

# our Special JOY



Tri-Ess Sorority



METROPOLITAN

\*\*\*\*\* CHI DELTA MU \*\*\*\*\*

Vol. IV, No. 3

CHAPTER

March, 1984



# SISTERS



February Meeting  
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...Our February dressing in red/white affair was attended by 18 Sisters, 5 wives/girlfriends and special guest Muriel Olive. We warmly welcome newcomers Linda and wife Lin, Connie, Jamie and Lora.

...Edie was suprised to learn that her ad hoc committee not only will be addressing the financing of our meeting but also Chapter finances in total. Her committee met for an hour prior to the business meeting and discussed a number of important topics for consideration. The first item is identifying the problem: Chapter solvency, especially in view of the activities we want to accomplish. Suggestion forms as to ideas on how to generate revenues for us were distributed, and a copy is included as part of this newsletter.

...Renata is developing suggested I. D. cards for us, with male/female pictures, plus some type of contact source information printed on the card if you should be stopped by a local cop and you are questioned about your driver's license saying "Burt" while you are in your prettiest yellow chiffon frock. She will have 3 or 4 drafts of this card developed over the next few months for our review.

Attending the February meeting were: (sitting, left to right) Camile (NY-1550-M), Lynda (NJ-307-F), Linda (NJ-1598-S), Joan (NJ-286-6), Lora, Jamie, Dorothy (NJ 1-6), and wife Bev. Standing: Renata Lee (CT-102-W), Karen (NJ-389-K), Nora Helene (NJ-202-C), Doreen, Wilma (NJ-300-Y), Jane (NJ-312-T), Connie, Fran, Edie (NY-1558-6) and Patricia (CT-8-6). Also attending were Muriel Olive of Femme Expressions of New York City, and 66s' Lin wife of Linda, Marilyn wife of Lynda, Bev wife of Dorothy, Priscilla wife of Eileen, and Cindy girlfriend of Doreen. (photo: Patricia)



...Wives Marilyn, Priscilla and Bev will work on a special effort to greet new wives/girlfriends and answer questions they may have (see related item in "Odds & Ends").



(continued on next page)

...Camile and Renata are concerned about our GG's (genuine girls) being a real part of the Chapter. Renata says; "...we are very, very grateful for their presence and support...we want you to be part of us". Camile contacted Carol B. re this and there is no problem on her part if this is what we as a Chapter want. Carol's only concern is that this may somehow interfere with the "For Couples Only" effort of Gloria Ann. The feeling of the group was that this would not conflict with Gloria Ann's project (which, by the way, was discussed by the Chapter last year and rejected as a Chapter effort; should we reconsider?), and that we should allow our GG's to become full members. Do we have a motion for the March meeting?

...Patricia related that Mariette Allen, a professional photographer who visited with us last September, will come to a Chapter meeting to take formal portraits of you at a cost of \$20 for 5 pictures. She would treat the photos on a confidential basis and they would not be released to anyone but you. Your photo would be taken in a private setting in a room near the meeting's conference room. A number of Sisters are interested, and we'd like to know if there are more. This will not take place for several months, and advanced notice of this activity will be in the newsletter.

...Baring a conflict in scheduling with the Susskind program, Eileen and wife Priscilla are planning a gathering at their home on March 17th, hostessing us and members of the now-disbanded Albany TVIC. A phone chain through the GAL network will provide you with details if you are interested in attending this party. Eileen and Priscilla live in Poughkeepsie.

(Ed. note: I want to thank Cindy, girlfriend of Doreen, for taking notes during the business meeting in my absence.)



Much discussion was had concerning the current hotel we are using as a meeting place in New Jersey. The hotel, part of a well-known national chain, is nice, however the conference room is located in an area shared with the hotel's health spa. The traffic in the hall is busy at that time of day, and a sufficient number of Sisters feel uncomfortable with this exposure. New members, especially, would most likely be reluctant to attend the meeting if they new the details.

We have improved the security of the conference room, but the general feeling is that we must look for new quarters for New Jersey. All agreed that there must be a New Jersey meeting site, and that alternating between northern New Jersey and Westchester is desirable. Renata said that one of the hotel employees was interested in joining us, but that the security and exposure was too great. Wilma expressed a dissenting viewpoint in that we should encourage exposure to the general public, and that we really cannot find a comprable site in the area at the cost currently charged.

We will insure that better greeting arrangements are made, and if anyone is interested in helping to set up the meeting by coming early we would like to hear from you.

The advantages of our Westchester site were discussed. There, we are relatively isolated and have very nice rooms. The hotel is also very cooperative, although Karen thought that the New Jersey site really didn't want us there.

There was a feeling that we must improve the security of the sites we occupy, especially for a new Sister who has not ventured out. Several Sisters from New Jersey expressed their opinion that we should remain in Westchester until we can find more adequate facilities in New Jersey. Wilma mentioned that we are obligated to stay in the New Jersey hotel for April.

We would like the input of those of you who could not attend the February meeting on this subject. We especially would like to hear from new members, or those who are still reluctant to attend a Chapter meeting. We would like to learn what type of facility you would feel secure in to dress, and any suggestions you may have on this matter.

