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NEWSLETTER EDITORS  
Helen  
and  
Wilma Thordsen

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Hi Girls:

The weather was nasty, but we had some of the girls here to chat with. I know that it is hard for some of the girls to make all the gatherings, so I will say here that we miss not seeing the girls. I think Wilma and I got a bit spoiled when the girls were coming pretty regular for awhile. With the economic situation and some of the girls out of work sure makes it hard to come to the meetings. Maybe some day things will get a bit better and give the girls a chance to live again as they like.

Glad to see Dee come back after a five year absence. She looked good and is in good health. Dee has had an operation since she was last here, but you will read more about it in next month journal as she will write an interesting letter so you gals can read.

I will take this time to thank Pricilla for the maple syrup she brought for the girls. It is something she likes to do and I'm sure the girls that take the syrup appreciate it. I am happy to see Betsy come with Pricilla as I know it sure makes Pricilla feel great to have Betsy by her side. I am glad that the girls that come here are so well behaved that when a T.V. brings his wife for the first time she does not get the wrong impression of what these girls do when they meet with one another. It means alot to both the T.V. and to Wilma and I, we do try to set a good example to the wives who are trying hard to understand why their husbands have the feeling for dressing. I know it isn't easy for a T.V. to break the fact that they dress to their wives as some of them ask me how do you tell your wife. I as an understanding wife cannot know what goes on in the minds of other wives. Some wives have moral standards and will not budge from them, while some others at least try to be a little open minded and see what they can learn to better understand what is it that makes their husbands a bit different than others. It is really something that is hard to explain as most T.V.'s don't really know why they have to dress. It would be the same as they would want to know why do women watch all the soaps during the day. There just isn't a good answer. I know it is a hard thing for a young person to accept their husbands for what they want, especially when there are children in the family they are afraid that it may cause confusion in the childs mind, will they be able to cope with it or will it in some way make them backwards with their family and friends. Would they be able to bring their freinds home with out fear that their father will be dressed and how will they explain it to their friends. Think about it friends especially those with children and if you have an easy way of letting the children know I would appreciate your letting me know. I only had the one girl and she was old enough to understand so I really didn't have a problem.

Before I forget I better tell you about the girls that were here. Dennie and Michelle Ann from Sommerville, Mass., Pricilla and Betsy from Scotia, N.Y., Pricilla and Eileen from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Francis from Rochester, N.Y., Dee from Rochester, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Alice from Colonie, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y. Jo Ann from Monroe, N.Y., Susan from Troy, N.Y. Wilma and I.

The meal for the girls was an Italian night. Baked Lasagna, stuffed eggplant parmasian, meat balls, hot sausage, peppers and onions in sauce, toss salad, italian bread and butter. for dessert was fruited jello and cookies.

Next month Elanda will miss as she will be traveling again on her job. She will be in Greece, Italy, and Germany, it sure is a good job when you can get to travel and see the world and get paid for it too.

Another couple who may not make it will be Betsy and Pricilla as they are going to celebrate their twentieth Anniversary. Have fun you too and enjoy as life is to short.

Thanks to all for help in the kitchen it makes it a lot easier when you have been on your feet all day.

I'T is hard to believe that it will be 5 years since Michelle Ann and Dennie had their big wedding here in our home. It sure was a lot of fun then and each year that goes by makes it that much more memorable.

There will only be two more gatherings before we have two months off for the summer, so those of you who want to be together can plan on the next two.

Well I'll say goodnight for now and God Bless you all and keep you in good health and spirits untill we see you again.

Love to you all

Helen

TRANSVESTISM IN THE MALE:

As with many other minorities, the majority of TV's are not recognised as such by the public simply because they are not seen cross-dressed in public. Some of those that are seen by the public cross-dress in order to attract a sexual partner. Of these, there are the commercial ones (the street male hookers) and there are the non-commercial ones (the drag queens). Hence because of the visibility of these TV's, the term transvestism has in mind of the public become associated with a sexual motivation and compulsive behaviour, neither of which are usually the case.

The term "crossdresser" is preferred by many to avoid this latter connotation.

