

PRES: William M. [redacted]

MEMBERSHIP

NEWSLETTER EDITORS

[redacted]
Albany, New York

\$ 1 5 PER YEAR

Helen
and

PHONE: [redacted]

Wilma [redacted]

Hi Girls:

The weather still holding up we had a nice group here for the meeting. I was a little surprised as some of the girls had just returned from Fantasia in Providence. We were glad to see Sally and Jean after his /her long absence. Peggy found her way back to see us after a year absence. Nice to see these girls come and enjoy the company of their sisters. Phyllis and Lovinda and Anette were first timers and it was good to see all the girls take to them.

The girls who made the gathering were: Sandra and Christine from Bronx, N.Y., Dennie and Michelle Ann from Sumerville, Mass., Lovinda from Chelsea, Mass., Kathy and Paula from Lanesboro, Mass., Vi and Dee Dee from Hartford, Conn., Sally and Jean from Binghamton, N. Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Peggy Ann from Schenectady, N. Y., Pam from Mayfield, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Suassane from Albany, N.Y., Crystal from Menands, N.Y., Arlene and G.G. from Troy, N. Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Anette from N.Y.City, N.Y., Phyllis from Greenville, N.Y., Wilma and I.

The meal for the girls was Baked Ham, Potatoes Au Gratin, EggPlant Parmajon, corn, cole slaw, pickles, olives, apple sauce. We had a rum cake for Wilma's birthday for dessert and coffee.

Dee Dee played Happy Birthday for Wilma, and then Dee Dee and Paula played some music for the girls to dance.

What do you think of a sister who brings Chanpaign for the party and Lo and behold it was opened only to find it was stale coffee. I won't mention any name but she did have another bottle which we all had for a toast to Wilma.

A sad note here to find that Connie one of our dear sisters has had a Heart Attack. It would be nice if you girls could send Conn [redacted] get [redacted] rd o let her know we are thinking of her. Send to: C. Malcom [redacted], [redacted] Jamestown, N.Y. 14701 Come on girls get the mail rolling.

All my thanks for the girls who sent Wilma a birthday card, enjoyed reading them.

Say Gail and Poan you sorta got your weeks mixed as we got your card the day of the gathering. You forgot to read your paper good because we had a note in there saying that the meeting would be set back a week because of the girls going to Fantasia Fair. You missed a pleasant evening.

We want to thank Michelle Ann and Dennie for being such nice folks who entertained us for the week we were visiting with them.

I want to ask all you T.V.'s out there in the open to help me if you can. I have been asked this question by some of the wives of T.V.'s who are trying to understand why their husbands are T.V.'s, and can they ever give it up. I can only tell them the little that I know about my own Wilma. So please write me some of your versions on why you are a T.V. I would like to be able to help the wives a little more.

We are having more wives come to the gatherings and that is why I would like to be able to answer some of their questions. My own feelings are far different than most of the wives. I enjoy seeing the girls and I know that when they are dressed they are so completely relaxed that I can't find anything to describe why they dress. Come on girls help me out.

Did I ever tell you about the time DeeDee and Vi had some of the girls over to their home. Well it seems Dee Dee and Vi were entertaining some of our T.V. friends when somebody asked what would they say if the neighbors got inquisitive and started to come over. Well DeeDee told Vi to tell them they were a group of retarded ladies. Not bad for a quick smart answer.

Well Ive just about come to the end of my sheet and I really had a nice time with all the girls sat. enjoyed talking to Phyllis and hope to see her back again. Got your picture today Jean, very nice and will be happy to see the new you next month. keep up the good work on taking off the poundage.

Good Night girls see you next month.
God Bless and take care of yourselves.

Love Helen

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

THE question of voice control comes up every now and then from those who would like to know how to sound more feminine as well as look more feminine when dressed and in other peoples company. SOME have been inquiring about operations to change the vocal cords etc. THIS latter is not practical as the determining factor in the depth the voice is the length of the cord and it's thickness, just as on a piano. MEN'S vocal cords are longer because the larynx is larger than a woman's and also the cords are heavier, so there is no help to be found in that direction.

BUT the problem is not so insoluble as it seems. MANY TVs attempt to talk in a falsetto voice, but only in very few does this sound very feminine. THE timber of most falsettos is just not feminine in quality and although higher sounds rather strained and arteficial. THE result is that it is likely to give away the secret about as easily as too deep a voice.

