

Femme Mirror

Reflecting the Feminine



“JAN”

(CA-51-C)



FEMME - MIRROR

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COVER GIRL

The year was 1939 ; the place, a lazy little town on the eastern border of Montana. The participants were a little girl and boy, both age seven.

The incident, on the surface, was nothing earth shattering, but it may well be the turning point, the time that changed my life forever.

That is a profound statement, isn't it? A little girl and a little boy, playing house, decided to change roles, the girl playing 'Daddy' and the boy, 'Mommy', They exchanged clothing and played the game of house. Incident closed.

Well, maybe not - because I caught the devil for that incident. Not, as you might think, because we changed clothes, but because we "looked at each other" while we were changing clothes. At seven years of age, there wasn't much to see that should have been a secret. Anyhow, we were allowed to play 'reversed' roles' while playing house, IF we changed clothes at home. No objections from the parents, no encouragement, just an okey and soon this 'game' soon became a regular practice. For the role, I dressed from the skin out, using my mother's high heels and other clothes to help create the illusion. This experience of role changing was one that lasted almost two years.

The war interfered with my early dressing because my parents moved to California to get in on some of the war production money. I was sent to a Catholic boarding school in Great Falls where the school was completely segregated by age and sex. There was no reason or even a chance to cross-dress there. Looking back on it, now, I didn't feel the loss of dressing at the time. I was a real hell-raiser, the one always leading the other boys into mischief. It was inevitable that I wouldn't last long at school.

After I ran away from the school a few times , they sent me to my home

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in Los Angeles. This was in 1942. I was ten by then, quite a normal boy for those times. I was living in a home with three girls and two other boys.

This was a good time for me. Not many would call it 'normal' and, in retrospect, I honestly believe this was the first time that I realized that I WANTED to dress as a girl.

The clothes were always available and I found the feeling of feminine things to be most comfortable, exciting, and forbidding. And so I dressed at every chance that came my way. One of my girlfriends at school knew of my crossdressing around the time when I was thirteen. She would help me in many ways, such as loaning me clothing, allowing me to use her home to dress (when her parents were away), and she would even loan me a little girl's light-colored lipstick and some of her mother's makeup. She would arrange my hair under a kerchief so that we could go out on the street together as two girls. I loved the whistles and cat-calls from the boys as we passed.

Some of these boys knew me as a boy and it was good fun to deceive them. This was a very good time in my life.

I would be lying to you if I tried to tell you that I didn't feel that I was 'queer', 'odd', or 'homo'. Oh, I knew that I liked girls, not boys. I ALSO knew that if I wasn't 'homo', then I had to be crazy. I just wanted to address these feelings at this point in my story to let you know that the feelings and the doubts were there.

I was able to build up quite a wardrobe of feminine things in those days. All were dutifully hidden, of course. And, when they were found, oh, the tearful promises "never to do it again" that were extracted by my worried parents.

These promises were always broken and I dressed regularly until I joined the Air Force in 1949. The only thing that kept me from dressing during those times was the lack of money for a good wig. I say a GOOD wig because there wasn't any OTHER kind in those days. Wigs were not the household word that they now-a-days and what wigs existed were very expensive and, also, a fellow just didn't just go down to the local K-Mart and purchase one. Maybe that is one of the reasons that I buy a new wig every chance that I get.

Well, here is the part of the story that you have been waiting for with baited breath, my first purge, right?

Weel, it did happen - right after I joined the Air Force. After all, I was quite a man, one of the nation's finest. I wanted to get away from that aberration, my femme-self, and stay away.

It worked. For almost a year, it worked. Then, I started to build up my wardrobe again, keeping my newly purchased treasures in an apartment off the base where I could dress whenever the whim should strike. I was finally able to buy a very good wig, and my attempts of proper make-up improved so I was able to go out in public and pass as a girl.

I stayed in the Air Force for twenty years and because of security clearance was required to test for human reliability on an annual basis. This meant a visit to the 'shrink'. Our talks were quite long. One thing that I did learn from these talks was that I am a well adjusted transvestite and that there were others out there just like myself - somewhere!

While in the service I got married to the lovely lady who still shares my life after twenty-five wonderful years. Yet, I kept my secret from even her until the birth of our third child. When I eventually told her I did it as badly as I could have possibly done.

She was going to the hospital for surgery and in a fit of worry and conscience, I blurted out my secret. I even showed her my stash of pictures to confirm my story. But it was a disaster! She cried most of the night and I did more harm than good trying to explain that I wasn't one of those 'queer' people that she had probably heard about.

We managed to come to an understanding -- I don't really know how. But now with her love and support I have the best mate that a Tv could ever want. She helps me in every way, including with my selection of clothing, make-up, advice about hair styles and she even checks to see if my seams are straight. She will often buy feminine presents for special occasions such as birthdays and for Christmas.

Because of my children, my femme self stayed under cover. Quite often I was relegated to the bedroom to do my dressing. When we did go out we went to a motel for the 'change'. As you can imagine, this was quite trying and not very satisfying. And if it was that way for me, what was it like for my wife? Many times she was jealous of my alter-ego. "We" (Jan and I) would buy a new dress or underwear whenever "we" wanted

them. "We" would sit around looking pretty while others did the work around the house. "We" were just not very considerate. It took me some time to see what kind of an attitude like that can do to a marriage - even a marriage as solid as ours.

I had to change or lose my family. A long look at where I was coming from, along with a long talk with my lovely spouse instituted some needed changes. I didn't change overnight but I did change in a relatively short time.

Part of that "change" was to tell the rest of the family about Janet. That wasn't an easy decision to make or carry out. My youngest was 10 years old and if I had to do it all over again I would have waited a few more years to tell him.

This was a distressing experience for me. My wife and I decided that if we were going to tell the children we should do it in the most non-hostile an environment as possible. So one day while the children were at school, I dressed as Janice, except for the wig and make-up and sat in my favorite easy chair, shaking to my high heels, waiting for the children to arrive home.

When the fateful moment arrived, the door opened, in trouped the kids, with a "Hi Mom, hi Dad," and then off to their rooms to get ready to go out to play.

Well, if you think that I got all dressed up and in a dither just for THAT type of reception, well, you are sadly mistaken! I just had to make an issue of it. So, we called the children back into the living room and asked them if they hadn't noticed something different about their father. The response we got was, "Sure, he's wearing a skirt and high heels. So?"

Well, we went through the family conference routine and informed them that what happened in the future around the house was not to be repeated outside the house. They all agreed.

The older children said that this had cleared up quite a few mysteries for them like, glances at a figure hurrying down the hall, but that if I wanted to dress like a woman, that was OK with them. That cleared the air for them and made for a much easier life for Janet.

I had really not wanted to tell the youngest child for a couple more years and the reason for this is that he was the only one to show any resentment. When Janice was in the room,

he would stay away until she left. This went on for several years. We finally learned that he felt that if he ignored the whole thing that, maybe, it would go away.

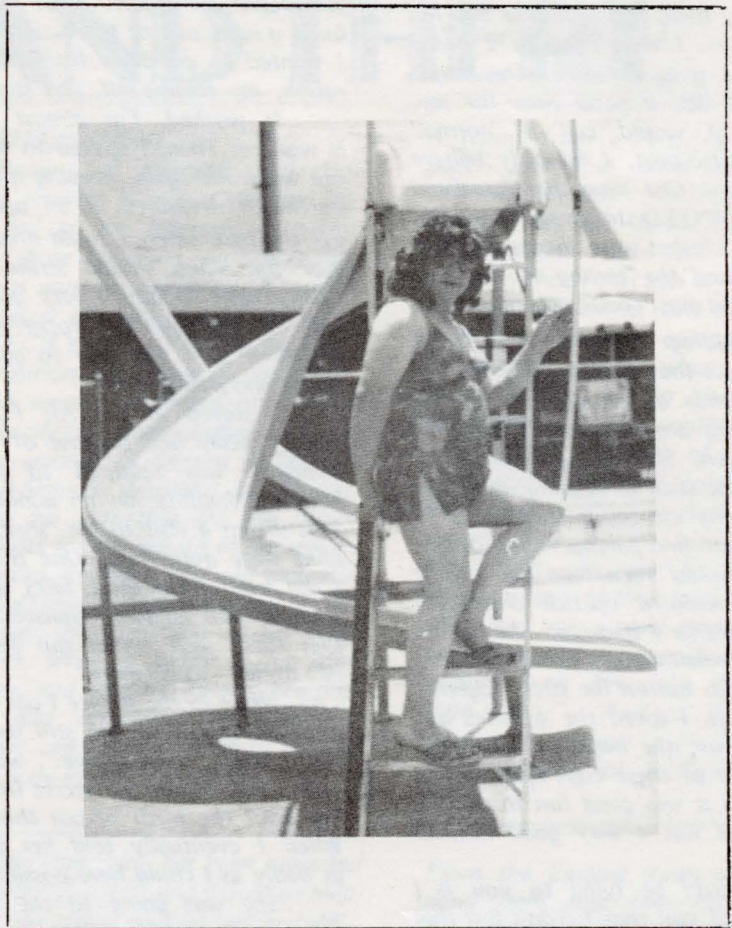
Well, it didn't go away and the young man finally got used to the idea. He is now one of my best supporters.

As I remarked, my life didn't change overnight. I did change for the better, however. As I became more considerate, so did those around me. My confidence as a girl increased and I made a point of doing a lot of the "women's work" around the house. I can now handle almost any situation as a woman.

We Tvs tend to give our wives a grade and I certainly give my wife an unqualified "A". But I don't think that you can grade the type of love that wives show when they put up with our crossdressing.

It was only a few years ago that I came into contact with the Society For The Second Self, lovingly called by its members, Tri-Sigma Sorority. With the knowledge of its existence I knew for sure for the first time that I was not alone. At a meeting in Los Angeles I was introduced to Virginia Prince and also Carol Beecroft, the lovely lady who is now the National Leader of Tri-Sigma Sorority.

As I look back on my attendance at the Los Angeles chapter meeting (Alpha), I remember it as a frightening but exhilarating experience. I didn't know what awaited me and all sorts of things went through my mind. I wondered if this was some kind of trap to expose me to the world. I also wondered how others would be dressed. Did I really want to take the risk? All of these questions plagued me before the meeting. But, happily, the fears were groundless. The girls were dressed adorably and the party went well. I met a group of wonderful people -- people with whom I could share my feelings without judgment. There were sisters there who had wives that "understood" and others who had wives who were tolerant or who were trying to understand and even sisters with wives that neither understood, tolerated nor would even try to understand. But these sisters and their wives are members of a growing circle of friendship.



JANICE IN A PLAYFUL MOOD



JANICE IN A CONVERSATIONAL MOOD





Let's Get Packin' For NEW ORLEANS

Tri-Sigma sisters are busy making plans

for annual convention. Are you coming?

own days to make the best use of your time while in New Orleans. If you are planning on attending any of the tours, please let Carol know by September 1st. This advance notice is required to set up adequate reservations. All tours are available on an individual basis, if group times prove to be inconvenient.

†Check In:

Check in at the Vieux Carre Motor Lodge on Tuesday, September 22nd. The Vieux Carre is located at 920 N. Rampart Street. The phone number is (504) 524-0461. American Express, MasterCard, and Vista are all welcome.

The trip from the airport is approximately \$4.00 per person for the airport limo, or \$15.00 by cab. Check in at the front desk. Identify yourself as a Tri-Sig member. The desk clerk will have a list of last names with room assignments. Pick up your key, settle into your room, dress, and then wander down to the reception room - the room number will be available at the desk. Remember, dinner is at 7:00, so allow yourself ample time to dress for the evening's activities. (You'll find the people at the desk great! and last year these same people treated us like real ladies.)

