the opposite sex. Suddenly a person who has been reared as a man, the one who generally has been the aggressor, the one who has "looked" is cast in the role of the lookie. Many transsexuals claim to have been women all of their lives and many feel exempt from anxiety however, they have had brothers, boyfriends, or have had the company of males throughout their lives and these companions have demonstrated this urge to look at women. It is through this association that they expect men to look at women. The next time you feel that someone is looking at you don't look back.....

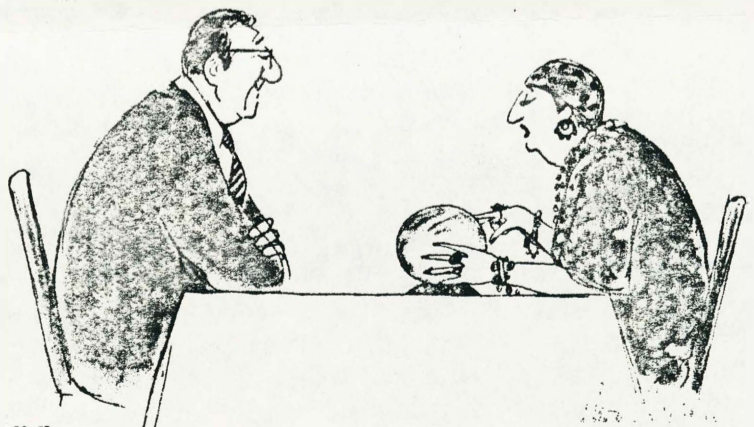
Boys and girls behave differently from the very instant of birth, according to researches who have studied films of 32 newborn babies. Dr. A. Korner, reporting on a recent research at Stanford University School of Medicine, said the main difference between the male and female babies was in the way in which they tried to get a hand into their mouths. The girls strained to move the open mouth towards the hand, while the boys tended not to open the mouth until the hand reached it. Dr. Korner also said that girls smile more often than boys, while the boys are more likely to appear startled than the girls.

The likely explanation for the behavior differences at birth, said the doctor is the difference in hormone make-up of the two sexes during their fetal development. He also added, that there is growing evidence of a high level of hormone secretion by the fetus during the late months of pregnancy--which has an effect on the brain, permanently establishing either a male or female pattern.

Some TV's will call our number and when they do not hear my voice on the phone but that of Helen's a woman's voice, they hang up to call back later. Sure enough, if I answer the phone the next time which usually is only a few minutes later it is a TV and apparently they panicked when they heard a woman's voice. Please be considerate of all those who answer a phone. Don't hang up without talking. I do hope that no one of you who receive this Journal are guilty of this.....

I would like to put out one Journal on all letters from WIVES, Many of you can share with the rest as to how you and your husband dealt with and deal with the problems associated with cross-dressing. Any article or letter is virtually assured of being published. Your letter being published can be signed or unsigned as you so state. If it helps you may send your letters to HELEN.

W I L M A



WHY MR. JOHNSON I SEE YOU IN A PARTY DRESS, HIGH HEELS, AND HAVING THE BEST TIME OF YOUR LIFE AT A TVIC PARTY IN ALBANY, N.Y.

PARTY DATES :

Our future party dates will be held on March 15th, April 19th, May 17th, June 21st, Sept. 20th, Oct. 18th, Nov. 15th, Dec. 20th Christmass Party.

Please note that Helen has written up a little piece on a change of policy. If the party in the Boston area is a success I will try one in the Rochester, N.Y. area for Oct. 18th. As it now stands May 17th and Nov 15th parties will be held in the Boston, Mass. area and the Oct. 18th party will be held in the Rochester area. Due to the high cost of gas and motels this will give members in these areas to attend parties who could not do so before. Now what I need from you members is some assurance that you W A N T this. So drop me a letter as soon as you have read this so that I can make plans for or against. I am trying this out because I am getting on in age and that is 69. So in order to keep TVIC going I am trying to get interested parties involved and take some of the work off Helen and I.