Thus it is necessary to clear up the most common public misconception about us, namely that all TVs are gay. The proportion of gays in the TV-culture is approximately the same as in the "non-TV-culture", about 10% in each.

The majority (the remaining 90%) of TV's are heterosexual, most being married and have children.

Most of us are born completely male or female. There is no such sharp polarity when it comes to gender identity. There is a whole spectrum of masculine and feminine characteristics in both sexes. If not constrained by ones environment, many of us (the public at large) would naturally become quite androgynous. Androgyny is a behavioural term referring to external expression of both masculine and feminine characteristics.

Those of us males who have a significant amount of femininity in our make-up, obtain a great deal of personal happiness and sense of well-being when we have the opportunity to express this femininity. One obvious way to do this is to dress in a feminine way, and try and make our appearance reinforce our internal feelings.

Society being what it is today, most of us (both sexes) role play in order to gain acceptance from our peers. Most men are restrained by family, friends, society, and/or employers to adopt what is currently fashionable as a "male role". The potential TV therefore, when given the opportunity to crossdress, tends to swing to the opposite extreme, attempts super-femininity, and often becomes stereotypical.

These restraints, if not periodically released, are found to cause a build up of tension in the individual involved, which in turn causes emotional problems between him and his family or lover. We regard the suppression of the opportunity to express all sides of ones personality, with its resultant build up of tension, to be unhealthy. We consider it to be mentally healthy (and not "sick" as some of the public want to claim) to periodically provide an outlet for the release of the tension. We regard it as a valid alternate life style.

Many psychiatrist today prefer to help TV's to accept themselves as they are, to overcome their feelings of confusion and guilt, rather than to try and cure them. Attempts were made in the past to "cure" TV's by techniques such as aversion therapy. But by the arguments given above, surely such methods of suppression can only cause harm in the long run.

Because of current attitudes of the public towards transvestites, you are not likely to see the more typical or "average" TV on TV! He has too much to lose. He risks losing his job, his wife, and/or his social life (not necessarily in that order!) Thus those "samples of the TV-culture" that you will see on television are likely to be either those who have nothing to lose, or else to be "professional TV's".

Examples of the professional TV are Virginia Prince of Los Angeles, and Ariadne Kane of Boston. Both have made numerous appearances on television and have lectured at seminars etc. They do a fine job educating the public about crossdressers, but they make a living that way and they do not appear on camera for nothing.

There are groups that exist around the country that are not for an educational or social purpose, but also for a humanitarian one, to try to reach those lonely newcomers who think that they are the only one in the world with this problem, or those who know of no safe outlets for their crossdressing. They provide a place to go where one can talk with peers about, say, the confusion, the guilt, the doubts, one feels. They help TV's to cope with themselves. Many groups encourage the wives to come along to meetings as well, so that they can talk amongst themselves, learn about the phenomena, and provide mutual support.

Why is a TV a TV? The motivation usually discussed in Medical literature involve (A) parent wanting a girl and bring up a boy that way. (B) Keeping a boy in dresses and curls to an unusually late age. (C) Not having adequate father figure to emulate. (D) Having a father who demanded so much masculinity of an intellectual, sensitive or artistic child that he took refuge in femininity where he felt more at ease.

PARTY DATES:

The next 3 party's will be held on May 21 - June 18 and Sept 17

NEW MEMBERS:

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

ARLENE A.....ALBANY, N.Y. and SAMANTHA T....HUNTINGTON, TENN.....

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO

Mack [REDACTED]	MAY 2	Richard [REDACTED]	MAY 17
Kerry [REDACTED]	" 2	Renne [REDACTED]	" 26
Rebeca [REDACTED]	" 9	James [REDACTED]	" 30
Esther [REDACTED]	" 10	Helen [REDACTED]	" 30
Carol [REDACTED]	" 15		

HAPPY ANNEVERSARY TOO

MR. & MRS K. [REDACTED]	MAY 11	MR. & MRS P. [REDACTED]	MAY 17
MR. & MRS H. [REDACTED]	" 16	MR. & MRS D. [REDACTED]	" 25

SPECIAL THANKS

TOO Muriel White, Marlyn Chaplin, Paula Davenport, Arlene Acosta, Samantha Tayloe, Jenifer Eaton for the extra \$ for postage

TOO Muriel White, Marlyn Chaplin for the lovely pictures sent in for the album

TOO Muriel White for the cartoons for the Journal.