WHAT ought to be remembered is that one of the first things that a good stage actress has to accomplish is to lower her voice. A high aqueaky voice does not carry in a theatre and yet who is to question the voice of many of the well known actresses, starting with Talullah Bankhead and working up (both professionally and on the voice scale). A feminine voice does not differ from a man's voice, only in the pitch. LISTEN to women talking and if you analyze what you hear carefully you will find that it is not so much the location of the pitch scale that differs as it is the way they talk INFLECTION, accent, emphasis and even the choice of words add as much to the feminine impression as the pitch. FOR example, notice sometime how many phrases a woman finishes with a slight rise in pitch at the end compared to a man who usually drops the pitch at the end of a statment.

HOWEVER in the realm of pitch here is a little exercise you can do in private until you have mastered it. START talking or reading out loud with your voice in it's normal masculine register. AS you proceed very gradually lift the voice higher and keep on talking. AS you get higher and higher you will feel your throat sort of constrict and tighten and eventually it will break. THIS is obviously too far and I suggest that you carrt it that far the first time just to recognize the feeling and come to know what the other extreme is. NOW go back to your regular voice again and start the process over. WITH a little practice you will be able to select a level which feels comfortable, that is one where you don't feel your voice being strained. WHEN you find such a level stop there, and just keep going at this level. IF after a little time you feel strained and your throat muscles get a little tired you may just be feeling the strain of a new muscle "set" but you may also, in your effort to imitate the way you consider to be a feminine voice, have picked too high a point. IF so, go back to the bottom and come up again to a slightly lower level. WHEN you have found a level that you can talk at continously for 4 or 5 minutes, practice it whenever you get an opportunity so you can standardize on this pitch--get to feeling it as a natural level at which to talk. WHEN you have selected your talking pitch you can take the next step.

UNDER ordinary, unemotional conditions men talk much more forcibly than women although trying to get their point across. THAT is, the voice is harsher in the sense of being more direct and to the point. WOMEN usually speak softly. THIS is not the same as quieter. JUST less intensely, more relaxed and less push behind the voice, so try to soften your words, smooth them out as it were. IF you combine this with a slight change in the kind of words used and a little more upsweep at the end, you will gradually achieve a satisfactorily "feminine Voice" which will neither be falsetto nor deep, but will adequately go with the rest of the feminine picture you make and fade into the overall personality. REMEMBER that just as with all other aspects of your feminine appearance--- people will not question you if you look authentic (not pretty) and are acting in an appropriate way. NEITHER will they question your voice if the rest of you is O.K. IF you will discover the slightly altered voice I have described.

One of the things that grates on me, is the TV who goes to expense and trouble to get a pretty dress, heels, wig and the works, and then stomps around the room with big strides, sits with knees spread apart and finally talks with his own voice. THEIS is one of the things that makes it difficult for non-TVs, especially women to accept it. IN our culture everyone tends to systematise things and to file people and events into certain pigeon holes in his mind. THEY will forget entirely that the person they are looking at is actually a male if that person not only wears appropriate feminine attire but talks and acts in a manner consistent with the appearance. BUT they will be very uncomfortable and show it with intolerance and animosity when the person before them cannot comfortably be put in one pigeon hole or another. THUS I would recommend that everytime you put on your femininethings that you put on your voice too and gradually it will seem as natural to the personality you are trying to create as any other part of her. TRY it and see how it goes.

President's Pen

BUST BAR



NEXT MEETING

Our next two parties will be
Nov. 18th
Dec. 16th Christmas party.

When it comes to
good clean fun, you
can't beat a double
bubble bath.

Welcome New Members

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of four new members this month.
SANDRA G. BRONX, N.Y.
HOLLY H. TROY N.Y.
STAN P. ALBANY N.Y.
ROBBIE W. N.Y.C. N.Y.

A desperate spinster named Clare
Once knelt in the moonlight all bare
And prayed to her god:
"Take me here on the sod."

We all here at TVIC hope to see you new members in the coming months in person at one of parties.

They've got a new
parlor game called
BUTTON, BUTTON,
HERE COME THE
FOLKS!

SPECIAL THANKS DEPARTMENT :

Our special thanks to Gloria M. [redacted] for the extra \$.
Our special thanks to Sarah Ann D. [redacted] for the extra stamps.
Helen and Wilma send special, SPECIAL special THANKS to MR. & Mrs [redacted] for there fine hospitality for the 5 days we stayed at there home.