If there is any other member within a 200 mile radius of Albany who can put on a party for 20 to 30 people and also be able to put out a good dinner just let me know and Helen and I will help you and set up a date, also we both will attend

NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of three new members.

JENNIFFER P....COCKEYSVILLE...MD....JACKIE D...STATEN ISLAND...N.Y.  
JAMIE T.....KENNEMORE.....N.Y.

It is nice to have you girls with us and we hope that you will be able to attend many of our future parties and meet some of these wonderful people.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY GIRLS :

March 1	Jack F [redacted]	March 20	Jay De C [redacted]
" 2	Charles B [redacted]	" 23	Robert V [redacted]
" 3	Jim D [redacted]	" 25	Gerald C [redacted]
" 4	Deanne B [redacted]	" 26	Debbie C [redacted]
" 9	Louis M [redacted]	" 27	Harris H [redacted]
" 9	Bell V [redacted]	" 27	Anna Marie C [redacted]
" 12	John [redacted]	" 30	Joan E [redacted]
" 14	George M [redacted]	" 30	Ellen M [redacted]
" 17	F. Lang [redacted]	" 24	Shirly B [redacted]

I believe that March was ment to be TV month. Look at that 18 members born in March. Helen and I both wish you a very HAPPY BIRTHDAY.

SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT :

My special thanks to Cyntha M., Linda B., Sarah Ann D., Eleanor M., Joan E., and Francis G. for the extra \$ paid for 1st class postage. Anyone else who are receiving there TVIC Journal by 3rd class mail and would like to receive it 2 to 3 weeks sooner by 1st class mail just dend in \$2 to cover extra post.

In the Feb. 1980 issue of Penthouse you will find a 2 page article- " The Sex-Change Conserpacy.

I know that you all will be shocked to hear that the TVIC in hartford, Conn. was completely burned out Jan. 30th.

LIBRARY CONTRBUTION WANTED: Wanted books, magazinees, catalogs, newspaper articles, news clipping etc. of interest to cross-dressers and TS persons.

Crossroads Chapter Meetings will be held on Mar. 8th and April 12th. All meetings begin at 7 P.M. at the Flint Holiday Inn at interchange I-75 and M121 or Bristol Rd., Flint, Mich.

Tiffany Club Annual Spring Bash Saturday April 26th--for information write Dean Berry % Tiffany Club.

Sganga La. Annual TV event April 9-13th.

Outrich Institute March gala week-end. March 21-23rd. For information write Outrich Institute. Kenmore Sta. Box 368, Boston, Mass.

Spring Fantasia Fair..May 9-18th....Fall Fantasia Fair..Oct. 17-26th.

KAY G.. Says she knew a girl who said she'd do anything for a mink coat, and now that she has it, she can't button it.

Jean E.. Says Pedro thinks he might have married his sister. Last night when they undressed for bed she cried "OH BROTHER".

Dear Wilma,

Your November 17th issue was, as always, very interesting. And your request for letters is what prompts this small book. You asked a series of questions, and I hope that what follows answers each in an interesting manner, plus I have thrown in a few side comments and viewpoints which may be of interest to the other girls.

1- Worst problem a TV has -- Disregarding the spouse problem for the moment, it has to be HAIR HAIR HAIR. We have it where we don't want it, and don't have it where we want it. I find that the little \$19.00 electrolysis device advertised in Goodhousekeeping works quite<sup>well</sup>. I have been working on my eyebrows from the bottom up to raise my eyebrow line. In addition, most theatrical stores carry a soft plastic which is in tube form. You can apply this directly over your eyebrows, and then cover them with a foundation makeup. Draw your eyebrow line with a pencil above your normal line.

2- What are my feelings when dressed - am I a different person? Dressing provides me with many things, and among them is a feeling of total comfort and relaxation. I don't feel the need to have total drive, to be able to solve all problems, to be aggressive. I can be myself, do the things that my brother wouldn't normally do - and if I make a small mistake, or am a bit clumsy at times, well so what.

