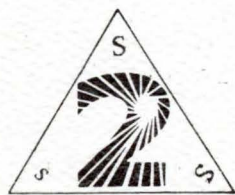
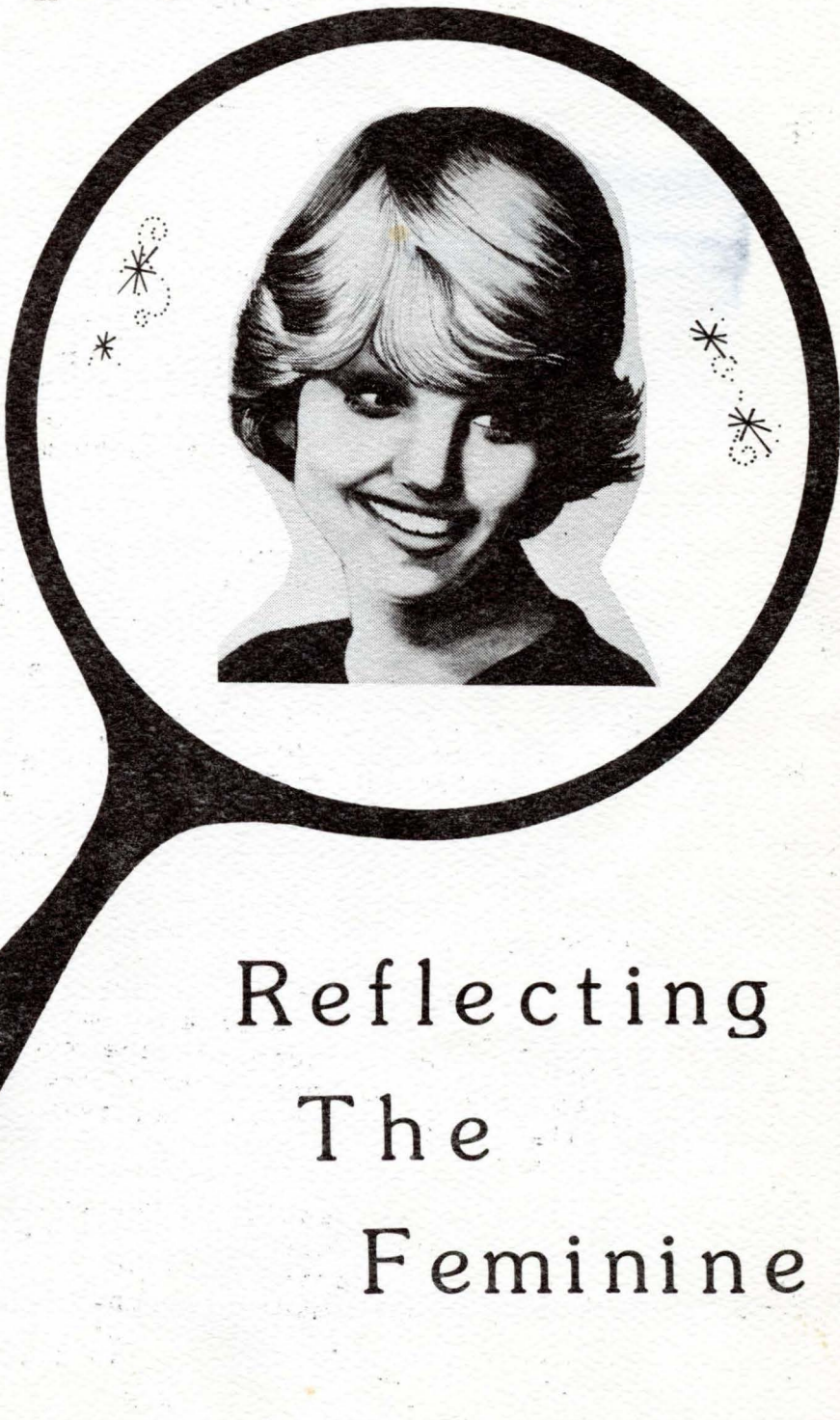


Femme Mirror



Tri-Ess Sorority



Reflecting
The
Feminine

Reflecting the Feminine

FEMME MIRROR



EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR: Carol Beecroft

The FEMME MIRROR is published for members of the SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF at P.O. Box 194, Tulare, California 93275

Manuscripts, photographs and letters should be sent to the above address. Submission of letters implies the right of the Editor to edit and publish, although true names and addresses will not be used.

APRIL, 1982



Wyoming

Sister Visits

Oklahoma

JAMIE (WY-2-R) has a great time visiting girls while on a business trip.



LAURA (OK-200-G), one of our Oklahoma sisters!

I want to tell you about the simply wonderful time I had over Easter weekend with the Lawton, Oklahoma Sisters, Laura and Karen.

I did business in Tulsa for two weeks over Easter and being away from home and with plenty of time on my hands I arranged to meet the Lawton girls Friday and Saturday. After my business was completed in Tulsa, on Friday, I drove down to Lawton, checked into my motel, "dressed" and called Laura who came over. Laura arrived as her (boyself) and we sat around and visited for an hour and then Laura (boyself) escorted me out to dinner. After dinner we went back to my motel room so Laura could dress. We had a marvelous visit, took pictures, had our own style show, and I heard all about Laura's trip to New Orleans for the annual get together.

Later on in the evening, Karen arrived and we kept at it until after 2:00 A.M. During the evening, we made plans to get together at Karen's for lunch, pictures, and just plain fun. I can't remember when I enjoyed myself as much.

I dressed early Saturday morning and at the appointed time Laura stopped by and I

followed her over to Karen's home. Once we all arrived, Karen & Laura dressed, while I made lunch, and passed the time looking at their large photo collection. I took a while since the girls were going to look their best for the camera.

Both Karen and Laura are photo nuts and I am sure we shot over 100 pictures, some of which you may want to use in the Feminine Mirror. A great time was had by all and I was sorry to see the good time come to and end.

The session broke up at 5:00 P.M. I drove back to my motel took off my beautiful clothes and in a depressed state changed into my male clothes to have dinner with Karen (boyself). You may ask why we didn't go out dressed but Lawton is a small town and the girls don't go out in their town dressed.

Karen and I had a terrific dinner and then went over to visit Laura's wife. She is just

coming to terms with Laura and wanted to meet some other T.V.'S Nancy was naturally concerned about Laura and I think we set her mind at ease that we're just down-to-earth heterosexual males with families who love the feminine and as a result, are better people for it. Laura's wife is a wonderful lady and Laura is truly blessed to have such a loving, understanding wife. It is too bad we are not all as fortunate.

The following day I reluctantly packed up and drove back to Tulsa.

Throughout my stay in Tulsa, I dressed every evening and went shopping, bought a beautiful summer cream dress with lots of lace, a new slip and panty set.

I really enjoy going out in the evening; however, going out by oneself isn't as much enjoyment as going out with another sister.

JAMIE

Are You Coming To New Orleans In 1983 ?

WRITE TO YOUR EDITOR RIGHT AWAY
AND TELL HER OF YOUR INTEREST!!



Well, it's time to start thinking about our next HOLIDAY EN FEMME. We are going back to New Orleans once again and I am making plans for us to stay at the Provincial Hotel. They were so nice to us that it is only logical that we return.

In the last issue of the Femme MIRROR, you read about our happy time in New Orleans in March of this year. Well, we hope to not only duplicate the happiness that our members experienced while there, but perhaps we can even improve on the situation.

For those of you who are new, this will be an opportunity for you to live FULLTIME as a girl. No more having to take off the nail polish in the evening nor having to take off the eye makeup. Leave it on because tomorrow is just another glorious day in your girl-life. THIS TIME, put your MALE clothes in the closet and forget them. You can wear your lovely things all day - 24 hours - for four days

and only think of yourself as a girl.

