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Full membership \$17 per year
Subscription to the TVIC journal
only \$12 per year.

NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma Thordsen

Hi Girls and Gals:

The weather was perfect for the meeting last night so that most of the girl could enjoy themselves. We had the air conditioner on so that the girls were able to keep their makeup from running.

It was good to see Connie and Alice here again with us for the second time in a row, as they are down Florida way in the winter months. Of course they have a few good times down there with their group of T.V.'s , so they are not totally without entertainment.

Sorry to hear that Joan and Gail were down with a cold and couldn't make the meeting as I know that they really enjoy themselves when they are able to make one. During the winter months it is hard for them to travel from where they live. Hope you are feeling better girls. We'll loke foward to see you in Sept. perhaps.

The girls that made the meeting last night were: Dee Dee and Vi from Hartford, Conn., Alice and Connie from Gulf Breeze, Florida, Eileen and Pricilla from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Karen from Clifton Park, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Susan from Nassau, N.Y., Helene from Syracuse, N.Y., Percilla from Scotia, N.Y., Ellen from Endicott, N.Y., Michelle Ann from Somerville, Mass., Yvonne and Vicky from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Jean from P., N.Y. and Wilma and I

The meal I prepared for the girls was: Baked Ham, Mashed Potatoes, carrots with butter sauce, beets with butter, baked spinach, rhutabaga, cookies and tapioca puddng, coffee., rolls and bread and butter.

You know it's funny when I make some vegetables I wonder if the girls are going to like them but they sure proved to me that all the veg. last night were good. The tapioca was a big success too as it is a change from the usual cake. If any of you girls know of a dessert that you would like for me to make some time let me know. If I can make it I will.

Tonight we had some new girls for their first visit and I was glad to see that the older girls made them feel right at home. Susan sure did her bit by telling the girls about the different things that happened when they were up helping Wilma with the dock on the Island. It is little things like this that gives the girls something to talk about.

Lost my big helper in the kitchen this month as Dennie had to go to her daughters graduation and party they were having for her. So that meant I had to employ some new kitchen helpers in the person of Michelle and Wilma. I know they usually play chess for awhile but today they helped me first. They peeled the potatoes, rhutabaga. The other girls helped serve the food and Wilma and I cleaned up the dishes. After every one left Michelle Ann cleaned up the bar. So my thanks to one and all.

I want to take this time to thank all the girls who remember me on my birth day. this year was a great year , I enjoyed all the cards as much as I enjoy the girls.

Our congradulations go to Sonya and Cynthia as they became Mr. and Mrs. this week. We are glad they have tied the knot as they seemed to be meant for each other. May you have a long and happy and prosperous life. I am sure all the girls are with us on this one.

It seems to me that Karen was in seventh heaven last night with her new Mini dress trimed in that pretty shade of blue maribue trim. I know that she likes to dress in her mini clothes and feel relaxed when she is here. I tell the girls to dress as comfortable as they want so long as they are dressed decent and do in no way hurt the feelings of others, especially the wives who have been comming to the meetings. I will say one thing, I don't want anyone to feel insulted if at any time I tell them the attire is not suitable to wear here at the meetings.

Well Wilma and I sure will enjoy the two months off and get some rest I rather feel I need. I will be in swimming every chance I get. Hope you all will have a good summer and get a nicetan and enjoy where ever you are.

Good night and God bless you all untill the fall.

Love

Helen.

TRANVESTISM VS HOMOSEXUALITY:

THE proper sexual role of the transvestite is a question that has generated much confusion in recent years. Typical of the confusion is an article by Dr. L.F. Mooney, formerly of Harvard, who maintains, that there is no such thing as transvestitism or homosexuality, that these habits are defined entirely by the attitude of society and ends with the question, "Is society perfect?"

Dr. Mooney and others have only served to muddy the waters that these questions have churned up. The only way to get a clear picture of the phenomenon of transvestitism is through a statistical approach.

In other words, if a controlled study finds that a sizable majority of transvestities are homosexuals, then one must conclude that these perversions go hand in hand.

If, contrariwise, such a study produced the conclusion that transvestitism is no obstacle to otherwise normal, heterosexual practices, then one would have to reject any connection between this practice and homosexuality.

Unfortunately, no such study has been made, nor is it likely that one can be effectively accomplished in the foreseeable future. The reason for this is that the vast majority of transvestities do not advertise their practice or making themselves readily available to the questions of statisticians & sex-researcher

Once out of the closet, where we can count them, they can be statistically evaluated, and there will be no necessity for idle chatter about "historical perspectives" and vague theories about the connection between female impersonation and homosexuality.