QUESTION OF THE MONTH:

How does one develop a voice that sounds feminine? (many members are awaiting your answers, so lets have them.)

TRANSSEXUAL VOICE:

A news letter written by and about transsexuals. - Free personal adds. - \$2 per copy. - Payable to Phoebe Smith, 764 North Ave., Hapeville, Ga. 30354

CORRESPONDENCE WANTED:

New member seeks correspondence. Jim McHenry, RD #1, Box 76, ANGELICE, N.Y..4709

REST IN PEACE:

One of our members Eleanor from York Springs, Pa. passed away last December. I hear her family was terribly upset and hurt over their findings of clothing, letters, pictures, TV magazines etc. Only 2 people in her family knew of her dressing. Maybe her family will find peace as she rests in peace.

FIRE:

One of our long time members has lost her home by fire and lost all contact with others due to the fire burning up her address etc. If you have known or corresponded with SAMANTHA please do so again at this new address. S.A, [REDACTED]

WIVES

Continuing my study of wives, my main conclusion is they are full of surprises. Mine is a puzzle addict, and when I failed to produce the usual number this past Christmas she said, "Don't worry, I'm Married to one!", which made me feel better for a little while. Is that why she is relatively tolerant of TV's? I do think I know one thing that is Very important to them; they want to be Taken Out to Dinner. Each word is important, too! Taken means by a man (a girl even one seven feet tall, is no fit substitute) and being able to display him as her escort; this has great symbolic virtue. Out is very important; just because she has almost ruined your bank account and her health is getting the "rest" just so, doesn't mean she wants to Stay in it! By that time, she's probably nauseated by the whole place, so Out!! ~~BYE BYE BYE~~ And, finally, to Dinner, is again symbolic; it matters not that the food is over-priced, ill-prepared and served by an anthropoid ape, at least she didn't have to plan, purchase, prepare and serve it. So do your duty, girls. Turn on the brother and see that he does it with a smile!! My wife came home and said to me, "I got a good bargain. I got 4 white wall tires." I said "What the hell's wrong with you, you don't have a car." She replied "what the hells wrong with you, YOU WEAR BRASIERS. Like I said that's our lovely wives....."

ELANDA M. Says; She doesn't mind men who kiss and tell, at her age she needs all the advertisinf she can get.

Dear Wilma,

In the February 19th issue of the Journal I saw the thoughtful letter sent in by Germaine Hahn of Vermont. She does raise a good many subjects for discussion, more than I could comment on here. But I would like to say a couple of things in regard to her query: Where is transvestism headed?

Based on my own forty-some years experience crossdressing, both clandestinely and within sympathetic groups, I have come to the conclusion that transvestism, as a serious facet of our lives, is simply not viable. It is only viable as a comic facet of our lives. Why? Because the design of clothing and other bodily adornments are directly related to one's true sex and body configuration. I know it is a frustrating anomaly to this rule that many females can adopt articles of male clothing with impunity and even great success. But most males really do look out of their league in female attire-- hence the word "travesty" in our language. It's almost like a one-way street. Picture Judy Garland in a tuxedo for a number. Now picture her male partner in an evening gown. The tux can be re-engineered for the female figure but not the dress for the typical male figure. Male attire befits the strength of the average male while female attire bespeaks the relatively delicate structure of the female body.

I will get back to this in a minute, but first I want to point out that males and females attract each other for the purpose of sexual contact, intercourse and procreation. Each person has to make his or her case to that end. They may employ a variety of means, but for the sake of argument I will call these means "advertising". By word, deed and appearance we are advertising our personal wares. When we encounter a person we take into account all the signals (advertisements) that other person is sending out. Are the signals "good" or "bad"? Are some signals, however few, contradicting the rest? It may seem that I'm trying to reduce these human transactions to an algebraic equation, and that probably not too far from the truth. Have you ever seen a "lady" shopper in a mall that does not "pass"? Perhaps you solved the pluses and minuses of the equation and found that "X" equals "transvestite out for a shopping trip".