I don't think that any of us who went this year really wanted to leave and resume the male role again. It's definitely more fun and interesting in being a girl!

You will be able to have your hair done when you want it so that you will look lovely. That always is a problem but easily solved in our case. I located several beauty shops that were only too glad to help us. And it's such a wonderful feeling to have your hair combed out and styled on your head.

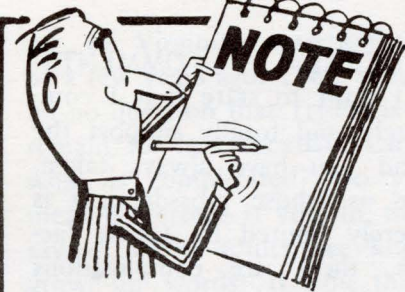
No one gave us any problem at all and the hotel personnel were especially courteous to us. The people at the restaurants, both diners and service people, were nice and when we were "read," we had no trouble.

So, sisters, do plan on coming with us for our next HOLIDAY EN FEMME in New Orleans in the latter part of MARCH, 1983. Exact dates can be furnished later as I make the

arrangements. There is the possibility that we can get four sisters in a suite for about \$20 a day per person. This is a fairly close figure. So price is not a problem, either.

The difficulty is that now we need to know how many of our sisters are going to come. The dates will be from March 30th to April 3rd at noon time. We mentioned the cost in a previous paragraph. I will need a deposit from you quickly in the amount of \$65.00. I cannot ethically take any money out of the TRI-Ess treasury since only a small percentage of the girls will be going. Thus, you need to send the deposit to me quickly. Your deposit will be refundable if you cancel out before February 1st, or if you can get a substitute for your spot.

So, please consider this right away and then drop me a note indicating your attendance and also include the deposit or a date when you will have it. The Hotel needs deposits. Please hurry!!



TRI-ESS

QUESTIONNAIRE

RESULTS

**AN EXCELLENT RESPONSE FROM SORORITY SISTERS -- 60% OF MEMBERSHIP
TOOK TIME TO RESPOND -- RESULTS TO DICTATE DIRECTION OF THE SORORITY**

At long last, your Editor and National Leader, can bring you up to date in the results of the questionnaire that was sent to the membership some months ago. The results of that questionnaire should cause some of you to be concerned about your present thinking concerning the direction in which the sorority should go. The results have also influenced me in many of my activities as leader of our national (now getting to be international) organization.

It is interesting to point out that many sisters were quite adamant about their feelings concerning some of the questions and they took the time and space to add comments regarding the questionnaire - comments which often went on for several pages. I was happy to know that our sisters had such strong opinions. This is not to say that there was not an "other side" to each question, because we did have some sisters on the "other side" who also were strong in their opin-

ions, even though such individuals were in a definite minority. It is my purpose to show you what people had to say on both sides of each question - regardless if I agree or not.

There were several questions which some people did not understand and I will take a little bit of time, now, to eliminate any confusion regarding the questions which were most confusing.

In question number one, we asked if the sorority should continue to be limited to the hetero UNCOMPLICATED male. The use of the word "Uncomplicated" really threw a number of sisters. Some felt that we were ALL complicated since we all crossdressed. Others were inclined to believe that the use of that word was "dumb," or "ill-used." There were a few other descriptions, too. However, for those gals who have been around for awhile and have read any of Virginia Prince's writings, you will note the word "uncomplicated" used in her

writings. All we mean by that word is that our type of crossdresser should not be into bondage, female domination, baby clothes, sado-masochistic and various forms of humiliation. Now you know what was meant and the word has real meaning.

Another question which did cause problems was number seven: Do you consider yourself a liberal or conservative regarding the practice of crossdressing: All I wanted to know from this was whether liberals support "open" organizations and whether conservatives support "closed" organizations. I actually did have a very important reason for the question. A few sisters, who always seem to think that they know better, managed to find fault with many of the questions - you know, those those who think they are intellectually superior. But they were wrong - I had definite reasons for such questions asked and if they might have been slightly vague, it is because I wanted the questions to be that

way. I had a reason for asking each question and I will cover that as we go along. Some people should not be so sure of themselves and think that they know more than do I. Anyway, here we go:

I will start first with a breakdown on the percentages of sisters who supported a particular "answer." In the case of question number one - Should Tri-Ess continue to be limited to the heterosexual, uncomplicated male - 87% of the sisters responded with a "Yes" answer and 13% replied "No."

Question two - If you belong to a chapter, would you be interested in accepting all crossdressers at the chapter meetings regardless of their sexual preferences? - 25% replied "Yes" and 75% said "No."

Question number 3 - If you belong to an open organization at this time, (a) do you unequivocally accept the membership of others in that organization regardless if they are gay, bi-sexual or transsexual? - 57% of the sisters replied "Yes" and 43% answered "No." Part (b) are there any negative aspects that you see in regard to your attendance at open meetings? - answers to this question will be given later in this breakdown.

Question number four - Would you attend a chapter meeting of Tri-Ess sorority if it was fairly close to you, but there was also an "open" crossdressers organization nearby? - 90% replied "Yes" and 10% said "No."

Question number five - Do you believe that all Tri-Ess leaders should support and promote the official, established policy of Tri-Ess sorority? - we had 98% say "Yes" and 2% say "No."

Questions number six - Do you see any negative aspects to

our limiting Tri-Ess membership to heterosexual males, outside of the possibility of smaller attendance at chapter meetings? - 9% answered "Yes" and 91% said "No."

Question number seven - Do you consider yourself a liberal or conservative regarding the practice of crossdressing? - 47% of the sisters answered "Liberal" and 53% answered "conservative."

Question number eight - What are some of the good points that you can see in accepting members regardless of their sexual preference? - we will handle the answers later on.

Question nine - Do you now belong to an "open" organization? - 23 sisters said that they belonged to the Alliance; eight said that they belonged to TVIC; 3 said that they belonged to Tiffany; six belonged to Paradise; 3 belonged to Shangrila; 2 belonged to the Beaumont Society; and one each belonged to: Sea Horse, Chameleon, Crossroads, Empathy, Transvestie, Outreach and "popcorns." (Ha!)

Question number ten - Regarding the proposed increase in dues (a) I agree that increased expenses make it necessary to increase dues - 96% agreed. (b) I do not agree that it is necessary to increase dues - 4% agreed.

That's a starter for you. We had almost 60% of the membership answer the questionnaire which is VERY good if you are familiar with returns on questionnaires sent out to people.

Now, to get more involved, I will give, in this section, some of the "general comments" as written by our sisters. I think that you will find them very interesting. Ready?

GENERAL COMMENTS:

"...I want to state that I completely and totally support the stand you have always taken. For us whose crossdressing is severely limited by family factors, there are complications enough in being what we are, and we need to support each other, without getting involved in other kinds of complications. It is much simpler and more helpful to stay exactly as we now are. It is not because one has no sympathy for the others. I suppose that I would be no more upset about the company of a transsexual than about any other woman; but, I can see how our wives and girl friends might be upset. When it comes to the gays, I have problems of a serious ethical and religious nature about accepting theirs as a legitimate "life style," however kindly I might feel towards them as persons. As for "open" organizations, I have refused to join them, partly because I would not find the same security as I find in Tri-Ess and partly because of the above factors."

"...aside from the natural curiosity of having homosexuals, bisexuals and transsexuals at our meetings, I would think that would be the last straw for many wives who are making an honest effort to understand their husbands and have been assured that their husbands are heterosexual. For a wife who is already unsure, insecure and searching for answers, she might well come up with the wrong answer. I believe strongly that our closet bond as sorority sisters comes from the fact that we have stuck to our own identity. Why do we have to try to be all things to all people?"

