

PHOENIX

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GGA



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."-C.S. Lewis

WHERE AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING
GGA Chapters do not act as dating services or dating brokers. Do not call asking for that service.

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

******NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA******
SAN JOSE - 1st and 3rd Friday, 8 pm.
Write PO Box 62283 Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for specific details.

SANTA ROSA - Meetings: 1st Friday, 3rd Wednesday each month at 2525 Cleveland Ave. Call (707) 526-2500 for specific details.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER. Meetings on 2nd Friday each month. Write: Bonnie Goodwin, POB 38918, Sacramento, CA 95838 for details, meeting time(s) and place.

SAN DIEGO-GGA: Contact W. Thomas, PO Box 99732, San Diego, 92109.

******DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA******

DELTA CHI-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. Write POB 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER-GGA. (Balt-DC Area). Pam Haynes, POB 651 Marshall, VA 22115. Meets 3rd Saturday.

******FLORIDA******

SUCCESS CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly Meetings. Contact Susan Armstrong, POB 1601, Pinellas Park, FL, 34290.

******IOWA******

EASTERN IOWA GGA. Write Occupant, PO Box 1205, Bettendorf, IA 52722 for meeting specifics.

******ILLINOIS******

WINDY CITY CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly meetings. Contact PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 or call (312) 472-4518.

******NEW JERSEY******

NU CHAPTER-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. For specific information write POB 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960.

******NEW YORK******

NYC-GGA. 2nd Saturday. Changing facilities available. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 pm. Meetings run from 7 - 11:30. Muriel Olive, Suite 601, 157 W. 57th Street, NYC, 10019.

******OREGON******

NORTHWEST CHAPTER-GGA Regular meetings. For information concerning activities in NW Area contact POB 13173, Portland, OR 97213.

******PENNSYLVANIA******

PHI CHAPTER-GGA (Philadelphia Area)
Contact: Linda Walker, POB 7330, Newark, DE 19714.

******TEXAS******

GENDER DYSPHORIA CENTER. Galveston GGA Chapter. Meetings: 8pm 1st Saturday every month except July, Aug, Sept. Contact Alice, (713) 763-6227. Especially helpful for the TS.

GGA-SAN ANTONIO. For information concerning time, place and frequency write Jaquiline Allen, c/o SAMC-GGA, PO Box 169672, San Antonio, 78280-3272.

******VIRGINIA******

HAMPTON ROADS-GGA. Meetings: March 3rd and May 14th. Contact N. Cooper, S-180, POB 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452.

*****OTHERS GROUPS*****

CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC CENTER - 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap session. Last Friday, special topic or speaker. Meetings run from 7:30 - 10:00.

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday. \$3.00 donation requested. For specific information write PO Box 28227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY OF JANUS. For those into or seeking adventure in S&M. Write PO Box 6794, San Francisco for information.

ETVC. Last Thursday each month at Chez Mallet, 527 Bryant St. San Francisco.

MISSION VIEJO/ORANGE COUNTY AREA. Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Information brochure - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group Counseling: Dana Point facility - 2nd & 4th Monday. San Juan Capistrano Facility - 1st & 3rd Monday.

SHANGRI-LA: Nancy Watson, PO Box 18902, Irvine, 92713.

******COLORADO******

DENVER. Gender Identity Center. Staffed by professionals, pre and post-ops. 3715 W. 32nd Ave, 80211. Phone (303) 458-5378.

******CONNECTICUT******

XX GROUP. 45 Church St. Hartford.

******DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA******

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag gay). Carl Rizzi, 1015 Quebec St. (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

******GEORGIA******

ELITE TV CO. Write GiGi Grant, PO Box 47686, Atlanta, GA 30362 for specific information concerning meeting time(s) and place.

******HAWAII******

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER. TV/TS discussion group. 7:30 pm each Tuesday. Address: 2139 Kuhio Ave, Honolulu (in the Waikiki District). Phone 926-1000.

******ILLINOIS******

CHI Chapter (Tri-S). Marilyn Broer, POB 2055, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

******MASSACHUSETTS******

TIFFANY CLUB. Tuesdays & Saturdays 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facility. GGA Members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, POB 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY Every Wednesday 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

TS SUPPORT GROUP. Write Rachia Heyelman, POB 25, South Orleans, MA 02662 for information.

******MICHIGAN******

CROSSROADS. Irregular meeting schedule. Write POB 1298, Flint MI, 48501 for information.

******OHIO******

PARADISE CLUB. Reservations required as meetings are held at a motel and a room is often required for overnight stay. Meetings: Oct. 22, Dec. 10. Write Paradise Club, POB 17023, Cleveland, OH 44117.

******RHODE ISLAND******

HOLCYON SOCIETY (Tiffany Club). 1st Saturday 7pm. Contact: Occupant, PO Box 142, Kingston, RI 02852 or call (617) 678-0609.

******WASHINGTON******

Seattle Counseling Service. TV/TS support group. Meetings: every Friday evening from 8-10. Anyone concerned with TV/TS issues welcome. 1505 Broadway, Seattle 98122. (206) 329-8737.

******WISCONSIN******

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Write POB 813, Madison, 53701.

******CANADA******

FACT. FTM TS only. POB 291, Station A, Hamilton, Ontario L8N 3C8.

******ENGLAND (UK)******

SELF-HELP ASSOCIATION FOR TRANS-SEXUALS (SHAFT) 46 Liddell Way, South Ascot, Berkshire, England SL5 9UX.
FRIENDS MERSEYSIDE. 14 Colquitt Street, Liverpool, L1 4DE. Phone: 051-708-0234
Fridays 7 - 10 pm.