B O O K S :

We still have many TV books and magazines at 10 for \$11

The king of hearts
He made six tarts.
All on a summer day ...
Potent, wasn't he?

Happy Birthday Girls

It seems so very natural since this special day is here to wish all you girls listed here all the very best today and throughout the year H A P P Y B I R T H D A Y. Love, Helen & Wilma

- NOV. 2 Arlene A. [redacted]
- " 6 Micheline J. [redacted]
- " 8 Jack G. [redacted]
- " 10 Paula D. [redacted]
- " 17 Helen R. [redacted]
- " 22 Michelle Ann [redacted]
- " 24 Leslie Q. [redacted]
- " 27 Dennie B. [redacted]
- 2 22 This is a wedding anniversary for Mr & Mrs Eugene [redacted].

Little Willie was looking for his dog, and was asking everybody if they had seen his little Ohio dog, explaining, "That's a dog with a little round "O" under his tail."

She finally bought herself a new mink coat. She didn't find a sugar daddy with a thousand dollars ... she found a thousand willing fellows with one dollar each.

TO Jaanett & Laurane:

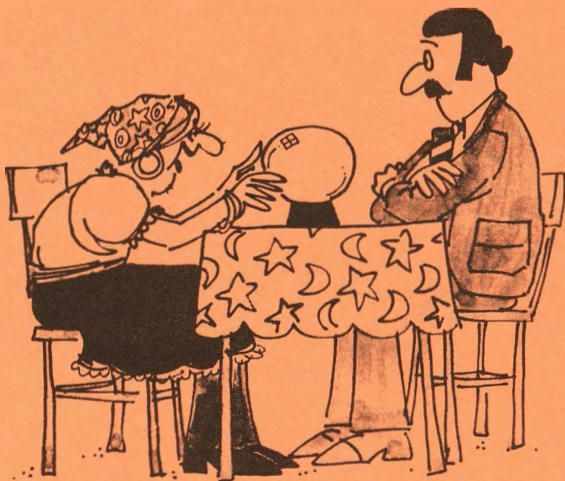
Remembering you on your Anniversary and wishing you every happiness today, tomorrow and always. Love Helen & Wilma.

It was honeymoon night. She said, "You bet I'm nervous ... I always am the first time."

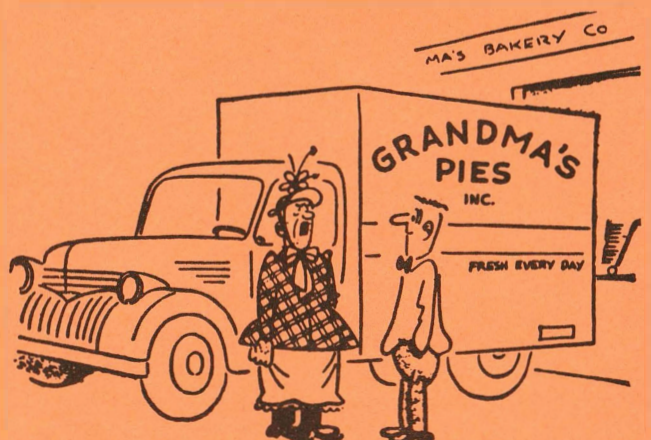
"It's not SEX I don't like, Freddy ... it's YOU."

She was an international beauty ... chased by scads of noblemen all over Europe ... and she managed to make every second count.

The new cinematic emporium
Is not just a plain auditorium,
But a highly effectual,
Heterosexual
Mutual masturbatorium.



COCHRAN!



"It may be a good idea, but personally I don't like it."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Editor
Effect On
Grate

Dear Editors:

DURING the first week of Oct., I went out to see two of my former pupils at a Christian boarding high school near Knoxville, Tenn. At that time they were having a homecoming week. I entered a reception room. THERE was a girl sitting on the couch. SUDDENLY I read her and noticed that she was a BOY! WHEN the President of the school called me in, Of course I asked him about that boy dressed like a girl. HE answered that during that day the girls bought the boys to be their slaves for a day. SOME of them forced the boys to dress up like the girls. AFTER my meeting with the President I visited several classrooms for observation. I noticed one of the boys who wore girl's clothes, who carefully checked to see about his makeup and then put lipstick on his lips. I was thinking that he was really a TV. HOW could I dare ask him? ANY way as expected, lots of students were making fun of the dressed up boys.

SAMANTHA T. MEMPHIS TENN.