"What a questionnaire! You try to get specific answers with indefinite questions. It reminds

me of Virginia's questionnaire of a few years ago. There should be no question that Tri-Ess is to remain for heterosexuals. Carol, what is complicated? Do you mean perverted? If you do, than say it. We're adults, we know grown-up words! If you think it "uncomplicated" for a male to dress, look and feel female, then you better go back to your analyst and try all over again. I know about your story of the transsexual talking to a Tv's wife about "her boyfriend and her upcoming operation," but admitting other crossdressers to meetings would be educational to our group. Wives that are sympathetic to their husbands will want to meet other crossdressers and learn what motivates them." (Wow!)

"I belonged to Sea Horse and have seen them split up through fighting amongst themselves. I resigned because they did not respect my security and for including homosexuals in the membership. Let's face it - the homosexuals and transsexuals think of us as fools. They cannot see what we heterosexual crossdressers get out of it. The Chameleon Club in western Australia had much trouble from transsexuals and is now defunct. The so-called National Seahorse of Adelaide sought to take over all Australia from the original club in Sydney, but now they are split up with independent groups in some states and they do not like each other."

"As I understand it, you and Virginia formed an organization with certain restrictions. When I became a member, I accepted the rules you sent me. I have no interest in changing the organization. It appears to me that there is a very fine line between transvestism and transsexualism. However, there is a hellava line between hetero crossdressers and the gay and bi-

sexuals who crossdress. They do not go together."

"My point of view is that we need to belong to a pure heterosexual organization in order to be able to bring our wives to attend a meeting. It is not good that they would be able to meet a bi-sexual or gay person. We want to show our wives that one can be a crossdresser and not be gay or bi-sexual - or a transsexual."

"Though the number may be small, when you lump other crossdressers together with us (if we were to open Tri-Ess to all crossdressers), there would be no organization left to assist those that are strictly heterosexual. I can't say that I fully accept others when in their company, but I don't condemn or talk ill of them, either. Because of my super relationship with my wife, I fear that she'd come in contact with 'others' who are not like me. This could be a dangerous situation."

"There are any number of places when "open" members might go to get their kicks, but married members have few places to go where their wives won't feel out of place. Let's keep it that way. When Tri-Ess departs from its heteroself motif, I shall cease to be a member. When I become aware (as has happened) that a member was considering going the TS route, I would be quick to point out that it would be entirely up to him, but, that should he so act, I would be among the first to request his termination as a member."

"...I think that you are the ultimate leader of Tri-Ess and this you should be the one to make the rules. It is a big country and there should be room enough for all groups. Certainly there should be at least one heterosexual-only group like ours. Tri-Ess has a long and

proud history and I guess that it would be best to stay the way we are."

"I strongly object to including gays and bi-sexuals because they would complicate matters no end."

"While I don't want all types to be regular members, I do believe that occasionally there may be value in having a special invited guest of one of the other persuasions. Although I have met many gays and Ts people I have noted that they like to talk about their experiences. With most of our wives being so touchy on this subject, I never want that to happen at our meetings. Tri-Ess is the only group that I know about which has survived unchanged and is now larger than it was when I first joined."

"I believe in the purity of Tri-Ess and am proud that it has remained above the other types of "open" organizations. I have supported Shangrala but I have no desire to attend a mixed meeting - much preferring the singular purpose of Tri-Ess."

"If Tri-Ess becomes an "open" organization, I will no longer remain as a member."

"It seems to me that what happens in the privacy of the room or elsewhere, is up to the people involved. The problem is what happens when that expression is made public and thus causes problems for the other sisters and the society as a whole. Tri-Ess gave me a choice - no one forced me to join. It is my responsibility to be "true" to Tri-Ess. If I cannot abide by the philosophy of the sorority, then I have the responsibility to resign from the organization."

"I don't have to remind you that one of the prime functions of the sorority is to promote understanding and acceptance from our wives. When I joined Tri-Ess, my wife was

already most helpful. Even so, to be a part of a group that stressed our heterosexual orientation has had a very positive effect on our relationship. To a crossdresser whose wife is newly aware of the situation and is struggling with her own feelings, the sorority can be a godsend. To the wife who simply cannot accept the fact that the typical crossdresser does not fit the drag queen stereotype, the pages of the Femme Mirror can be very comforting. The gays, bi-sexuals and transsexuals have had organizations that cater to their specific needs. I strongly favor continuation of your policy that ours is a sorority for heterosexual crossdressers."

"...I believe that our present direction is the only way that I believe I can go. Any divergence from our present course/policy would cost me my marriage. I believe quite strongly that we should maintain the "purity" of goals."

"I believe that it is too difficult to place restrictions on a person's sexuality for admission into an organization, especially since it is irrelevant to what goes on at the meetings. It is, however, possible to set limitations on how a person should behave at a Tri-Ess function. If Tri-Ess becomes "open," I wouldn't want to hear about a gay or bisexual's sex life with their boyfriends - just as we crossdressers don't talk about our sex lives at meetings. I realize that the problem of opening up the organization is that it could scare off some of the wives and the wife is an important part of the sorority. I think it is up to the individual Tv to assure his wife that he is not gay or bisexual or a transsexual."

"I do not want to be associated with homosexuals and bi-sexuals - period!"

"The 'local' groups can handle the "open" situation better, but a national group like Tri-Ess is more useful in coaxing people out of the closet. If we were to become an organization that was "open," many people, just getting out of the closet, might end up going back in again."

"I prefer to keep Tri-Ess closed because of potential black mail and legal complications."

"As a new member of the sorority, I would like to state that I joined because the organization is very adamant about its heterosexual orientation. I would have great difficulty in belonging to an "open" organization."

"We can only set one standard which is at our meetings and as long as a person obeys these rules and respects our personal integrity and doesn't bring his private hobbies to our meeting, he should be accepted and respected like any other member."

"...in a high density area a restricted, straight hetero male Tri-Ess provides a valuable option where other options exist."

"If chapter leaders or members want to associate with "complicated" people, let them join an organization which accepts such people. If the rules are changed, the Directory would be plain dangerous. Almost certainly the loss of security would bring a heavy loss in hetero membership."

"It is my opinion that pre-op Transsexuals should be considered since they started the same way we all did and are struggling to gain some identity and need the friendships and social contacts our organization provides."

"As long as a non-hetero crossdresser keeps his practices quiet and does not try to influence others, I'm quite wel-

come to include them in activities and as a member."

"Though heterosexual, I belong to Tri-Ess and the GGA. Each has its place and Tri-Ess should stay the way that it is. Those who want to join another organization are free to do so. Why try to convert Tri-Ess into another GGA or whatever."

"I would not object to allowing membership to Transsexuals as it would be an opportunity to learn more about them. I would feel uncomfortable with people who are engaged in bondage, fetishism or the gay scene."

"I agree full and well with "Speaking Out" in the Mirror. However, I would like to add that I took a lot of time in finding this organization and in the process excluded a lot of mixed organizations. I need a hetero crossdressing contact, personally, but more important, hetero crossdressers need to show the public their real identity. I know that the general public believes that all crossdressers are gay! If such organizations as ours give way to the mixed social group type of organization, we will delay the public's recognition of the hetero crossdresser. Let's not blow it now just to show how liberal we can be. It's not worth it."