******FRANCE******

TRANS-CCL. 3 bis Rue Clairmont, 75107 Paris. Phone (1) 627-4936.

******JAPAN******

ELIZABETH CLUB. c/o Anto Trading Co., Sakata Bldg 1-12, Iwamoto-cho, Kanda, Chiyado-ku, Tokyo 101.

*******PARTIES*******

Sat. Sept 22nd; Sat. October 27th;
Mon. Nov 5th; Sat. Nov 17th;
Mon. Dec 3rd; Sat. Dec 15th and
Mon. Dec 31st.

For information write: Lee's Mardi Gras, 565 10th Avenue, NYC, NY 13306 or call (212) 947-7773 between noon and 6 p.m. Monday thru Friday.

CROSSING THE WARDROBE RUBICON by Rebecca (CA-121)

Over the years I've pondered the question: Does a woman dress for men or women? As I saw examples of what appeared to be the "for men" and then the latter and sometimes neither I dismissed the subject as one more aspect of womanhood which defies explanation.

Now that I'm a serious crossdresser and identifying more and more with the female role I still don't have any conclusive answers, but at least I can understand the fallacy of the question. And, there may be a third alternative. A woman **may** dress for herself. By that I mean, she may have a preconceived image of how she looks or wants to look, and dresses and makes herself up to fulfill that image. The degree of success she realizes is hampered by the reverse image of the mirror in which she tries to make an objective analysis; or by another party whose counsel may be tainted by incompetence, indifference, or in the case of a salesperson, the desire to make a sale.

In selecting fashion a woman must consider styling, size, fit and color. All are important and color selection is not the least of the four by any means.

We all have our favorite colors and conception of what constitutes feminine colors. So, with nothing else to go by we naturally select clothing in those colors. Perhaps, not so infrequently, when trying them on and checking the results in a mirror we wonder at the strange sense of nausea permeating the room.

What we fail to realize is that although we enjoy certain colors it's the coordination of colors that's important. And, in addition to the color of our clothes we **must** consider our skin, hair and eye color and, to some degree, the color of the light of the environment in which we make our observation. We don't have a lot of control over some of these factors. Granted, we **can** alter skin tone and shading by make-up, hair coloring by tinting or bleaching and even eye color by tinted contact lenses. Happily, in most cases, Nature has color coordinated our body features so that all we are left to do

is determine what colors best suit us and surround ourselves with color coordinated clothing and the proper lighting.

In analyzing this situation it has been found that everyone can generally be categorized into about four color groups. And, since Nature was responsible for this distribution it is only natural to assign each group a title which compares aesthetically with one of Nature's four seasons; Summer, Autumn, Winter and Spring. As you might guess there are more "experts" in the field of color coding with differing opinions then there are colors in the visible spectrum. But, most agree that naming the groups by seasons is nice.

In discussing color coding it is my intention to present a simplified composite of an experts with whom I have had some contact. (My definition of an expert is someone from out of town with a brief case full of color swatches). One has good reason to be skeptical of the expert who identifies hundreds of colors samples and presents them in a book using a four color plate printing process.

The first step we can take in simplifying color coding is to eliminate the Spring Group. In my experience very few woman (and no men) may be classified as Springs. It seems that if someone looks horrible in the colors of Summer, Autumn and Winter they **must** be a Spring. They look bad in Spring colors too, but to a lesser extent than one who is not a Spring.

The idea is that once you are color coded to a seasonal group then you may use the associated colors for that season as a guide in selecting the color of your wardrobe. Incidentally, color coding applies to man as well as women. Determining your season may not be easy, but it should be fun.

You may already have an inkling of your season if you have an extensive wardrobe and you can identify some of the outfits as always looking good on you and drawing compliments from friends while other outfits make you feel uncomfortable as though you were invisible to those who seem to ignore you.

Your clothes, particularly upper body garments, and hair provide a frame for your face. Your face, aided by make-up,

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provides a frame for your eyes which are the focal point of the body. They are the initial contact point when encountering another person. And they should be the focal point of contact during conversation with another. The color of your eyes should be the most dominant feature of your body in determining your season but it is not always a straight forward method. Analyzing eye color under **natural** light conditions is a good group activity. Have each person observe your eyes and write down the impression of the color they see. This is something you can do with all your friends over a period of time and under various lighting conditions. Keep track of the results and the accumulation of data may help determine your seasonal eye color.

The following is a table of eye colors categorized according to seasonal groups: **Summer:** Light blue, clear blue, bluish grey and greenish grey. **AUTUMN:** Dark brown, hazel, amber and pale green. **WINTER:** Black, reddish brown, deep blue and dark green. Remaining colors are Spring.

If you end up with a conflict on eye color, hair color may be considered but should not override eye color in determining your season. The following is a table of hair colors categorized according to seasonal groups. **SUMMER:** Ash blonde, strawberry blonde, silver, grey. **AUTUMN** Reddish brown, auburn, ash brown and chestnut. **WINTER:** Dark brown, black, white and frosted blonde. The remaining colors are Spring.

Once you determined your season you can use the table above will serve as a guide in selecting a wig color. To pass in public one should avoid wig colors outside of one's Seasonal Group. An Autumn should resist yearning for the stunning platinum blonde wig.

The final test in determining your season involves the combination of eyes, hair and skin tone. This requires a group of friends to provide the objective analysis. It should be done without make-up on and in a light that is reasonably close to natural — preferably the kind of light you expect to seen in most of the time. You will need to accumulate all of the different colored fabric samples you can find (skirts, blouses,

shirts, coats, bed sheets, towels, etc.). The idea is to drape each fabric across your shoulders and chest so the room light will be reflected off the fabric onto your face. Now, have each of your participating friends note the effect on your eye color radiance; the prominence of crow's feet (aka laughter lines) and bags under your eyes; paleness of skin; the prominence of blotches, wrinkles and any underlying beard. When your face is framed with a color from your Seasonal Group the undesirable features just mentioned will be minimized and there will be a noticeable radiance of your eyes and complexion. You will look younger with smoother skin that will enhance your feminine beauty.