The final action taken is that we will meet in the same site in New Jersey for our April meeting (March meeting is in Westchester), and that Karen will chair a group to locate another site in New Jersey which offers the qualities of our Westchester site, but is in a convenient area for our New Jersey Sisters. Karen hopes to have some specific recommendations for us in a month or so.

Your Editor Writes  
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Dr. Leslie Borck  
Westchester Community College  
Self-Help Clearinghouse

Dear Dr. Borck;

I learned from our national newsletter that our organization, through your efforts, is now listed with some 3,000 groups throughout the country. That is quite an accomplishment for us, and on behalf of our group I sincerely want to thank you.

Through your organization a number of people have contacted me. Fortunately, I was in the position to help several of these people with very serious problems that they have. It gave me a good feeling to be of help to them, as it surely must be for you. I'm sure that because of your effort untold numbers of people will find out about our sorority and we can be of help to them.

Being a crossdresser is not easy, especially if you are alone and cannot exchange feelings, information, etc., with others who are just like yourself. When you meet others, you life takes on new meaning, a change for the better!

Again, I want to extend an invitation to you and other professionals to meet our Chapter. We meet in Westchester on March 10th. I'm sure you would enjoy meeting us as we would enjoy meeting you and thanking you personally for your efforts on our behalf.

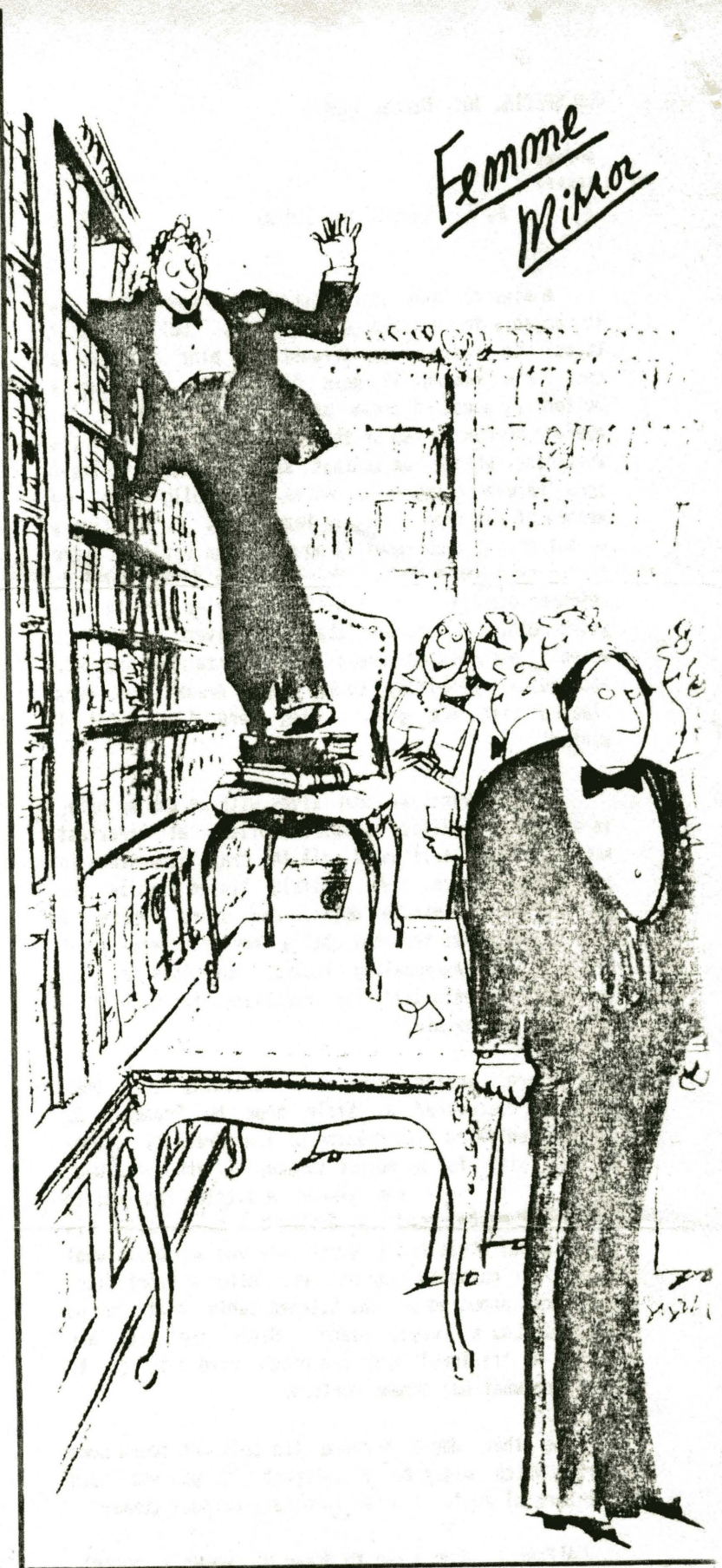
Sincerely,  
*MJM*  
Mary Jane Moran

Treasurer's Report\*  
\*\*\*\*\*

Beginning \$.....374.03  
Receipts.....240.00  
Expenses.....(203.26)  
Ending \$.....410.77



\* The report is in a new format; Lynda will still maintain all detailed information for financial analysis and planning. The ending balance differs from that reported in the February newsletter, and this is due to the difference in time periods (end of month vs. the time of the meeting).