Dear Wilma:

JUST received a veery nice letter from Jan [redacted] of San Antonio, in response to my letter that you ran in a recent JO [redacted] IN fact, I also hooked up with Connie of Jamestown, N.Y. through the JOURNAL. THAT alone has been worth the price of membership. RUTHANN M. MADISON WISC.

DEAR WILMA:

A few years back one hot summer evening, after I finnished an electrical job and was on my way home, I was hot and tired and dry so I decided to stop in a local bar. IT was one that on some nughts had a stripper. WELL I was more interested in refreshment than female anatomy and sat down for a few.

TO my saprize the stripper was one of us, a female impersonator!! AFTER her act, the only seat at the bar being empty was next to me so she came over and sat down. WELL we began to talk.

WE had a pleasent talk for a little while and the crowd started to break up as guys quite leering and got lost. ABOUT this time this guy comes in who was trying to impress everyone and was definittly looking to get into some ones panties. HE sat down on the empty seat on the other side of our performer and after making a big deal with a pile of cash, started to talk to our girl.

NOW at this time she had a skirt and blouse on and was very attractive and looked all woman. SHE said to me, lets have some fun with this John, just play along with me. O K! I agreed.

SHE talked to him again to the stranger and said that she was occupied (by me) but if he was interested maybe he should check out the merchandize.

WELL, at once our stranger began running his finfers up those well shaped thighs with the intention of not stoping untill the fingers were well occupied by the female anatomy.

SUDDENLY there was a suprised look on his face!! BALLS!! HE thundred, said nothing except S.O.B.!! and ran directly out of the door.

NEEDLESS to say the girl and I had a long and pleasent evening on the strangers as he had left about \$50 on the bar.

HOPE you enjoyed reading this letter as I enjoyed the evening.

JACKIE F. MIDDLETOWN N.Y.

Dear Wilma.

AN awful lot has been said about seecurity for the Crossdresser. THIS is essential and I agree with it to a degree. YET in my personal case I've found a degree of acceptance and understanding that is indeed heartwarming simply by being very careful in laying the scenerio and then letting people in on my "secret" with the full expectation that they will accept and not condem. I've yet to find that if I give a person half a chance to accept, he or she will not do so. GIVEN a propper introduction and revelation, most thinking people will be able to accept crossdressing. I feelstrongly also that if it is not thoughtfully and honestly presented rejection is sure.

AFTER 25 years of marriage, I was recently divorced. THREE resolved forms in my mind. 1. TO enjoy my crossdressing to the optimum. 2. TO enjoy my hetrosexuality to the optimum and 3. TO not allow the development of any meaningful relationship with a female without her knowing of my crossdressing long before it could cause any problem. THESE resolves have produced rewards, to be sure. SECRACY and fear of telling others certainly is not best in such instances. WISDOM and discretion is of course the order of the day, but total secracy and fear of disclosure builds barriers and makes for hate and hurt not only in case of transvestism, but in everthing when it comes to intimate personal relationship between two people. JANET H [redacted] LEAGUE CITY TEXAS.

There's only one thing wrong with sex it's so habit-forming

The elevator girl is the only one who can go down and whistle at the same time.

When the sultan arrived unexpectedly, his wife let out a terrified shriek.

There was a young fellow named Skinner Who took a young lady to dinner . . .

They started to dine

And a quarter to nine,

At a quarter to ten it was inner . . .

Not Skinner, the dinner,

Skinner was inner before dinner!

On May 18, 1978 I distributed an outline on how we might develop an effective social and service organization with headquarters located in the Greater Boston area. Hopefully you had a chance to read it. In it I mentioned the hope of working cooperatively with the Outreach Foundation whose primary function is education and service, with the I.A.M.F. whose function is both service and social, and with Tri Sigma and Cherrystone whose primary functions are social. I thought together we could develop a social club and service program. However, there seems to be some problems, and I would like to talk about these problems with you to see if we can overcome them.

First let us recognize that we crossdressers are the flakiest and most unreliable bunch of human beings on the face of this God's earth. Quite understandably our personal situations are paramount. Our personal problems and fears and needs prevent us from doing what we would like or as much as we would like for others. That has a way of frustrating well intentioned people. However, in spite of this I believe with a will to help others, a sense of direction, and with patient dedication we can achieve our goals.

I would like to pass on to you a short assessment of existing organizations as I perceive them, their good points and problems. Your comments of course would be greatly appreciated.