If, after all this you have determined your season, congratulations! However, if you are unable to observe a predominant season, or if you think you may fall into two seasons it is suggested you repeat the tests under a different light and possibly with a different group of friends.

From the last test, where you observed the effect of various fabric colors against your facial features, you now a good idea of a few of the colors making up your seasonal array of colors. Fortunately this publication is not printed in color so we are not tempted to print the array of colors for each season. The color printing process of most publications is such that colors are distorted from their intended shades.

The best method is to accumulate samples of fabric colors you know to be in your seasonal group and take them with you while shopping and select **only** those articles whose colors match your fabric samples. This way the light in the store will not be a factor and you won't have to worry about the color of the garment becoming ghastly when you get it home or wear it outside.

In keeping with the intent of simplifying color coding and aiding in selecting clothes from a catalog the following table is included with some of the more common basic fabric colors found in catalog descriptions. **SUMMER COLORS:** Pastel blue, pastel green, beige, gray, aqua, plum, coral, melon and berry. **AUTUMN COLORS:** Gold, rust, brown, orange, apricot, salmon, teal blue, turquoise and off-white. **WINTER**

COLORS: White, black, bright yellow, deep red, deep blue, deep green, burgundy, magenta and hot pink.

A Summer person looks good in pastels and light shades. However, light colors also tend to accentuate a large body. Therefore, a blouse or top which frames the face should be a pastel or other light color and the skirt may be a darker matching color, such as grey, berry or plum. A skirt of a matching color of blue or green is acceptable even though it may not be a summer color. The reasoning here is that the skirt is farther away from the face and has less effect. Please don't jump to the conclusion that summer colors are "blah" colors since on a Summer Person they are delicate and flattering.

An Autumn Person looks good in all the colors of a countryside scene in New England in October. Autumn colors are warm colors and bring out the warmth and healthy radiation of an Autumn Person. The browns and oranges should be standard colors but can be beautifully complimented with off-whites and gold-yellows. A nice diversion for the autumn is teal blue, but it must be the proper shade of teal blue. A teal blue dress set off with rust colored accessories, such as a neckerchief, is sure to draw raves from any appreciating admirer.

A Winter Person looks good in the deep primary colors as well as pure white or black. Keep in mind though, white accentuates a tall body. Happily, black does the opposite. The dark Winter Colors are just right for solid color dresses, jackets and pants outfits. The Winter Colors are not often associated with femininity, but when worn by a Winter Person the combination lends a new meaning to the word "stunning".

Armed with the knowledge of clothes styles, your proper sizes and color coding, shopping, in stores or via catalog, can be a most enjoyable experience. Now, you may shop in store after store knowing that sooner or later you are going to find the one dress, skirt or blouse that is exactly right for you. And, when you find it the price, which might have seemed otherwise exorbitant, may now appear more reasonable.

AND THEN THERE WERE FOUR by Janice (LA-15)

My fantasies about womanhood came to reality at age fifteen. It was the summer after my father left us — which was the only good thing he ever did. He was drunk and victimized is all, especially my mother. My father made me ashamed to be a man and I certainly didn't want to grow up like him. Besides, it seemed to me, that girls had more fun than boys. Being raised with three sisters made me aware of how girls grow up and how much fun they have. They got new dresses all the time while I got an occasional pair of new jeans.

I watched my oldest sister, Tess, grow up and go out on dates. Mother and the other sisters beamed with pride when Tess dressed up and left on a date. They all pitched in and helped her get ready while I was always left out because boys aren't supposed to be interested in "girl" things.

I was being cheated out of wearing pretty clothes and dressing up for dates. I wondered what it would be like to wear a pair of pretty, lace panties and make-up. My fantasy grew stronger as Debbie, the next oldest sister grew from a little girl into a young lady. I knew that sooner or later I would have to find out how it felt to wear pretty clothing and to feel like a girl.

During the summer following my father's departure I got a chance to live out my fantasy. Mom and Patricia, the youngest of my sisters, went to visit one of my aunts in another city to look for a job and a place to live. Tess and Debbie were planning a trip to the beach. I feigned a stomach ache. As soon as the house emptied I slipped into a perfumed bubble bath. As the oil soaked in softening my skin I began to realize what I had been missing. I couldn't shave my legs but my underarm hair was soon gone. After drying from the bath and talcing my body I slipped into one of Debbie's bra and bikini sets. The feel of the soft material against my smooth body exceeded my expectations. I slipped on a skirt and blouse of Tess' followed by a pair of her high-heels. My hand had just, shakingly, applied lipstick when I heard, "My don't you look pretty

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today, John? Or should I call you Susan?" spoken in Tess' voice.

Almost before I could move Debbie was applying make-up to my face while Tess busied herself with my longish hair. I wanted to run and hide, but I was enjoying the attention too much, to nothing of my embarrassment, to move. As I sat, watching in the mirror, they transformed me into a young lady. Debbie finished her part of the job by applying final touch of dark color to my almost blonde eyebrows.

Not satisfied with the results of her work Tess held a whispered conference with Debbie before cutting my hair. Once the cutting was done they rolled it up on curlers. I thought they were done but Debbie led me to the bathroom where they proceeded to give me a home perm. I was in a panic and would have cried but Tess said, "Crying will ruin your make-up." She handed me a razor, saying, "We can't have a sister with hairy legs under her pantyhose, now can we?" So, while the chemical did its work I busied myself removing the hair from my legs and resigning myself to a complete transformation, and besides, I wanted to feel hose against the silky smooth skin of my legs. I was finding out becoming a girl was a lot of work.