3- Where do I go and which bathroom do I use? Normally when I go out it is to a TV gathering, or to another TV's house for dinner and drinks - on rare occasions will go to a gay club. I always use the ladies room. To do other wise is awkward both for you and also for the guys in the mens room. Besides that you are really looking for trouble by using the mens room.

4- How & Where to Shop for Clothes. Like most TVs I buy most of my clothes through catalogs and derive much pleasure on a cold night in just curling up with a stack of catalogs and browsing through them. Among other organizations that I patronize are - Penneys, Roamans, Lana Lobells in the US, and Cover Girl in England. There are some items though that it is better to buy in person (such as makeup) and normally my brother picks up these items for me as I do not have the nerve to shop for myself.

5- Why do TVs enjoy a "lesbian" relationship? This is an easy question to answer. I believe that essentially it is because regardless of how they are dressed, they still perform as a male. The softness & gentleness of a relationship like that is fantastic - and one of the big plus factors is that there is no need for one partner to automatically assume that they have to be the dominant partner, as a matter of fact, usually the "real girl" will want to take the position of dominance.

5- continued - I would be interested in hearing the thoughts of other members on this subject.

6- Should spouses meet other spouses? Answer has to be yes. For a variety of reasons including, they meet other women with the same "problem" as they have, they can socialize amongst themselves, they can trade ideas and suggestions to help the others TV spouse, and most important, they come to realize that they are not the only one in the world with a TV spouse. Some of the nicest evenings out that I have had were at the home of another TV for dinner/drinks with the spouses present. If you do this, always remember to take a small gift, or flowers to your TV hostess.

7- Loneliness. Who isn't at one time or another. Curl up with a book, wash some dainties, call a sister, write to a sister. Try your hand at a latch hook rug, or some crewel work. Do not feel sorry for yourself - try to remember that while a TV does have problems, she can express her personality more completely than 95% of the rest of the world.

8- Doing chores. I find that my spouse very much appreciates the fact that many times when I'm dressed I'll do something around the house that my brother wouldn't consider doing. Cleaning is a good example - fix a simple dinner, clean out a closet, sort books and magazines or a general tidying of the house. Don't just get dressed up in an elegant gown and lounge around the house - particularly while she is working around the house as that is a good way to incur wrath.

9- Responsibilities - I readily agree that each of us have a responsibility to our families and to our society. But each of us also has a responsibility to herself to be happy and contented. If buying that new dress gives you pleasure, and doesn't take anything away from your family, then do it. There are more than a few spouses who fail to realize that they are fortunate in having a TV for a spouse in that they are not out in a bar, going to a cat house, etc.

10- Temptations -- Let me put in a quick plug for that new TV bar/lounge on Long Island called the "Temptations". It is run by absolutely super people.

11- Fantasia Fair - Quite agree with Dee Dees remarks about Fantasia. She expressed very well what it stands for. I think that Ariadne is a super representative of us, and deserves all the support she can get. I totally enjoyed myself at Fantasia - it was a super learning experience, and one which gave much pleasure. I would suggest to anyone that they try it - preferably for the full week, but in the alternative for a shorter period of time. You will meet lovely, understanding people who can assist you in many ways.

12- Getting Dressed - If time permits, don't rush it. Since to do so robs you of some of the best moments of being a woman. What I totally enjoy doing is to take a leisurely bath, putting on my under clothing and the robe portion of a negligee outfit, getting a glass of wine, putting on the radio, and sitting down to a makeup mirror on a bureau to do my makeup - I never use a bathroom mirror - that's tacky. I quite enjoy making and watching the total transition into a woman. Once the makeup is done, then you complete the picture with a slow and easy dressing, fussing of the hair, and the putting on of the jewelry. DON'T RUSH - try it that way, you'll enjoy it.

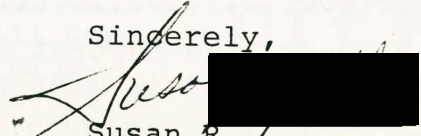
13- Paul Jean Delaney's article -- girl appears to have her act very much together. Quite enjoyed her wry humor, particularly when she was talking about almost getting pierced vein from her broach pin while Michelle was whipping the car around.