Limited surveys have produced, inconclusive results. The transvestite scene is equally divided among those who profess straight-arrow heterosexuality, those who declare it to be purely a homosexual practice,

These results are inconclusive, because of the limited number of persons who could be surveyed. I believe that those who permitted themselves to be questioned considering the current temper of society, include a large number of personalities who might be classed as unstable by many standards. If transvestitism were a common practice, such people would have to find another symptom with which to exhibit their neurotic impulses.

I am not implying that transvestities are neurotic; only those willing to submit to a sexual questionnaire are.

I do not believe that transvestitism has anything to do with sex. The proportion of homosexuals and heterosexuals in the transvestite population is the same as the proportion of such people in the non-transvestite population.

The mainspring of transvestitism is not sexual gratification, but ego-gratification. In our society, pretty girls attract attention. This is a truism readily verifiable on any street corner, in any page of advertising, in any book or magazine cover. Girls dress to enhance their attention-getting potential, with brightly colored clothes, striking make-up, laces and frills and bows.

Therefore, if a person craves attention, what better way to attract it than by becoming--or appearing to become--a pretty girl? It is not a need of the libido, but of the ego, that is satisfied by this practice.

As our society grows in population and by necessity, grows in regimentation and depersonalization of the individual, it is only natural that more and more men straved for attention will seek this method of feeding their egos.

One hears and reads so much about transvestitism and transsexualism nowadays that one might think they were a new fad--a part of the sexual revolution and the "now" generation. But these practices have been around for a long time. Stories of men masquerading in women's clothing, are as old as the records of civilization.

It wasn't until the beginning of modern psychology--which traces its roots to the later part of the 19th century--that a more scientific and objective appraisal of this aberration appeared in medical and sexological journals.

The aberration of transvestitism involves impersonation, or concealing true sexual identity by assuming the dress and makeup of the opposite sex. Not many men today would wear laces or frills on their clothes--but since clothing has always been a matter of personal taste, as well as prevailing custom, it would be improper to accuse a man of being a transvestite solely on the evidence that his clothing does not conform to the current trends of male attire.

Simple colors and plain styles of clothing suit the average man in today's society. More often it is the female who is usually in competition with other members of her sex in the matter of attire.

But since, looking at it objectively, female clothing is more colorful and more esthetically pleasing, it is not hard to understand why some men--particularly those of an artistic nature--would wish to wear what might appear feminine.

Today more and more young men are being seen in colorful and flashy wardrobes. An extreme example of this trend is the group of young people known as "hippies." They are defining the prevalent customs of the day by wearing long hair, frilly clothing, beads and flowers. They say that they dress this way because they associate this style with gentleness--and because it pleases them, personally, and they are "doing their thing." One should not assume that young men who dress like this are all sexual deviates.

Studying the vast mass of scientific evidence and conjecture on the subject, we must come to the conclusion that there is no real, absolute, unchanging standard of sexual behavior. We simply do not have hard and fast definitions of

(continue on page 4)

PARTY DATES: Well this makes the end of another year for TVIC - 27 years as a group. I hope that you had an enjoyable year and met many new friends. TVIC holds its parties on the third Sstursday of each month. Our next 3 dates will be Sept. 19, Oct. 17th and Nov. 21st. Please remember your Sept date as there will be no issue of the Journal for July and August. The next issue after this on will be a week after the Sept. party. Reservations must be made for all parties at least 4 days in advance.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO

<u>JULY</u>	
BOB [REDACTED].....	JULY 3
BILL [REDACTED].....	" 3
CINDY [REDACTED].....	" 11
DEAN [REDACTED].....	" 12
PAULA [REDACTED].....	" 25
<u>SEPTEMBER</u>	
ANDERIA [REDACTED].....	SEPT. 9
LOUISE [REDACTED].....	" 9
JOAN [REDACTED].....	" 19
GAIL [REDACTED].....	" 21
JOYCE [REDACTED].....	" 26
KAREN [REDACTED].....	" 30

<u>AUGUST</u>	
James [REDACTED].....	AUG. 2
JEANETT [REDACTED].....	" 2
JAMIE [REDACTED].....	" 3
LINDA [REDACTED].....	" 3
JOAN [REDACTED].....	" 7
JANETT [REDACTED].....	" 8
ELANDA [REDACTED].....	" 10
ELLEN [REDACTED].....	" 10
THOMAS [REDACTED].....	" 15
WINNIE [REDACTED].....	" 15
RHONDA [REDACTED].....	" 24
Susan [REDACTED].....	" 24
VIOLA [REDACTED].....	" 26
CYNTHIA [REDACTED].....	" 30

NEW MEMBERS:

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of one new member this month.
E L A I N LS W A N T O N..... V T.....