After the girls washed the chemical out of my hair and dried it I had barely a moment to catch a fleeting glimpse of myself in the mirror before the Debbie handed me a purse and they hustled me out the car. I mentioned I was worried someone would recognize me and besides, it felt funny to have a dress on and feel the wind blowing across my now almost bare legs. Tess and Debbie giggled and said no one would recognize me now.

We stopped at what seemed like every woman's clothing and shoe shop in town. I undressed and dressed so many times I lost count. My legs and body grew tired from the high heels and new undergarments. I didn't think I could go through another change when, to my shock, Tess bought me a pretty "A-line" dress, paying for it with her own money. During the drive home I was able to relax and think about the day. I had enjoyed the outing as a girl, but now all I really wanted to do was take off my heels, tight underclothing and get into a

pair of loose jeans. However, Tess and Debbie had other ideas.

Once in the house they made me practice walking, speaking and sitting like a girl. I found the way I had to stand was slightly uncomfortable at first.

We were setting the table after fixing supper when Mom and Susan walked in. Debbie, smiling, introduced me as "my new sister, Susan". Supper was agonizingly slow as Patricia stared at me while Tess and Debbie admonished me to eat slowly and take smaller portions.

After the supper dishes were washed and put away Mom asked how I had become Susan. I told her about my fantasy and how Tess and Debbie had found me and continued the process I had started. Along with the events of the day I added that while it was hard work being a girl I enjoyed it.

After bathing and removing my make-up I returned to my room to find my pajamas replaced by a baby-doll nightie and a silk-like robe. I changed into the sleepwear and joined Mom and my sisters to watch television until bedtime. I loved the smooth feel of the nightie and robe, and with my permed hair, I fit right in with my sisters. The excitement of the day made it difficult for me to fall asleep. And once asleep, I dreamed that night of a date with a boy and my sisters helping me get ready for it.

When I awakened the following morning I was about to pull on my old jeans when I noticed my new dress hanging on the closet door. It took but a moment to make the decision to wear my dress rather than my jeans. Tess was surprised when I asked for some lipstick, but she gave me a tube to use. At breakfast Mom assigned each of us chores and I was assigned to dust and sweep the house — a chore I had never been assigned before and I wondered what other new things and chores she might have in mind for me. I didn't have long to wait to find out.

Mom told all of us that she had found both a new house and a new job and that soon we would be moving. But what made it doubly exciting for me was when she said, "I guess I'll have to spend some of my butter and egg money to buy Susan a some new clothes and some make-up because it

looks like we'll be leaving John here and taking Susan with us."

THE MISTRESS' LAIR by The Mistress

There have been several letters in which the writer has asked the difference between the various "cultures". Since the terminology surrounding Dominance and submission is rather confusing to some of you I will provide a few definitions:

D/s = Dominance/submission.

The psychological and/or physical submission of one person to another. Basically an exchange of power takes place between consenting adults. Many people who are Dominant in day-to-day life enjoy being submissive after hours and on weekends. This group is labeled "**balancers**". Secondly, "**switchers**" are people who sometimes take the Dominant role and sometimes the submissive one. This may occur with the same partner, or with a different partner for each of the roles. Thirdly there are the "**natural**" submissives, who like the other person to take charge as a rule. Of course there are "natural" Dominants to match.

B/D = Bondage and Discipline.

This should be self-explanatory. It involves being tied up during which actual sexual interaction may or may not occur, and being disciplined for real or imaginary digressions. There is a high degree of psychological Dominance involved, as in D/s. Discipline tends to be fairly mild. You feel it, but pain is not the point.

S/M = Sado-masochism.

Sadists like to inflict pain and masochists like to experience it. The pain can be emotional, but usually it's physical. The term "sadism" is derived from the name of the infamous Marquis de Sade.

Sacher-Masoch, who wrote "Venus in Furs", is the origin of the term "masochism". I have met few true sadists or masochists. Some may argue with me, but taken in it's strictest meaning, the term S/M means the application of pure pain for sexual satisfaction. The unwritten law for S/M

is: No unintentional pain!

W/S = Water Sports.

There are several sub-categories of water sports.

Enemas, given purely for pleasure or punishment, are usually administered to the submissive by the Dominant or her assistant.

Golden Showers (GS) refers to the Dominant's showering of the submissive with "Golden Nectar" (or urine).

Golden Fountain (GF) is where the submissive drinks the Golden Nectar directly from the "fountain".

There are many variations of these themes, but I have covered the most frequent ones. If you have specific questions concerning these or other "cultures" or aspects of a specific culture you may write to me at: GGA, POB 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088, attn: DOM. If you want a personal reply be sure to include a SASE. I will respond at my leisure.



SURGERY AS A NECESSITY

by Penelope (WI-22)

In need of surgery as a very real emotional and physical means of resolving the matter of transsexualism, I for one, was greatly appalled by Tala's recent article [see August '84 issue] which relied heavily on having "fun" with and getting all possible kinds of people you can as the main reason for not having reassignment surgery.

Tala may very well find having a large numbers of fetishes and high numbers of partners but not having orgasm too great a loss and the inconvenience of taking care of the prosthetic organ too much trouble, but I for one see it as part of the price of personal evolution and reaching a higher plane of physical and emotional development.

My greatest concern is, now and when I began taking hormones 4 years ago, the lack of understanding and genuine concerned aid in securing surgery. I also feel an appalling lack of understanding from many agencies, including the so-called clinics which lead many away from surgery because of, I am sure, reasons of financial lack and social and religious hypocrisy and expediency rather than personal history and appearance.