14 Boobs -- I think that all of us, myself included have made the mistake of making them too large, or too high slung. Size is something you can decide for yourself, but only youngsters have breasts that are firm and high slung. Do try the routine of taking the hair off your chest, and taping the loose flesh to form cleavage. The effect is wild, particularly when you wear a pendant to draw attention to it.

15- Sexpot??? It is a mistake for any of us to think that we are. Remember to dress your age and personality profile style - super tight sweaters and jeans are not too sharp for a woman who is older. I tend to like the sleek, sophisticated style, but not to the extreme. The cleavage routine is saved for use only at a private TV party, never out in public.

16- Photographs -- use tripod with delayed action timer - if your camera doesn't have a time check in a photography store to see if they have one to fit your camera -- if you have a 35mm camera try using a soft focus filter as it tends to hide the lines in the face - remember to compensate on your "f" stops if using a flash -- do not use "static" positions - as an example - you all dressed up, and simply facing the camera - try to get a pose which implies action (opening a door, descending stairs, tidying up, etc.)

Sincerely,

  
Susan R.  
Alexandria, Va

Dear

Dear Wilma and Helen,

I wanted to thank you for your nice Christmas card. I am providing the following as how I, Glenda Rene Jones, view myself as a crossdresser. Naturally I cannot crawl into someone else's head. I can only talk about myself.

There is very little difference between Glenn and Glenda. We wear the same hair, have the same finger nails, wear the same underwear, many of the same shoes, and the same hose. Glenn's hose are opaque whereas Glenda's are usually sheer (but not always). As Glenn I wear a slight makeup to mainly make myself look nicer, but the only real major difference is that Glenda wears skirts and blouses whereas Glenn wears pants and relatively femme shirts. I describe myself as sexually male and genderally androgenous. It does bother me quite a bit to wear really masculine clothing, but beyond that I survive. Fortunately on my job I need not dress up much. Oh, yes, Glenn and Glenda wear exactly the same turquoise jewelry.

A couple times people have made comments at work. One guy I finally nailed to the wall after telling me, "the faggots ought to be publically whipped." I answered quietly, "when you have laid with as many women as I, tell me about my jewelry, long hair, and long finger nails." I do admit that many people could not get away with as much on their job as I can. When you are one of the country's top specialists in computer aided design of large scale integrated circuits, one has a certain license. (Admittedly my chances of moving into upper level management are nil, but I make good money.)

Linda my wife and I have what might be termed an ~~and~~ androgenous relationship. She is very comfortable doing carpentry and I am just as comfortable cooking or mending. While our sex life is technically heterosexual in that she is female and I male, we make love more like two girls than a guy and a girl.

In public I "go along". If I am known to be a male-woman, I simply ask which bathroom to use. Otherwise I use the men's room if Glenn and the ladies room if Glenda. I have had no problems whatever shopping for clothing, although, I do frequently take things home to try them on. I have gone to the beauty parlor without incident and while I have been stared at, I have never been challenged.

I am happiest when dressed. I would prefer to live my life as a woman, but do see surgery at my age (45) to be extreme and something I will probably not do at this time. If I were in my 20's and knew what I know now, I wouldn't hesitate for a second.

Our best in 1980.

Love,  
*Glenda*  
Glenda Rene [redacted]

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Dear Wilma:  
What is the difference between electrolysis and depilation?  
LUCILLE...C.....SHADTSIDE, OHIO.

Dear Lucille;  
The depilation has been referred to the "space age" method of hair removal. With the depilation, the hair is treated by sending the electrical current down to the hair shaft instead of inserting the needle into the skin. Its after effects are minimal. It does cost more than conventional electrolysis.....  
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Dear Helen & Wilma:  
Sonya and I will not be in Albany in February. We are headed for the sunny climes of the Virgin Islands. We will think of all of you in the snow. Love, Cynthia & Sonya.....  
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Michell B. says: the hardest time to get a baby to bed is when she's 18 years old.



"You said knock off the TV bit and be a man!"