In other words, some incongruity belied the true sex of the shopper. Here is a person crossdressing while engaged in a serious activity (shopping). Human beings, because of their strong traditions of sexual apartness, do not want to accept that person as a "lady". Perhaps, then, the person might be derided as a travesty of a female, the butt of remarks or laughter. Traditionally, transvestism has been accepted on a comic or joking basis. It's fine as long as everyone, in the

end, realizes that the crossdressing is only employed for purposes of humor. After all, humor is founded on the contradiction of the expected outcome. In general, crossdressing in show business only reinforces our sexual dichotomy and re-affirms our traditions. In the case of Judy Garland's re-engineered tuxedo our sexual instincts are titillated by the challenge of the "borrowed" clothing. Note that Judy is not concealing her true sex.

It then appears that as long as human beings evaluate their fellows on the basis of their instinctive sexual rating system, it will be difficult for transvestism to find a niche on the serious side of life. Of course, Dustin Hoffman's \$4,000,000 remuneration for his "Tootsie" role is fairly serious stuff. So, in the end, it's comic relief--O.K. But don't try to challenge the basic bio-chemical reactions of the human race. After all, if the male transvestite is advertising with "female signals", what does he expect to get?

Goodnight for now ...and don't forget to remove all traces of mascara!

Pat W.

Carol Taylors' UndieWorld

by: carol

Dear Ladies:

Are you like me, a catalog "junkie"? I must get every intimate apparel (never could spell that one) catalog printed. I've been getting them for years and I've noticed a few interesting things. They must know that most of their catalogs are ordered by TVs that rarely order anything but instead just sit around and drool over the models and wish like hell they looked like that! They used to send them free, now they charge. It seems you sort of subscribe to these catalogs, as you would Penthouse or (hopefully) Playgirl, because after about a year, by golly, they stop coming (and so do I) and it's necessary to send in another one, two, three or even more dollars to enjoy more issues of beautiful females in beautiful lingerie. I think I've been an active reader of Glamour, Madmoiselle (how come I can spell that and not apparell?-easy, the magazine is in front of me), Cosmopolitan, Vogue and other magazines divoted to femininity for 20 years. I read 'em cover to cover every month. I go so far as to clip all the ads for intimate stuff (that was a cop-out) and file them. I own, at last count, about a hundred brassieres, just for starters. I Own every Bali, Olga, Warners, Maidenform, Vassarette, Vanity Fair, Carnival, Formfit, Gossard, Jantzen, Kayser, Lovable, Playtex, Poirette, Bestform, ExquisiteForm, (whew) bra, girdle and merry widow on the market. Garter belts? I must own 30, in every imagineable style, fabric and color. Same goes with stockings, camisoles, tap pants, panties. I have a great selection of waist cinches, merry widows, teddies, and padded girdles. A full 34B doesn't need many padded bras but I have quite a few, and push-up bras too

SO WHY DO I SUBSCRIBE TO EVERY LINGERIE CATALOG AVAILABLE ?????

Beats me, I guess, like you, I love 'em! I thought it might be nice to list a few of the catalogs, in case you don't already subscribe, and tell you a bit about them. Maybe you will learn something, and laugh a bit too.

Fredericks WOW what can I say, in-up push up pads, secret circle bras, clingy knits, backless fronts and cheeky bottoms, he uses air, foam rubber, extra skin, bones, Lycra, underwires and Profile Cups (tm) to create a body that still can't come close to the drawings in the catalog. Lots of fun but few women, less tv's could look like that. He doesn't make too much in our size either-padded girdle is OK and if you can get the lingerie to fit, good for you, but you won't look like the catalog...

Intimate Affairs Wow SAVE YOUR MONEY, unless you need liquor flavored body oils, or enjoy seeing older, chunky, men and women in completely rediculous (how about bare breasts poking through malibou, oops thats maribou (furry) trim, or mens pants that say "home of the wopper". Even a poor selection of vaginal and anal vibrators!

Bedroom Fantasies is a small step above Intimate Affairs, a small step! If your into G-strings this may be worth the price, an impressive selection. otherwise the satin basque or camisole may be the only thing worth looking at.