Sex change facilities do not approach the transsexual as someone in need but one who has the cash needed. I know they cannot be motivated by scientific understanding or compassion.

Whenever I write still another facility, another civil rights agency, see another local official, attempt to make any kind of life for myself I am always treated as either a non-entity making unreasonable demands they don't want to hear or I can't even get an answer to letters of inquiry, which, to me shows a considerable lack of common courtesy. Is it any wonder so many of us wind up in prison? As suicides? Or professional mental patients?

I, for one, would be in favor of medical insurance, subsidized by transsexuals in need, who, like myself meet the criteria for surgery and who integrate well but lack the funds for surgery.

What I feel is greatly unfair, in my personal experience, is meeting the re-

quirements and being rejected because I didn't know I needed cash for the surgery. I think transsexuals have enough trouble managing their cash, much less having to come up with, what for many of us is, a large sum of money. That you are a transsexual should be the main consideration not that one has the money in hand (so to speak). If standard medical facilities treated their "average" patient this way (requiring cash in hand before admittance) I'm sure the only one's profiting by the experience would be the funeral directors.

I remain ever a believer in what I am and what I am sure I shall be someday. But, I am very saddened by and disappointed in what I've had to endure and miss out on by "behaving" and not shocking others or breaking their hearts. In all likely-hood I shall continue to endure. Love should be the measure of all things - unfortunately it isn't.

[Editor's note: The thrust of Tala's article was to point out there are alternatives to surgery **not** to condemn it out-of-hand for all. I have often heard the remark, both from professionals and post-ops, "It isn't for everyone". Often the post-op will add, "But it **was** right for me."

I agree. It **isn't** for everyone and obviously the surgical decision must be well thought out. I seriously doubt any post-op understood the loss of feeling resulting from this surgery and the ramifications of that loss. Surgery is **not** the be-all-end-all. Certainly, it is a necessity for most transsexuals, but one should go into the surgical suite with eyes open and the scales removed from them. And just as certainly each candidate should know, beforehand, the pluses as well as the minuses of this surgical procedure. If the pluses outweigh the minuses then have surgery. If the reverse is true then stay away from the table.]



TRAVELING ABROAD

by Michelle (IL-58)

Some do's and don'ts of Foreign Travel

Traveling in a foreign country en-femme can either be a dream or a nightmare. The difference usually depends on how well you do your homework and make your plans **prior** to boarding the plane (or ship). Since there is usually ample time for pre-planning a common sense approach works quite well.

At the very least you should familiarize yourself with the culture, customs, religions and the language of the country you plan to visit. Not only will this enhance the pleasure of the trip but will give you enough background that will, hopefully, prevent making serious blunders which could result in an embarrassing, or worse, incident.

One thing you should bear in mind if you're planning a trip en-femme: no matter how well you pass in the US you won't pass as well in a foreign country. Of course, one of the worst things one can do is call attention to oneself, yet being an American you will do just about everything differently than the local nationals. Americans dress and act differently than do foreign nationals and "different" equates to drawing attention, whether intentional or not, to oneself. A small example of how we act differently is the simple act of cutting and transporting meat from our plate to our mouth. Europeans and right-handed Americans hold their fork in their left hand and knife in their right while cutting meat on a plate. Americans, generally, transfer the fork to their right hand and bring the meat to their mouth with their right hand. Europeans retain the fork in their left hand and use it to bring the meat to their mouth. A minor national idiosyncrasy, but it marks you as an American.

Now, there are some things one can do to minimize being noticed:

- 1). wear separates or dresses, if appropriate, on the street. Most European women wear dresses only to church or an evening out.
- 2). don't use the make-up you take with you. Buy your make-up in the country you are visiting.
- 3). have your hair (or wig) styled by a professional after arrival in your target

country.

4). buy accessories you need from local vendors. Not only will they match what other women in the country are wearing but they will make great souvenirs. (I have a collection of earrings from all over the world and each pair is a treasure of memories.)

If you learn to "cultivate the look" of the country you're visiting you'll be rewarded by becoming inconspicuous and by losing the "tourist" look and can thus move about freely. I always know I have it made when an American tourist approaches me and asks "Do you speak English?"; and when I can walk along the street without being bothered by sidewalk peddlers speaking English (when they use the local language is another indication of your passing — for a local.)

If you're planning a night of dining and dancing there are a few precautions to take **before** starting the evening:

- 1). check the place out during the day to get an idea of the type neighborhood, the **exact** location, the hours of business (some places don't open **before** 11 p.m.) and anything that should be avoided because it **may** be a potential problem area.
- 2). plan to take a taxi to and from the place. Not only is it more feminine, but the rapid transit system in many cities doesn't operate 24 hours a day. (London for example; of BART in San Francisco for that matter.)
- 3). don't even **think** about drinking and driving in **any** foreign country. If you think the US laws are tough "you ain't seen nothin' yet," as the saying goes. Many countries have a **mandatory** jail sentence even for the first offense. So, **don't do it.**

Another warning! **Don't** carry any medication for which you don't have a prescription. If you **must** have aspirin, etc. buy them locally rather than taking them with you from the US because the label(s) will be meaningless to a Customs or other official. Also, the appearance of the medication may differ from the same thing sold by a local apothecary.

One word of caution (and I don't care if a certain ophthalmologist **did** do it) **stay out of muslim countries** when you're cross-dressed. In those cultures it's unthinkable for a woman to travel alone or that a woman should be treated as a man's equal.

Even if you do pass well, traveling in any country where Islamic religion is the main religion you're just asking for trouble if your physical sex doesn't match the way you are dressed and look. Avoid problems — don't do it.

Just remember, common sense works and if you use it you should be able to avoid problems.