"Hey, everybody! Look what I found 'way behind the regular stuff -- some hidden reading material that ole Charlie must be tryin' to hide from us. Say, Charlie, what's the Femme Mirror and Transvestia?"

*Vol. 4-5, Feb '80.*

Dreams

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by Edith Marie (NY-319-W)

A sign of high intelligence, so I have heard, is to be able to remember your dreams. Well, when it comes to remembering dreams, my mind is like a computer's memory: it goes blank when the plug is pulled. I guess I dream about as frequently as the average person - two or three times per week. While awakening, when I am in that semi-conscious twilight zone between being fully asleep and fully awake, my memory of any dream quickly fades away. By the time I am out of bed I am usually no more than vaguely aware that I even had a dream. However, one dream that I do remember occurred when I was about twelve or thirteen years old. I dreamed that I received a pair of women's high-heeled shoes as a Christmas present. And, quite surprising to me, in my dream I was very pleased with the gift. They were "just what I wanted".

My Mother-in-Law, who lives with me and my wife, is quite a prolific dreamer. Often, at breakfast time, she will tell us of all the crazy happenings in her latest dream. We politely listen while she recounts all the minute details and absurd events. I have suggested to her that what a person dreams about reveals their personality faults, but this has not dampened her enthusiasm for reporting the night-time ramblings of her mind.

Several months ago, while browsing in a book shop, I discovered a little book by Franklin D. Martini entitled "The Meaning of Your Dreams". "What an ideal gift for my Mother-in-Law," I thought. When I gave it to her, she seemed a little hesitant to accept it or to read it. Giving impromptu gifts is not my usual style and I guess she was wondering what joke I was going to play on her. After a short time, the book appeared on the kitchen table next to my Mother-in-Law's usual place. Since then it has become a "fixture" and she often refers to it to determine what her dreams portend.

The other day I scanned the book and found some entries which might be of interest to you who read "Our Special Joy". I offer them here without comment.

**APPAREL:** For a man to dream of women's apparel, denotes vexations, or temptations of some kind caused by a woman. If the apparel is of the gaudy order, illicit cohabitation may take place.

**BRACELET:** To dream that a bracelet is about your arm, perhaps the gift of a sweetheart, is a sign of an early marriage.

**BRUSH:** To dream of using a brush of any description, foretells that a mixed line of work will be assigned to you, yet withal you find pleasure and reward in doing it.

**BUTTONS:** For a young woman to dream that she is sewing on buttons, denotes that she is soon to meet a wealthy man who will become her partner in marriage. To a youth it signifies honor and wealth.

**CLOTHES:** To dream of seeing old and soiled clothing, denotes that a conspiracy is under way to harm you. Be cautious when dealing with friendly strangers. For a woman to dream that her clothes are soiled or torn, there is danger of someone talking ill of her character. To dream of clean and new clothes, is an excellent omen. To dream that you have a very large wardrobe, in fact so many clothes that you don't know what to do with them, is a sign that you may come to want for necessities of life. Sometimes legal difficulties are threatened.

**COOKING:** To dream that you are cooking implies that you will be called upon to perform some pleasant duties. Friends will visit whom you thought had no regard for you.

**CORSET:** To dream that you have much difficulties in the undoing of your corset portends that you will have some quarrel with a friend upon the slightest cause.

**DIAMONDS:** To dream that you wear diamonds is a sign that you will be crossed in love or that your lover is not true. For a man to dream of this precious stone, or that he is dealing in them, is a sure sign that he will become rich and gain high position in life. To dream of diamonds is usually propitious, unless you dream that you have stolen them.

**DRESS:** To dream that you find a woman's dress or wearing apparel in your wardrobe signifies troubles and vexations, caused by a woman, usually at a very delicate moment that proves very exasperating.

**EARRINGS:** To dream of earrings is an omen that you will have much encouraging and interesting work to do.

**GIRLS:** To dream of seeing a lot of girls foretells encouraging prospects and many joys. For a man to dream that he is a girl is a warning for him to be careful or his sexual desires may lead him to become a perversionist.

**HAIR:** For a woman to dream that she has beautiful hair, and in reality has not, denotes carelessness of her personality, also poor mental power through lack of development. For a man to dream that he is losing his hair denotes that he may become poor through his overly generous habits. To dream that you had your hair cut close to the head denotes that your willful waste will bring you to woeful want.

For a man to dream of having hair as long as that of a woman denotes effeminacy and weakness of character. To dream of seeing a woman bald denotes poverty and sickness. For a woman to dream that her hair is turning gray, and if she still be unmarried, foretells that she will experience great difficulty in deciding which one of her lovers to choose as a husband.

**LACE:** To dream of lace is good; to see your sweetheart wear it, omens sincerity in love and that all will terminate well. To dream that you buy lace augurs that you will marry a wealthy partner; if married, you will become rich.