Victorias Secret SPEND YOUR MONEY! and lots of it but this one is the BEST..I have gone so far as to write them and say how very much I enjoy their things. This is a collection of the best lingerie in the WORLD with heavy concentrations on satin, lace and designer names most people never heard of- Prima, Ora Feder, Givenchy (OK so you heard of that one) Sami, Iris etc, etc. Yet she has enough sense to add the Flexnit A-OK line of A cup bras, perhaps in response to my letter that we tv's felt a bit left out. Oh there's a \$440 gown and tap pants can easilly run \$60 (one silk pair is over \$100) BUT don't run away yet, there is plenty of great lingerie and bras, panties, garterbelts and delicious stockings that are expensive but affordable and very worth it. My \$135 Prima merry widow in lavender is my prize posession.

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Dear Helen & Wilma:

In response to the propced question of the month. "How can a male find adequate employment as a woman?" Ans. They don't.... "How do others succeed?" ANS. Most don'T, some marry and others revert back to working as a male. Among female executive such things as heart desease, heart attack, high blood pressure, baldness, alcoholism are on the rise. I don't think employment among females will be bright due to the fact that the ERA ammendment was defeated, society has cast its wote, there not ready to let females stand even-up with men. That is a damn shame. JANET F. EAST ROCKAWAY,N.Y.

WILMA: Janet, "When did you first start dressing?"

JANET: "Well one day my wife found a pair of lace panties that were not her's; in our car. I quickly lied that I was a TV and went into the house and put them on. So help me, I liked them so much I've been doing it ever since.

FACT: Any experienced woman who had to buy a bra before 1939 may recall that untill then there was no such thing as cup sizing.

If you see an interesting article in a magazine or newspaper, don't assume we already know about it. Send it in and we'll pass the information on.

Dear Wilma:

I recently read in one of the masscirculation magazines about a new procedure in Japan which supposedly adds two inches to the bosom in a few minutes. According to the article, the process merely invloves simple injection by hy-prodermic of a solution of liquid silicone oil. The claim was made that this was non-injurious and no harmful effects have been reported. What is your opinion of such an operation? CAROL B. \*---CHAMBLEE---GEORGIA.....

Dear Carol:

Despite the claims made in the article such a procedure would seem to be inadvisable until more experience has been gained to judge the later effects of such injections. The effects might not show up for many years. The injections of large quantities of oil could constitute a rather long-lasting irritation of the breast tissue, which in turn might react badly, involving the danger of malignancy. As far as I know the medical profession as a whole has notyet endorsed any method of enlarging the breasts as being completely safe and reliable although many plastic surgeons claim good results.....WILMA.

Dear Wilma ;

I am six feet tall weigh 200 pounds and look like a football player. No one would ever suspect I am a transvestite. I don't think I am an "odd ball". I acceptra this fact of my personality as an outlet for my tensions. Every body needs some outlet and crossdressing happens to be mine. My hang-up is limited mostely to wearing women's panties or pantyhose, wich I do every day under my street clothes. If I am alone during the evening, I sometimes dress further. I have been married for 10 years and although my wife is not particularly happy about my outlet, she tolerates it and never says anything. The problem is this! We have a four-year-old son and are expecting another child soon. How do we handle the situation? ...FRANCIS G...HONOLULU.....

Dear Francis:

I see no reason for the children to be told. It would only confuse them. This matter is strickly personal. It involves on one but you. Keep it to yourself. WILMA.

Dear WILMA:

Why are Female Impersonators sometimes called DRAG QUEENS? PAULA A..CRETE..ILL

Dear Paula:

You gave me a little reserch on this question.. The term comes directly from England, and stems from a little known thery that the personge history has recorded as Queen Elizabeth of England, was actually a Man! "The Virgin Queen" also known as the "Besley Boy" was the illegitimate son of Henry VIII's own natural son. The Duke of Richmond. He posed first as the dead Princess Elizabeth, his cousin, this was originally to overcome a temporary difficulty, and then was compelled to keep up this impersonation the rest of his life. Wherever he traveled, he carried with him no less than 80 different wigs to assist him in his disguise. And he would not reveal his body even to the court Doctors at any time, lest they betray the carefully garded secret. All evedence seems to indicate that this is all true....WILMA.