Dear Wilma;

I am pleased to be a member of your group, and am sure I am in very good company. I only wish I was able to contribute to it, more. I have looked into other TV groups, all good in their way, but none of them have a certain something that you and Helen have, that make others feel it is their Club, and this is so important. With your orchestral group, I wish there might be a singer or two. There is some thing about the voice of a TV singer, that is more "out of this world"(there it is girls any volunteers, ED.) than a voice of an ordinary straight person. Also, a TV singer sings with more feeling. We have tapes of our TV singers which we enjoy, now our meetings are over due to my strength giving out. It does take strength and work. Still, TV friends call up, and drop in to see us. We were even invited to a TV New Years party in Boston, and because we couldn't accept, both of us getting over the "flu" at the time, some of them came over to see us, which was awfully nice, and we all enjoyed it.

There is only one really good Club in Boston, not just for TV's, but for many "Varieties of nature" of humans. One of the members came up to my apartment one night, and demanded to know why I stopped going to the meetings, said I was down as a member, This was news to me. I enjoyed their meetings, but I never knew I was a member! Well I started going again. I was a professional but I gave them two stage performances free. One, I was myself, a woman who gave a lecture on the psychic. The second time, I was "dressed" as my "Oriental" man self, "Yokaya", and appeared blind folded, and gave them all psychic Readings, from the stage, as I had done on a New York stage. After that, they accepted me as one of them. They got a kick out of the Readings. Some of them were "out of State" folks. They had delicious suppers like Hele, but what struck me most was their talent, yes, all kinds of talent. It was better than any I ever heard or saw in the theaters, and I have been a show woman and show man. This was a large Club. I suppose it's still going, but I quit again just a few years ago, because of my health. I spent it all when I was young doing too much. There are a few other TV clubs in Boston, such as Cherrystone, and Sydney's, but I didn't care for them as well. I guess I like Variety.

I used to go dressed, as Yokaya in M.T.A. buses, and streets a lot, day time as well as night. I didn't care if people read me or not. I even ate in restaurants like that. No trouble, and a bech of fun!

By the way, I admire you and Helen both, the wonderful times you are giving these wives of your TV's trying to make them accept this variety of life. I can't do it I have no patience with wives who don't love their husbands enough to feel beyond male and female into the Real Person, the Soul and Personality of their husband who is very human, but often has a Composite Soul, like some flowers that are composite. I do have great luck with the mothers, of TV's and TS's though. Does it prove that a mother's love is more understanding than a wife's love? They are more often more tolerant, that's for sure! I've had experience! Love to you and Helen and all you girls of TVIC. LESLIE Q..BOSTON..MASS.....  
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Dear Wilma:

How can I tell if the Feme Garments I buy fit me right?..LINDA C...LILETON..N.H.....

Dear Linda:

Here are some "Fitting Points" to remember.  
1. Collar or neckline should fit comfortably without gaping. (2) Shoulders seems of ste-in sleeves should hit the tip of your shoulder bone. (3) Sleeveless garments should fit neatly around arms & shoulders. (4) Armholes should be comfortable, not tight. (5) Full-length sleeves should fit properly, neither too long or too short. (6) Bodice darts should be at the fullest part of the bust-line. (7) Waist (if it is a natural waist-line) should hit your natural waist. (8) Side seems of skirt should be perpendicular to the floor. (9) In a slim skirt, darts should end at the fullest part of your hips. (10) Garments should let you move freely. Walk, bend, reach, and sit to see that it does.....  
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Our membership is the most interesting & beautiful group of people I have ever met any where. We all are making friends we will share for life. The clothing always will be important, but clothes are just pieces of thread. It's the person wearing the clothes that counts.  
W I L M A



# Sex-change policewoman talks frankly about her tormented double life

By FRED WEHNER

BONNIE DAVENPORT, the Washington D.C. policeman who had a sex-change operation, has finally spoken openly and frankly about her tormented double life that ended only when she underwent surgery to become a woman.

Until a few months ago, 36-year-old Bonnie was Patrolman Ormus W. Davenport III, an uncompromising undercover cop in the nation's capital with an off-beat approach to crime fighting.