Remember, you are the visitor in a foreign country so conduct yourself accordingly. If it doesn't fly in the US it won't fly in a foreign country either.

See you next month and until then,
Bon Voyage

CHICAGO CONVENTION

Are you ready for four fun filled days and three fun filled nights? If you are they can be found at the GGA Convention the first week-end of April '85 in Chicago.

Sharon, and many other members of the GGA-Windy City Chapter have been working hard on the details of housing, dining and entertainment. A flyer will be included with the November Phoenix.

Let's have a good turn-out for this, the first such get-together, of '85.



GENDERNET ®



As of August 31st there have been 3,000 call to GenderNet, our electronic Bill Board, which means we are averaging 12.5 calls per day. The demand for network usage has led us to have it open more hours each day. Hopefully, we will soon have it on the air 24 hours a day seven days a week.

The demand and use has also led us to believe a "use fee" would be acceptable to the users since the fees will allow us to upgrade the system and add more storage space through the addition of either an additional floppy or hard disk drive. Adding a floppy disk will increase storage space by 178,000 bytes for an approximate total of 5,400,000 bytes while the hard disk would add a minimum of 5,000,000 bytes or an approximate total of 10.3 megabytes of storage space. (For the uninitiated a "byte" is the space needed to store a single character. For example 5,000,000 iterations of the letter A could be stored on a single hard disk unit.) The cost of the hard disk (\$1,100) is what is slowing us down in adding it to the system, but the collection of a modest usage fee, possibly \$25.00 per year, would soon accumulate the monies needed to purchase the hard disk.

We have already enhanced the system by upgrading it from a Model-III to a Model-4. And the addition of 1200 baud rate to the previously installed 300 baud rate. Increasing the baud rate means that callers will now be able to see 4 times as

much information in each session as they were able to see at the old 300 baud rate. Long distance phone bills will also be reduced by using the 1200 baud rate. For those users, or potential users, having only a 300 baud modem we still have 300 baud available.

New sections and information are added periodically to maintain interest and provide more, useful information.

By the time you read this one 5meg hard disk will be on-line and we will be put the contents of the Correspondence Directory up as part of the BB. Access to this new section will be limited, through BB control, to GGA Associates, Correspondents and BB Subscribers. The BB subscription fee will be same as the Associate fee.

So, if you have a computer, either a home type or mainframe with a 300 or 1200 baud modem available you have access to GenderNet available. Why not give it a call? The number is (408) 734-8727. The present hours of operation are 6 p.m. - midnight Monday and Thursday; 6 p.m. Tuesday - midnight Wednesday; 6 p.m. Friday - midnight Sunday.



IT'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME!



The following Associates have a birthday in the months listed. We hope you'll send each Birthday Person a nice card. We have.

OCTOER

Paula	CA-230	Paula	CA-236
Jennifer	FL-64	Donna	FL-65
Lynn	HI-11	Krista	IA-15
Naomi	IL-18	Michelle	IL-58
Michele	IN-12	Jane	KS-12
Evelyn	KS-15	Linda Ann	MD-16
Jeri Rae	MT-13	Diedre	NM-15
Cheryl	NY-48	Lynda	NY-66
Roxanne	OH-32	Samantha	TN-14
Lorraine	TX-44	Heather	WA-29
Tommie	WY-11		

NOVEMBER

Valorie	CA-157	Andrea	CA-159
Darlene	CA-243	Carol	CA-249
Tamie	CA-243	Teddy	FL-11
Becky	FL-34	KaraAnne	FL-57
Vanessa	FL-62	Elizabeth	GA-22
Marsha	IL-69	Yvonne	IN-29
Jane	KS-18	Ronnie	MA-23
Melisa	NB-10	Jineane	NJ-28
Diane	NJ-30	Barbara	NY-35
Maria	NY-61	Carol	PA-40



WIFE'S BOARD

The following messages were posted on the Wife's Board of GendrNet. We thought you'd like to see them.

I'm 30 years old and have been married to a man or rather possibly I should say a woman, for 8 years. We have no children — thank God. He recently told me he is a transsexual and wants to go through the complete change and become a physical woman. I've been to see his, or rather her, psychiatrist and she assures me he/she really is a TS and must change. I love my husband very much and am angry that we shall have to sever the fine relationship we have.

I suppose I can remarry — if this doesn't make me gun shy of marriage — but I would prefer to stay with him, even after surgery. Can anyone out there help me? I need advice from other wives/lovers, etc, who have gone thru this same thing.

Liz.

My husband has crossdressed since long before we Married. He tole me about his crossdressing before we married and I have allowed him to continue doing his thing all these years (15). After several years of marriage I found I wanted to see him dressed so ask him to show me what he looked like. He did, and he looked great - very passable. We began occasionally going out together at night to dinner or a show or some such thing. Well, he asked if he could wear a nightgown to bed and at first I was reluctant to allow this, but finally agreed. This, of course led to having sex with a partially crossdressed man. And I found I love it. Now we have sex all the time with him partially crossdressed — usually in nylons, a garter belt and a bra. Sometimes he makes advances to me in the early evening when he'S fully cross-dressed with

make-up, wig and all. I really get turned on most of the time by this. But lately I've been asking myself whether or not I may be a latent lesbian. I mean he presents a very real female image and I really get turned on and am almost always ready to hop in the old sack with him (her?).

Do any of you wives out there have

similar feelings and have you had similar experiences? I'd really like to hear from some of you on this.

Mavis

I've been having sex with a TV for more years than I care to remember and have thoroughly enjoyed it. It has been much better since he came out of the closet — at least he's come out to me, if no one else. I don't care if I'm a "latent lezzie" or not. I love having sex with a partially crossdressed male. I insisted he start sleeping in nightgowns have purchased a wide variety for him.