Dear Wilma:

I am 38 married with ~~ax~~ 3 lovely children. I am also a crossdresser. I would like to know where I can get hormones to give me a larger breast. TINA A....WITCHITA~~E~~ ....KANSAS.....

Dear Tina:

If you have a husband and wife lationship that is satisfactory for heavens sake don't kill it by taking hormons. Any doctor will tell you that female hormons will definitley weaken and depending on dosage, may completely cancel out your male effectivness and drive. On the other hand if sex, plays no role in your home life whatsoever you can try them under a doctors supervesion and maybe you will developpe a marvelous bust. Hormons are fine if you aim is to desicate more and more of your time to dressing and to live a good part of the time as a women. But if you must still be and maintain a masculin life you can not do this by taking hormons. And remember there are two things that hormones will not do; erase your beard or give you a feminine voice. WILMA.

Dear Wilma:

A few years back I had a little experance I'll never forget. One day I went into a hardware store as a male to buy something. An elderly clerk waited on me and he was courtious and that was all. So a week later I went to the same store in femme to see if I would be reconnized. I was waited on by the same clerk and he almost fell over himself in being courtious. So I guess it shows that if a good job of makeup and dress is done one can pass freely..PAT B.-LA.

NEWS: A police report mentioned that the highest incedence of thievery is in the girdle manufacturing bussiness. Surprisingle, it is the male employes who swipe the giēdles as a gift for their wives, girlfriends and THEMSELVES.The procedure is for the male worker to slip into the girdles and wear them home under his pants.

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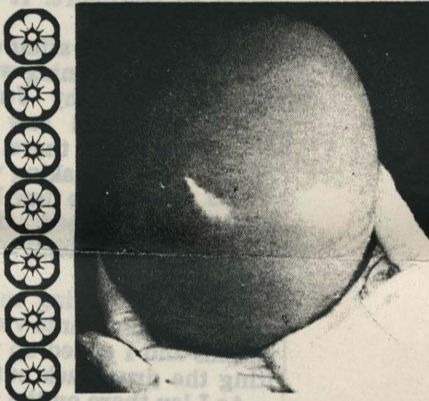


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Size Chart (breast forms are sized 1-7)

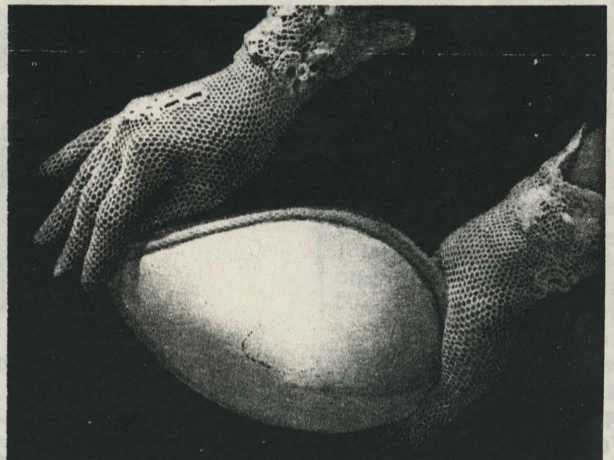
Bra size	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
A-cup	1	1	1	2	3	4	5	6
B-cup	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	6
C-cup	1	2	3	4	5	6	6	7
D-cup	2	3	4	5	6	6	7	7



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Size Chart (breast forms are sized 0/2-11)

Bra size	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
A-cup	0/2	3	4	5	6	7	8
B-cup	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
C-cup	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
D-cup	5	6	7	8	9	10	11



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No. 5930, C cup No. 5940, D cup

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Size Chart (breast forms are sized 1-10)

Bra size	30	32	34	36	38	40	42	44
A-cup	1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
B-cup	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
C-cup	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
D-cup	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10



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No.C4



# I Changed My Sex Twice in a Desperate Search for Happiness

took about six months before I was able to grow a fairly decent beard. One night I went out to dinner with a pretty date, and I wore a fake moustache. The steam from my hot soup loosened my moustache. It slipped

By JERRI SOUSA

Only three months after giving birth to my son, I underwent sex-change surgery to become a man — and for the next 13 years I experienced everything in the role of a man that I'd ever dreamed.