SPECIAL THANKS TOO

CONNIE NICHOLS for the cartoons sent in.....
DEE DEE WATSON - MARA LYNNE and TERESA HEART for the lovely pictures sent in.
VELVET PORTER and ROSEMARIE EPLY for the extra \$ sent in to help along with the postage.

SPECIAL NOTICE:

Please do not send any mail to Charles Writman of Jamestown N.Y. He has closed his P.O.Box and disconnected himself from TVism to save his marriage.

MEMBERS SEEKING CORRESPONDENCE:

P. A. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

MISS RACHEL [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

INTERESTS: All things feminine - would like to meet understanding real ladies - TVs - couples - or nice gentleman - Discretion and privacy assured. Will exchange photo's.

INTERESTS: Reading - stamps- coins- people and good times. Also happy to answer all questions on transsexulism

FRANK KASHKIN

LIZ R [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

ARLENE A [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

TS - Married - 26 - 5'-6" - 130lbs.
INTERESTS: Photogerphy - Electronics - and Cars.

Well here it is a start to a wanted correspondent colum that you have been asking for. Any one who would like there names and addresses listed with their interests let me know.

All it takes is a small donation towards the help of paying the postage - as you can see by your envelope it takes 35¢ per letter.

THINGS TVs DREAD THE MOST:

- (1) To realize while outdoors, that too many hours have passed and the beard is begining to show through the make up.
- (2) To discover that the tight corset he is wearing is hurting like mad and cannot be taken off for several hours untill he gets home.
- (3) To answer the doorbell in the belief its a friend coming back only to meet the incredulous stare of the delivery boy or mailman while she stands there in a dress but without make-up or wig.
- (4) To sit at a lunch counter or table in full dress etc. and have the waitress say "Anything else, S I R ?"
- (5) To inquire at the linguie department about a bra or stockings and have the sales lady say something that, to you sounds like, "is this thesize you wear or to run in the same saleslady while you are accompany your wife and hear the saleslady say "Hello, Mrs Smith, did you like the stockings your husband bought for you last week?
(What can you members add to this?*)

imprecise terms like "masculine," "feminine," "manly," or "womanly." Styles and modes of dress and outward appearances that may at one time have been considered very masculine-like powdered wigs once were, for instance-would now be considered sufficed if a man were to wear them.

Styles that are generally accepted as masculine or feminine also vary from country to country. In America heavy physical labor is considered "mans work" - while in Europe, women are employed in such positions. In the Soviet Union, most of the physicians, technicians, physicists and streetcar conductors are women, while in the U.S.A. it is the men who hold down these jobs.

Psychiatrists had been treating some of these patients for years without any visible improvement on the part of the sufferers. Therapists were not particularly anxious to treat most of them, since homosexuals and transvestites are notoriously resistant to therapy or to change and very difficult to treat.

At one time or another, you are sure to come face to face with a transvestite. But the odds are you won't know it, for the transvestite is so much like the rest of us when he's abroad in the world that he and sometimes she, passes unrecognized, unsuspected, and indeed, not even dreamed of.

But because transvestism rarely strays out of its own backyard, as does homosexuality, it has been all but ignored in the study of mens sexual aberrations. Thus not many otherwise well-informed persons know its true nature. To the vast majority, the term transvestism, is so obscure, it might as well have something to do with space travel, or devil-worship. As defined by both medical and general dictionaries, it is a sexual anomaly or deviation in which the affected person is addicted to wearing the clothes of the opposite sex. There are then, female transvestites as well as male, but they are in such minority that little reliable information about them is known. On the other hand, the reported incidence of male transvestism in the United States and Europe has increased to such an extent in recent times that it is described as "enormous."

Transvestites have, for the most part, been found to be above average intellectually and culturally, with perhaps more than a modest share of talents and aptitudes. For instance one gifted transvestite, beginning as a young "girl" rose to eminence in the women's fashion industry and, so successfully has he played the part, that recently he acted as maid-of-honor at a friend's wedding.

Transvestites differ in many ways, as do most human beings, thus they have been classified into still further distant types, by the handful of pioneering scientists who are belatedly exploring this never-never land where the man insists on wearing, not the pants, but the panties. Some factors which may contribute are an extravagantly possessive mother, or the cross-dresser of a small boy to please a parent who wanted a girl. Other scientists believe that Transvestism is a basically organic condition. They regard it as a form of intersexuality related to endocrine functioning or to hereditary factors, and perhaps to both in some cases.....