I have even attended these "Fun Parties" where sex toys and erotic lingerie is for sale and have selected several pair of crotchless panties for him to wear while we're having sex. He loves to wear panties and a garter belt and nylons under his male clothing and does so almost every day.

If the people at the office only knew what the boss was wearing as underclothing they'd have a fit.

What does it matter if you feel like a lesbian. Do you sexually hunger after women or just men dressed as women? That's what you should be asking yourself. Personally I have no desire to have sex with a genetic woman, just a make believe one. I prefer a penis to a clit anyway.



CASE STUDIES
KELLY

Kelly's story is, in many ways typical in the transsexual community and atypical in others.

I met Kelly, then in her mid-forties, when "he" was presenting a work shop on microcomputers for small businesses. We seemed to hit it off almost immediately. I saw "him" occasionally throughout the following year when taking a computer class or some hands-on training. "He" had been assigned by his company, which manufactures support gear for large-scale computers as well as minis and micros, to set-up a facility in The City where people could actually see and use the equipment they hoped to purchase or lease. Because of the time we spent together "he", of course, knew my specialty -- the psychology of the cross genderist.

I leased my micro with the intention of keeping patient records on it. You know, rather than jotting down a few notes after a session I'd type them into the computer and update the patient's file. I found I could transcribe more data in a few minutes at my keyboard than half an hour of laboriously hand writing them. And it was more fun. Any way, I became so enthralled with my micro that I was considering buying one for use at home. Mainly to use in writing professional articles and possibly book or two.

I called Kelly for advice.

Well, to make a long story short Kelly arranged for the equipment I needed, had it installed and spent absolutely hours showing me how to get the most out of it. He called occasionally to see how the set-up was working and if I needed any help.

Knowing he would be in town I invited him to the Christmas Party I give every year for my patients and former patients.

Kelly, with his lovely wife Liz, arrived late, him looking slightly tired and she looking absolutely ravishing -- I was about to seat them in the easy chairs by the fireplace when Belinda and Lorraine, two of my post-ops greeted him like a long-lost brother. I must admit I was surprised to see that.

The four of them spent much of the evening together talking and laughing.

Lorraine stayed after the party to help me clean up.

"Louise," she asked, "why in the world did you invite Kelly? And Liz?"

"We've gotten close over the past year and he's going back to his company's main facility soon, so I invited him, as a kind of 'thank you' and going away party. I didn't know he'd bring Liz. Why?"

"Don't you know about Kelly?"

"Know? What should I know about him?"

"Oh Louise. Kelly's a tee ess. Didn't you know?"

"Kelly? A tee ess? No, I didn't know. Are you sure?"

"Of course. I haven't seen her in years, but Kel's one of 'us'. In fact, I tried to get her to have surgery years ago.

Before I knew it Lorraine was telling me what she knew or thought she knew, about Kelly.

And that's how Kelly's story came to appear here.

Kelly was one of those babies so often referred to by mothers and other adults as "pretty" and/or "beautiful", adjectives not normally used to describe a male child. Having seen baby pictures I can but agree with the adjectives. His high school graduation picture could, with a change of clothing and hair-style, just as easily been of a pretty teenage girl as a boy.

Kelly had an early disdain of boys and felt that she was not one, even though she appeared, physically, to be one. Kelly spoke of a dream, which recurred from age four or five until her mid-teens in which she is offered three wishes (like Alladin) but asks for only one. She asks for a secret word which will give her the body of a real girl -- the correct body of appropriate age. She realized she would only be able to use the word in a secret, secure place and that since she would, much of the time, have to appear in the body of a boy she also asks for a second secret word to change her body back to that of a boy. Needless to say she never received either secret word.

At age eight she was sent to an all male boarding school where she was both terrified of and terrorized by the other

students because they realized she was different and considered feminine enough to be called "sissy" and "little girl".

Not surprisingly she hated the school, her class-mates and her mother for having condemned her to that hell on earth. She has never, not even to this late date, forgiven her mother for that injustice. Her mother, denied sending her to the school as punishment or to "make a little man out of her", rather she claimed she thought the experience best for the child — not to mention her own convenience.

During Kelly's first year at boarding school her father purchased a small farm some seventy miles distant from where they were living. He moved to the farm while his wife stayed behind to continue with her job at which she would remain working for another four years.

Kelly ran away from the school several times, usually running to her father who allowed her to stay with him until the following Sunday. When she ran to her mother — only once — she was returned the next day. A lesson well learned.

After her second year at boarding school. Kelly was allowed to stay with her father since one of his sisters would be living with them to keep house while his wife continued with her job and commuted week-ends.

Kelly's life in her new co-educational school was not much improved over her previous school. Now, in the sixth grade, she stood only 5'3" and weighed about 100 pounds, smaller than all her male peers and many of her female peers. Her intelligence allowed her to more or less sail through classes without the aid of after hours study — a sore point with many of her class-mates. Kelly continued her loner existence, being bullied by the boys and shunned by the girls.

During her seventh grade year Kelly's mother, now living with them permanently, gave birth to another beautiful baby — this time a girl; two years later a brother arrived and two years after him a second sister arrived.

Although not especially athletically inclined Kelly went out for the football team as a freshman in high school. As much to her surprise and anyone else's she was accepted. The school was small and just about anyone willing to try out for the team was accepted. Her size, though still

small at 5'5" or 5'6" and possibly 110 or 115 pounds was almost an asset in that the larger boys on the opposing teams didn't try as hard against Kelly as they would have against someone their own size or larger.

Just before graduation from high school Kelly convinced her mother to sign the forms necessary to allow Kelly to enlist in the military for three years — her military career spanned almost three decades.