†Reception Room -

Tri-Sigma has arranged to have a room open for the convention. The reception room will provide a comfortable place to gather, meet new people and relax. There will be a message

board in the reception room to keep you posted on all events.

†Meals -

Since eating times of the girls differ widely, no attempt has been made to schedule all meals. (Besides, exploring the various New Orleans restaurants on your own should prove to be fun.) Reservations will be made for specific meals as indicated on your schedule. Whatever arrangements are necessary to insure our comfort at these meals will be handled in advance. The actual restaurants will be announced later, pending final arrangements.

The dining room at the Vieux Carre provided courteous service last year. The cocktail lounge, which closes at 10:00 was equally friendly.

†Laws -

Traditionally, the city of New Orleans has a very accepting attitude towards varied lifestyles. Not only during Mardi Gras, but year round. The basic law is as long as you're not hurting some one or something, then, have at it - enjoy!!!

†Dress -

This is what we're all off to New Orleans for, so a few suggestions on what to bring are in order. The temperature on the Gulf Coast in late September will be in the 75 to 85 degree range with humidity in the vicinity of 65%. A wrap is probably not required, unless it is a light raincoat. We will be 'dressing up' for one of the dinners, so if possible bring either a cocktail or long dress. For the most

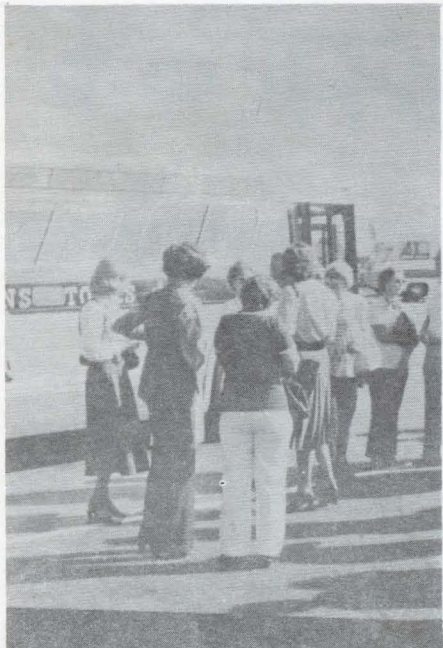
The time is getting closer and closer to the New Orleans national convention. If you're among those sisters who is still on the fence, please do not hesitate any longer. The gals have been sending in reservations and it appears that we will have sisters from all over the US and Canada. We'd like to see YOU!

Lori (TX-8-D) and Cynthia CA-58-P) have gone to great lengths to set up a most interesting convention. These two sisters have written many letters, made lots of phone calls, and used up a lot of their valuable time so that this convention will be well worth your time and money.

As an illustration, the following has been written by the girls for those who are attending the New Orleans event and we repeat it here to show you what you will be missing if you don't attend.

About your schedule -

Although many events are planned, a special attempt has been made to insure that you have plenty of free time. You should feel free to plan your



part, conservative dress will reflect the group's good taste.

†Tours -

The highlight of last year's convention was the tours. The chance to move freely through New Orleans with other tourists was indeed exhilarating. The driver/guides were totally blasé about our group, treating us no different than any other tourists. Most of the tours include transportation. The River Boat departs from Jackson Square, the Super Dome tours are at the Dome.

*New Orleans City Tour

The bus will pick us up at the hotel for the start of this 3 hour tour of New Orleans. The trip covers many of the historical sections of the city. A walking tour of Jackson Square in the heart of the French Quarters, and a walk through one of the city's historical cemeteries is all part of the fun.

The tour provides a good overview to help you pick out areas for later exploration. The approximate cost of this tour is \$10.00 per person.

*River Boat Ride

Spend a delightful 2 hours on a paddlewheel boat going up the Mississippi. The boat departs at the Jackson Square area. On-board amenities include food and beverage service. (longer tours are available for the hearty.) The approximate cost of this tour is \$9.50 per person.

*Nightclub Tour

Spend an evening visiting three of New Orleans' many exciting nightclubs. The tour takes approximately 4 hours and the evening is topped off with coffee and fresh beignets at a famous sidewalk cafe. The approximate cost is \$25.00 per person. The cost also includes one drink at each of the nightclubs plus coffee.

*Plantation Tour

If there are adequate advance reservations a special plantation tour can be arranged. The special tour would take us to two 19th century plantations. The special tour will take about 3½ hours. Otherwise, the tour



would require 5½ hours and will include a lunch stop not included in the cost of the tour. The approximate cost of this tour is \$23.00 per person. Note that ample time is provided to stroll through the gardens of the plantations, providing numerous opportunities for picture taking.

*Free Time

There are numerous things to do in New Orleans with your free time. You might pick up a copy of the AAA New Orleans Citibook. It describes numerous points of interest including walking tours of the city - many which are very near to the Vieux Carre. Super Dome tours are available daily. In the evening the city comes to life. Bourbon Street, with its numerous

nightclubs is nearby. On Bourbon Street the Silver Frolics and Gunga Den offer female impersonator shows. In addition, several impersonator shows are within easy walking distance of the Vieux Carre.

You may wish to relax on the grounds of the Vieux Carre including just sitting by the poolside and sipping a mint julip. Each participant should feel free to do as little or as much as she wishes. It is hoped that this schedule and guide will help you enjoy your stay in New Orleans. Remember, this is YOUR convention, so above all else, enjoy your experiences en-femme in New Orleans.

Then follows the daily schedule of events from morning until 11:00 each evening, for all days from Tuesday through Sunday at lunch.

For those sisters who wish to attend the convention it is strongly suggested that you contact your Editor immediately so that we can make a reservation for you. When placing a reservation, please include a \$25.00 deposit.

Thanks, again, to both Lori (TX-8-D) and Cindy (CA-58-P) for the many hours spent in the preparation of the New Orleans convention. Their work has allowed your Editor and National Director to do other things like, the Directory, this double issue of the *Female Mirror* and the many other tasks that keep her tied to her Tri-Sigma desk!



FOR DRESSING

Terri (ca-5-b)

Many years ago I ran a motel and my fantasy then was to be the cleaning lady on the day that the regular cleaning lady didn't show up for work. But I never got around to it. However, while visiting a Thrift Shop a short time ago, I came across a maid's uniform - mostly tan and white. It had short sleeves and a rather short hem line.

You know very well that the maid's uniform didn't last very long after I had set my mind on it and it accompanied me home. I couldn't wait to get it on and was pleasantly pleased to find that it fit quite well.

Unfortunately the uniform hung in the closet thereafter until one day I said to myself that it would be fun to put my little maid's uniform on once again and go out and try to get a job as a maid.

Well, it wasn't as easy as you think. But by the fourth motel where I inquired about the need for a cleaning lady, I was hired and was asked to start immediately.

After cleaning several rooms, I was stopped by a guest who asked if she could have a brush and cleanser to do her shower. I gave her the items requested and in just a few minutes the lady came back with my cleaning tools. She looked at me strangely, several times, but went on her way. But five minutes later she was back - this time it was for an extra glass. At this time, the lady attempted to start a conversation with me, asking why I was cleaning motel rooms. I told her that I had to make a living and this was the best I could get.

I finally finished and was putting my things away in the laundry room when - you guessed it - here came my lady friend again. This time she wanted an extra towel and a bit of small talk. We talked for about ten minutes and she never mentioned the fact that she had 'read' me and knew that I was a man in that cute outfit. She KNEW, I KNEW that SHE knew - but never a word between us about my crossdressing.

I quit my work the same day. That's hard work! I'll never do that kind of work anymore but the memory will hang in my closet for a long time.

BOOK REVIEW

BY KAY (VA-14-K)

TRANSVESTISM: A Handbook with case studies for Psychologists, Psychiatrists, and Counselors. Written by Harry Brierley, Consultant Clinical Psychologist 243 pages - \$15.25 for a 'flexicover'.

Available from Chevalier Publications, P'O' Box 194, Tulare, Ca 93275. Be sure to include 15% for first class postage.

Finally a books has been published which draws together much of the research which has been done on the subject of transvestism and places it in perspective. This book thoroughly explores the subject in an insightful and humanistic manner. It is intended as a clinical handbook, but is fairly easy to read and is definitely interesting. If it is used by helping professionals, it should be of much benefit to many. Perhaps more important though, is the light which this book sheds on transvestism for those that are still struggling with their femme selves, and are still asking questions about themselves and looking for answers which nobody seems to have. Brierley does not pretend to have a lot of definitive answers, but he puts many issues into a much clearer focus. The answers which he does supply are encouraging.

Chapter one and two explore who the Tv is and the question of whether Tvism is a result of illness, perversion, or choice. The topics are sensitively and sensibly dealt with, and no rash generalizations are made about causations. The author raises the question of what is "normal" and suggest that there is really no such condition except as vaguely defined by various societies and their majority populations. It is also suggested that much of the work and information which the helping professions have relied on in the past is at best confused, and at worst is completely in error. Much of the previous work is apparently unreliable or inaccurate because transvestism was confused with sexual deviations or other underlying disorders which confounded the patient's problems but were not necessarily directly related to the crossdressing. Thus, many reported studies of transvestism were in reality, studies of other phenomena, and not of crossdressing as supposed.

Sex, gender and gender learning are discussed in chapters three and four. Many factors which may or may not contribute to development to gender dysphoria are discussed and explored in depth. The social stereotyping of sex and gender is examined, as are some of the legal questions involved. Possible hormonal and genetic influence are explored. Brierley finally concludes that "we have shown that there is no distinct pattern of environmental, physical, or psychological factors to explain the causation of gender problems in the transvestite." This is a refreshing departure from the supposedly definitive opinions that many other authors have presented.

The autobiographies of three Tvs are presented, with objective comments on each, in chapter 5. Chapter six deals with Tv literature, both written for Tvs by Tvs as well as the literature written by others for Tvs. The author not only examines the literature itself, but also critiques many of the analyses done by other researchers and professionals.

The problems which Tvs encounter with the law and society are analyzed in chapter seven. Brierley's analysis of this topic seems to be especially oriented towards Great Britain. Nonetheless, some attention is paid to other countries as well, and this chapter has broad application for all TVs. A point especially worthy of note is the author's contention that the Tv's problems are not primarily with the explicit laws prohibiting transvestism, even in the rare places where such laws do exist. Rather they are with the maze of laws and vague statutes open to interpretation by the authorities. Laws involving references to "breach of the peace," "insulting behavior," and strange as it may seem to some, "prostitution" are among the most likely to cause Tvs the most problems. These laws, with the lack of ease of many Tvs show in public (not to mention the stupid things some have done), and the anxiety generated in some people who detect a Tv, can lead to real trouble. Generally, according to the author, the trouble is not so much with the law as it is with family, friends, and employers - as a result of exposure.

Chapter eight reviews the treatments of transvestism as reported in professional

clinical literature, and examines closely the claims of success put forth by some. Brierley concludes that most, if not all of the reported successful treatments of Tvism are specious. In many cases the phenomenon actually being treated was something other than transvestism but simply was not recognized correctly by the investigator at the time. Furthermore, recognition of the true problem was complicated by the presence of some degree of crossdressing on the part of the subject. Under some circumstances all symptoms, including the crossdressing, disappeared with treatment. However, Brierley argues convincingly that the crossdressing observed in these cases was a result of something else, such as fetishism, which, when successfully treated, caused any tendency towards crossdressing to disappear also. He also points out that a person can readily learn to give the answers he believes an investigator, doctor, or psychologist wants, and which may get him off the proverbial hook. The author reviews several modes of treatment, but reports that results of treatment are, at best, inconclusive and disappointing. Although several reports of success are examined by the author, he is unable to agree that the success was for treatment of the transvestism. In fact, a case is made by the author that some therapies, including aversion therapy, may actually serve to reinforce the subject's transvestism. He also points out that most transvestites don't really want to be cured but may have been forced to seek help by family or the courts.