"I vote we should stay where we are now. I believe in allowing everyone to do their own thing, but our sorority has its past reputation to uphold. The whole concept of the sorority is to give the hetero crossdresser a place where they can feel that they are not alone. They know that they are not homosexual and meeting others like themselves gives them an assurance they couldn't get wise. There are some sisters that may have just spent months convincing their wives that they are not homosexual and then to

have the wife walk into an "open" meeting - well, you can guess what might occur. All that work goes down the drain, possibly even the marriage. There is no way that we can open up the sorority and abandon all that we have stood for in the past. I would rather be called a snob and hold onto what we have had for some time. If some want an "open" organization let them answer ads in the back of some of the magazines."

"I think that Tri-Ess is a bit simplistic in its hetero obsession. After all, the hetero member is engaging in gender symbolism that is traditionally associated with attracting the attention of the opposite sex, but in actuality he is sending the signals that attract the male sex (his own sex). This is basically a homosexual transaction."

"The diversity of the so-called "open" groups is a liability to their strength, if not survival. Organizationally, they wind up meaning less and less to more and more people, until eventually they mean nothing to anybody."

"As a general point, it does seem to me that if gays are entitled to organize clubs, then so are heterosexuals. But Tri-Ess has an unfortunate knack of appearing to be anti-gay."

"You just about said it all in "Speaking Out." The GGA is a good organization and has sincere people in it doing good things, but my own real home is Tri-Ess. Why would anyone want two GGA's. And what would we do (who want a hetro organization) if Tri-Ess went "open." I lived part of the time in San Francisco. Free-thinking as I am, I came to utterly detest some aspects of the "open" nature of gayness."

"I don't knock gays or the transsexual and am not one of

them -- but I believe that our sorority should remain as it is. I do not care to hear from who is gay or bi-sexual or a transsexual."

"In a nutshell, I like Tri-Ess just about like it is now. When I wish to write a hetero crossdresser I like to know that I'm doing just that - as best as we can scan them. Not everyone tells the exact truth, in an application, but on the whole, we do very well."

"An excellent questionnaire that you sent. Thanks again for the energy and caring you show on our behalf. Perhaps we need two distinct organizations under the Tri-Ess banner - a hetero one and a broader one for "advanced twism."

"I don't mind about homosexuals as long as they stay on their side of the fence. To mix them with heteros, there is always a chance for trouble, as proven in the past."

"For an occasional meeting of a Tri-Ess chapter, perhaps an open invitation could be extended to other than hetero crossdressers -- for an evaluation of different lifestyles."

"I'm in this socially. I enjoy being a woman for a time and I enjoy the interplay of the social activities possible in these meetings. I do not, however, enjoy being embarrassed either as a male or as a woman. Transsexuals don't bother me. I understand it and will support them when possible. On the other hand, the gays do "bug" me. From my experience, gays and hetero crossdressers don't mix well."

"Though I don't hold anything against our gay sisters and could personally accept them, I believe that I could much better gain cooperation from my wife if the organization remained heterosexual."

"I would like to say that

should the sorority opt for an "open" organization, they would lose this sister; I see no need whatsoever to open up and destroy what we all have worked so hard to achieve. Remember! Quality over quantity."

"The good work being done by Tri-Ess in helping hetero-crossdressers accept themselves, in helping educate their families, and in improving their public image, will be seriously damaged by inviting a wider spectrum of sexual orientations into the membership. Keep it simple."

"I joined Tri-Ess to help me solve and cope with my crossdressing and some of its built-in problems. I have been very happy with what I have received so far, but if the sorority becomes an "open" organization, I will drop my membership. I have purchased other magazines and literature pertaining to crossdressing which was nothing more than cheap sleeze and pornography. I don't want or need that kind of stuff."

"I would not wish to be regarded as an out-and-out reactionary but I believe that if we are to gain any measure of acceptance and respectability, the sorority cannot be an "umbrella" organization which accepts all kinds of sexual activity. Our efforts should be directed towards the improvement of the status of hetero crossdressers and not dissipated in trying to embrace all other aspects of the sexual spectrum."

"You and your staff are doing a fantastic job so please don't allow our grand sorority to change to satisfy the very few."

"I believe that having gays, bisexuals and transsexuals in our meetings would be like living under the same roof as your in-laws. I don't think that two families (or more) can

live together under the same roof."

"I believe that Tri-Ess can use a greater financial base so why not open the membership to others who might be interested regardless of their sexual preferences. Then leave it to the chapters to affiliate with whom they wish. You control the dissemination of information so you can direct it in any manner you wish and eliminate anything which would be in your view as undesirable. You might step on a few toes, but the loyal members will stick with you and be the ones you can count on to be the leaders."

"Although I personally know how I feel about cross-dressing, I also believe that most of the people who join our sorority do not really understand themselves. They feel safe by joining our sorority because of its limitations. They believe that they are normal crossdressers in the company of other normal crossdressers. I would bet that most of our members have bi-sexual thoughts from time to time since isn't the main part of being a woman, making herself attractive for a man and getting attention from him? I also believe that many of us do not become fulfilled by the closed door approach and thus drop out afterawhile. I don't believe that excluding others helps our members to understand themselves better. Most of our members only see what you show them and are not given a choice; the Femme Mirror only gives one side of the question."

"Let's continue with small groups that do not pose a moral or sexual threat to basic crossdressers. Policy direction change in order to accomodate gays, bisexuals and transsexuals is not in this writers interest."

Well! That was surely a can of divergent views. All of this "reasoning" was taken from the back of the questionnaire - where a number of sisters added their opinions to various things which the questionnaire brought up. The next thing that we will do is go into the actual questions themselves and add additional comments by our sisters. The general comments as you have read above, mostly revolved around the direction that the sorority is to take so we will not repeat those particular comments in question No.1. But I will present actual comments as written in and around the particular questions in the questionnaire. So here goes:

1. Should Tri-Ess Sorority continue to be limited to the heterosexual, uncomplicated male? The reason that I presented this question was to make sure that I was not going down one street while the majority of the members went down another. It is important to me to know how the members feel about this very basic question. I can't run an organization without some feedback from members.

"NO! But you should be selective about who receives membership. For example, people who join should receive recommendations from 2 or more members."

"Although 'uncomplicated' with a sexual qualification is a contradiction, Tri-Ess caters to people who must have that sexual qualification. This is, unfortunately, a necessary service. That is 'Tri-Ess' niche in the overall scheme of things."

"Please, Carol, delete reference to 'uncomplicated' males. The members of (blank) chapter are the most complicated individuals that I have ever met."

"Tri-Ess is undoubtedly the

best place for straight, married crossdressers to start. Its emphasis on helping wives understand the phenomenon of crossdressing is unequaled. It is primarily for that reason that I think that Tri-Ess should remain a heterosexual organization.

"Though the number may be small, when you lump other preferences together (if you decide to open Tri-Ess at all)) there will be no one left to assist those who are strictly heterosexual."

"I think that most crossdressers have some shared experiences whether gay or perhaps straight. I believe that transsexuals have a very different situation and that they should not be accepted into the organization."

"I believe that we should include transsexuals but not gays or bi-sexuals, or B&D's."

And, of course, we read of many of the 'General Comments' which included opinions about this question.

2. If you belong to a chapter, would you be interested in accepting all crossdressers at the chapter meetings regardless of their sexual preferences? The reason for this question was that I really have been confused concerning the opinions of those who belong to chapters. I know that we are not going to get chapters to "obey" the principles and philosophy of the sorority if they are not in step with the thinking of a vast majority of the membership. I don't believe that you can have two contrary sets of rules - one for the general membership and the other for those who belong to the chapters. I wanted to see if the sisters who belong to a chapter really stood by the principles as laid down by Virginia Prince and myself when

we started the sorority in 1976.

".....with reservations."

".....not all - they should be screened."

".....but not vulgar exhibitionists."