The Outreach Foundation: Directed by Ariadne Kane, its primary functions are: 1.) public education, 2.) to train and aid professional therapists and counselors so they may be more effective in dealing with persons with gender related problems, and 3.) to provide these professional services to those who may need them. Besides these important services the Foundation also sponsors such programs as Fantasia Fair, Boutique Fantastique, and annual fund raising galas. These services have been proven to be extremely valuable to the crossdressing community. We know their value well, for most of us have suffered the consequences of ignorance and inexperienced, ineffective and biased counseling. Many of us have also taken advantage of and enjoyed the Foundation's social programs. Because of this we acknowledge the importance of the Outreach Foundation, and should therefore support it.

The Foundation has the advantage of dedicated and responsible leadership, but like most projects dealing with the crossdressing phenomenon it lacks personnel and financial support. Also, although the Foundation sponsors some socially oriented programs such as Fantasia Fair and the galas, the Foundation's primary function remains service and education, and is not and should not be the primary motivating force behind the development of a social club.

Tri Sigma: The intention of Tri Sigma is to provide a social outlet for heterosexual male crossdressers. Tri Sigma is a national project with members thinly scattered across the nation. Due to the efforts of Carol Mayfield and Jenny Lee a small active group has congregated in the Boston area. It is a good group. However, Tri Sigma tends to be fairly exclusive, and small, catering to the special needs of a select few who are probably

A little older, married and well-educated. ALSO, it only meets once a month and has no facilities. BECAUSE of its structure and conservative nature of its members, TRI-SIGMA is particularly vulnerable to the old problems-trying to get anybody to do anything and survival.

Tri-Sigma is an important organization and fill the needs of many. But because of the conditions already mentioned, because of its limited membership and growth potential, and vulnerability to failure, Tri-Sigma could not and should not be a motivating force behind any growth oriented organization. IT is important in it's own way, and like Outreach, has its niche.

INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE FOR MALE FEMINISM: This organization had the grandest ideas, the best organizational structure and the most admirable goals. Under the energetic and dedicated leadership of Linda Ann Stevens, this organization sought to do all. It sought to unify the TV organizations that did not have sex as its primary objective. It sought to develop Tri-Sigma type social chapters nationally and internationally. It tried to provide educational, professional and commercial service, hot lines, libraries, and even a voice training service. Also, as the name implies, it placed a heavy emphasis on the politics of male feminism and expected the membership to support these political goals.

Althou the Alliance achieved three times the membership of Tri-Sigma, it eventually fell victim of its own ambition and the two nemises of TV organizations, lack of money, and worse, lack of support.

Before the beginning of its demise nearly a year ago, the alliance had far the best communication system, and most complete, informative and interesting publication - the I.A.M.F. Journal. But, no matter how dedicated the person, or good the work, unrewarded enthusiasm must eventually wane. The Alliance had such promise, such potential importance that it saddened me to watch it fade. So much to do, nobody to do it, no money to do it with.

(continue on page 6)

HOW I

(continued from page 5)

T V I C ALBANY: This [redacted] ves mention, not because it bears much relevance for projects in [redacted] area, but because it is beautiful, and it works. Helen and Wilma [redacted] ave tailored a group that is more like a family affair than a social club. They have one of the most extensive communication systems, and certainly the most delightful newsletter - a reflection of their personal attitudes of friendship and understanding. At the meetings as well as in the Journal they take great pains to reflect an attitude of fun, kindness, affection, and genuine camaraderie. At their monthly meetings Helen and Wilma open their home and help make each person feel welcome, like a member of the family.

Although Helen and Wilma have a lovely group, it is their private project independant of complications and national ties. Unfortunately, Helen and Wilma cannot keep their project operational indefinitely, and eventually will leave their efforts to others. There are few others of the caliber of these two wonderful people.

The beauty of their group is an example of what a little love, understanding and self-respect can do for people who cross-dress.

[redacted] ONE: Due to the efforts of such members as Linda [redacted] and Kay [redacted], Cherrystone has long been the social focal point [redacted] s sexually crossdressers in the Greater Boston area. Cherrystone [redacted] s an informational structure and maintains a small apartment in which members can dress and store personal items. Over the years hundreds of crossdressers and their wives and friends have visited and enjoyed Cherrystone.