In chapter nine, Brerley deals with the "management" of transvestism and provides some useful suggestions designed to help Tvs to deal with their situation realistically. The suggestions are primarily directed towards the helping professionals that may be working with a patient and his family, but they should be of interest to all Tvs. He does suggest that a major obstacle in this endeavor is the refusal of many Tvs to see themselves as they often are, very unfeminine women, often with poor taste in clothes and accessories as well as with a distorted or exaggerated concept of what is feminine. Painful though it may be, many of us simply have to recognize the true of this criticism and deal with it. Nobody can help us go to where we want to go if we refuse to recognize where we are, or to look back and see where we have been.

The title of chapter ten is "Research and Summing Up," and it does just that. Several additional bits of research are reviewed and Brierley finally states that "there is no unequivocal evidence to suggest any form of therapy to be effective in resolving the gender dysphoria." He further adds that "the search for understanding and social enlightenment is of vast importance in the humanitarian approach to the transvestite."

Many topics frequently associated with transvestism are examined by the author, particularly the topics of transsexuality, homosexuality, and fetishism. Brierley seems to keep each in perspective however, unlike many other authors that have lumped them all together. He does recognize that the lines between the phenomena are not always clear, but he also is generally careful to distinguish between them when possible. One criticism, albeit minor, is that the author is not very discriminatory about his use of general and sexual terms. This is hardly a problem unique to this author, though.

Generally I think that this book is exceptionally well done. Any Tvs that are interested in learning more about themselves should get a copy of this book and read it. No doubt you won't like everything you read, neither did I. But, get with it, girls, it is time we all realize that all is not gold that glitters.

"telling" the wife

AND GIVE HER A CARDIAC

Linda (N.J.)

It was wonderful to receive the literature you sent - your sorority is just what I have always wanted to join. Being 42 years old and having cross-dressed for over 30 of those years, it was pleasing to find Tri-Sigma. Up to that time I had always been hiding in the closet.

I have been married for 20 years and it was only a short time ago that I allowed my wife to find out about my crossdressing. Up until this time I had always dressed when no one was about or gone to a nearby motel, got a room, locked the door and allowed my Second Self to bloom.

My reason for wanting my wife to find out about my crossdressing was that I always wanted to go to bed at night as a woman. So one night, about an hour before my wife would be coming to bed, I gathered my things together and went into the bathroom. I decided to be completely feminine for this occasion so I really tried hard to make myself look nice.

I gave my legs a real close shave. I used plenty of my wife's mositure cream on my body. I put nail polish on my toes and nails.

Cont. on last page!



WIVES TALK BACK

WITH BERNADINE



Carol Beecroft, your national Leader, has asked me many times to "lay it on the line" and I'll have to admit that this is a hard order for me to fill due to the fact that I know a wife may say something when she is feeling down or blue - then, when she is feeling better she will say just the opposite. Ambivalence is one of the trademarks of a close interpersonal relationship. For this reason, more than any other that I can think of, is my excuse for not quoting from any of the letters that have been written to me by wives.

Again, Carol has requested me to put more "meat" into this column, and she suggested that I do quote from the wives but without giving any names. I am, therefore, going to give you a few direct quotations. If these wives sound like the one who fixes your meals for you, or scolds your children, don't be too quick to jump to the conclusion that she is the one who wrote to me. Very likely there are dozens of wives who feel the same way from time to time.

Dear Bernadine: Sorry this has taken so long. No wonder your column does not receive more letters. It's because the Tv's hide their Femme Mirror. If you want to read them you have to sneak and do so when the husband is not around.

Dear Bernadine: A Tv can be the most temperamental person. As long as you build your life around them, they are in heaven. You can't eat, sleep, drink, etc., without their control. Tv's as a whole (with few ex-

ceptions) are selfish, self centered, and uncaring for your feelings. What's washing a few dishes when mentally he has browbeat you so bad you would prefer to do the dishes all the time. We need recognition, too. Tv's need to work at making it 50/50. I'm not saying I no longer love my husband. That's the sad part. I have nightmares about what it would be like without ever seeing him again. God, I don't know how I would make it.

Dear Bernadine: Make the Tv realize their wives are there. Marriages will disintegrate if someone doesn't do something soon. Most women can stand by emotionally and help, but don't expect help if your're emotionally distraught. Tvs can't handle these situations. If they want to appear as women they better learn what the word compassion means. I must close and in doing so let me say I do love my husband very much. Can't picture life without him. But I see no use in continuing this way.

Daar Bernadine: Everything is a secret. They hide the Femme Mirrors. No matter how understanding you try to be you're going to come up last. He spends all his spare time in his room with the door closed. More and more they are closing their wives out. They do not care if we do or do not attend meetings. You can't voice your opinion. If they don't like it you are not spoken to for several days. You are fussed at if you make a long distance phone call, but you can't say a thing if they talk over an hour with someone else. I do love my husband very deeply and don't know how I could stand living without him.

Perhaps it will do some good for all of us to air these letters from your loving wives. Yes, we are flesh and blood women with our own deep emotional needs. If a lot of you have been reluctant to allow your wives to read the Femme Mirror, perhaps it would be helpful to discuss it together, and not make her feel she must "sneak" to read it. Actually the wives who have written to me have not complained at all about the cross-dressing. Their complaints sound more like the ordinary gripes of wives in general. Wives seem to be quite accepting of the

idiosyncrasies of their husbands. "So he likes to crossdress, so what!" What REALLY matters to us is his treatment of us in our interpersonal relationships. Is he thoughtful of our feelings? Does he let us choose the Tv program this night? Is he understanding of our need to visit with our relatives? Does he allow us to have our own opinions about child-rearing, politics or about the neighbors? Is he as generous with us as he is with his friends.

These are the real problems in any marriage but shouldn't there be a lot less in marriages where there is a Tv in the family. After all, to be a Tv you are supposed to allow your Second Self out of the closet - your feminine side. And to be feminine is not to be the things that you read earlier in this article. It appears that a number of Tvs have failed to develop their true Second Self - their feminine Self. Fortunately, no wife has complained about physical brutality either to herself or to the children. In the Alpha Chapter meetings in Los Angeles that I attended quite regularly, marriages are holding together much better than in the population at large. This should give us a lot of satisfaction. Maybe the very fact of this column and its accessibility to wives has been a help.

On Second Thought

I wish, in passing dress-shops, My girlfriend wouldn't shout Her ecstasies. about the clothes - sincere, without a doubt.

Too, I'm sincere. My ecstasy Is quite as great as hers. But I wish her feline cries Would simmer down to purrs.

She cries, "Oh honey - dig that silk! Just dreamy-cut for you! I'd love you in this cotton smock!" What's a guy to do?

People turn and stare, but she, Emoting, sings the praise Of special Bra's or slinky slips I need - while eyebrows raise.

I wish she'd purr, not cry out so Though what she has to say - And how the people stare - I LIKE In a wierdy sort of way. (Lil)

Sussie Can Help

If you're a tall sister, don't hide it -- emphasize it. Wear high heels when going out on the town. The following advice is for overweight sisters who shouldn't kid themselves by squeezing into sizes too small for them.

There is something absolutely wonderful about tall girls. They look stunning in their clothes, providing they take advantage of their figure by practicing good posture and by being proud of their height.

If you're tall, don't try to hide it. Instead, wear the kind of clothes that tend to emphasize and dramatize your body. Large, bulky, jackets; long, free-flowing scarves; huge flaring sleeves; the layered look; capes; ponchos.

Always make sure that details, including collars, buttons, and ties are proportioned to your size. Wear high heels.

The only thing that you will accomplish by wearing flat shoes is to make your feet look bigger.

A three-quarter sleeve, short skirts or skimpy, tight-fitting tops and pants are no good for you. With these clothes you will simply emphasize your height in the wrong way.

Don't attempt to look 5'2", unless you don't mind looking like an overgrown Shirley Temple. Avoid dainty, overly fussy clothes or clothes that look as if they're too short.

A perfectly proportioned "shorty" will be able to wear just about anything as long as it is scaled down to her height. The best styles are those that give the longest possible vertical line -- non-waisted dresses, princess styles or tailored coordinates with a minimum of construction.

The most flattering necklines are those that are low and open. The colors of your skirts, blouses and sweaters should match to avoid that "cutoff" look.

Beware of ruffles, puffed sleeves and lots of bouncy curls in your hair. If you are petite, avoid large patterns, such as plaids or oversized flowery prints.

Remember that contrasting colors that are worn in horizontal ways will just emphasize your lack of height.

Heavily tailored coats and jackets with oversized collars, bulky turtlenecks and other heavy garments will totally overwhelm your figure.

Avoid long hemlines and oversized accessories -- including hats, jewelry or handbags -- and when it comes to your hairstyle, wear it short or up.

Of all figure problems none is more serious or more difficult to compensate for than too much weight.

If this is your problem, never lose sight of the fact that size is more than a number. Nothing is more flattering or less flattering than a too-tight fit. It will add ten pounds to what is already there.

If you prefer to keep your shape under wraps and are tall enough to carry it off, caftans and generously proportioned tunics can be marveously versatile.

They are available in a variety of styles and fabrics and are designed to look as good on the beach as in the ballroom. However unless you are 5'8" or over, these are not for you.

Caftans can make the short, heavy sister look like a mountain of fabric. You are better off with other loosely shaped garments, such as a smock or tent dress, empire styles (especially if you have a nice bust), skirts that flare or wrap or amply proportioned pants that are worn with an overblouse or a loosely fitted jacket long enough to cover hips and derriere.

Avoid anything that is fitted, frilly, fussy or stretchy, and don't wear tight pants! Shorts, sleeveless tops, bare midriffs and dainty jewelry are also taboo.

Not only does the shape of your garment make a difference in the way you look, but so does the fabric of which it is made. Your clothes should be soft, but should not cling.

While trying to make more look like less, don't overlook the importance of colors and patterns. Muted shades are more slimming than bright ones and subdued prints are more flattering than big, splashy ones. The overweight woman should also avoid hair that is too long.

And what about those sisters who have large shoulders and unattractive arms. Can anything be done about these 'problems'?

Width in the shoulders can be a great asset, but the overly broad kind may present a problem. The best solution, if this is your problem, is to emphasize vertical lines.

A halter look is a good example. Nothing is lovelier by night than a broad, bare back of a woman. The right halter can be one of the nicest things a woman can do for her broad-shouldered torso.

Another way to break up the wide expanse from shoulder to shoulder is with vests, tunics, jumpers, or tailored jackets that have set-in shoulder seams. Styles with horizontal lines, like off the shoulder tops, boat necks or puffed sleeves with fussy, horizontal detail, don't look good on this type of figure. Any garment that has a narrow shoulder helps you to camouflage a broad shoulder problem. Another tip for you is to make sure that shoulder seams never extend beyond the shoulder bone.

A good-looking, well-toned arm is a great asset. Unfortunately, there aren't many of them around. Arms fall victim to all kinds of problems. They can be overly muscular, too scrawny and advancing age will make them appear flabby.

Many such people keep their arms under wraps on the theory that anything less than the best should remain hidden.

The most effective camouflage for a heavy arm is easy fitting sleeves. Full sleeves and off-the-shoulder shapes work well, and, since heavy arms often come with a well padded chest, you might dress to make the most of both these attributes. Wear wide-open necklines.