"a person's sexual preference is of no concern to me, but it would be to many others and thus to change policy would destroy the basic value of Tri-Ess to the crossdressing community as a whole."

"Sexual preference is a very personal thing and has no bearing on individual conduct and acceptability in the group."

"Personally, yes, but I say this after a few years out of the closet. Had I entered a Tri-Ess chapter of queens and others or been solicited at that time, I'd have been put off. This could detract from wives attending and clarifying what crossdressing means to them."

"I would not be interested in having gay people at chapter meetings. I work with gay people and although I like their friendship, I am still nervous around them. As far as people with other interests, like S/M, leather freaks, I do not want them at meetings. Although I might join an "open" organization, I doubt that I would stay very long as a member. I guess, to sum it up, I would like to see ONLY hetero crossdressers at a chapter meeting."

".....as long as they behaved as proper ladies at the meeting."

"Provided they conducted themselves in a totally non-sexual fashion and also that they not dress in gay "fashions." In addition, they should abide by all rules, as visitors, not members."

"No, except as a special guest for specific reasons. Even then I may choose not to show up at that specific meeting."

"As long as everybody behaved themselves and a party

atmosphere prevailed, it would be all right for other crossdressers to mingle with chapter members."

3.

If you BELONG to an OPEN organization, at this time, (a) do you unequivocally accept the membership of others in that organization regardless if they are gay, bi-sexual or transsexual? (b) Are there any negative aspects that you see in regard to your attendance at OPEN meetings? The reason for this two-part questions is that I was interested in how people, who DO belong to "open" organizations, really look and feel about that organization's acceptance of gays, bi-sexuals, etc. I had the feeling that many people who did belong to such organizations were not especially happy with the mixed components in that type of gathering. I also wanted to see how strong (loyal?) were the members of "other" organizations. I believed that lowering the bars, so to speak, does not invite strong loyalties among the members. However, I wanted to test my theory. I also wanted to see if these same people could verbalize what they saw as "negative" elements in such "open" organizations - it takes some courage and serious thinking for people to be able to say that there are things they do not like in such organizations.

".....the whole sum and substance of our sorority is to be able to visit with each other and, above all, to be able to bring our wives or girlfriends so that they can become acquainted with other crossdressers."

"I'm an advertising man. I don't attend Fisherman's union meetings, nor do Fisherman attend our dinner meetings. What do we have in common?"

"...I receive a sense of em-

barrassment - ranging from mild to extreme - at being present with people I would in other circumstances avoid."

"I would accept the membership of others as long as they are well behaved people."

"Concerning negative aspects of my attendance of "open" meetings, the fear of being associated with gays is very strong. In addition, leaks from membership lists, improperly handled mail, and the meetings themselves, pose a threat to my security as a hetero crossdresser."

"...I do not feel comfortable in the presence of those kind of people at the meetings that I attend."

"I do accept the membership of "others" in the "open" organization that I belong to. Sexual preference is not a factor in the acceptance decision. All members must uphold the basic rule of respect for other's rights and feelings, whether they are hetero, gay or bi-sexual, or anything else. I've never had a bad experience.....I don't mind being hustled by gays or bisexuals - I just tell them, 'no.' If they do not like it, I get more emphatic, even nasty, if need be."

".....the word 'unequivocal' is misleading. Sexual terms do not apply to a non-sexual organization - only to sexual organizations. I see no negative aspects in my attendance at "open" meetings. I will qualify this by saying that it depends on the organization - whether it is for friendship, swingers, bondage, Ts support, etc."

"Accepting the art of crossdressing is the whole point. I could care less whether they are gay or Ts. Regarding negative aspects, I learn a great deal from all types of crossdressers."

"I used to belong to an "open" organization but find that I am only interested in an

organization for hetero cross-dressers."

"Negative aspects -- not if the meetings are screened for undesirables, but would be very cautious, otherwise and probably not attend at all. I attend several "open" organizations, which also has some Tri-Ess members mixed in with the others."

"I view the lack of cohesiveness of the group as a negative quality in open groups."

"Sexual orientation is not the basis of admittance unless the person is looking for a sexual activity-oriented organization. I see no negative aspects to my attendance at "open" meetings as long as sexual activity is not the purpose of meetings."

"Regarding negative aspects of my membership in "open" organizations, I could get a bad image or reputation. I dislike the advances made towards me by other males. I also dislike the curiosity seekers who occasionally attend the meetings."

"...wouldn't feel comfortable with the gay people in attendance and certainly would not want my wife to associate with many who come to the meetings."

".....It's nice to mingle where you are accepted but my femininity is not to poke fun at women but, rather, to be accepted as one."

I am a member of several "open" organizations. It would be hypocritical of me to join an "open" groups and then look down my nose at 'others.' Negative aspects? Obviously it might upset wives and those who are uncomfortable around bi/gays types."

"I belong to an "open" organization but don't especially like the gays and bisexuals. I do accept the transsexuals."

4. Would you attend a chapter

meeting of Tri-Ess Sorority if it was fairly close to you, but there was also an "open" cross-dresser's organization nearby? In this particular case, I was seeking information about the possibility of developing Tri-Ess chapters in areas in which there were already "open" organizations. If the results showed that people would prefer to attend an "open" meeting rather than a Tri-Ess one, then it would be useless to put in the effort to help produce a chapter sponsored by our sorority. I guess that it was also a case of probing the loyalties of the sisters.

"I would attend both if they were on different nights."

"My decision would depend on who and what is happening at each group. I might attend both, neither or only one. It depends on the friendliness of the group, where the interesting people are, where the interesting program is."

"I would attend the Tri-Ess type meeting - with my wife. Tri-Ess is invaluable in providing a forum for wives and girlfriends to learn that crossdressers are as dull or as interesting as anyone else."

"Being a member of Tri-Ess and knowing its rules and philosophy, I would prefer the Tri-Ess group over the "open" group."

"I believe that "open" or "closed" meetings are not important to me. It's what is going on what counts. Although my wife will not attend any kind of meeting (so what she might be exposed to is not a problem to me) I can see that it could be important to someone else. I am offended by blatant public homosexual or heterosexual activities."

"I like Tri-Ess type people, but I wouldn't preclude attending open meetings either."

5.. Do you believe that all Tri-Ess leaders should support and promote the official, established policy of Tri-Ess sorority? I have noted, in the past, that some leaders are inclined to stray from the principles and policies of the organization. It is probably that they do not especially believe in them to start with. This is a dangerous thing, as regards to the stability of the whole chapter since such a leader could lead the whole chapter astray; In addition, I really wanted to know how strong the feelings of the membership are since if I have to tell a leader to shape up or give up the job, I wanted to be sure that the whole chapter would not walk off, being more loyal to the leader than the organization and its "rules."

"I agreed with the hard-handed approach of the old Virginia Prince group, but do not like the dictatorship by one person."

"Yes, they should support official policy. By that I mean that they shouldn't disobey or work against policies which are disagreeable to them. But they shouldn't be required to support those official policies with which they disagree. If they disagree with several policies, they probably shouldn't be leaders."

"Leaders are hard to find and should not be required to restrict their activities to Tri-Ess alone. (They aren't! Ed.) Tri-Ess is too narrow in scope to be of effective use to the paraculture as a whole."

"I think Tri-Ess can broaden its policies to encourage increased tolerance at the chapter level and headquarters should provide annual policy reviews with chapter leaders to avoid difficulties in the future....."

"Yes I agree, but not at the expense of truth! To pretend

that Gay Tvs only dress to get partners is inconsistent with what is obviously an enjoyment of femininity in at least one gay Tv that I know."

"Providing that the policy is clear to them with some flexibility to allow pre-op transsexuals after thorough screening."