**NAILS (Finger Nails):** To dream that you have long nails augurs great profit. To dream that they are cut very short; trouble, dishonor, losses and family difficulties. To see them torn off; much misery, affliction, losses and unhappiness in the family circle.

**PERFUME:** To dream of perfuming yourself denotes that you will hear of many complimentary things said about you. To dream of receiving perfume as a present predicts many gains and that you will associate with people of intelligence. To smell it is as good.

**PETTICOAT:** For a young woman to dream that she is losing her petticoat in some public place denotes that her lover is growing indifferent towards her. The dreamer should be more reserved and self-centered and keep the other side guessing, for a man loves to pursue and wants that which is hard to get. To dream of a petticoat with many inharmonious colors; many petty annoyances are to be confronted. To dream of a very rich and expensive petticoat denotes pride and dignity.

**SEWING:** To dream of sewing and fixing things over denotes disappointment in pleasure relating to less. To dream of sewing something brand new; joy and contentment are yours.

**SHAMPOO:** To dream of seeing someone being shampooed denotes that you are requested to perform a duty that is below your dignity. To dream of having it done yourself denotes that you must be more secretive, or you will arouse suspicion regarding your doings.

**SHAVING:** To dream of being shaved and the shave is close and easy denotes that a near friend will favor you by paying a debt that you owe in order to help you out of difficulty. To dream of shaving yourself predicts that you will contract a debt innocently or perhaps overdraw your bank account.

**SILK:** To dream of silk in any form is a happy augury; your ambition will be crowned, and happiness reinstated where strife existed. The dreamer of silk is usually possessed of much pride.

**STOCKINGS:** For a woman to dream of beautiful stockings denotes that she is fond of admiration and encourages men's attention through her actions. To see her stockings torn denotes that she will barter her body and soul, or at least will be tempted in this direction, for financial reward; a warning to resist temptation.

**TROUSERS:** To dream that you got trousers on wrong side out denotes the forming of an attachment of which you will find it difficult to resist. To dream of trousers refers to guilty intrigues that may never come to light.

**VEIL:** To dream of a veil, in general, denotes that you are not as sincere with friends as you might be. To dream of losing a veil augurs a dispute with a man. To see a bridal veil in your dream denotes a change that will be propitious. To dream of wearing a bridal veil predicts an affair that will consummate successfully. To dream of mourning veils augurs disappointment and troubles.

**WARDROBE:** To dream of having a large and splendid wardrobe denotes profit and rapid strides to the front. To dream of having a poor wardrobe; you are displeased with your community and the people.

**WEDDING CLOTHES:** To see wedding clothes in your dream denotes that your duties will be pleasing and from the heart and that you will meet new and interesting friends.

**WIG:** To dream that you are compelled to wear a wig, on account of loss of hair, predicts that you will be induced to make a change that you will regret. To see others wearing them; ill is being wished you.

What do you dream about? Do you dream of primarily masculine or feminine activities? If you are very much in touch with your "Second Self", do you dream about yourself as "John" or as "Mary"?

Thank you, Edith Marie! Any comment?

In Case You Missed It

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"Skirting a Traditional Fashion Taboo

# Men Wearing Dresses? Yep

By JEANNE MAGLATY  
Courant Fashion Editor

**N**EW YORK — Finally, there's an honest-to-goodness answer to the question, "What's new in men's fashions?"

Ready? It's dresses for men. Loose, flowing silk, linen, knit or velvet dresses and skirts in above-the-knee to mid-calf styles. They're available in stores on the East and West coasts.

The unorthodox creators of these dresses understand that neither Archie Bunker nor Caspar Milquetoast will run out to buy me. But men who are daring, individualistic, creative types are dropping their trousers in favor of this alternative masculine mode. The skirts have a long historical precedent as well as a current fashion leader: Boy George, the frocked lead singer of the English rock group Culture Club.

In the East Village — a section of New York where no one gives a second glance to a woman with a shaved head — designer Julia Morton has lined one wall of Einstein's, her cubbyhole-sized boutique, with dresses and a few skirts designed specifically for

the male body. Morton's partner is Paul Monroe, who was sporting eye makeup and wearing blue jeans under his tunic-length dress one day recently.

"A very wealthy client of ours wears them to The Four Seasons and '21," says Morton, clearly delighted. "He was saying the other day he was up there and they were all saying, 'Aaagh! What are you doing in here?' and they didn't want to let him in, but he had a tie, so they couldn't refuse him."

Morton says her dresses are for men who look at the fashion opportunities women enjoy and want the same for themselves. One day, a woman can wear a pink frilly dress, and the next she can wear a tailored black jacket and pants. "I think men are finally seeing this and saying, 'Hey wait a minute, I want to be creative, and I want to have a right to be more than just the robot in the gray suit,'" she says.

Though they have been selling the dresses at Einstein's for three years, Morton says, only in the past year have men come in asking for and buying them. Their customers are wearing them at home as loungewear or out to nightclubs or perhaps dinner parties, she says.

"As yet, I would say it's still a

rather limited number of young men who are wearing them in the daytime; but they are wearing them. And they come from all walks of life... from Wall Street executives to dancers and artists," she says. Prices range from \$46 to \$200 (for blue velvet).