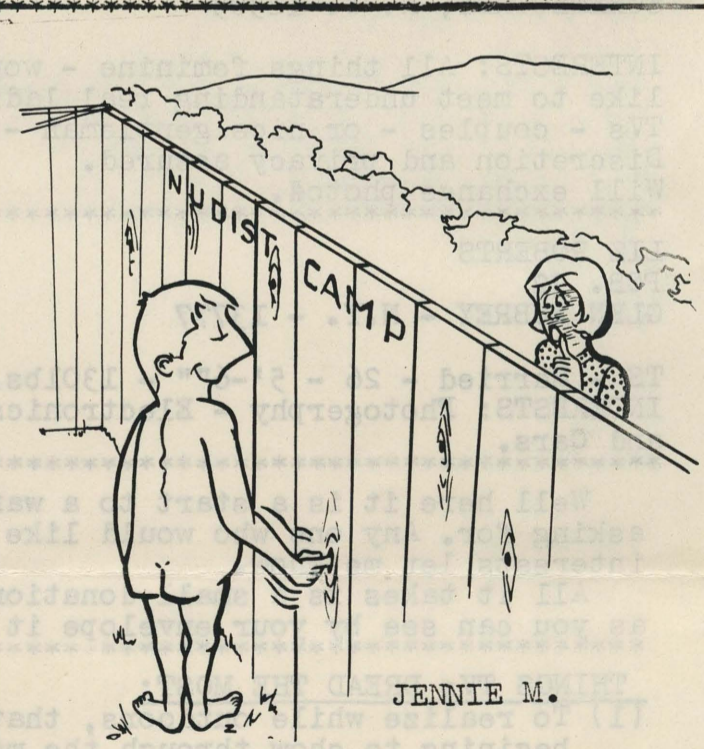
I am complying all the available material I can possibly get on Impersonators-Transsexuals-Transvestism and cross-dressers, male or female for a reference library. most of this material will be used to help and inform other TVs. I sincerely welcome clippings, articles, books, magazines, pictures and any information that could possibly be added to the reference so that it may assist to shed more light on the subject. We, TVs, cannot and must not live only by ourselves. A thousand fibers connect us with our fellow man....W I L M A.....

THINGS I CAN DO WITHOUT:

1. The TV who comes to you for advice and proceeds to reject every single suggestion you make.
2. The TV who claims to be an old timer and states that he wears a size 16 dress and when you meet him for a dressing up get-together you discover that the only size he can get into is a 20.
3. The TV who adores sleeveless frocks but will not shave the fur on his arms.
4. The TV who goes to the corner food market wearing elbow-length gloves and a cocktail dress.

(That is just a few off hand. I'm sure that you all out there can come up with some dillies. Send them to me and I will print them
* W I L M A

Sarah D., Naples, Fla. Says "Zippers save about 5 minutes...mountain time....."



JENNIE M.

WHEN JENNIE M. OF BAY SHORE, N.Y. WAS A ROOKIE POLICEMAN WAS GIVEN THE ASSIGNMENT OF PATROLLING A NUDIST COLONY. "CALL IN EVERY HOUR," HE WAS TOLD. "PATROLMAN JENNIE REPORTING," HE SAID WHEN HE CALLED IN AFTER THE FIRST HOUR. "HOW ARE THINGS GOING AT THE NUDIST CAMP?" THE LIEUTENANT ASKED. "ALL RIGHT, SIR," SAID JENNIE, "EXCEPT ONE THING. MY BADGE IS KILLING ME."

Dear Wilma;

Michigan's only sex-reassignment surgical center has closed its doors. The Detroit free Press reported this story on March 4 1981. Dr. Mario Petrini, former head of the private clinic, announced that the closing is due to his moving to Minneapolis... Petrini will be continuing his surgical work with transsexuals in Minneapolis... Agender-identity clinic at Case Western University is believed to be the closest one to the Detroit area. Some 15 others centers across the country are reported to still be in business and operating... In a related statement, Petrini disputed the findings the ultimately ended sex reassignment surgery at Johns-Hopkins. Those findings were that surgery did not substantially improve lifestyles between groups of post-operative and pre-operative transsexuals. Petrini disagrees and adds that he has never had a patient who regretted having had the surgery. (ED.NOTE: I can name 3 who have.)...Petrini credits the overall patient satisfaction to the cautious approach taken by his clinic which requires a 2 year life-trial in the role of the opposite sex. Personal testimonial from a past-operative Crossroads member (operated on by Petrini) tends to indicate something more than just caution as a factor in the overall successful program. She reports that Petrini's operative technique is among the best in the nation and that Petrini's patients generally have a capability for orgasm after surgery....GRACE BEACON...FLINT...MICH.....