Tight sleeves will look and feel uncomfortable. Elastic and other types of bindings will cut into the flesh, and, since short sleeves invariably emphasize the heaviest part of the arm, it is best to avoid them altogether.

Heavy arms left totally bare are not particularly attractive, especially since they are also (usually) accompanied by heavy folds of flesh around the armpits.

Quoth a Tv, "I drive fifty-five, I don't need any hospital jive. When driving en femme I don't need any of them To look at me, dead or alive."

Dee Dee, (CT-7-W)

BECKY,S BRAVADO

By BECKY (SC-4-T)

It was the evening of August 30th, 1979 and my family was away for several weeks. I was busily laying out everything for an evening out as Becky. I had ironed a black-satin blouse to wear with my new white polyester wrap-around skirt and white suit jacket. My black high-heeled sandals and evening bag topped off the ensemble. I even had my false eyelashes and fingernails all laid out. I was ready to go after my luxurious bath, when the phone rang. It was my firm. There had been an accident and I was needed at the office. Well, all that I could do was to stomp my foot, utter a few unladylike words, and don my male clothes and leave for the office.

As it turned out, everything went quite fast and when I took care of the problem and had returned home, it was only 10:00 P'M'. But, I decided to go out, anyway! Now, my small town of about 30,000 does not have many places to go at all that late in the evening, but I had 'cased' the Holiday Inn Lounge earlier and decided to go there. I was so 'primed' for an evening out that I arrived at the Lounge by 11:00. I didn't have time to order a drink before a guy came over to ask me to dance. A fast number was going on then so I said, "Okay, but let's wait for a slow one, can we?" "Sure, may I sit down with you?" "Oh, please doooo."

Well, we talked and I tried my to remember what Diana had taught me earlier about such situations, but, wow, was my heart in my throat! Girls, you should have heard the line of soap I was sellin' him. I was from Fayetteville, N.C. and on my way to see my folks in Columbia, but had stopped to spend the night with a girlfriend here. Well, she was out on a date so I decided to go out for awhile. "Why, yes, I work for Eastern Air Lines - I'm a station agent and have been with them for ten years. I had been a flight attendant for five years but I got tired of being an airbourne waitress so they sent me to school for the station agent position. And on and on"

Well, he got up once and went for cigarettes, then came back again for a few minutes, then got up again and, just as he had disappeared around the corner, they started playing the most dreamy tune.

I said to myself, "Well, Becky, this is it! Your first dance ever." But he didn't come back and the song stopped. I was disappointed and getting nervous. I wondered if he had read me. Perhaps he was outside notifying the police? Was he calling some friends to beat me up? What was going on?

I finished my drink as casually as I could and picked up my purse and jacket and strolled out, past the bar, the same way that I came in. I had planned on going to another place later, so I got in the car to return home.

It was about 12:30 then as I drove out of the parking lot and stopped at the corner stoplight. Suddenly a car came up close behind me with headlights on bright and followed me very closely as I turned left towards home. The driver of the other vehicle would have pulled up alongside of me but the road had become narrower and so he just stayed close behind. I could have pulled over to the side, but I didn't know who it was. Could it have been some of my male friends who recognized my mustang?

So I just kept driving, right under the speed limit, came to my house, turned into the driveway and pulled into the garage. Well! The other driver stopped parallel to the driveway and just sat there -- so did I - with the lights on!

I couldn't hear what he was saying to his companion. But twice they backed up and turned into the drive to shine their lights on my car - to try to see me.

I just sat there in fear! not knowing WHO in the world it was! Had I been discovered? Is my secret out now for the whole world to see? Is this the end of my professional business career.

Pretty soon, I heard them put the Firebird in gear. Not, until then did I hear, "That's HER. I know it's her -- mumble, mumble." Then they drove off.

Whew! Girls, I was trembling, men had scared me so much. As I slammed the garage door I promised myself two things. First, I'm going to get an automatic garage door opener and closer. Then, I am never going out in this tiny hometown ever again. The chances of discovery are just too great! I think that I'm still weak from the whole experience.



BECKY

True Story Time

The TV Shopping Guide :

Cosmetics

Merle Norman Cosmetics
1113 Lloyd Center
Portland, Oregon 97232

This form also sells wigs, does ear piercing and has makeup and complexion consultations. They do business by mail. Contact Dorothy Anderson at 288-6026. They tell us that our business is welcome and that they are already doing business with 'second self' people.

Electrolysis

Lake Side Electrology
131 N' State Street
Suite 201
131 N. State Street
Suite 201
Lake Oswego, Oregon 97034

Contact Dee Jarvis, Owner. Dee is already working with some Tv's at this time.

Electrolysis

Norman Anderson
1020 S.W. Taylor No.325
Portland, Oregon 97205

Although the basis service is removing unwanted hair, they also do skin cleaning and have after-care products including cosmetics. His phone number is 503-225-0858. After hours appts can be made. He remarks that he is now 'treating' several crossdressers at this time."

Clothing

J. Burton
1006 Lloyd Center
Portland, Oregon 97232

They carry women's sizes 18 to 52 in lingerie, sportswear, dresses and coats. They also do business by mail and suggest that you contact Kris at 284-2112; Arrangements can be made to try on clothing.

Electrolysis

Chapman-Kauffman Clinics
510 SW 5th
Camera World Bldg ,No.307
Portland, Oregon 97204

Contact Jan Kauffman, R.E. at 227-0922. After hours appts can be made.

Lingerie

Beneath It All
917 S.W. Washington
Portland, Oregon 97205

They carry many kinds of designer lingerie. It was suggested that you call 503-222-0012 and that after hours appts can be made to try on clothing.

Beauty Shop

Beauty Island
Villa Santini Plaza
Ft Myers Beach, Fl 33931

"Let us know what wigs you want and we will get them including make-up." They specialize in hair-dressing. Contact Sue or Theresa at 813-463-2510. After hours appts can be made. They are interested in being of help to our sisters. An electrologist is available. They do waxing, nail tips and eye lashes. One girl does make-up.

Clothing

Act II Fashion Botique
873 S.E. 47th St
Cape Coral, Fla 33904

They carry all women's 'consignment' clothes (pre-owned) You should contact Agnes Kriplin at 549-3223. There is an opportunity to try on clothing and after-hours appts can be made. They add that 'I would be happy to be open two evenings a week solely for your shopping. I do get lovely clothes in.'

Wiga

The Wig Palace
4454 Cleveland Ave
Ft Myers, Fl 33901

They deal in wigs and accessories and will also clean and style your wig. Contact Charlotte Miller at 813-936-8398. After hours appts can be made. They also tell us that there is a private fitting room away from the front of the store where the styling is done for you. You can have the natural look or the high fashion of updos and curls.

Glasses

Dawahare Optical Botique
Mall Rd
Florence, Ky 41042

This shops carries designer eye wear and will do business by mail. Contact Terrell Philippe at 525-8303. After hours appts can be arranged.

Clothing

Diana Shop
2278 First St
Fort Myers, Fl 33901

This store carries a variety of merchandise and promises to give courteous service to all. Call 334-6242. You can try on clothing there but after hours appts cannot be made.

Clothing

Shelly's Tall Girl Shop
1206 Lloyd Center
Portland .Oregon

They manufacture most of their clothing. Contact Pam or Martha for assistance. Phone: 503-282-9519. There is an opportunity to try on clothing there and after-hour appts can be made.

Tall Girl Shop
Lane Bryant
Wabash and Washington
(downtown)
Chicago, Ill

This store has quality clothes and shoes for Tvs. Ask for Corita or Florida who are very good at waiting on Tvs.

Lingerie
Charlise's Inc
60 Conn. Ave
Norwalk, CT 06850

We are told that they carry quality lines of merchandise and expect that in the near future to do business by mail. Contact Lem, Charlise, or Bea at 203-852-1123. You can try on some things there and after hours appts can be made. They tell us - "don't be shy."

Wigs
Hair House East
1500 S' Hamilton Rd Suite C
Columbus, Ohio 43227

Hair House East sells wigs and will also style them for you. They inform us that they do business by mail. You might call Jacki at 614-863-0396. They will allow you to try on the wigs and after hours appts can be made.

Lingerie
Very Daring Fashions
16 Bayshore Rd
Weaver's Corner Shopping Center
North Fort Myers Fla

They carry a complete line of hosiery, lingerie, garter belts, etc. The firm does business by mail. Ask for Bill, the Owner at 997-1217. He tells us that there is an opportunity to try on clothing after hours and they would particularly like our sisters to make after-hours appts.

Electrolysis
Heidi Hazelcorn Electrolysis
1620 Medical Lne No.131
Fort Myers, Fl 33907

They do permanent hair removal and suggest that you call 813-939-3771 for an appt.

Lingerie and Photography
Playmate's Body Art Studios and Clubs
421 NW Glisan
Portland, Oregon 97206

They write that they have a rather limited line of see-through and peak-a-boo lingerie. They have a photographic session where the patron is posed professionally by a female photographer who gives tips about posing. All patrons are given sympathetic service. The business is open 24 hours a day.

Electrologist
Steven Leonard, R.E.
Bay Area Electrolysis Cntr
323 Geary Street
Suite 704
San Fran, Ca 94102
Phone: 415-788-4035

This individual uses the ionization computer method.

Cosmetics
Merle Norman Cosmetics
9986 S'E' Washington St
Mall 205
Portland, Oregon 97216

They not only carry a complete line of cosmetics but will also give free complexion care lessons at the studio. Ask for V' Thorsen, Mgr OR any of the four beauty advisors. Phone 252-3486. After hours appts cannot be made. Their Lloyd Center store has mail order service.

Glasses
IPCO Optical
26 West Madison
Chicago, Ill

Ask for Miss Lewis and mention that you are a friend of Paul's.

Electrologist
Rita Hazelcorn
49 Barberry Lane
East Hills, N.Y. 11577

Rita is interested in making contact with our sisters in order to assist them in ridding themselves of wanted hair. She is MOST understanding.

Catalog
Roaman's
Saddlebrook, N.J. 07662

Your Editor does not have any specific information on this catalog but it has been highly recommended by several sisters.

Catalog
Footsaver
38 West 34th St
New York, N.Y. 10001
Phone: PE6-9081

Catalog has beautiful shoes in some of the larger sizes as well as those sizes below 10.

Catalog
Texas Tall and Stout Girls
Ridgeman Mall
1864 Green Oaks Rd
Ft. Worth, TX 76116

This catalog carries a variety of pretty, comfortable shoes from sizes 9½ to 12. The shoes also are in a fair range of widths. The shoes are pretty which is a change from some large size shoes.

Catalogs: Your Editor has little or no information pertaining to the catalogs listed below:

First Editions
Hanover, Pa 17331

Bedford Fair
157 Kisco Ave
Mt Kisco, N.Y. 10549

C.G. Career Guild
6412 Vapor Lane
Niles, Ill 60648

Old Pueblo Traders
600 S. Country Club Rd
Box 27800
Tucson, Az 85726

The Editor's Mailbox



Carol Beecroft

Dear Carol:

I received the *Femme Mirror* yesterday and was both pleased and interested to note the efforts towards locating stores and services for the girls of Tri-Sigma. The way it is being handled appears to be both practical and efficient. You can count on me to do my part!