Morton says she thinks only a portion of the wearers are homosexuals. "It's more straight than gay, because gay men, especially the traditional West Village-Christopher Street look, are terribly concerned with looking masculine. I mean the jeans and the boots, it's like a uniform that they're not going to change," she says.

In Los Angeles, two young designers, Peter Cohen and Paul Battoon, are separately making skirts that appeal to those in the gay community. People magazine reported recently. They are avoiding satin and lace in favor of simpler, less frivolous fabrics such as linen and cotton. Battoon adds hiking boots and cartridge belts to his creations for a more masculine touch.

Morton plays with the idea of the warrior in one of her dresses. It is gray cotton knit with torn pieces of darker fabrics attached



Paul Monroe, co-owner of Einstein's boutique in New York City's East Village, wears one of the dresses the store designs for men.

See Daring, Page C2

## Daring Men Skirt Taboo, Wear Dresses

Continued from Page C1

by knots to the chest. The dresses are wider in the shoulders and slimmer in the hips to accentuate the male shape.

Trousers and the standard simplicity of today's men's fashions have their roots in the French Revolution. Before that, men followed nature's example by wearing the gaudiest plumage. And versions of the dress or skirt — in materials ranging from wild grasses to finely embroidered silks — were worn by men of Eastern and Western cultures. The Scottish kilt is probably the men's skirt most familiar to us.

"We made these rules up [that men must wear trousers], and we live by them. But if we decide

they no longer work for us, we have the right to change them," Monroe says.

Pants became an exclusively male style by the 19th century. They came to symbolize power and force. When a man said, "I wear the pants in this family" it meant he was in charge.

In the 1850s, when the pantaloons-like bloomers were introduced in the United States for women, they were decried by both sexes. Some opponents cited a Biblical prohibition (Deuteronomy 22:5) against women wearing trousers: "The woman shall not wear that which pertaineth unto a man."

In the late '60s and early '70s, the women's movement helped

make women's pants finally become an accepted mode for work and play.

Morton says the arrival of dresses and, more generally, men's interest in fashion, is something of a backswing from the women's movement. Whereas fashion had seemed to be something only women were interested in, now it's not confined to one sex.

"It's not male or female. Just in the same way that power, money or position is not just a masculine thing. But in fact women can have power and position. So in the same way then men can have fashion," she says. "It's not just feminine. It's a form of expression."

### TRANSVESTISM

♂ I am a twenty-two-year-old heterosexual male who happily and unashamedly loves to wear women's clothing. I first started cross-dressing at eleven years of age when I tried on a pair of my sister's panties. I did not understand the feeling they gave me, but I knew that I liked it. I would masturbate wearing her panties and bras, and at night I would sleep in her baby-doll nighties. As I entered my teen years, I began to acquire my own small collection of lingerie. My greatest thrill was purchasing the items. I was nervous but excited, and my hands trembled when I tried on my new clothes for the first time. I regularly wore my lacy, colorful panties to school. The smooth, silky feeling was, and is, sheer ecstasy. I remember a sexy mint-green nightie that I slept in during my early teens. All curled up in bed at night, wearing this and the matching panties, made me feel so comfortable, joyous and above all, exquisitely feminine. This is a feeling that only the TV can understand.

Gradually I began experimenting with makeup and completing my outfit. As I sit here writing, I am wearing peach-colored nylon panties and a matching bra, garter belt and slip. Sheer nylon stockings cover my clean-shaven legs. My dress is light blue. I can pass as a woman, which is any transvestite's greatest joy. I think that I have the best of both worlds. I enjoy the "man's role," but it only fulfills part of me. I adore and envy women, the gentleness and sweetness that femininity represents. Although this role structure has broken down considerably, it is not enough for me. Part of me is a woman, and I would not give this up for anything. Cross-dressing is an experience both sensual and spiritual. I love it and I am proud of it!

*Hartford  
Courant*

*Thanks,  
Cindy! +  
Edith  
Marie!*

# About Men

BY NOEL PERREN

## THE ANDROGYNOUS MAN

**T**HE SUMMER I WAS 16, I TOOK A TRAIN FROM NEW York to Steamboat Springs, Colo., where I was going to be assistant horse wrangler at a camp. The trip took three days, and since I was much too shy to talk to strangers, I had quite a lot of time for reading. I read all of "Gone With the Wind." I read all the interesting articles in a couple of magazines I had, and then I went back and read all the dull stuff. I also took all the quizzes, a thing of which magazines were even fuller then than now.

The one that held my undivided attention was called "How Masculine/Feminine Are You?" It consisted of a large number of inkblots. The reader was supposed to decide which of four objects each blot most resembled. The choices might be a cloud, a steam engine, a caterpillar and a sofa.

When I finished the test, I was shocked to find that I was barely masculine at all. On a scale of 1 to 10, I was about 1.2. Me, the horse wrangler? (And not just wrangler, either. That summer, I had to skin a couple of horses that died — the camp owner wanted the hides.)