"I cannot accept that a person gives up her right to speak her opinions or beliefs when she takes on her job. The leader should feel obliged to support the "party line," but she should also work to effect change in an orderly manner as her beliefs dictate."

"Yes, I am sure that such leaders agree to, at the start of their jobs, to uphold the policies of the sorority, and thus should abide by established policy. If they disagree they should join other groups or start their own."

"This should be true in any organization."

"All leaders should uphold Tri-Ess policies. Non-support can only hurt our credibility. If others have something else in mind, there are several other organizations that cater to their preferences....."

"Individual opinions will always surface and should be tolerated, but that does not mean that the policy towards having only hetero members has failed."

"I believe that one should always support, first, what she believe in and if it matches with the policies of the organization, fine!"

"Support and promote, yes. but when the policy is wrong or "behind the times," I will speak up and advocate a change - for the better."

6. Do you see any negative aspects to our limiting Tri-Ess

membership to hetero males, outside of the possibility of smaller attendance at chapter meetings? In this case, I was trying to bring out any reasons (especially those which I had not taken into consideration) that people had that were not covered in question No.1. I was very interested to see if there was much of an undercurrent of opinion towards limiting the sorority to hetero males. Let's see what people said:

I will preface the remarks by our sisters, by saying that most people thought there were few, if any, negative aspects. But I believe it is important to include some of the opinions that people added to help you see what was on people's minds. Most people answered with such things as "none whatsoever," and remarks like that. But some went farther and said:

"...it is the accepted policy to which we all agreed upon application for membership at the start."

"Yes, you are limiting your financial base."

"I think it is a pity to exclude any well behaved crossdresser, especially transsexuals."

"Many smaller Tri-Ess chapters have low attendance and this limits their attendance."

"A closed organization reinforces oppressive attitudes that many heteros have towards gays and it also means lost opportunities for interaction with folks who should be our friends and political allies. It also means a smaller membership - we lose veteran members who tire of the least common denominator approach of paranoids and we have a harder time in attracting new members. It also means a loss of activists - the paranoids are least likely to be active....."

"It requires that people lie about their private orientation

in order to remain socially acceptable."

"You limit the membership to a bunch of frustrated Tvs who can't face the real world of crossdressing."

"We are closing off opportunities to people who are "different.""

"... an open policy makes it hard to convince a wife that 'I'm not one of them.'"

"No negative aspects - this tends to reinforce the basic principles of Tri-Ess."

"We can't consider ourselves to be the center of the universe. Others, with a feminine bent exist and are lumped by society. We need to be friendly with all of our "strange" bedfellows."

"It's probably the best policy, generally speaking, especially if wives actively participate."

"Were I single and unattached I am sure that I could easily think of this as an undesirable feature because I would want to expand my scope. But I am married...."

"We are a unique organization and we should stay that way."

7. Do you consider yourself a liberal or conservative? I have always thought that liberals would be the people who would be willing to compromise just about any principle around. Following with this train of thought, I was sure that most of those who wanted to allow the organization to accept all kinds of crossdressers would be the liberals. And I was equally sure that those who were conservatives would be the ones who would uphold the principles of the sorority. Well, at least in this case, I was often wrong. I found that some of the best people upholding the principles of the sorority were liberals. On the other hand, I was also

surprised, and a bit disappointed to find that some of those who were conservative in many ways, also were quite willing to open up the doors and allow "other" kinds of crossdressers into the organization.

I did find, generally, that those who were married and had an understanding wife, were apt to stand up for the basic policies much more than married sisters whose wives were not cooperative or did not even know. I also found that many single sisters, regardless of age, were inclined to "lower the bars" and accept all as contrasted with those singles who felt the opposite. I guess that it is a case of how much does a person have to lose? Those with understanding wives appeared to have the most to lose and they were more apt to support the policy of 'hetero-only' admission. Whereas, those who were single, generally, or whose wife did not know or was not cooperative, appeared to have less to lose and thus they, generally, supported the 'open door' policy. Anyway, here are some of the remarks that were written on the questionnaire:

"A rather difficult question. I think that I'm a liberal crossdresser but I am not a liberal regarding the subject of 'open' meetings."

"Liberal - one has to work within the limits of existing society and thus way-out behavior is inimical to the objective of gaining a measure of acceptance."

"A liberal as far as attitudes towards what's OK for people to do. A conservative in terms of my own style of dressing and behavior."

"Very liberal - Tri-Ess is designed to cater to the sexually and socially conservative person and should continue to do so."

"I am flashy and can attract attention in a mud fight

and am not ashamed of it."

"Well, when you boil it down to that I'm not sure. I'm open-minded but I do like to dress in good taste, nothing wild." "Conservative. But how is this possible? Any avowed crossdresser who is "out of the closet," must almost have to be a liberal."

"What is a liberal? And what is a conservative? You cannot ask such a vague question and expect to get a sensible response."

8. What are some of the good points that you can see in accepting members regardless of their sexual preference? I asked this question because I wanted to be fair to the "other" side and thus hear what they had to say. It would also show me whether our sisters were actually uptight' about 'other' types of crossdressers. To wit:

"Open membership would diversify our interest, give us all viewpoints on the needs of those who crossdress."

"There is the possibility that we could become more clear about who we are if we are exposed to what we aren't."

"None, the trauma isn't worth it!"

"There are, in all fairness, some positive points which can be argued but the many negative aspects of this subject are of such magnitude that I feel consideration should not be an issue."

"Were I single and unmarried I am sure that I would find reasons to support people regardless of their sexual preference."

"It might promote tolerance and understanding."

"We would meet a variety of personalities and receive new input, new ideas."

"Exposure to other lifestyles and viewpoints can help to

break down fears and mistrust."

"We could be a more visible, formidable group to change society's attitudes towards us."

"No doubt one could meet some interesting people and have some terrific parties but that's not worth it to me."

"Possibly a larger membership, initially, although we would lose some members due to their nervousness about gay people."

"...more willing workers." "Members would get first-hand exposure to a wide spectrum of sexual orientation."

"Possibly a greater understanding of crossdressing motivations; but this would not overcome the inherent disadvantages."

"It avoids the misconception that Tri-Ess is anti-gay. A common feature of people with sexual abnormalities is that they simply do not know what they are. They are very confused and to reject rather than help such people, strikes me as irresponsible."

"It will create problems with wives and the rest of us."

"Sexual preference is none of your business. You should look at the person as a whole and how he benefits the organization."

"Probably more attendance and more interesting discussions."

So that is that! A good response, numerically speaking and lots of information gleaned to help me as I direct the organization. I hope that it also interested and enlightened you. With such a huge majority of those who participated wanting the organization to stay the way it is now, I could hardly go any other way. It would certainly be a case of me, your leader, walking up one street while the vast membership left me and went up another street.

Also I happen to believe, anyway, that Virginia and I were correct when we started the organization - keeping the membership restricted to the hetero male. Something that was never actually verbalized and which I know is consistent with the viewpoint of society is that homosexuality, in any form, is immoral and contrary to the western principles of civilization. I often think that those who are willing to allow the morality of homosexuality to slide by, are hurting themselves and society, too. Homosexuality is very wrong, immoral and an offense against nature.

Mant people have been seduced into using the word 'gay' in place of homosexual as if the act of sexual intercourse between two men is something joyous.

But for much of our history this act has been regarded as so abhorrent that it was referred to only as "the infamous crime against nature." And so it is, an offense against nature itself.

Lastly, heteros are often guilty of fornication, adultery, of lying and of stealing. But what is important here is that most of us admit our faults and work to overcome them - we don't clamor to cleanse our consciences by demanding that society legitimize our immorality. I believe that Tri-Ess members and the organization as a whole, has a right to condemn a practice or lifestyle that is not only patently immoral but unnatural as well. With all this said, you can see the foundation of the argument that Virginia and I have against accepting

homosexuals and bi-sexuals as members of the sorority.