Dear Wilma:

I was watching Television recently and they asked a lady if you had a date with a man and he showed up wearing a dress, how many women would go out with him? Her answer was 25 out of 100, WRONG. The correct answer was that 34 out of 100 would go out with a man wearing a dress. PAULA.....

PAUL DAVENPORT...BOX 345...BLOOMINGTON...CALIF...92316

Dear Friends:

A man and a woman need a marriage license to get married. Right? What kind of a license do two lesbians need? A LIQUOR LICENSE... VELVET.

JOHN PORTER...1523 BELOIT...LOS ANGELES... CAL...90025

Dear Wilma:

In answer to your question in the April Journal...What I admire in real girls are the ones who know how to dress and act as real feminine women. To be able to dress as they see fit in full lacy colorful sexy lingerie, night gowns of thin satin, velvets and nylons. To be able to use make up, perfume and wear their hair as the mood strikes them. Their use of jewelry in all shapes and colors and heels as high or low as they please...But today as you look around you see BLUE JEANS, sweaters, shorts, low heels and unisex type shoes. the girls look like soft boys, This is more noticeable in females in the teens to middle thirtys and even some of the older women...Not all but quite a few use makeup like war paint or as a clown would apply same, their color coordination is also awful in a lot of cases... Why don't they like the clothes that I like as I have deacused above, for I like soft texture of these materials and when I'm dressed from the skin out in all these sexy feminine clothes and hair done and fully made up I try to escape from the every day ~~work~~ problems and the feel of corse male attire, and relax and become free and enjoy myself as have released the femininity which is more or less present in all males, for no one is either 100% female or male. For there is a little of both in some of us that seek relief, and this is a wonderful way to accomplish this without doing any one any harm...So Marla tries to be the best she has seen in all females both young and ones her age. So lets be our age and all female in that we present a well groomed, made up married women in our age group...MARA LYNNE.....

HARRY

Dear Wilma:

I am 6'-1" and 200 lbs. I'm wondering, is it hard for TVs like me to get clothes, especially pretty bras, panties, slips and how about dresses, the very feminine kind, etc?...CATHY...BUTLER...N.J.....

Dear Cathy; Contrary to the popular ediom, they are putting more style in larger sizes. One of the side-effects of the evolutionary process is that women's tall and larger sizes shops are springing up all over the country. So get fet out and do some constructive shopping.

Dear Wilma:

Have you ever, in male grab, bought clothing in stores, making it known it was for you? Perhaps, that is teetering on the brink of problems, but I have been tempted although I have always backed off. Can You help me... EVA... MICHIGAN CITY..IND...

Dear Eva: Buying women's clothes in stores directly is a big problem for lots of us, but after you have done it a few times, it becomes a habit actually. To help prevent running into someone you know it probably would be best to travel to a neighboring city & do shopping.....

Smithereens *This is how I feel without them*



Dear Friends,

I regret the fact that I have to write this letter to all of you. This marks the end of the Crossroads Chapter as we now know it.

There are two reasons for this. The first is the current membership listing. There are just too few of us to accomplish any of the plans that I have had (even if I did receive some support from a few of you, there hasn't been enough widespread support to make any of these ideas workable.) There is strength in numbers and we have very little present strength.

The second reason is that I have reached the limit of my physical and emotional strength to lead this organization as it should be led. I don't have the energy or the time to run the group properly and don't foresee overcoming this at any time in the near future.

I'm still a TV and will always remain one; I'm still interested in a social/self-help TV organization in southeast Michigan. I am willing to assist in any such group--as a member, but not as a leader anymore. There are several options available to you:

1. To continue Crossroads pretty much as it is, only under different leadership.
2. To merge with one of the national organizations, with Crossroads as one of its local chapters. The Gateway Alliance (which is itself is a merger of the Golden Gate Girls/Guys and the International Alliance of Male Feminists) has made a generous offer along these lines.
3. To fold it up entirely. Most of us have found some friends with whom we can share some good times without an organized group.

Please let me know which of these options you prefer and I will do my best to see that the majority's wishes are carried out. Word of warning-- anyone who wants the group to continue as it is, had better volunteer to do some of the work.