The results of that test were so terrifying to me that for the first time in my life I did a piece of original analysis. Having unlimited time on the train, I looked at the "masculine" answers over and over, trying to find what it was that distinguished real men from people like me — and eventually I discovered two very simple patterns. It was "masculine" to think the blots looked like man-made objects, and "feminine" to think they looked like natural objects. It was masculine to think they looked like things capable of causing harm, and feminine to think of innocent things.

Even at 16, I had the sense to see that the compilers of the test were using rather limited criteria — maleness and femaleness are both more complicated than that — and I breathed a huge sigh of relief. I wasn't necessarily a wimp, after all.

That the test did reveal something other than the superficiality of its makers I realized only many years later. What it revealed was that there is a large class of men and women both, to which I belong, who are essentially androgynous. That doesn't mean we're gay, or low in the appropriate hormones, or uncomfortable performing the jobs traditionally assigned our sexes. (A few years after that summer, I was leading troops in combat and, unfashionable as it now is to admit this, having a very good time. War is exciting. What a pity the 20th century went and spoiled it with high-tech weapons.)

What it does mean to be spiritually androgynous is a kind of freedom. Men who are all-male, or he-man, or 100 percent red-blooded Americans, have a little biological set that causes them to be attracted to physical power, and probably also to dominance. Maybe even to watching football. I don't say this to criticize them. Completely masculine men are quite often wonderful people: good husbands, good (though sometimes overwhelming) fathers, good members of society. Furthermore, they are often so unself-consciously at ease in the world that other men seek to imitate them. They just aren't as free as us androgynes. They pretty nearly have to be what they are; we have a range of choices open.

The sad part is that many of us never discover that. Men who are not 100 percent red-blooded Americans — say, those who are only 75 percent red-blooded — often fail to notice their freedom. They are too busy trying to copy the he-men ever to realize that men, like women, come in a wide variety of acceptable types. Why this frantic imitation? My answer is mere speculation, but not casual. I have speculated on this for a long time.

Partly they're just envious of the he-man's unconscious ease. Mostly they're terrified of finding that there may be something wrong with them deep down, some weakness at the

heart. To avoid discovering that, they spend their lives acting out the role that the he-man naturally lives. Sad.

One thing that men owe to the women's movement is that this kind of failure is less common than it used to be. In releasing themselves from the single ideal of the dependent woman, women have more or less incidentally released a lot of men from the single ideal of the dominant male. The one mistake the feminists have made, I think, is in supposing that all men need this release, or that the world would be a better place if all men achieved it. It wouldn't. It would just be duller.

So far I have been pretty vague about just what the freedom of the androgynous man is. Obviously it varies with the case. In the case I know best, my own, I can be quite specific. It has freed me most as a parent. I am, among other things, a fairly good natural mother. I like the nurturing role. It makes me feel good to see a child eat — and it turns me to mush to see a 4-year-old holding a glass with both small hands, in order to drink. I even enjoyed sewing patches on the knees of my daughter Amy's Dr. Dentons when she was at the crawling stage. All that pleasure I would have lost if I had made myself stick to the notion of the paternal role that I started with.

**O**R TAKE A SMALLER AND RATHER RIDICULOUS example. I feel free to kiss cats. Until recently it never occurred to me that I would want to, though my daughters have been doing it all their lives. But my elder daughter is now 22, and in London. Of course, I get to look after her cat while she is gone. He's a big, handsome farm cat named Petrushka, very unsentimental, though used from kittenhood to being kissed on the top of the head by Elizabeth. I've gotten very fond of him (he's the adventurous kind of cat who likes to climb hills with you), and one night I simply felt like kissing him on the top of the head, and did. Why did no one tell me sooner how silky cat fur is?

Then there's my relation to cars. I am completely unembarrassed by my inability to diagnose even minor problems in whatever object I happen to be driving, and don't have to make some insider's remark to mechanics to try to establish that I, too, am a "Man With His Machine."

The same ease extends to household maintenance. I do it, of course. Service people are expensive. But for the last decade my house has functioned better than it used to because I've had the aid of a volume called "Home Repairs Any Woman Can Do," which is pitched just right for people at my technical level. As a youth, I'd as soon have touched such a book as I would have become a transvestite. Even though common sense says there is really nothing sexual whatsoever about fixing sinks.

Or take public emotion. All my life I have easily been moved by certain kinds of voices. The actress Slobhan McKenna's, to take a notable case. Give her an emotional scene in a play, and within 10 words my eyes are full of tears. In boyhood, my great dread was that someone might notice. I struggled manfully, you might say, to suppress this weakness. Now, of course, I don't see it as a weakness at all, but as a kind of fulfillment. I even suspect that the true he-men feel the same way, or one kind of them does, at least, and it's only the poor imitators who have to struggle to repress themselves.

Let me come back to the inkblots, with their assumption that masculine equates with machinery and science, and feminine with art and nature. I have no idea whether the right pronoun for God is He, She or It. But this I'm pretty sure of. If God could somehow be induced to take that test, God would not come out macho, and not feminimo, either, but right in the middle. Fellow androgynes, it's a nice thought. ■



Noel Perren teaches American literature at Dartmouth College and raises beef cattle in Vermont.