Because Cherrystone is established, well known, has existing facilities and a core membership, of any existing organization it has by far the greatest potential for growth and service to the crossdressing community. Unfortunately, Cherrystone has some overwhelming obstacles to the realization of its potential. First, it is basically small and disorganized. It is not even a legal entity. Because of this Cherrystone can only provide a place to dress, which in turn attracts those who merely need a place to dress. Those who need growth and fun are soon gone leaving the responsibility of decision and policy making in the hands of those who are ~~not~~ happy with the statues quo thereby frustrating any attempts toreorganixe and grow. These persons should be accomedated, not required to do the the accomodating or decision making, for their personal needs are most important to them and they would quite understandably resist any project that might endanger the status que. This leaves those who want something more frustrated with nothing to do, no place to go, and no reason to belong to Cherrystone. They leave, thereby perptuating this tragic Vicious circle.

There are so many people, good people, all deserving happiness and peace of mind. Help me help them, help us all. Let us work together.

WITH AFFECTION MERISSA SHERILL LYNN. NORTH HAMPTON, N.H.

Dear Wilma and Helen,

Just in case you have not heard about it, the annual TV bash in Biloxi, MS known as "Shangri-La" was a smashing success--with attendees from 16 states and Canada in all their frills. It was four days and nights of pure fun en femme for 37 people, of whom 28 were TV's and 9 were either wives or girlfriends. At least five were members of TVIC, Albany. When I say pure fun, I mean it. Aside from a few words said at a punch party by Nancy, the organizer, there were no business meetings, no structured courses or lectures, no regimentation. It was a party-all-the-way like your parties in Albany. Each femme person was free to stay en femme the whole time and to roam freely into dress shops, restaurants and beauty salons. In the evening we went en masse en femme to a posh dining place. We even went night-clubbing at a well-known resort hotel roofgarden and were welcomed by management as well as patrons. To what greater heights can a TV aspire?

Nancy has agreed to head up next year's Shangri-La and has set the date the week of April 15th in Biloxi. Maybe you two can take that long-planned vacation and attend? She is limiting the number to 40, so those girls who want to be sure of joining the group had best write her as soon as possible for details of registration. Her address is:

Nancy Wa [redacted]
P. O. Box 18202
Irvine, CA 92713

Shangri-La is a unique experience, and it is not an expensive one. The TVIC girls should start planning NOW if they want to join the fun!

Love,

Alice + Corie Millard

HOW I BECAME A TRANSVESTITE
Or
AN UNLIKELY STORY NO. 2 by Dee Dee.

I thought that my experience would be of general interest so I take the liberty of relating it to the world in general. I am now forty-three years of age, was married, had three lovely children, a nice home, two cars and a very well paying position as a nuclear scientist.

My home was surrounded by a very well kept lawn which was my pride and joy. I had bought an electric power mower, the 150 foot extension cord being no bother to me. This extension cord was the cause of my downfall. While flipping the cord around obstacles, etc., I found out that I could tie all kinds of knots in it with just a single flip of my wrist. To tie a sheepshank or a running bowline was nothing.

One day, just for amusement, my wife and I went to a rodeo. My wife, jokingly suggested that I enter the roping contest, and I took her up on it. I didn't realize until it was too late that in error I had entered the contest for the cowgirl roping contest. The cowgirls being a jolly lot, insisted that I stay in the contest thinking, of course, that they would have a lot of fun at my expense. Naturally, I won going away, my winning throw being that of tying a bowknot around the leg of a galloping horse.

While the cowgirls were quite chagrined at losing to a male, they insisted that I accept first prize which was a gorgeous cowgirl outfit, and insisted that, in the spirit of fun that I put it on and parade in front of the judges, which I did. When I went to change back into my business clothes I found that someone had stolen them. I don't know what came over me, but I was glad! I suddenly felt so happy in my cowgirl clothes that I didn't care about anything else.

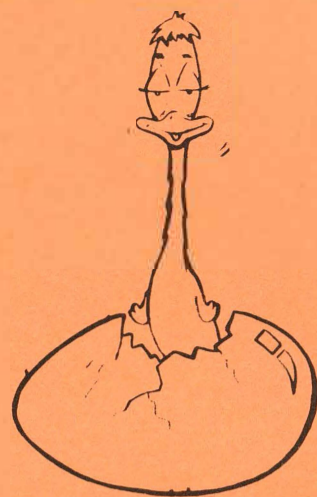
When I went to get my wife she said, "You are certainly not going to wear those clothes home!" Suddenly, a demon arose in me and I said, "Shut your goddam mouth or I'll give you a fat lip."