I took my son to baseball games and I heard him call me "dad." I courted a beautiful woman.

But achieving my fantasy of becoming a man never quite lived up to my expectations. And there came a day when I knew I had lost far more by changing sex than I had ever gained. I realized that — at best — I was only a male impersonator.

Now for the first time in my 44 years I know what I am and who I am. There's no doubt in my mind — I'm 100 percent woman.

But let me start my incredible story at the beginning.

Very early in life I began to feel I'd been born in the wrong body. On the outside I was a girl, but deep inside I felt like a boy. I preferred jeans and T-shirts to dresses. My mother practically had to tie me down to slip a dress over my head.

I can remember my first adolescent crush at age 12. The object of my puppy love: another girl! I'd follow her around and beg to carry her books home from school.

Oh, how I wished I could be a boy so I could kiss her.

By the time I reached high school I was totally confused about my sexual identity. My inability to "fit in" as a girl made me sick with anxiety.

After high school, I met a boy who wanted me to be his wife. All the girls were getting married, so when he proposed I accepted.

I cared deeply for my husband and enjoyed making love with him — but I couldn't relate to him as a woman. He was in the Air Force and was often away from home. It was during one of his tours of duty overseas that I had my first lesbian affair.

It opened up a whole new set of feelings for me and led to the breakup of my marriage in 1967. I was left with two daughters, Meredith, then 8, and Louise, 1.

Following the divorce, I alternated between lesbian and heterosexual affairs. I thought I'd be able to work out who I was through sex.

In 1969 I had a son, Andrew, out of wedlock. But by then I was living with a lesbian lover and had already made my decision to become a man. I was still nursing Andrew when I had my breasts removed. I was 30

and began taking male hormones and dressing as a man. I even had my name legally changed to Jerry. It



SEX CHANGE NO. 1: After giving birth to son Andrew, Jerri changed to a man and Andrew called his parent "dad."



BEFORE SEX CHANGES: Jerri at age 20 in a gown.



SEX CHANGE NO. 2: Jerri became a woman again last year and now her son Andrew calls her "mom."

down on my lip. How embarrassing!

About five years into my role as a man, I had a total hysterectomy.

Since Andrew really never knew me as a woman, calling me "dad" as he grew up was no problem for him. But Meredith, who was 9 when I changed, was devastated. She identified with her mother. And by becoming Jerry, what I had done essentially was to kill her mother.

Neither Meredith nor Louise could ever bring themselves to call me "dad."

I had only four affairs during my 13 years as a man. But one of these was to last six years — and even led me to get down on bended knee and propose marriage. Her name was Julie. The first time I ever kissed her, it was everything I had expected it would be and more. It was heaven.

The love affair ended one evening when I drove by Julie's home and saw another guy there.

I was shaking with rage by the time I got home and gulped down enough phenobarbital to kill a horse.

Instead of killing me, it sent my stomach into violent spasms and I ended up vomiting the drug back out.

As I lay there on the floor

writhing in pain, the thought occurred to me that I was not only a failure at suicide — but also a failure as a man. Gradually it dawned on me that my three-piece suits and beard were merely window dressing. I still wasn't a man.

In the spring of 1982, I stopped taking my male hormones and, in July, began taking female hormones.

I've spoken with a doctor about breast implants and vaginal reconstruction.

Now I'm Jerri Sousa — not Jerry. And I don't miss a thing about my old male self. It's been a long, hard struggle to get where I am today, and I've paid a dear price.

My parents and the two youngest children have been standing by me. But my older sister stopped speaking to me years ago. And my daughter Meredith was so badly hurt when I "killed off" her mother that she ran away from home and married at age 16.

She still has a lot of anger toward me and has forbidden me to see her son, my grandson.

Today, Andrew calls me "mom," not "dad." And my daughter Louise told me at Thanksgiving that the one thing she was most thankful for was to have her mother back.