To get started I would like 50 copies of the "letters to businesses" for local mailing. I have also placed a number of the library index cards in local libraries - several which have had to be replaced - evidently the Tv's who see them take the cards. The "throwaways" are still needed to put up on bulletin boards and in magazines. I am interested in any other type of publicity material that you can send. I want to do my part. If there is any way that I can help ease their feeling of total isolation, which I felt for such a long time, I want to help in any way possible. I am sure that in the area of the University that I am attending (over 20,000 students), there are other closeted Tv's. Hopefully we can reach some of them. Thanks for your efforts. They are appreciated by all of us out here. Tri-Sigma may be the best thing that has happened to me in years. It has been a real help to me, especially since meeting Rona (VA-1-G) and her wife. They are great people and have been helpful to both my wife and myself. I only hope that some day I can help others in the same way I have been helped. KAY (VA-14-P)

Dear Carol:

This is a letter I have been meaning to write but always seem to put off until later. I am extremely interested in joining Tri-Sigma Sorority. I have been an active TV for many years. I have several friends who are members of the sorority in the Washington, D.C. area and I have been very much impressed with the organizational efforts I have seen thus far

I might also add that, being married, I am impressed with the fact that Tri-Sigma caters solely to the heterosexual Tv - the only organization that does. R.J. Charlotte, N.C.)

Dear Carol:

I received the information you sent to me today and I'm very excited about the Sorority. What a relief to find out that I'm not the only male crossdresser. I thoroughly enjoyed reading the *Femme Mirror*. I soon hope to be able to meet other sisters in this area of Canada. I eagerly await your reply and hope that the dream of being understood as a woman will come true. Charlene (Halifax, Nova Scotia)

Dear Carol:

I am writing to you to get information concerning heterosexual transvestism. Yesterday, while looking through the file card section at the local library, I saw your library index card. I am married and have just recently told my wife about my crossdressing, but she is having difficulty in understanding it. Y.C. (Ottawa, Canada)

Dear Carol:

Thanks for the information that you sent me. I found it quite interesting and informative. It was especially noteworthy to read in the *Femme Mirror* that the doubts and negative feelings that I have and am going through have been experienced by others who have traveled the same road. I am not sure how my wife will handle the idea of my crossdressing since the marital situation is already shaky. M.G. (Covina, Ca.)

Dear Carol:

I have never written before but I now feel that I must write this letter. Last month I discovered your publication and suddenly realized that your organization was the type that I had always wanted to join. I also realized that I was not alone since

there are many sisters out there that I can relate to without fear.

It just dawned on me that I should say something about myself. I'm a professional person and highly respected in my field. Thus, if the feminine side of my personality was to become known it might end my career, so I am careful in this matter. I am a heterosexual male and for this reason have stayed away from other Tv groups. I really have been looking for an organization that was composed of heterosexual males, only. I became aware of my feminine side when I was 14 but for over 20 years have been trying to force it out of my mind. But this did not work and the feelings kept coming back - stronger each time. So, I decided to develop my feminine side two years ago. Since then I wear women's clothes at home and I have never been happier. Karen (Kenmore WA.)

Dear

Carol:

Believe me, it is good to belong and to know that there are many others out there like me. I look forward to the opportunities to communicate with others and getting to meet some of my sisters. It will be nice to be a girl among girls instead of being in isolation like before. Whoever put that card in the library did a good deed and I hope that others may see it and follow it up like I did. I hope that I can be a credit to Tri-Sigma in the days ahead. Cecily (Ottawa, Canada)

Dear Carol:

Just thought that I would drop you a note to tell you how much I enjoy the *Femme Mirror* and how much we all appreciate your hard work. I know how much time and effort it must take to do all that you do

for us. I thought that you might be interested in my latest venture. My Lord my breast is still pounding from it. (getting out in public) I would like to do such things more often but I can't get the time away from my family or my job. But when I get the chance I really love to live the role as a woman. Love it - just love it!

Concerning the Femme Mirror shopping section, I get a lot of my clothes from Lane Bryant. I have found that their sizes and prices are really pretty good for my frame. I do quite a bit of shopping during sales. I go as a male and look around the store and occasionally buy a skirt or something. I feel little, if any, embarrassment when doing this because I just don't care what they think. I have never purchased anything while dressed except while in New Orleans. A couple of times I believe that I was "read" but the salesladies didn't act as if they cared one way or the other. The worst that I have had happen to me was when one young cashier got very flustered and dropped the package AND the change. All I did was smile broadly and say, very happily, "Thank you SO much. Have a nice day." That was in a Sears store. Please send me some library cards and I'll spread them around. Thanks for your work. BECKY (SC-4-T)

Dear Carol: Carol:

I was negligent in not writing before to tell you of my great appreciation for the last New Orleans convention and everything that happened there and especially for the tremendous effort that I know that you put in to make it a success. It was a wonderful experience and this was the first time that I had been in public that long. I found it to be thrilling, interesting and exciting --something that I will always remember.. JANNA (IL-28-P)

Dear Carol:

The reason for writing is to let you know how much I appreciate everything you did for us at the Convention in New Orleans. New Orleans has changed many things for me. Today, I visited Carmel and while there I purchased several things while dressed. I also had lunch and even went on a shopping trip to Macy's in San Jose. It was fun to do all this while en femme. CINDY CA-58-P)

Dear Carol:

The last four days at the Conven-

tion were fantastic. Both you and Norma must be complimented for all the caring and effort that went into arranging the Convention. I thought that your tribute to Norma, your nice wife, was well deserved and I almost cried while hearing it. I look back on the last 18 months of my life and marvel at the changes in my life. I appreciate what you have done. LORI (TX-8-D)

Dear Carol:

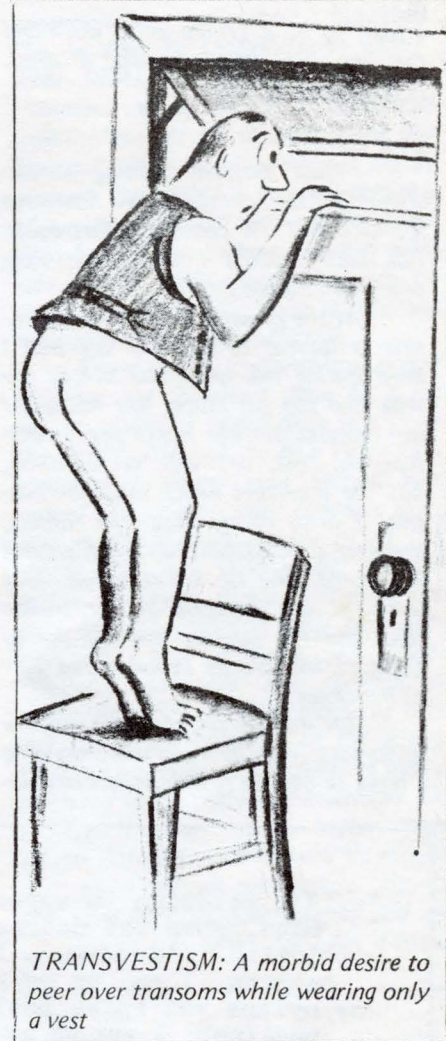
Included within the package with the Mirror and your letter was a brochure about Tri-Sigma - thanks for sending it. Apparently the whole world of crossdressing has come a long way since I went into the closet. I am excited about becoming a member of TRi-Sigma and look forward to writing to others and to share with them my fantasies. These fantasies persist even when 'Greta' is dormant but I have begun to realize that such fantasies - her existence - is not going to go away simply because I happen to resist the temptation to dress up. I've always harbored the notion in my mind that my crossdressing was a direct result of loneliness and that ever if I met Miss Perfect, 'Greta' would cease to exist. But I was wrong! So, I've started to coax 'Greta' out of her closet an inch at a time and work on accepting her in realistic terms, possibly as a natural aspect of my personality rather than something shameful and poisonous. Tri-Sigma seems like a logical place to start.

I would image that you are a very busy lady and that you gets lots of letters like this so I hope that you will understand my reason for writing. I hope that you will sympathize with the feeling of being bottled up with no place to spill. Despite her timidity, 'Greta' has begun to bang on the closet door. The Femme Mirror was fun, funny, and very well written. I look forward to other issues. GRETA, (Charlotte, N.C.)

Dear Carol:

Please send me an application for Tri-Sigma. I have been struggling for many years, trying to figure why my outlook is different. After trying to change, I finally came to the decision that I was not cursed but blessed with an attitude and psyche that was just different and not wrong.

After seeing so many different types of transvestism (many which scare me), I believe that Tri-Sigma Sorority is best for the heterosexual



TRANSVESTISM: A morbid desire to peer over transoms while wearing only a vest

male Tv. I hope that I will be able to actively participate with the organization. WENDY (Shavertown, Pa.)

Dear Carol:

My husband and I are in need of help from your organization. As a heterosexual crossdresser, my husband is not interested in the lewd picture magazines which have been his only affirmation as a transvestite. Discovering your magazine has been a great breakthrough for both of us. Mrs M.C. (Hayward, Ca.)

Dear Carol:

I am so glad to know that you and your members have the same interests as myself. For several years I have worn ladies panties, slips, nylons all the time and I am glad to say that my wife doesn't mind. Around the house, I am able to wear a dress or skirt, high heels and makeup. I just wish that I could wear such things all the time.

I don't go out in public in a dress because of my fear of the laws and wish that society would accept me as I am.

I want to be a Tri-Sig girl. I work and feel my best when I wear a dress. H.W. (Winfield, Pa.)

Dear Carol:

I just finished reading *Understanding Crossdressing*. I have now read it twice and am about to start again. For each reading I find some item new that I missed before.

At the present time my crossdressing is limited to any day off that I have during the week and before my wife and son get home. She knows of my transvestism but is not very understanding. Yet, she will, on occasion, buy me a present which might be panties, a dress or makeup. The subject, however, is not discussed - it is there but is ignored. She has on occasion worn some of my clothing in my femme robe and has allowed me the use of three of her dresser drawers and part of her closet.

But she still refuses to be with me so through your help and understanding I hope to be able to help others or may-

be an understanding female who would not mind going out with me. Interestingly enough, My wife knows that I am trying to meet other Tv's or understanding females and she is all for it. So perhaps if this happens, her wall of resistance will crumble. She does allow me to wear panties daily along with a nice solid feminine robe. So, as you can see, I am confused. I would like to help start a chapter in this area. BETTY LOU (Florida)

Dear

Carol:

I am very interested in meeting other sisters all around the country. I travel quite a bit. I am a concert musician and am touring a lot this year and would like to visit other sisters. I recently gave a concert in Dallas and will be in Chicago soon.