During the following month I quit my job, sold the home and the two cars, divorced my wife and kicked my kids out onto the street. Then, I bought a trailer and started following the rodeo circuit. That was five years ago and I have won seventy-five cowgirl outfits and the scalps of seventy-five broncho-busters that thought I was a real girl.

I am very happy in my new life. I have memberships in the Y.W.C.A., the W.C.T.U. and the D.A.R. All these honors coming to me after a very disappointed cowboy tried to kill me but only succeeded in shooting off my *****'s!

That's my story.

Bang-bang La Desh, Queen of the Rodeo.



"I just got laid!"



"The highballs are on me!"



"For heaven's sake, George, why don't you go out and buy yourself a watering can?"

School district fires transsexual

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — A transsexual art teacher, who as a man wore unisex clothing and makeup to prepare his pupils for his sex-change operation, has been fired by the suburban Chester Upland School District.

District officials declined to comment on the 6-0 vote Monday night to dismiss Jenell Ashlie, citing the likelihood of litigation.

"They (lawyers) strictly directed us not to make any comments on this at all," said Earl Foster, school board vice president. "I can't expound in any manner."

The resolution to dismiss the 37-year-old teacher was approved on the recommendation of Superintendent John Vaul with no discussion. It said that Ms. Ashlie's services "are hereby terminated on the grounds of incom-

petency, immorality and other improper conduct all of which are potentially psychologically damaging to students."

Martha Poor, president of the Chester Upland Education Association, said that the union will support Ms. Ashlie at an upcoming hearing.

"She's been rated satisfactory by all her supervisors," said Ms. Poor. "As for the other charges, there's no evidence to support anything."

Ms. Ashlie was hired by the district more than two years ago as a substitute. She later became a full-time teacher and legally changed her name from Keith Komarnicki to Jenell Ashlie after the Aug. 4 operation.

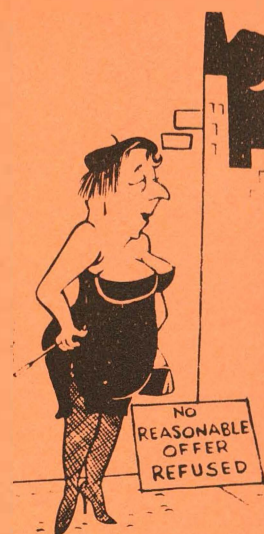
Ms. Ashlie, who would have been the first known transsexual teacher in Pennsylvania, declined to comment on her dismissal.

However, she said recently that her 11 to 17-year-old pupils already have grown accustomed to treating her as a woman, because she dressed in women's clothes, wore her hair and nails long, and used makeup ever since being hired.

She said her students were "100 percent prepared" for the change and that she has received phone calls of support from some of them throughout the summer.

Ms. Ashlie said that she had been diagnosed a transsexual at Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, where she received a year of counseling before the delicate \$4,000 operation.

Transsexuals are defined as victims of gender-identity dysphoria, an overwhelming unhappiness with one's own sex.



Sex Disability Upheld

TRENTON, N.J. (AP) — Paula Grossman, a transsexual teacher fired

because school officials felt her presence in a classroom would have an unhealthy effect on students, should receive a disability pension, a New Jersey Appeals Court ruled Thursday.

The Appellate Division of Superior Court, which in 1974 upheld the woman's dismissal from the Bernards Township school system, said her sex change operation had resulted in a physical incapacity to teach.

The teacher, who now works in an office job with the city of Plainfield, should receive the pension despite being mentally and physically fit to perform her duties as a teacher, the court said.



PAULA GROSSMAN

Dear Dr. Thosteson: I think my son, who is 16, has a problem, and I don't know how to help him. He seems to want to dress as a girl. When he thinks I'm not around, he gets my bras, pantyhose, etc., from my bureau drawer. Should I take him to a psychologist, or do you think this is a phase he is going through? Should I mention this to him? I don't want to do the wrong thing. — Mrs. B.W.

By 16, youngsters should have a well-established gender role, so I agree that a problem does exist. Psychological counseling makes sense. I hesitate to advise raising the issue before him. Many factors have to be known. Perhaps your best course is to consult a child psychologist privately first. Based on the facts you give him he will be able to suggest ways to handle the matter.

Transvestism (the term for it) is not abnormal in youngsters up to about age six. In playing house, one may be the mother, the other the father, with each getting as much fun out of the whole game.

The problem at your son's age is emotional. That doesn't mean he is a homosexual or will become one. Nor do transvestites desire physical change as do transsexuals. They do, in fact, function as males, marry, have children, and so on.