I think that it is important that our sisters try to live the principles as laid out by Virginia and myself instead of finding all sorts of "reasons" for the "acceptance" of homosexuals, including bi-sexuals. We'll be a better organization for it.

NOTE: The deposit needed by those who are going to the New Orleans HOLIDAY EN FEMME in March/April is \$65. Please send this quickly if you plan to go.

A "Must See" Movie

Our Tri-Ess sisters are advised to see the move "Tootsie," in which Dustin Hoffman plays a woman. Hoffman plays the part of an actor who is having trouble finding work. He dolls himself up as a gal and gets a job on a soap opera. From the New York Times, we glean the following information:

"Tootsie has been filming at New York locations... It is at the National Video Center, on a set designed to look like a career girl's apartment, that Mr. Hoffman, or rather Miss Michaels, makes her entrance on this particular day. Nice legs, trim figure, fluffy reddish hair-do: the star looks terrific, and very much like a woman.

The scene calls for Dorothy Michaels to walk dumurely into her co-star's apartment and admire the decor, dropping her shoulder bag on a chair as she enters. This is because Mr. Hoffman's sloping shoulders are not accustomed to handbags, and the strain of carrying one makes him hunch over. Carrying a purse is the least of what he has had to learn.

Mr. Hoffman adds: ' It was part of my contract that I would not do it at all if I couldn't get a convincing screen test. I had no desire to do anything grotesque. But I love doing this, I feel really emotional about this character. She moves me, she just gets me. I think its an honor to do this, I think that everyone should do it. If it weren't such a hassle I'd never get tired of it. You couldn't get me home, I'd go out all the time. (We do understand, Dustin, we do). Be sure to see this movie, gals.' "



"Mother, don't worry. I'll be a good boy!"

HERE & THERE

On occasion we have had requests from sisters to include in a brochure, all of the information that is normally included in our Femme Shopper section of this magazine. Your Editor has also felt the need for some time but, as always, has had problems in getting the time to assemble that information "under one roof."

But, thanks to Janice, VA-203-S, we will soon have the Shoppers section in a booklet. It will include all information going back to the first ads. We are going to be delayed for a bit because I believe that we should write each firm and see if they are still interested in helping our sisters. There is nothing worse in sending one of our sisters into a store which is no longer friendly towards cross-dressers.

So, please be patient as Janice compiles the information and awaits for the return of letters from the firms which have previously appeared in the Femme Mirror. Thanks, Janice.

Concerning meeting other sisters while traveling, a sister suggests that "when a sister is traveling and wants to meet other sisters, then such traveling sisters should provide some lead time and a contact phone number and address -- not a Post Office box -- the trust and faith goes both ways." Our sister adds that if sisters are-not going to answer letters from other sisters, they shouldn't indicate thusly in the Directory. She says: "Am I to think that they have read the letter, looked at the picture and found me unworthy of writing to?"

Marille, ILL-300-S, says that in reading various articles,

she has come across letters from sisters who are having problems in locating understanding women friends. She says that she has talked about this to members of CHI chapter as well as other members and has come up with the suggestion of joining Singles or Dating Clubs - maybe even a computer type club. She believes that it is possible to indicate that you are a crossdresser without compromising your security - at the very start. She would like to know of the experiences of sisters who elect to try this method of meeting women who would be understanding. So would your Editor. It would certainly be a great way to help our sisters who are seeking understanding women.

Pictures, pictures, pictures. I get them all the time. BUT! I continually have the problem, especially with COLOR pictures, of having certain clothing blend right in with dark backgrounds. Avoid blues and reds against dark walls, etc. It is best to take a sheet and hang it up against the wall and then step in front of it for a picture. And even then, make sure that your clothing provides a good contrast. It is so difficult to print pictures with all the problems we have been experiencing these last few years. Black and White pictures are still the best, although, once again, a light background is still the best when it comes to reproducing the picture for a magazine. So let's get better with the quality of picture that you sisters submit for publication.

Your Editor would like to commend Joan, IL-6-C, for taking the time to compose a letter to Abbey Van Buren, the colum-

nist. It is through such efforts that we can gain attention and understanding. Thanks Joan.

Got a letter from a person who certainly is not friendly: "Please remove me from your mailing list. I never requested your brochure and this appears to be nothing more than a prank. I do not share your bazaar fetishes and will support all organized persecutions (!) against your society." I felt like bopping him.

Julie, MO-204-D has the following to say about using pictures along with your profile in the Directory: "It allows me to see how well the other person does in creating a truly feminine appearance. It communicates a greater interest in disclosing oneself to other sisters and in sharing. It suggests a sister who is also interested in photography as I am, and one who is likely to exchange photos."

DEAR MEG, a columnist for a number of newspapers, along the Dear Abbey line, recently wrote concerning a man who enjoyed dressing as a woman - he had been modeling women's clothes in his sisters's dress shop. He wanted some help and MEG replied, "..... A place to start, aside from your sister's shop, is The Society For The Second Self. It is an organization of heterosexual men who enjoy crossdressing (wearing female clothing), with chapters in many cities. The Society attempts to help members deal with the many problems they encounter over their clothing preference....." She even gave our Tulare address and we got a PILE of letters. So write those letters, sisters.



News About Tri-Ess Chapters

CHI DELTA MU GIRLS

CHI DELTA MU, located in the New York City area, has been one of the most active chapters that we have in the sorority. Under the leadership of Mary Jane NY-206-M and with excellent assistants consisting of Patricia CT-8-G and Nora Helene NJ-202-C, this chapter is only a little more than a year old and yet it is a growing chapter - doing much for its members in the way of education and social activities. They recently had a distinguished visitor, Dr. Judith Kuriansky, and her assistant, visit the girls. Dr. Kuriansky has a radio program and will devote a program dealing with our Chi Delta Mu girls. The girls do hope for a lot of publicity and increased membership.

The chapter, in the way of educating its members, has invested in several books dealing with crossdressing. Its leaders have also encouraged the placing of our index-cards in libraries. They expect to advertise in the Village Voice. This lively chapter is doing well and your Editor knows that our members wish them much success in the future.

CHI Chapter, located in the windy city of Chicago,



From L to R - back row
Frances, Joan, Felicity, Tina, Mary Jane, Patricia

From L to R - front row
Wilma, Edith (wife), Agnes (wife) Nora Helene

has been a chapter with a long history. Outside of Alpha chapter, it is the oldest chapter in the sorority. Its President is Mary Ann IL-203-B; the Vice President is Linda IL-16-S, and the Secretary is Donna IL-11-S. This chapter always seems to be doing something of interest. That

is why it has such a large membership. We learn from their newsletter that Kim DuPray, an electrologist, will soon visit the chapter. She is also a specialist in sculptured nails, nail wrapping, manicuring and general makeup. She will demonstrate these skills at the meeting. The group will



CHI DELTA MU GIRLS

Front Row - L to R

Frances, Nora Helene, Priscella, Dr. Kurionsky and assistant, Amy

Rear Row - L to R

Barbara, Linda, Wilma, Jana, Eileen, Marilyn (wife), Patricia



MORE CHI DELTA MU GIRLS

L to R

Felicity, Mary Jane, Tina, Wilma and Patricia

be attending a Halloween party and will have two tables next to the Judge's table. That will guarantee them at least one prize. They recently published a list of restaurants where Tri-

Ess members would be welcome. In September the group was invited to a special demonstration at Little Max's Shoe Store where shoes for those hard-to-fit girls can be found. The store

specializes in shoe sizes to 13 and in widths to EEE. This chapter always has quality leaders and it is a joy to your Editor to see their progress.