*N.Y. Times*  
 Thanks, Nora Helene!

Odds & Ends

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...We regret the delay in getting February's O. S. J. out to you. Nora Helene and I have changed procedures so hopefully, we will not have lost mail in the future.

...News of CHI (Chicago) Chapter...wives and girlfriends of Chapter members periodically meet separately at Chapter meetings. "This separate round-table discussion will be held during our February Chapter gathering - in a room separate from the main meeting room. All wives and girlfriends are welcome, and encouraged to participate. The discussion will be limited to females only, be private/confidential, and allow those who attend the opportunity to discuss issues, feelings, problems or whatever with those in like circumstances". Sounds like a good idea. Let's hear from our wives and girlfriends if they would like to do the same thing!...In addition to the March party weekend CHI is sponsoring, CHI is a co-sponsor of a June weekend affair in Michigan. I'm sure that we would like a similar opportunity, and do we have anything to report from Joan (NJ) and Alice? (from CHI TRIBUNE, Donna Martin IL-011-S, Editor).

...Marlene CA-1046-L, reports on new members in our area: Linda NJ-1598-S, Vikki NJ-1599-M, Jean NY-1600 E, Edie NY-1558-G, Camile NY-1550-M, Eileen NJ-1549-M, and Tara NJ-501-T. A number of you ladies are already contributing actively to our Chapter, and again a warm welcome to us!

...Remember, from now on with the exception of the April meeting all future Chapter gatherings will be at our Westchester site till further notice.

...We have requested TRI-ESS Library Cards from Carol, but we're not sure if we will get them in time for the distribution of the March newsletter. When you do receive them (three), simply deposit them in the card catalogue of libraries. They are effective recruiting tools for us. Write Nora Helene if you can use more.

...Edith Marie reports little Chapter Library activity. If you don't have a recent library listing get one from Edith Marie (address: Don Williams, Draw R, Valley Cottage, New York 10989.) This is one of the many benefits of Chapter membership. Use it!...Edith Marie also reports that no one has yet written to her concerning your "early experiences" for an article in the newsletter. Items like that could be of help to another. Your Editor is always looking for material for our newsletter.

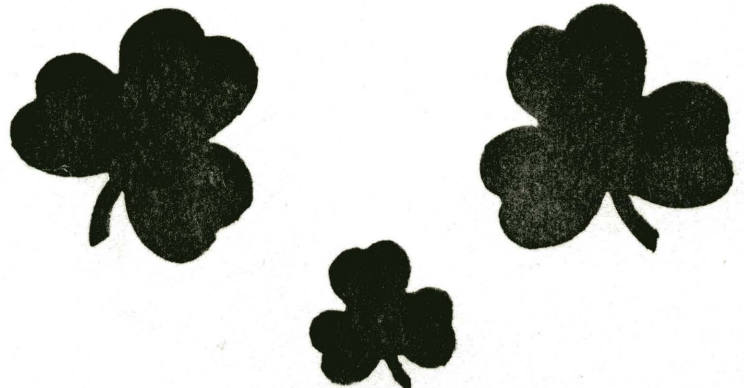
...Edie, Patricia, and I are working on a one page brochure briefly describing the sorority and providing detailed information concerning CHI DELTA MU for new inquiries. This will be invaluable if we have a mass recruitment as a result of the Susking program and/or the newspaper article. Thank you Edie and Patricia. I will include the brochure in a future newsletter.

...For many of us March is national dues month (\$30). Support your organization and be current on your dues. You may pay directly to Carol in California or through our Chapter Treasurer, Lynda. Remember, to be a member of our Chapter you must also be a member of the national organization.

...Most of us received a letter from Virginia Prince offering a discount on back issues of TRANSVESTIA. Also included was information concerning a questionnaire about our attitudes, experiences, etc. Virginia did the same thing back in 1963, and the results proved very effective in convincing a lot of folks that people like us do exist. The questionnaire would be strictly confidential (only Virginia will do the mailing). If you want more information on this or if you want the questionnaire, contact Virginia providing your address. She can be reached as follows: Virginia Prince, Box 36091, Los Angeles, CA 90036. We should support this effort for it will benefit all of us.

...I guess the code number change is a good move and will improve our organization's efficiency. Hopefully any computerization of records will allow for more than four digits; we are, afterall, growing! We hope to have a consolidated Chapter listing for you shortly.

...We didn't get Edie's questionnaire for the March O. S. J. so we are asking you to send in your suggestions, ideas, etc. to assist with Chapter financing. Please help the Chapter and remember, you are part of the Chapter too, so in a very real sense you'd be helping yourself. Send to: Edie, P. O. Box 451, Brooklyn, New York 11209.





Publicity  
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from Female Impersonator Library Book # 1,  
"TV Confessions" by Sussie (Frank) Collins

...The reporter who covered our January meeting wrote a good article concerning us, reported Eileen at February's gathering. The problem with getting it published is the paper's Editor. The Editor believes the article is, "too good to be true". Eileen believes that the Editor is reluctant to publish it because we might be just too controversial (we've heard this before). Eileen has sent in copies of the recent FEMME MIRROR which included articles on us as published by other papers around the country, has sent in Ann Landers columns—before Ann was deluged with mail from us concerning her negative attitudes and after Ann received our letters, plus other materials which will, hopefully, convince this person of the media that you don't write a newspaper by ignoring what is happening around you.