With his full beard and shoulder-length hair, he took on Washington's big-time crooks as well as vice and drug traffickers in the same unorthodox manner as Serpico or Starsky And Hutch.

Now Bonnie Davenport is back enforcing the law in the same seedy Washington neighborhood she once patrolled as a man.

"I was probably the most macho guy you could meet," Bonnie confessed in an exclusive interview as she prepared for duty in the Fourth District headquarters. "But inside me I knew something was deeply wrong."

"In my last year as a male cop I lived a tortured double life, spending my days taking the same chances with my life as my partners were, and spending my free time as a woman. I knew that I should have been born female."

Bonnie admitted that at times the mental torment was so great that she didn't care if she was gunned down by hoods "I took greater chances than I needed to," she recalled. "I was a woman inside and it was burning me up."

But in December, Patrolman Davenport's dearest wish came true when a famous sex-conversion surgeon in Colorado transformed Ormus into Bonnie.

She rejoined the police department as a woman officer where, carrying a standard issue revolver and a nightstick and wearing a crash helmet, her scooter patrol took her into the infamous 14th Street section among the pimps and pushers.

"I really have had no trouble when I'm out on patrol," she said, "apart from jibes from kids. The fifth and sixth graders are the worst. They shout insults. Children don't know how hurtful they are."

Back at headquarters, most of Bonnie's fellow officers have learned to accept her new role. "It's a situation none of them — not even the department — has had to face before," she said.

"Sometimes I'll overhear someone saying: 'I didn't know he was gay'. But that isn't it at all. I never was. Still, I can live with that. They'll get tired of it."

More responsible colleagues remember that Bonnie was a male cop with an excellent eight-year record on the force.

In a famous undercover operation two years ago, where police set up a bogus fence for stolen goods in a warehouse, Bonnie — then Ormus — played a prominent role which led to scores of arrests.

"And I am protected by the law here, which says that there shall be no discrimination, even against transsexuals." Bonnie said her feminine feelings went back as far as she could remember.



Washington policewoman Bonnie Davenport, who before her sex-change operation was Patrolman Ormus Davenport, patrols the seedy 14th Street section on her scooter after rejoining the police force as a woman.

It was this superb record, which included 19 departmental commendations for hard work and courage, that prompted police brass in Washington to re-admit Bonnie Davenport as a woman.

"I think they would have preferred if I hadn't come back," she said. "But I love police work — it's my life, and it's what I do best."

"Men with gender troubles tend to try to be terribly masculine, proving themselves all the time in the hope of overcoming their inner feelings," she said.

"I was just like that. I wanted to suppress these emotions I felt. But it's like having a broken leg. If you don't do something about it, you're a fool."

Three years ago, Davenport's wife died of cancer, leaving him with three young children.

After a long family conference, he began his double life, dressing in the evenings as a woman.

"I had thought about it deeply for a long time," she said. "The feelings I'd been having were getting stronger. Even while I was a father and a cop prepared to put my life on the line, I knew I was living a lie. I had to seek treatment."

Finally, Bonnie went to Dr. Stanley Biber, a sex conversion specialist in Trinidad, Colo., who had already performed 350 similar operations.

When she began having hormone treatment in 1976 she told the police department. It was a bombshell.

"It was a situation they had never even thought about, let alone faced," she said.

"Shortly before my final treatment and the operation, I took a police exam as a woman."

"It took all the courage I possessed, knowing I had probably caused a tremendous controversy. But I just knew I should be a woman."

After Bonnie's surgery her children — aged 11, 12 and 13 — were included in postoperative therapy to help them cope with the new situation.

"I don't want them being taunted at school or in the neighborhood," she said. "Although I realize it's bound to happen some of the time."

Bonnie's biggest test came when she faced a panel of police surgeons and psychiatrists, passing all her psychological and physical tests with flying colors.

"For the first time in my life I felt right," she said.



Armed with revolver and nightstick, Bonnie Davenport enforces the law in an area where she was once an undercover male cop.