ALPHA chapter, located in the Los Angeles area, has had several outstanding gatherings this year. Earlier trips for dinner were held at the Top Of The Hillcrest, a beautiful restaurant located 10 floors high. They members also have been to the La Cage Aux Folles Night Club and Restaurant and plan to go again at the end of October. The restaurant has one of the very best female impersonator shows anyplace. The food is delicious and the waitresses are actually men and they enjoy kidding us along.

TRI-TEX Chapter, located in the Houston area, is a relatively new chapter but under most capable leadership has progressed very well. Your Editor was just informed that Melanie TX-214-T and her wife were just elected to the position of Co-Presidents. With such a portive wife, Melanie should do well. Your Editor would like to commend Judy TX-209-L for bringing the chapter to such a high state of excellence. She worked very hard for many many months to develop the chapter. Your Editor also thanks Vivian TX-205-M for getting the chapter newsletter out. The sisters have been out as a group to several places, including a restaurant. We hope that Melanie and her wife will be successful and help the chapter to grow and prosper. They have also placed books in libraries and used the special library index cards. All power to them.

FROM MARTIN TO MARION's central character is fifteen year old Martin Perkins. As the story opens, Martin is resigned to spending a rainy Saturday morning doing his lessons, but his widowed mother calls on him to stand in as her dressmaker's form in order that she might fit and alter her fall wardrobe. Unable to offer any reasonable objection, Mart is fitted with a foundation, hose and heels and spends the remainder of the day in and out of more than a dozen dresses, or in sheer nylon negligee between the fittings. By afternoon, Helen Perkins is taking her son's cooperation for granted as warranted by his interest in removing pins, pressing out hems, and hanging garments in the closet.

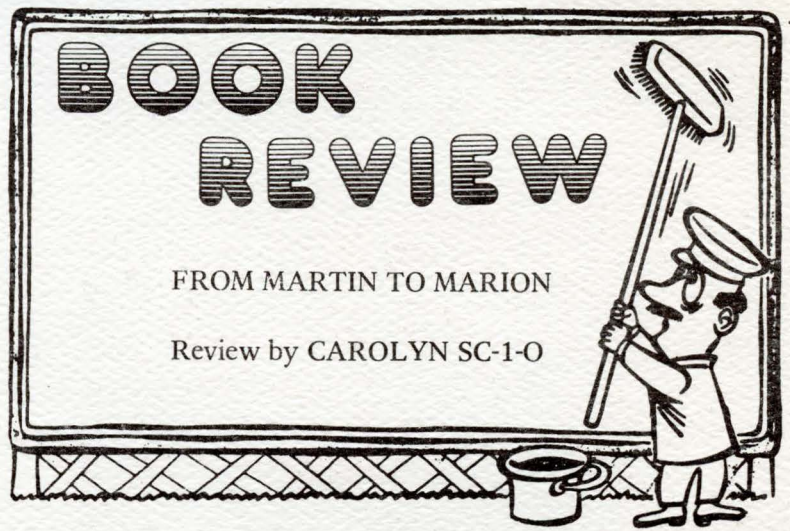
Martin agrees to help get the evening meal started before changing from the flowered print dress which was the last one to be altered. His mother's best friend, Marsha Shaw, also a widow, is to be their guest for supper. While Martin is setting the table, Aunt Marsha's beautiful sixteen year old daughter, Jean, bursts in to invite herself to supper. Unable to escape upstairs, Martin is mortified when Jean appears. But Jean's initial amusement turns quickly to warmth and genuine interest, and she offers cosmetics, jewelry, and a scarf to enhance his appearance.

Jean, who has just told all that she was through with boys, has never shown much more interest in Martin than common courtesy would require. Jean is popular and poised - quite the opposite of Martin - and the already growing interest Martin has in playing the feminine role is fanned to a flame by her attention and lavish compliments.

When Mrs Perkins enlists

Martin's aid again the following morning, he asks permission to wear the wig Jean got him from Aunt Marsha's dress shop. On his own he adds a modest amount of jewelry. His mother is taken back at first, but compliments him on how well he is bringing off the role of Marion, the name Jean had bestowed the previous evening. Jean drops in again, proposing that Martin be her date for the school's Halloween Ball and that they go as Prince John and Princess Marion. Mrs Perkins agrees to make the costume, and between fittings Jean insists that Marion, suitably attired, learn the latest dances for the ball as well as enhancing Marion's femininity with various changes of wardrobe and makeup.

By Christmas Marion has received dreamy gifts from both the Shaws. Aunt Marsha thinks Marion is exquisite and has been instrumental in allaying Mrs Perkins's qualms about some of Jean's schemes for Marion. The big surprise of the Holiday season is the Shaw's invitation to Marion to accompany them to New York City for a week. Aunt Marsha persuades Helen Perkins to allow Martin to make the trip. His mother has the hope that dressing as a girl for a full week will get Martin back into trousers.



Mrs Perkin's hopes are unfulfilled, however, so she summons Martin for a serious talk. Expressing her fears for Martin and her displeasure at his taking the greatest liberties at every opportunity, she lays down an ultimatum that he must abstain from dressing until he finishes high school, still eighteen months away. When Martin returns from school the following Monday, he discovers that all of Marion's clothes, cosmetics and accessories have been put away. He brings up the subject of Marion at times thereafter, but realizes that his mother is very adamant. Thenceforth, his pleasures would be limited to the photos of the Halloween ball and the excited recollections when his mother wore dresses that Marion had shared. Even Jean lost interest, a situation made even more difficult by her departure for a summer job and her freshman year at college.

Later Martin goes on vacation, after graduation, and lives fulltime as a girl. His mother takes on a manager's job in a dress store and Marion comes along as an assistant. Chevalier Publications deserves praise for reviving this long out-of-print book. Retail \$9.00 plus 15% postage

POET'S CORNER



PART-TIME GIRL
By Elaine CA-329-R

I've heard of getting a part-time job -
It's a normal thing to do.
There are part-time nurses, part-time guards,
And part-time waitresses, too.
Then I knew the perfect job for me,
Not part-time Duke or Earl;
Oh please, won't someone hire me
To be a part-time girl?

Give me, please, some time each week,
A few short hours, that's all.
Give me a feminine wardrobe, too,
And I can have a ball!
Give me a body, short and slim,
And some long and silky hair.
But take away my beard and such,
and leave no stubble there.

Give me a party to attend,
And a beautiful gown to wear.
I'll shave my legs and paint my face
And dress myself with care.
I'll trim and polish my long nails,
And then make one more stop.
I'll grab my purse, slip on my heels
And go to the beauty shop.

I know these things cannot be mine,
At least that's how it seemed,
Just wishful thoughts and fantasies
And unobtainable dreams.
So, I'll break out my wig and such
And do the best I can,
To try to be a part-time girl,
While being a full-time man.

CINDY CT-101-V, writes that
her girlfriend wrote the following
poem to her : I LOVE HER!

He lay in my arms,
His Auburn Curls
Caressing my burning cheek.

I bury my face
Deep in those dear curls
Inhaling the fragrance of him.

He is not mine,
and yet he is.....,
This strange creature
Boy and Girl.

He removes his blue jeans and
Plaid Flannel shirt
exposing pink silk panties.

On goes the camasole,
Black and Lacy.
Purple garter belt, black fastenings,
Black net stockings,
Heels, black again.

Silk Pink flowered dress,
Over the head,
The piece de' resistance.
Powder, lipstick, mascara,
Such are the things of which she is made.
.....and, oh, I love her.