Ridicule makes matters worse. Psychological counseling can uncover deep-seated emotional conflicts, although treatment is usually unsuccessful. For most, the quirk remains a secret and private matter, another factor for you to consider.

Turnabout Healthful, Dutch Couple Finds

Rotterdam, Netherlands (WNS) — Audrey Benjamins, 30, suffered a nervous breakdown seven years after marrying and giving up her career to take care of home and children. Her husband, Leo, suffered a breakdown at the same time because of office tensions and overwork. "That's when we decided on the obvious solution," said a now-happy Mrs. Benjamins. "Leo takes care of the house and children one year while I go to work, and then we switch positions so that I stay home one year while he goes to work." According to the Benjamins, the plan has worked perfectly for seven years, "and our youngsters love it, too."

Three-Legged 'Pairs Of Pantyhose No Joke, Firm Hopes

By MARK ANDERSON

Honolulu (UPI) — The big news in lingerie this spring is three-legged pantyhose.

Bea Weil thought they were a joke when a friend vacationing in Europe sent her a set.

"I opened the package . . . and wondered, 'Why is she going to so much trouble just to mail me pantyhose,'" Mrs. Weil recalled in an interview. "Then . . . I realized I was holding one leg of hosiery . . . Then I saw the second leg and began reading the instructions, telling how they were single-leg pantyhose and each leg could be put on separately."

When one leg develops a run or a hole, you discard it and pull on the spare. Each leg is attached to its own waistband.

Mrs. Weil showed the hose to her husband, Phillip, whose background includes advertising, publishing, marketing and tour consulting.

HE SAW commercial possibilities, did some quick market research and found 60 million dozen pantyhose are sold annually in the United States.

So the Weils formed their own company, Take Three Inc., acquired United States patent rights to the three-legged design and began test-marketing their product last year in Hawaii.

"The response was fabulous," Mrs. Weil said. "My greatest thrill has been the reaction from women who see our pantyhose for the first time and exclaim, 'Why didn't somebody think of this a long time ago?'"

Their new product was introduced in southern California in March. The Weils say it will become available soon in other major markets, including Denver, Chicago and Dallas. Nationwide distribution is planned by the end of the year.

ECONOMY, convenience and comfort are not the only advantages of three-legged pantyhose. They could relieve certain vaginal disorders that some conventional pantyhose reportedly aggravate. Because the three-legged kind are crotchless, "proper ventilation can prevent irri-



tation," says George Goto, a Honolulu physician.

In Los Angeles, one department store clerk reported a very good response from shoppers, but said she hadn't tried them herself.

Marjorie Wallace, visiting Los Angeles from her home in Regina, Saskatchewan, Canada, said she wasn't interested in the new product because she makes her own. She buys two pairs of regular pantyhose at a time. When one leg develops a run, she cuts it off and saves the good one until a leg of the second pair runs.

In New York City, a trade source expressed skepticism about the product's chances for success. The source said a similar product had been test-marketed in the United States a few years ago and flopped. But he added that traditional pantyhose had taken a year to catch on.

U.S. considers footing some sex-change bills

WASHINGTON (AP) — The federal government will review whether Medicare should pay for some sex-change operations, says the secretary of health, education and welfare.

Joseph A. Califano Jr. said Tuesday that he has ordered his health financing chief, Robert Derzon, to set up a panel of experts to review whether transsexual surgery is medically necessary in certain cases.

Medicare, which picks up hospital bills for the elderly and disabled, does not now pay for sex-change operations.

At issue is whether such procedures involve proven techniques. A spokeswoman for HEW's Health Care Financing Administration, Pat Schoeni, said the U.S. Public Health Service has considered transsexual surgery to be new and experimental and that its safety and effectiveness were not proven.

Medicare, run by the federal government, does not pay for unproven techniques.

Califano, addressing a convention of newspaper editors, denied a report that Medicare had agreed to pay for a \$5,300 sex-change operation for a disabled San Diego man, Robert Bennett, who now calls himself Bobbie Lea Bennett.

Bennett, 31 and confined to a wheelchair, said he has lived like a woman for the last three years and wants to undergo the surgery.

He is disabled by a rare bone disease and has had a dozen operations to strengthen his calcium-deficient bones.

Congress extended Medicare coverage to the disabled in 1972.

Califano said that the federal government has paid part of the cost of at least two sex-change operations under the Medicaid program.