Perhaps I should clarify the conditions for my own involvement. I am willing to help and work; but will only work one separate job. As I see it, there are five positions that require a great deal of work -- the overall director (with the responsibility of answering inquiries from new people and of overall coordination); the newsletter editor, the secretary (...and there is a volunteer for this); the meeting/social director to plan, arrange and lead the meetings, and the treasurer. Shirley from Highland, MI, volunteered for this. I would be willing to accept one of these jobs.

The Gateway Alliance has offered to absorb us into their organization. Their dues are \$20.000 per year. They publish the Phoenix, which is a monthly news magazine and a membership directory, which are part of the membership package. A national directory of shops, places to go, organizations, and services for the TV or TS is also published by the alliance.

If the overall decision is to drop the group completely, I will refund (as much as possible) the treasury to all the active, paid members. (This is minus the cost of two newsletter editions, checks and checking account charges.) Crossroads purchased an electric typewriter last November in order to be able to produce a newsletter at all. I will buy this at a fair price and it will be included in the refund amount.

Another merger possibility exists with Elaine Willey's Tri-Sigma chapter in Ann Arbor. Elaine and I will be discussing this possibility in the very near future. If any of you are unfamiliar with Tri-Sigma, it is a nationwide TV organization whose interest is slanted in the direction of the heterosexual crossdresser. Several chapters are currently in operation.

Please write and let me know which of these options that you prefer--I have no way of knowing what the majority of the group wants unless you say so. I can't really accept any kind of verbal answer since there is a good possibility that I may forget your answer unless I have it on paper where I can see it. Also, I may not be able to send you any kind of individual reply to this-- I have over 100 letters in front of me right now that already need individual attention.

Meeting so many of you has been one of the great pleasures of my life. I will never be able to forget any of you. For the sake of my family and my own mental and physical well-being, I've been forced to cut back involvement. This has been a difficult and painful decision to make. BEST WISHES TO ALL. GRACE GRACE BEACON... POB 3013...FLINT... MICHIGAN...48502...
(ED: NOTE: Do not ~~gr~~ forget TVIC. We have been operating since 1954 with no shut down. If you are interested in full membership its \$17 per year and if you'd rather just have our monthly Journal it can be had for \$12 per year.)

Dear Wilma and Helen,

We have just attended another of your warm and friendly TV gatherings and on our way home we got to thinking about what a truly unique opportunity you offer TV's and their wives and girlfriends! Where else in this entire country (or Canada) can crossdressers come into a receptive home like yours, once a month for years on end, at 3:00 p.m. (en femme or not), stay until past midnight amidst the camaraderie of their own kind and be fed the sumptuous banquet that comes out of Helen's kitchen? We have attended TV functions across this country and there are none that equals your warm welcome and acceptance on a regular basis. Yours is a bargain paradise meeting and we can't figure out why every TV within 200 miles does not take advantage of it. We live in Florida half the year and consider ourselves lucky to get to what you have made the "TV capital of the U.S." (Albany) two or three times during the year. But how lucky are the ones who live closer and how foolish are those who "put off" attending your gatherings. We all realize T.V.I.C. Albany is not going to go on forever. You two have some lofty goals after retirement that do not include playing hostess to the likes of us ad infinitum. So be it. You deserve a rest. But in the meantime, it is our feeling that all those timid closet-types out there who have not yet emerged from their cocoons, and all those old members who find some excuse not to attend, had best be made aware that super opportunities do not go on forever. Those who have been wanting to bring their wives had better get them there to meet other wives. We just could not help but wonder whether TV's who live in NY, NJ, New England and Canada--even PA--realize how lucky they are to be able to attend these parties of yours. Each one we have attended is a treasured memory.

Alice and Connie Millard

Dear Ladies:

I am a cross-gender person who has always had a strong desire to wear women's clothes. I don't get many opportunities to dress up as often as I would like, but when I do everything falls into its natural order. My reasons for enjoying this particular pastime are varied and they include: mental relaxation, a greater sense of balance through expression of my inner self, inspiration and enjoyment of life.

I have always found men's clothes to be, an intolerable disguise, the cut and style are simply blase, and I feel oppressed by the manly status attached to such garments. I was meant to be a girl, at least gender-wise. It is against my nature to have to live and act as a man, with never the possibility of being able to follow the spontaneous inclinations of my own self. I want to live and function as a member of the opposite sex, not just appear so.

My assigned sex at birth and learned gender patterns have failed to meet expectations, so I am determined to change this unhappy state for the better. I am currently undergoing electrolysis treatments, and plan to see this process through to the end. My male body is disgusting, and I hope to modify it to more feminine proportions by readjusting my hormonal balance. Although I am disheartened by the presence of male genitals I suppose I could learn to live with this defect, though my natural inclinations have always been otherwise.