At age 21 Kelly met and fell in love with the young woman whom she married her and who bore two fine sons. While Kelly knows she loved and still loves Liz, she is unsure why she married Liz.

Their sex was, as far as Kelly is concerned, lesbian oriented. Penile penetration occurred at the insistence of Liz. ("She always wanted to be sure I was 'okay'", is the way Kelly describes Liz' actions.)

Their lives had many ups and downs and there were the inevitable separations caused by military assignments. Kelly's promotions came sporadically and she often, in secret, wept bitter tears when she was passed over, but her progress was inevitable.

With the children gone from the nest Kelly retired. Liz continued to work, as she had been doing for several years, and Kelly, for want of something better to do went to a technical school to learn a new trade. She drifted, indecisively, from one thing to another, always dissatisfied and yearning to return to her former profession in computers.

After several fruitless job interviews (one problem with being over-qualified) she landed a temporary job on the West Coast, several hundred miles from home. The job, ultimately, lasted almost two years.

Liz had learned, by accident, during Kelly's unemployed period about Kelly's transsexualism and when the separation came about told Kelly to use the time to explore her feminine side. In Seventh Heaven Kelly rented an apartment, accumulated a modest, but stylish wardrobe and began living, although only part time after work and on week-ends.

continued next month

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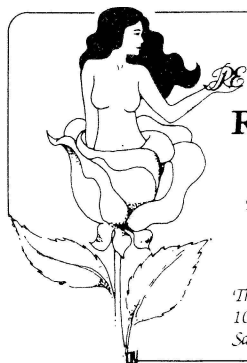
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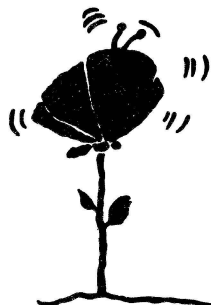


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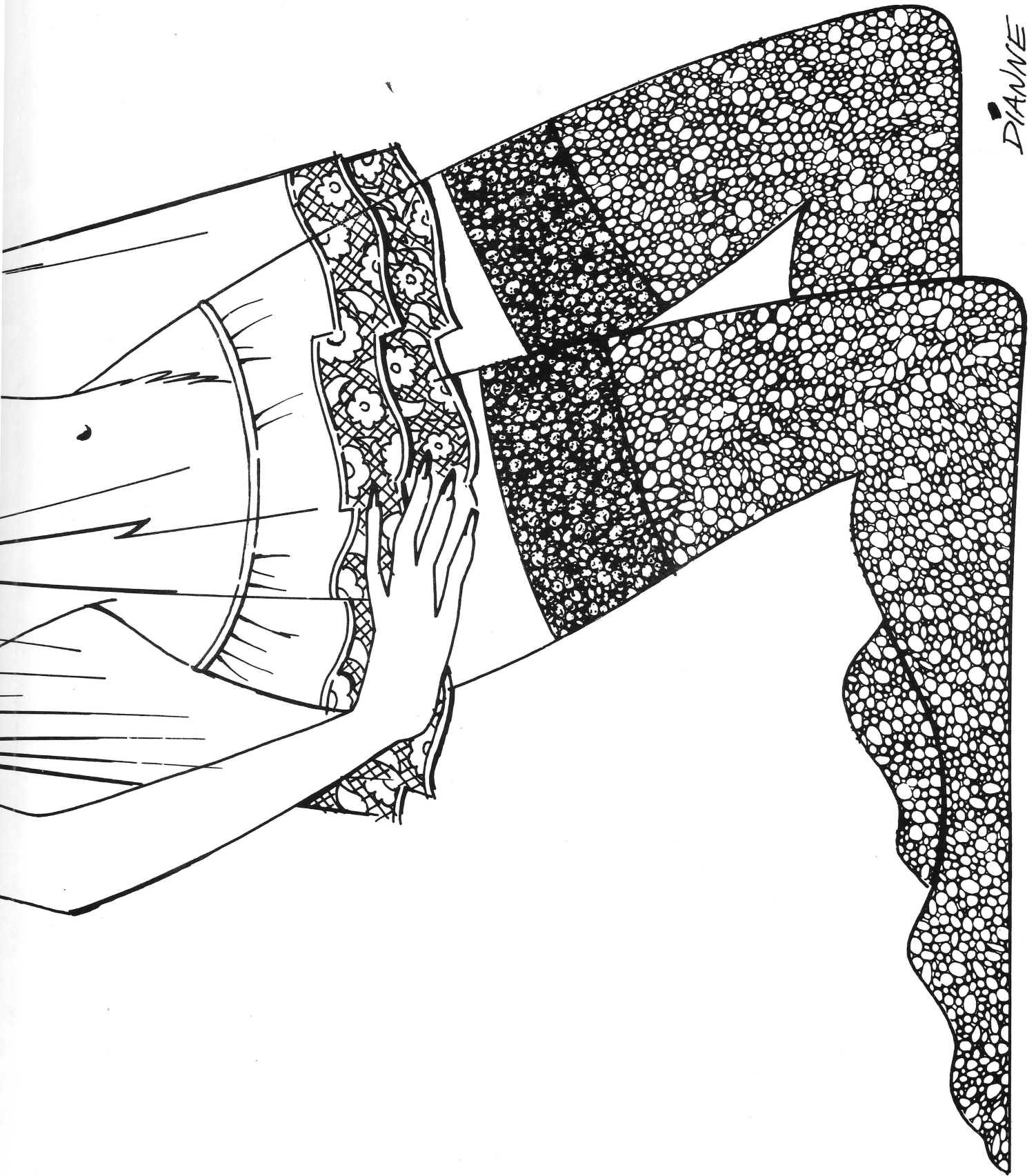


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