...Concerning the Susskind program, the taping will most likely be in early March, as Susskind is in California on business. Eileen said that in addition to her there will be a Naomi, whom Eileen believes to be a member in the Chicago TRI-ESS Chapter, and Adriane Kane of the Outreach Institute in Boston. No airing date yet. The Susskind program is on Sundays at 11:30 PM on WNEW TV, Channel 5.

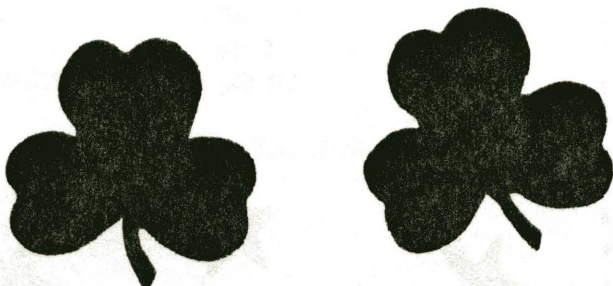
...The radio program from Woodstock, New York is on hold according to Eileen till the Susskind project is done.

...Lynda said that she believes that Lee Grant (WNBC Radio ?), will soon be doing a program on hetero TV, but no details are known at this point.

...Some discussion was had as to just what we should be doing concerning publicity. Nora Helene said that one person's own personal opinion does not necessarily be that of others, and that we all have our own reasons for crossdressing. Also, privacy of individuals is a concern of many members. As your newsletter's Editor, I offer space here for you to write your own feelings on this matter, especially if you disagree with what the Chapter is doing. As we have said all along, unless we know that there are different opinions on a topic, we can not acknowledge that what we are doing as a Chapter may be contrary to what we should be doing. Please write if you have a point to express.

..."In conclusion we have just reviewed only a few of the many cases that are on file, bringing you as many variations as possible. But keep in mind that each transvestite as an individual, has his own definition of how and why he chose to dress in the fashion that he does. Let us not condemn them for what they are, but let us look upon other sexual troubled minds and compare. The transvestite is the least bothersome of any other sexual off-spring. He only wants to be left alone. To live his life in the manner that he is most comfortable in....Material gain is seldom the motive that drives them into practicing the art of transvestism. Yes, it is an art that takes hours of patience and practice to bring about the transformation. This builds into years of hard work. Yet, the only thing they have gained is self satisfaction. Many we have interviewed have been some of the loveliest creatures that the eye could behold, but the fear of being discovered was ever present as we talked to them....They risk everything they have to be what they are, their homes, family and their jobs. Yet, the man that does the firing may well be one himself....There are many clubs springing up all over the nation, coming to the aid of these people. They are giving TVs a chance to meet with their own kind. Gay groups have done much the same thing and are finally being recognized in society....The true transvestite is responding to an inner need which usually finds its roots in a set of circumstances that date back as far as his childhood. An especially memorable event or personality started him on the path of the crossdressing. Any exotic event such as seeing adults engaging in sexual acts could trigger him. The clothing involved at the time directs his childish mind to the sensations he felt, thus, he carries with him for the rest of his life the basic element needed to start him into a world of no return....Very rarely is a true transvestite ever a sexual criminal. He has absolutely no desire to assault or rape. His interest is aroused by feminine garments. On the whole the transvestite is a normal member of society who's only desire is to be left alone....Crossdressing is not a toy for someone to experiment with. It's as addicting as if you started taking drugs. The more you try it the more you need it. If you are a transvestite then we are for you, but we warn you if you are not, don't experiment to see what it's like. It may be your story you see printed in one of our next study programs."

(Ed. note: interesting, but I don't agree with all that was said. Your comments?)



Thanks,  
Patricia!

Editorial  
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It is truly regrettable that people who hold responsible positions in our society can be ignorant and even disbelieving of the facts.

When Eileen first contacted the reporter for the JOURNAL-NEWS the reporter could not believe what Eileen had to say: that there is an organization of heterosexual males who enjoy wearing women's clothes and being feminine. The reporter came to our meeting and walked out a believer. His Editor, however, thought it "too good to be true", and is now sitting on the story. The Editor has been shown sufficient proof about us, has been invited to come to our meeting; in short we've done just about everything possible to promote the release of "our story".

One avenue left available to us is a letter-writing campaign. This works, as Eileen has related with the Ann Landers turnabout. The Editor can be reached as follows: Editor, Rockland JOURNAL-NEWS, 53 Hudson Avenue, Nyack New York 10960.

Remember the tragic suicide story that Karen related to us. Remember how you felt when you first heard about TRI-ESS. We know that there are Sisters out there who desperately need our organization, and we need them! To be ignorant of the facts is one thing, but to put your head in the sand and deny the truth is really another.



 Best Regards,  
Your Sister,  
Mary Jane  
(enjoy!)

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NEWSLETTER



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