My ultimate goal in life is to be regarded as a woman by society. At present I have a long way to go towards realizing this end, but my purpose will remain clear and I will make the transition into this new and more fulfilling life.

I would really like to share my unique life style with others of similar motivations. Perhaps by contacting TVIC I have made the right move. I've noticed you have a TVIC Journal. Is it available to all interested parties? I am making an earnest effort to bring my second self into full bloom, so will anxiously be awaiting your reply.

Sincerely yours,

Britt René Hougard
Britt René Hougard

Benefits of Transsexual Surgery

By JANE E. BRODY

AT a time when sex-change operations are on the increase at major medical centers around the country, Johns Hopkins — the prestigious hospital that started it all — has stopped doing them, using as its justification a study that has been widely attacked by others in the field. The study called into question the benefits of these drastic operations.

The controversy has brought to the surface a growing concern about how to identify transsexuals and select those who are suitable for sex-change surgery. It has also reopened the possibility that psychotherapy might play a role in helping many of the thousands of self-proclaimed transsexuals make a better life adjustment without surgery.

Transsexuals believe they are really members of the opposite sex trapped in the wrong bodies. Their gender identity, as specialists call it, does not match their physical identity.

Faced with the failure of psychotherapy to change the minds of transsexuals to match their bodies, Johns Hopkins physicians in 1966 began instead to try to match the bodies to the patients' minds. Doctors at several other American medical centers soon took up the complex operation that previously had been the province primarily of doctors in Tijuana, Casablanca and Barcelona and a few private physicians in this country.

Since then, an estimated 4,000 persons have had sex-change operations in this country, about a third of them performed by university-based physicians. At the outset, the overwhelming majority involved operations that changed men into "women," but today an equal number of patients are women who become "men." The usual costs of surgery are between \$5,000 and \$10,000.

The surgery attracts so much public attention because of its extreme and irreversible nature. In changing a male to female, the penis and testicles are removed and an artificial vagina is constructed. Female sex hormones are given and sometimes the breasts are enlarged surgically. In changing a female to a male, the breasts, ovaries and uterus are removed, testicles are constructed and sometimes a penis is made from skin flaps. Although incapable of erection, the new penis can be made functional with implants or devices now used to treat impotent men. Male sex hormones are given.

In addition to those already operated on, tens of thousands have applied for the surgery, some undoubtedly prompted by the publicity received by such persons as Dr. Renee Richards, the transsexual tennis player who achieved world ranking at the age of 42 after becoming a woman. However, according to researchers, the vast ma-

majority of sex-changed persons meld quietly into their new lives and try to keep their former identities a secret. Many marry and raise adopted children. Most hold full-time jobs. After the initial euphoria wears off, some patients have reported disappointment that there were no dramatic changes in their lives.

The new study, done by Dr. Jon K. Meyer, a Johns Hopkins psychiatrist who was closely involved with evaluating candidates for surgery, purports to show that persons who were operated on at the university were no better adjusted afterward than those denied the surgery. The worst outcome was found among patients who were denied transsexual surgery at Johns Hopkins but then got it elsewhere, usually from a private physician or clinic where, according to the university practitioners, careful preoperative evaluations are rarely done.

"Considering the enormity of the surgery, it's not justified if it's only a cosmetic procedure," Dr. Meyer concluded. "My personal feeling is that surgery is not a proper treatment for a

psychiatric disorder, and it's clear to me that these patients have severe psychological problems that don't go away following surgery." He cited one case in which a woman required hospitalization for drug dependency and suicidal intentions after being changed to a male.

Others claim Dr. Meyer's study is seriously flawed in its methods and statistics and draws unwarranted conclusions. The study, which has raised the ire of gender-identity specialists across the country, is slated for review by a "blue ribbon committee" at the American Psychiatric Association's national meeting in May.

According to Dr. Paul A. Walker of the University of Texas, Galveston, Gender Identity Clinic, who heads an information and referral service for

Researchers have found that many patients who apply for sex-change operations are not transsexuals but rather transvestites (those who are sexually stimulated by dressing as the opposite sex) or "guilty" homosexuals

who believe it is morally and legally more acceptable to be a transsexual. Such patients should be treated with psychotherapy, not a scalpel, Dr. Walker said.