My feminity is impossible to suppress and at age 40, I realize that there is no use in trying to do so anymore. I look forward someday to living as a woman. While on tour, I have to be content with slipping into a pair of

panties or a negligee. I sleep quite happily that way and hope to doze off into a dream where I am a lovely girl, living a feminine life. I love the work that you are doing and want to get more involved. MICHELLE (MN-3-S)

Dear Carol:

I believe that the "for free" forwarding of letters will be welcomed by a great many of our members. It makes no mind to me, my only complaint was a lack of response from some of the sisters. Glad to hear that things are looking up in the western regions. There is room for everyone and every sort of organization in this Tv world of ours, and this is being proven as time goes on. Tri-Sigma has survived better than any of them and while others have been revived we have sailed right along on our own. CONNIE (NY-25-N)

Dear Carol:

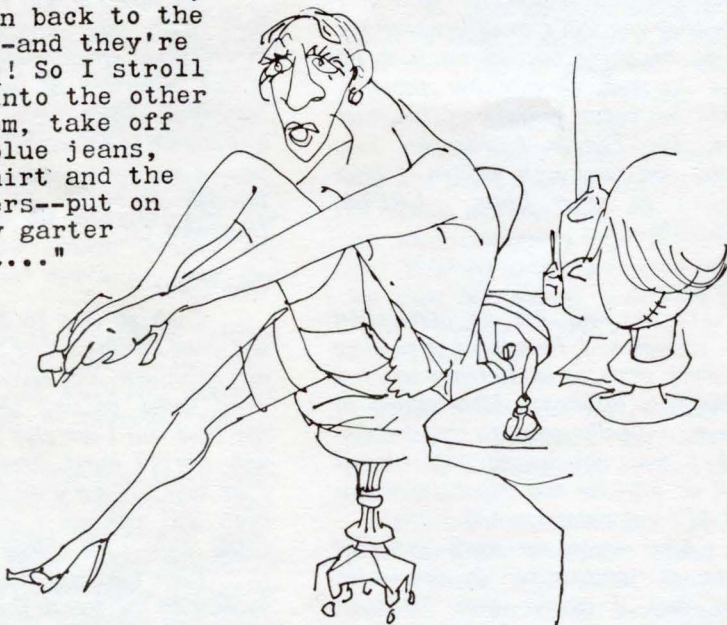
I have recently met both Charlene and Cheryl, two sisters in this state of Tennessee. Cheryl took me to an understanding shop in Memphis, where I bought a very nice dress and some jewelry. It was my FIRST time to be able to try on clothes in a women's shop and it was a wonderful experience, although I was a bit nervous when other customers saw me trying on things. I think that Cheryl has sent you the name of the shop for the Directory of Stores and Shops. CHARLOTTE (TN-3-B)

Dear Carol:

I'm looking forward to a fulfilling membership Tri-Sigma and strongly feel that there are a number of things that I can do to further understanding of Who and What we are - And Lord knows, there is definitely a need for understanding.

I am relatively free to travel throughout the Maryland/Virginia area because of my job. I am willing to offer what assistance and help that I can to those who wish it. At the very least I can try and assure those that are being consumed by guilt and fear and let them know that they are not alone. I want to tell them that what others may perceive as an illness is a long way from the truth. Once one can come to grips with their fears they will be able to accept themselves. Then they might be able to function and contribute to society as a WHOLE person, unburdened by guilt and fear. JANET (Charlottesville, Va)

"...I'm relaxing in my cottage yesterday afternoon, when the doorbell rings--and me-- thinking it's Linda, I run and put on my best cologne, I put on my garter belt, I put on my nylons and spike heels, I put on my black negligee, I put on my wig and make-up, and I run to the window and peek out--and it's my parents!! So I run back into the other room, I wipe off my make-up, pull off my wig, slip out of the negligee, kick off the heels, remove the nylons and take off the garter belt-- put on a pair of blue jeans, a flannel shirt and a pair of loafers, and run back to the door--and they're gone! So I stroll back into the other room, take off the blue jeans, the shirt and the loafers--put on my garter belt..."



Dear Carol:

I am a Tv who is married to an A+ wife but no one else knows of my crossdressing with the exception of a few 'sisters' in Texas. I have been a Tv since age 10. Still, there was nothing feminine about me and I was an all-state football and basketball player.

While a senior in high school I was 'unlucky' enough to get the lead part in our play and had to dress as a girl, completely, in the 2nd and 3rd acts. The regular girls has a great time, dressing me up. I wore a black sheath dress with black 3" heels that were popular then. Unknown to them, I was wearing panties and a slip and all the goodies - these belonged to my sister. We did the play twice. One of the girls even brought a wig to me to wear. After each performance we would go downtown to eat, with me still dressed. They had a lot of laughs at my expense but I had the biggest laugh of all. I was thoroughly happy. The second night I even got brave enough to shave my legs and paint my fingernails AND toenails. The girls loved that. I wish that I had a picture of it. I thought that I was pretty good looking and that I could pass in public.

When I got married I surprised the femme self for six years. Then I told my wife. She didn't know anything about the subject but LOVE does conquer all.

I've been out in public many times. People don't pay much attention to a large woman and I dress conservatively. The feeling of shopping in a large mall with hundreds of women around can only be expressed by one that has done it. I love the feeling. For valentine Day I received a new red nightgown and a rose for my hair and my wife got the same. She is truly a feminine, fantastic person. God really must love me to give me a wife like this. DEBBIE (W'Memphis, Ark)

Dear Carol:

I got your address from the local library here in Marysville. I am hoping that you can help me with some information pertaining to transvestism. My HUSBAND is a transvestite and our marriage is in real trouble. He seems to pre-occupied with the dressing thing. Can you please fill me in on it?

Mrs L.S.

(Marysville, Ca.)

Dear Carol:

I am writing this letter in regard to this certain person whom I know. I do not wish to reveal his identity or relationship to me in the chance that this letter could get into wrong hands.

This person is a transvestite. I've never encountered anything like this before and would like more information about your organization. The big question I have is "WHY"? Please try to help me understand! Mrs B.K. (Houston, Tx)

Dear Carol:

It's been several months since I have written. My biggest problem is still my hang-up about involving or getting involved with others. I can easily put things down on paper but I still haven't had the courage to confront anyone in person.

First I thought it was me and that I really didn't want to dress up but now I know that this isn't the case. I know that I would like to whirl around in a pretty dress, with pretty lingerie underneath. I feel great and I don't care what people think but other times, just the thought of someone seeing me scares the heck out of me. I

I suppose that you've dealt with others like myself and I am sure that

you know what I am going through. I say that I don't need anybody else while the whole time I say it, I know it is a lie. I look in the mirror and tell myself that there is no way I could ever be a convincing, nice-looking girl. I did receive a nice letter from Cindy in Los Gatos which helped me a lot. It's so nice to know there's someone like myself in the area. Carol, I'm sorry if this letter rambles on but I have all this bottled up inside and no one to talk to or to open up to. It scares me to death to put my trust in anyone - I don't know how I ever got the courage to write to you in the first place, you for being understanding. CHRISTIE, (Sunnyvale, Ca)

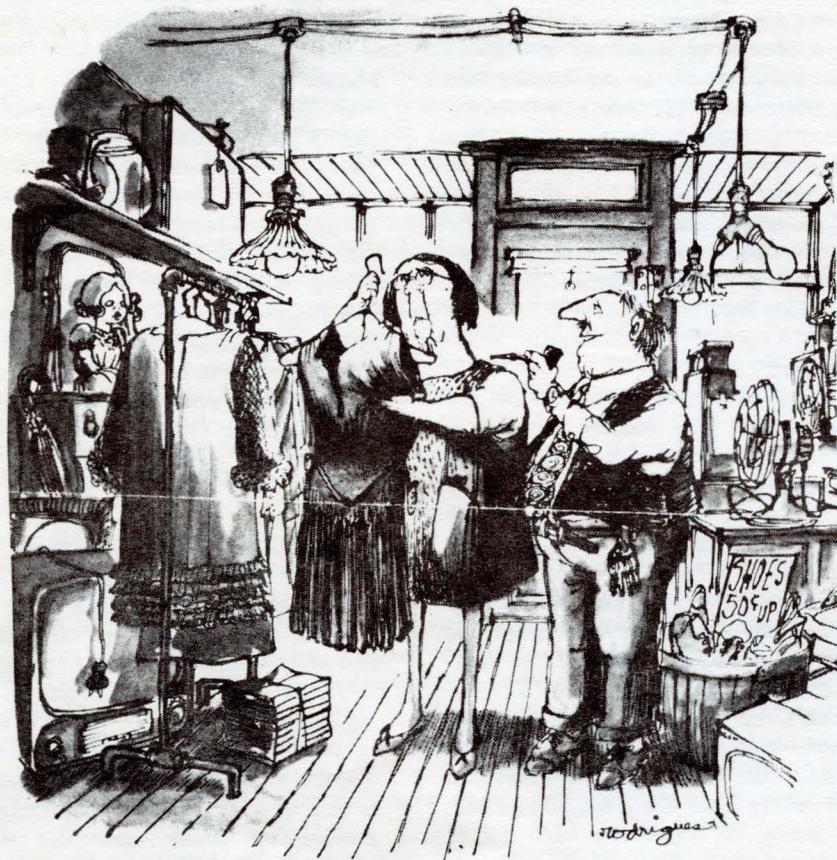
Dear Carol:

I regret to convey my decision to drop out of Tri-Sigma this year but I must honor both the true spirit and letter of the organization. I have embarked in a direction that is not compatible with the needs and interests of the bership. I'm clearly moving towards sexual reassignment and cannot reconcile the many decisions, actions and interests of such a course with continued membership under honorable terms.

I have avoided any active involvement this past year while trying to sort myself out and, you may be assured



"Hon, would you tell your Dad that I'm sorry that I said he couldn't come over dressed 'en femme.' Ha, ha, he does look a bit like your mother, doesn't he?"



“... That's practically a new garment, Mrs. Kraus—it belonged to a transvestite who just wore it evenings around the house. . . .”

that I have influenced no one adversely, nor have I imposed any added stress on any of the supportive wives who try so hard to help their Tv husbands. I wish you will in your work and only regret that I never got to meet you or find other ways to help you more. Thank you for your dedication to the work of helping your Tv sisters. ANNE

Dear Carol:

I appreciate the information that you recently sent me but even more important to me is the major efforts that you put forth on behalf of all sisters. I feel that we can't help what we are and deserve a place in the public life in this world. I only wish that my home situation would allow me to be a more active person. With a 'D' wife, this is not possible. On the other hand, she has been a wonderful wife and mother to our children. LOIS (NY-6-W)

Dear Carol:

Whether or not I am pretty at the moment may be a matter of differ-

ing opinion, but I FEEL pretty, wearing a blue dress of my wife's, with a string of red beads and blur scuffs on my nylon-clad feet. Beneath, I have all the appropriate lingerie which my wife has provided for me. My hair is softly curled and on my face is just enough makeup to mask the bluish beard.

As I said, I feel pretty and, what is more important, I feel great - almost as if I belonged this way. I shall not stay this way very long, however, since I also enjoy my masculine side. But for this morning, I am Barbara.

One of the problems with Duluth is that it is too small for me to go about publicly dressed en femme. I know too many people and my appearance is not too significantly altered that I would be able to go about town or into any of the shops.

If there are other members in this state I would like to help start a of Tri-Sig. I have to believe that I am not the only Swede in the Midwest who prefers silks to silta (a specially prepared fish.)

If you have retained any of my previous letters, you probably will note a progression. Initially, I made inquiries and sought information, then membership, and now offer to aid in the attracting of new members. Likewise in the beginning I had extreme reluctance to attend a meeting and now I would love to go. Formerly I wore lingerie under Levis and now here I am in a dress feeling just wonderful.

Unfortunately I am still unable to share this present level of experience with anyone except through the mail. Though at night the problem of what to wear has been solved by my simply donning my nightgown; I still am unable to appear in front of my wife in a bra and panties. Perhaps this will also occur in due course but our relationship is far more important than the emotional satisfaction which I might receive and this new status of our affection, too fragile, to be jeopardized by such conduct.

It is indeed fortunate that I am able to practice law from my home as it gives me the opportunity to dress as I wish during much of the day. The only undesirable aspect is that I spend more time than should be accorded to such activity. Thanks for listening. I enjoyed your letter immensely. BARBARA (MN-4-S)

Dear Carol:

The time has just flown by since I joined Tri-Sigma. I am now a happy and well adjusted person for the first time in my adult life. I am 50 years old and have been in the closet & guilt ridden until now. I hope to be able to help others. I drive for a living and am able to go to work with a smile and peace of mind - again thanks. RUTH (N.J.-11-S)

Dear Carol:

This is my first letter. I am so excited! It sure feels good to be a sister in Tri-Sigma. I love to dress and act like a young woman but I also like being a man. It's like having your cake and eating it, too! None of that sex change for me - just good-ole silk and nylon nightgowns and panties. Oh, God, I love it! I am new and nervous about making contact with other sisters but it sure has helped a lot knowing there are other people like myself. JOAN (N.C.-2-M)

Ladylike Laughs



"You, there, no, no, HIM -- the guy with the pink housecoat and the net stockings, yeah you -- do you want to press charges against this Peeping Tom?"