In the same issue of the journal with Dr. Meyer's report, in contradiction to previous failures of psychotherapy, Dr. David H. Barlow of Brown University in Providence, R.I., described the "successful change in gender identity" of three persons through behavior modification. He said he had trained them through conditioning techniques to act and think more like others of their biological sex. In an earlier report, Dr. Barlow described a transsexual "well on his way to surgery" who was changed by a faith healer through exorcism, suggesting that methods short of surgery might help such people.

Dr. Walker countered that "if you can change them, they weren't transsexuals in the first place. I cure people every week, sometimes just by telling them what the preoperative workup and surgery will involve."

'Real-Life' Test Required

Most applicants for surgery, including some of those most determined at the outset, change their minds in the course of a preoperative evaluation. Only 10 to 15 percent are good candidates for surgery, according to Dr. Norman Fisk, psychiatrist at Stanford University in Palo Alto, Calif. Stanford began doing transsexual surgery two years after Johns Hopkins and now has the largest university-based program.

Most major hospitals doing transsexual surgery require their sex-change

patients to pass a "real-life" test — to live as their chosen sex 24 hours a day for at least a year before the operation. Stanford insists on a minimum of two years, as did Johns Hopkins toward the end of its program.

"Patients have to be successful psychologically, socially and economically in their new sex before we operate," Dr. Fisk said. "Surgery is just the capstone. We don't expect it to cause any dramatic transformation in their lives." Dr. Walker pointed out that Dr. Meyer's study examined patients just before their surgery but after they had completed the real-life test. He added that "most of the changes had already taken place, so it's no surprise that he found no further improvement afterward."

Several years ago, Dr. Fisk did his own follow-up study, interviewing all of the 170 patients who had been operated upon at Stanford by that time. He found that six to eight years after surgery they were better off than the general population in terms of emotional or psychosocial problems, were better adjusted in their communities and had markedly improved sex lives, with all able to reach orgasm. Those who changed from female to male all earned more after surgery, but most of the male-to-female patients had to settle for a lower income after their change.

None expressed any regrets about the surgery, not even the three patients who had gone back to living in their original sex roles. Two of these three were men who, after surgery, found that they could not do well economically as women; the third reverted to living as a male after having an intense religious experience, Dr. Fisk said.

transsexuals, none of the 15 to 20 major centers now doing transsexual surgery plan to stop on the basis of the new report.

However, he and others expressed fears that findings from so esteemed an institution as Johns Hopkins would cause some medical centers to curtail their operations and discourage others from starting to do them. The result, they predicted, will be that more and more patients will go to private doctors here and abroad for precipitous and often inappropriate surgery.

In Dr. Meyer's study, published in the August issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry, half of 100 patients who had applied to the Baltimore university's Gender Identity Clinic for "sex reassignment" were located and interviewed in person. Fifteen had received the sex-change operation at the university, 25 had not had the operation, and 14 had gone elsewhere for the surgery. All the patients were evaluated for "objective" measurements of adjustment, including job and income status, residential stability, legal and psychiatric difficulties, and marital situation.

Screening Termed Critical

Both the patients operated on at Johns Hopkins and those not operated on at all improved somewhat in these dimensions with time, but with no significant difference between the two. Those who had the surgery precipitously done elsewhere showed the poorest adjustment.

"If the study shows anything at all," Dr. Walker remarked, "it's that careful screening before surgery is critical to the outcome. You have to be very careful about whom you operate on. Many applicants, certain that they want an operation, give a very convincing biography of a transsexual. They know exactly what to say. But if you put up any barriers to the surgery, they change their minds."

AVOIDING CONFUSION

HOUSTON—The city council has rescinded a Houston ordinance aimed at transvestites that prohibited "appearing in public dressed with the intent to disguise his or her sex as that of the opposite sex." The action came after a Federal judge decided the law violated the civil rights of transsexuals, and the Houston police legal department acknowledged that an arresting officer would have no way of knowing if a suspect were a legal transsexual, an illegal transvestite or what the difference was. The decision noted that dressing in clothing of the opposite sex is frequently part of the treatment preceding a legitimate sex-change operation.

Meanwhile, the Fifth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has ordered a lower court to reconsider whether or not a state Medicaid program may be required to pay for prescribed transsexual surgery.



Alimony . . . the screwing you get for the screwing you got.

Hear about the contortionist? He learned to live alone and lick it.

"I'm not afraid of panty raids," said Clarissa the Co-ed, "Because you see, I don't wear any."

When the seat of my pants split wide apart, I knew I was on my own.

The real estate lady said she was selling lots, and that's what I'm looking for . . . lots.

Night Club Announcement: Will the owner of the Cadillac with the zebra-skin seat covers please go to your car. A jack ass is raping your back seat.