"Well, I don't find it all that titillating being a transvestite."



"Darling, if you want Mommy to keep dressing you up as a girl, you're going to have to stop putting frogs in my purse."



"Okay, so I had a couple of drinks!"

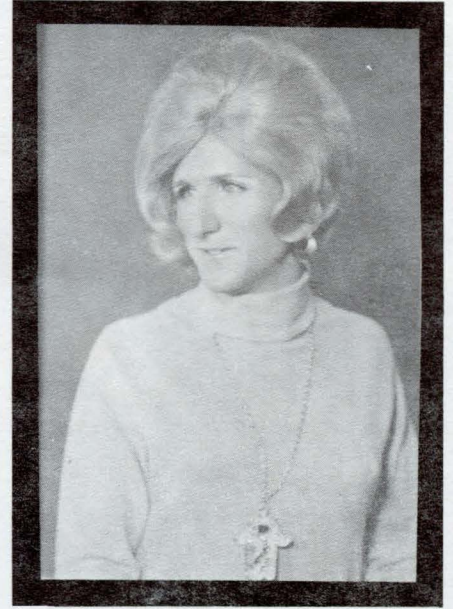
TRI-SIG ALBUM



JUDY WA-6-0



'DIERDRE N'IRELAND



MICHELLE NJ-12-W



BILLIE UTAH



TERI CA-5-B



PATRICIA LOUISE



CATHY CA-61-S

New ESCORT SERVICE

JERI VOLUNTEERS TO DEVELOP NEW

PROGRAM

Your Editor and national Leader is happy to tell you that JERI (WY-1-G) has volunteered to take on the job of organizing the Escort Service. If you will remember from the last issue of the *Femme Mirror*, I discussed the need of our sisters to meet understanding females who would go out with them on shopping and dinner dates and perhaps help them with their selection of clothing, etc.

Jeri writes that she will do her best and has already written to some females that have indicated an interest in going out with our sisters.

Do be aware that this program is a new and virgin one and will take plenty of time to get going. There are only about 5 females available at this time and they are scattered all over. So, if you know an interested female who will assist us in this manner, please see if she would allow us to have her name and address. Only Jeri and I will have the names and addresses and interested sisters who want to be put in contact with an understanding female will have to contact them through Jeri.

Jeri suggests that we keep a file card not only on all interested females who want to help but also one of each sister who wants to meet such a person. So write to Jeri through this office and I will forward the letters - no charge, of course.

The following is the procedure which Jeri wishes all sisters to follow:

1. Write to Jeri. Tell her about yourself.
2. Indiate your geographic area within which travel is possible. If you are only interested in correspondence, say so.
3. Indicate to her any other females that you know who can help the program.
4. Sisters may, if they wish, include an address or phone number for Jeri's use. She says that she will regard such information as most confidential.
5. She will provide a letter of introduction for members and females. Thereafter correspondence is up to you.
6. Interested females should write to ES DEPT at the Tri-Sigma address: Box 194, Tulare, Ca 93275, and include such information as age, general description, interests, ability to travel, whether they will correspond, etc



Jeri

Jeri feels that this project is a difficult one and a major undertaking, but she will do her best. When she has a chance she will contact those who use the service to see how things are progressing.

I know that all sisters admire Jeri for undertaking this tremendously needed task and we all wish her lots of success.

I've never doubted that I was a man said my friend, his skirt a-twirl,
The only worry that I ever had
Was that I might NOT be a girl!!
Lil

Roberta Offers Help

Here is a gift for my sisters, including YOU, that I want to do because it is very good advertising for me and because it would be fun and appropriate for Tvs.

Sisters, if you will mail me this information - your femme name, your birthdate and a stamped, self-addressed envelope (you can address your envelope for my reply to "Occupant" to protect your security) I will mail you a free mini-reading that tells nice things about you, about what you are like

as a feminine person, your assets and your capabilities - by means of playing cards, numerology and astrology.

For example, I am Roberta, born on July 25, 1944. I am a Three of Clubs, which means that I have a lot of choices in my thinking - lots of possible approaches to each subject, and if you ask me what I would like to wear tonight, I'll name three different outfits and want to wear them all.

July 25th is number Seven, which means 'spiritual vistory,' so that I can be a winner on a spiritual plane even when my society is judging me as second place because it does not value the Tv as much as it could. 'Roberta' is a number four, which allows me the

ability to handle details, to follow a job through, patience and a balanced nature.

I hope to hear from lots of you, especially in the Southern California area. You can write to me as follows: ROBERTA, 1010 Pico Blvd, No.1, Santa Monica, Ca 90405.

P'S' Your Editor can verify how interesting the 'readings' are since Roberta did mine several months ago. I feel that you will be very happy with her work. Roberta is a most sincere and honest sister. Carol.

Roberta (CA-75-A)

HERE AND THERE

In addition to the FORUM magazine publicity, we will be advertising in *MONEYSWORTH* for four straight months. I believe that the August or September issue will be the start of the add campaign in that magazine.

Your Editor asks that all sisters make sure that when they send letters to be forwarded, that they put postage on the envelopes. Some of you have forgotten.

TIFFANY CLUB

Your Editor and National Leader would like to comment on a New England organization which is very interested in helping *TRi-Sigma* sisters.

The name of the organization is the *TIFFANY CLUB*. This organization has as its purpose for existing a desire to be a "communications Medium" for not only *Tri-Sigma* sisters but for other *Tvs* as well. *TIFFANY* has a place where different groups can meet on different nights. Sisters of *Tri-Sigma* are encouraged to meet there as a chapter and will be assisted in any way possible by the Director, Merissa Lynn. The emphasis of *Tiffany* is on friendship. Your Editor and National Leader recommends the *TIFFANY CLUB* to all New England sisters. Meressa wants to help us grow,

Laura (CA-28-A) has suggested that in those states where you can choose to put in your name and some other word on the license plate, that we get them with our *TRi-Sigma* code numbers on them. Thus, for your Editor, the license plate would read CA-6-B. Anybody interested in starting this off?

For those sisters who would like additional help for their not-to-cooperative wives, please note that Conny (NY-25-N) and her wife are available for counseling. They have helped others and they can help you, too. Send a letter to Conny via our free forwarding system.

NEW APPOINTMENT

Because of increasing and continuing growth in our Canadian Region, and in the interests of better serving those members, our leadership positions must be expanded. It is with the greatest pleasure that we announce that *CECILY (FCO-2-C)* has accepted the position of "special assistant" for the eastern provinces of Canada.

Cecily has demonstrated a considerable amount of interest in furthering *Tri-Sigma's* programs in Canada, and we are sure that she will utilize her talents for the benefit of the region. As Special Assistant, she will maintain individual contact with the membership, encourage the formation of Canadian Chapters, serve as advisor to the Area Director, and support various area programs and activities. Our Canadian members can look forward to hearing from Cecily in the near future.

The following "aid" has been suggested by Shirley (CT-3-B) and should be helpful to our sisters who go out in public. It has to do where you put your keys within your handbag so that you can get hold of them quickly. So go ahead, Shirley:

I think that I have a suggestion that is quite easy to use and should help our sisters locate their keys quickly and without any delay. I suggest using a strap about 16 to 18 inches long with a snap at one end to put around the loop on the handbag and a small boat-snap riveted on the other side. To snap on the key ring, all you have to do is pull out the strap from the handbag and presto, there you are! I have made several that I have given away to the girls and they all like them.

Still another such "aid" has been sent in by Debbie (ID-2-L) concerning your fingernails. It is for those occasions when you want long finger nails. She suggests that you use *Crazy Nails*, a nail-tip kit, made by Christy Wells. She says that if you follow the suggestions made with the kit you end up with nice long nails. She says that it takes about four hours to do a really great job. For removal, simply follow the instructions. On removal Debbie says to be careful cause you could tear your own nails upon removal of the *Krazy Nails*.

A report from a Paris, France Newspaper says that Men are Enjoying Women's Styles. Left bank Couturiere Francoise Martin has added on ultra-feminine line of "Frou-frou" gowns to her collection for the benefit of male customers. She says, "More and more men are enjoying relaxing in women's clothes when they come home from work to their bachelor apartments." She continues, "They want the excitement of ruffles and frills, not the current fashion for chic ladies." Mme Martin's male customers protest that women should not criticize men who wear feminine gowns in the privacy of their homes. Said one: "Women now wear mannish slacks and shirts and boots and everything in public. Such liberation should work both ways." And to this comes a unanimous shout of "Right On" from members of *Tri-Sigma Sorority*.

From the Eastern states we have the news item that two Queen Anne's County organizations, in an effort to make some money, have teamed up to stage two plays for the benefit of each club.

One of the plays was entitled, "If The Boys Wore Skirts" and is set in the future when boys wore skirts and girls wore slacks. You can be sure that this was written by a *Tv* and that there were a number of *Tvs* in the cast. Anyway, W' Baker, a member of the Building Fund and the cast, said that "the men don't seem to mind wearing skirts, but when they get in high heels, use lipstick and bras, they get a little crazy." Ah! Isn't that a shame! But, we DO understand, don't we, girls?

A B&W movie entitled *SEX AND GENDER* can be rented from Multi Media Resource Center, 1525 Franklin St, San Fran., Ca 94109 at about \$50.00. "Your sexuality is between your ears, nit your legs: The film explores this concept. Candid interviews with *Tvs* are interspersed with sequences of professional female impersonators.

Happenings In The Pacific Northwest

MARIA (WA-5-R)

This last weekend was one of great excitement for me as Ellen and I got together for a wonderful weekend. Also joining us was Gesile from Utah. It was truly a heady period of excitement as we three girls hit the great town of Portland. We started out by having our hair done at the House of Luck by a very charming real lady that not only made our hair look good but also gave a great boost to our egos.

After that delightful stop we had sandwiches at a downtown pub. It was nice to receive some admiring glances from other patrons and to feel pretty and alluring. It was extra special being with Ellen as she gave me a great deal of confidence and security as a girl.

After our dinner we caught the late show at Darcelles. Even more enjoyable was the opportunity to chat, after the show, with the performers. Their lifestyle is not one that I would be happy with but they are very interesting people and their total acceptance of us as girls made the conversation that much more enjoyable.

Since, by this time we were rather tired, we headed back to the hotel. Gisele went on to bed and Ellen and I sat giggling and talking until about three in the morning. It was so nice to hear that she and I had experienced so many similar things as we were growing up. Both of us had spent a great deal of time worrying about our identities and trying various methods of dealing with the feelings of guilt that we all feel. Both Ellen and I ended up using professional services. My doctor was completely at a loss with my problem but did help me deal more effectively with my feelings of guilt and actually started opening lines of discussion between my wife and me. However, it was not until I attended my first Tri-Sigma meeting that I really was able to come to grips with myself and explain my feelings to my wife. The first of these conversation/discussions I have written to you about

earlier and it was from them that my name 'Maria' emerged.

Both Ellen and I hope that we can bring together a viable chapter here in the Northwest so that other people can learn how to accept their own feelings and desires as well as how to deal with our guilt feelings. One of these areas that neither Ellen or I have seen much literature about is what creates people like us. I hope that a study will be done that will shed some light on the why's and wherefores that create (or allow to develop) people who wish to express both sides of their personality. I know that my wife is quite interested in this aspect although I personally don't care much 'why' but lean more towards the 'why not' aspect.

I think that another simply great aspect of my Portland trip was the way that my wife accepted my weekend out. She lent me her London Fog, and as I was leaving, gave me a 'care' package which included a small travel iron and a jar of instant coffee. I don't think that she will ever completely accept me as a girl but she has been increasingly more understanding and tolerant of my needs. I am hoping that she will join Ellen and the rest of the girls for our party next month. Good luck!

FORUM MAGAZINE "letter"

We have received a large number of requests for information about our Sorority this month -- all due to the letter that Sally Ann (MD-7-K) wrote some time ago to FORUM Magazine. This letter appeared in the July, 1980 issue and immediately we started getting those letters from the many potential members who have not heard of us. The letter is as follows and is very excellent:

"In regard to the opinion discussion about women wearing skirts or pants, as a heterosexual male transvestite, let me say that I am totally comfortable and at ease when I dress as a woman. I have been so dressed many times. I attend monthly local chapter meetings at the home of a "sister" transvestite where wives and TVs come together to socialize and discuss mutual problems.

At home, I delight in being a woman on weekends, and I never would wear women's slacks or pants, as I simply adore being in a skirt, dress, evening gown and high heels.

Any heterosexual transvestite needing information on where "she" can join a chapter of the Society for Second Self in "her" neighborhood, need only send 50 cents in postage and a stamped, self addressed envelope to the Society at 256 S' Robertson, Beverly Hills, Ca. This Society is dedicated to help the woman in the life of the heterosexual transvestite (wife, sister, mother, girlfriend) better cope with and understand the male who has a feminine side to him.

Also, the male who enjoys wearing women's clothes meets others like himself. I prefer to see women in skirts and heels, as they look nicer and prettier, and since I have a feminine side which must be expressed in this manner, I like to wear such clothes myself.

The Society For The Second Self is concerned with protecting members' identities, as we well realize society's views on men who also enjoy showing their feminine side. We are straight (no kinky stuff) people whose common bond is our love of wearing pretty, feminine clothes, and our attempts to help each other's women come to grips with our way of life.

Our local chapter den mother" was an army captain, and our local members include many people who have served in the military and in combat. I mention this to help dispell the myth that men who enjoy dressing as women are all "sissies". It is important for us to seek each other out in order to give ourselves, as well as our women, mutual support and understanding."



"I saw your ad in the 'TV GUIDE' in the Femme Mirror and am glad that you are willing to wait on members of Tri-Sigma Sorority."

New Chapter

Organizes

ROANOKE, VA.

NEW SITE



Efforts are underway to organize a new local group to serve Southwest Virginia and the surrounding area. At this writing, three meetings have been held in Roanoke, Va.

The effort got underway when Rona (VA-1-G) and Kay (VA-14-P) began to talk about how nice it would be to get together with other sisters in the area. Rona offered her home as a meeting place and the pair began contacting other sisters nearby so as to spark more interest. Roanoke is well situated to serve as a meeting place for sisters from much of Western and Central Virginia as well as parts of North Carolina, Tennessee, Eastern Kentucky and West Virginia.

Several sisters have indicated an interest in joining the group, but few

have shown up for meetings to date. Could they be shy? It is hoped that attendance will improve. No dues or fees are being assessed at this time.

Rona and Kay have been assuming all costs of mailings and providing for meetings thus far. Everyone is asked to bring a snack, however.

If any Tri-Sigma girls are interested in meeting with them and have not been contacted, please write to them. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month and spouses and girlfriends are welcome.

The above is a nifty picture of the meeting of the new group in Southwest Virginia. From left to right: Rona (VA-1-G) who is the co-organizer; Kay (VA-14-P) another co-organizer, and Charlotte (TN-3-B). All agreed that the afternoon and evening were worth while and thoroughly enjoyable. They hope that many more sisters in the area will join them. Local Group Forming in Virginia By Kay (VA-14-P)

"telling"

Cont. From Page "8"

Next, I put on a nice bra and panties and then slipped into one of her pretty night gowns that I had always admired.

I shaved my face rather closely and applied the usual makeup that I had always used when I was able to be ME' I even put my wig on - after brushing it. And, on went earrings and a little necklace. Before slipping out of the bathroom, I even even squited a bit of perfume on myself.

There's no doubt in my mind that any reader will understand how wonderful I felt when I eventually climbed into bed. I decided to put the lights out because my wife always comes to bed and undresses in the dark. The next 15 to 20 minutes seemed like a hour while I lay waiting for my wife to come to bed,

When she finally came into the bedroom and changed into her bed clothing and then slipped into bed,

almost couldn't breath - I was scared from head to toe.

As she settled down in bed, it was only a matter of seconds before her foot touched mine, which was encased in her long nightgown. I could feel her stiffen. She didn't make a sound for several minutes so I rolled over towards her, put my arms around her shoulder and pressed up against her.

FINALLY, in a low voice, she asked what I was doing, dressed as a woman. I then told her that I had a 'problem' and wanted to talk to her about it. I figured that she didn't really know how much and how far I had gone in my dressing, so I got up and turned the light on.

I remember her first words as being, "MY GOD' YOU LOOK LIKE A REAL WOMAN." Well, I sure felt like one. I got around to explaining all about my need to crossdress and, of course, she cried a bit and said that she was very confused and asked if I could be helped. I told her that I

had been doing this for many years and knew that there was no cure and wanted to crossdress whenever possible. We finally got around to an agreement that it would be all right as long as the children didn't find out about it.

Well, we're still married and I still am able to dress at home. The only time that I have gone out in public was to go to a place where a counseling session for Tvs was being held - not for a cure but to learn how I might find more acceptance for my wife.

I am looking forward to having places to go and to be totally feminine with others of the same nature. I am totally heterosexual and just enjoy being a girl and doing girlish things and even talking about things that girls discuss.

I like your sororitie's pledge of privacy . I do not want anyone other than my Tv friends and my wife to know about my crossdressing. I would like to belong to a chapter in the north Jersy area. LYNDIA, Wyckoff, N.J.

Dear Sisters:

Along with this, the final Directory Supplement for 1979 I feel it necessary to send this psrsonal note. It is a rather difficult thing to write but I feel that I must do it.

I am going to retire from a lot of my past responsibilites with Tri Sigma. I am not resigning and I will retain the position of Treasurer and keep track of the income and outgo of the Society. But I have been handling a good deal more than that in the past which I am now going to relinquish. Some of this work Carol will take on herself and some she will doubtless farm out. My reasons for doing this are principally two; 1) As those of you who read TVia # 100 will remember I indicated that I had a lot of other interests in life that I wanted to pursue and the Tri Sigma work--which is a lot more complex than those who just look at the Directory imagine--was simply taking too much time; 2) there has been quite a bit of objecting and complaining on the part of a lot of the local leaders and chapter members about various policies that the national organization had established. Most of these I was initially responsible for.

When I made up a discussion sheet dealing with each of these problems in some detail and sent it out to 20 of such leading people with a request for a prompt reply so that I could make my own decisions I was favored with just 3 replies. I am forced to take that as a sort of vote or no confidence. They were free enough to complain to Carol in reply to a questionnaire they received from her, but not to my explanation and defense of the status quo. O.K. sobeit. As you read in TVia #100 I've been all thru this about 3 times in the past and I just dont have the drive, the time nor the inspiration to do it again. I have been told repeatedly that "times have changed since you founded FPE 18 years ago". Thats true no denying it. Outside times have changed, but the needs and fears of lonely, guilt ridden and non-understanding FPs around the country has not changed one bit. It was in their interest and with their fears and problems and needs in mind that I founded FPE in the first place. It is my belief that the security measures set upin the beginning were reasonable, served their purposes well and were (and are still) necessary. However, I never was a Dictator (though I have been called such many times) in that I set up policies that were of benefit to me. What policies or rules--call them what you will--were set up to serve and protect the interests of the members. Now others think they know how to do it better. So let them. Its time for old madams like me to get out of the way. Maybe I am old fashioned but I have a sneaking hunch that a majority of our membership are equally so. However, as I've often said, as has Carol, that Tri Sigma belongs to its members and not to she and I, so at the end of this you will find a ballot setting forth a few of the controversial issues. This is my own concoction and I would appreciate it if you would fill it out promptly and return it TO ME at Box 36091 L.A. CA 90036. I want to find out for myself what the "will of the people" is. When I have received, tabulated and digested the results they will be turned over to Carol who can then make the results known in the Femme Mirror and take what steps she feels necessary in view of them. Please dont delay in doing this.

Since I will be relinquishing a lot of my former responsibilities and efforts I find it necessary to say something which I find it difficult to phrase both clearly and fairly. Over the years when I was more directly involved in both policy making and policy enforcing, I gave cer-

its relationship to individual members because I felt that I could control situations and thus back them up. Now that I am not going to be in that position I will no longer be able to make such assurances nor to back up any that I made in the past. By saying this I do not want nor intend to cast any aspersions or implicatinnns on Carol nor an any chapter leaders regional coordinators or anyone else. I am simply trying to withdraw myself from such matters. I am sure that those who will be responsible for policy making, from Carol on down, are dedicated, capable and involved but there are policy changes being advocated with which I disagree and since I dont wish to stand inthe way of progress (?) or of the memberships will, I am withdrawing from that area and leaving it up to others. New heads, new hearts and newer ideas may well be more appropriate to todays problems

I have felt it necessary to say the above simply because I have been associated with this movement and FPE-Tri Sigma for so long that, in some eyes at least, I have become something of a special case. Having, I hope, established a reputation for honesty, sincerity, reliability and dependability and particularly integrity, I just dont want people who may develope differences with other people or policies in the future to regard me as part of that difference. For example, I have given assurances in person, by phone or by mail to a great many of you that the pledge forms on which you all signed your true names would not be copies or turned over to anyone else. I stand by that promise. They will be retained in my possession and not given to anyone else simply because I gave my word that they would not be. Now if, in the future, some other policy is adopted and forms used in other ways, or names are s pplies to other leaders, in the interests of the better functioning of the organization, I dont want anyone to take that as a violation of anything that I said or wrote.

On the several matters on the ballot I will very briefly tell you my own personal opinion so you'll know where I stand and have stood.

- 1) The requirement of having read the Understanding book is not and never was a device for selling books. It was a fundamental part of the security policy since it allowed self screening. Others object to its purchase being a requirement and think it should only be recommended. I wrote the book primarily in the interests of Tri Sigma and still believe that it will serve the purpose of self education and screening better than anything else.
- 2) Chapter interviews: I believe that anyone who belongs to a national organization has an automatic right to belong to a chapter if he wishes. If after being in the chapter he becomes undesirable to to-others they should have the right to ask for his resignation, but not the right to exclude him in the first place on the basis of chapter interviews--at least not without taking the matter up with national headquarters.
- 3) I believe it to be against the interests of security for local chapters to permit non-member FPs to attend meetings as guests "to see how they like us. This gives them access to others, toknowledge of time and place of meetings and other matters with no security clearance of any kind.
- 4) There have been some who object to the requirement that one be asked for true name and true address on the pledge forms. I believe this policy should be continued since such signature (providing it is kept confidential) is a measure os sincerity, honesty and good behaviour since it makes everyone hostage to his own good behaviour and he can assume the same for everyone else.
- 5) There are also a few who believe that we should be more accepting of other cross dressers than "uncomplicated heterosexual cross dressers. I do not believe in such an open door policy. Thank you *Virginia*