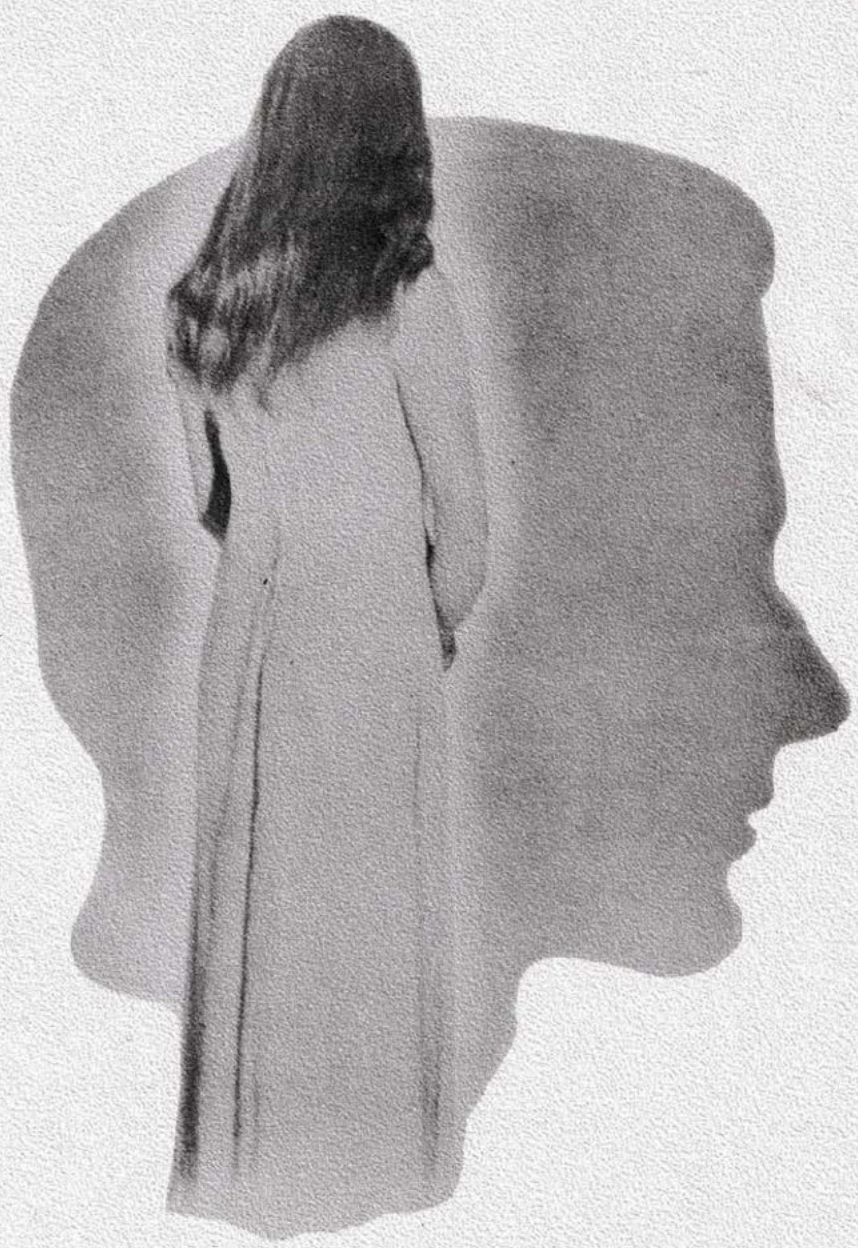
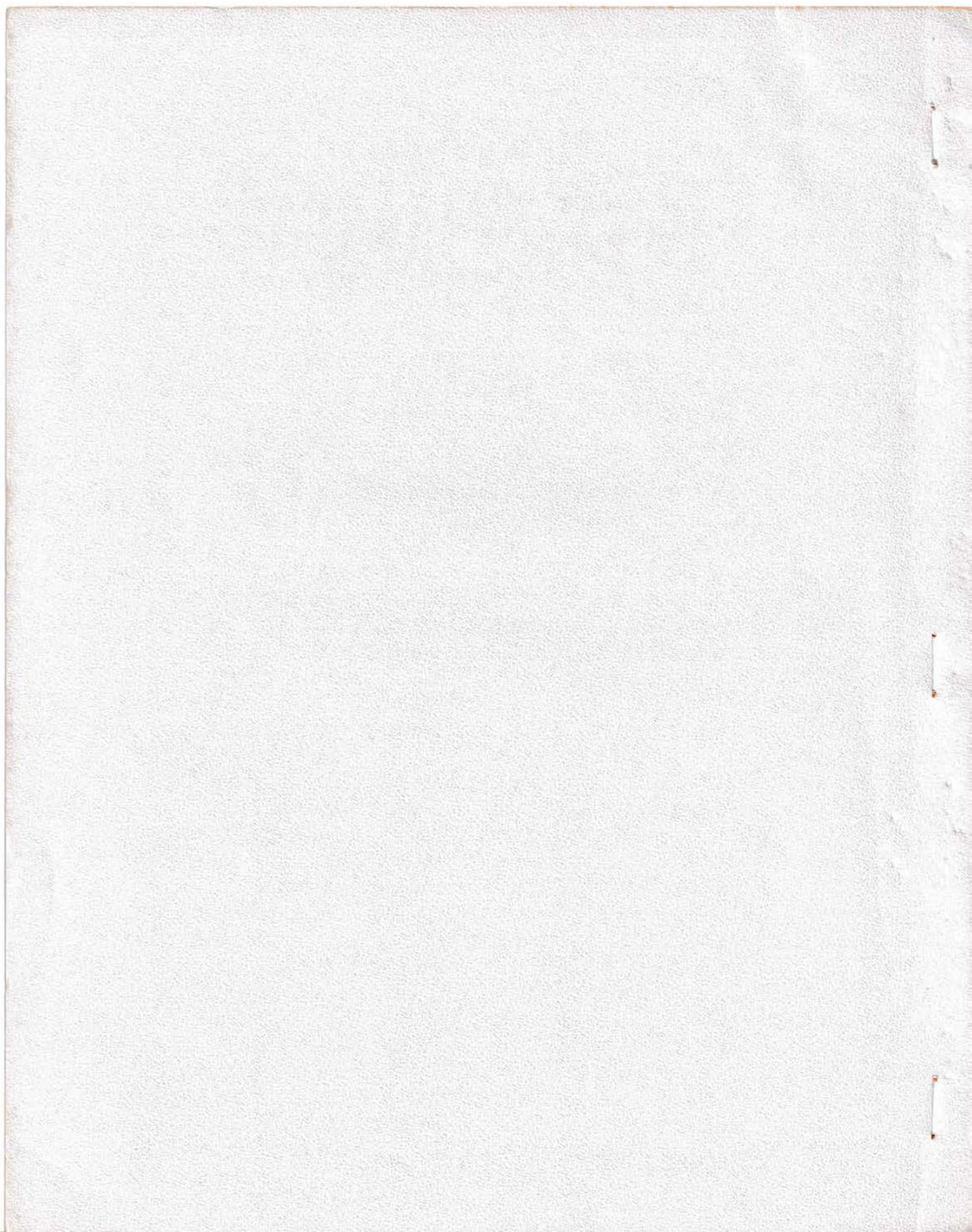


Feminique



The Sea Horse Club of Australia





F E M I N I Q U E .

This magazine is the official voice of the
SEAHORSE CLUB of AUSTRALIA.

It is dedicated to the needs of those heterosex-
-ual persons who have become aware of the other
side of their personality and seek to express it.

The magazine provides:-

EDUCATION--ENTERTAINMENT--EXPRESSION.

To help its readers achieve:-

UNDERSTANDING--SELF ACCEPTANCE--PEACE OF MIND.

In the place of loneliness, fear and self condem-
-nation they have known so long.

We do not condemn nor judge the fields of homo-
-sexuality, bondage, domination or fetishism. These
are left to others to develop. They are not
part of the areas of interest of this magazine.

SEAHORSE seeks to gather information and to dis-
-seminate it to interested persons in the medical,
legal, counselling and scientific professions to
further their knowledge about this little understood
field.....

.....
NO PART OF THIS MAGAZINE MAY BE REPRODUCED
WITHOUT WRITTEN PERMISSION.
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EDITORIAL

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.....

At last issue number four is ready. It's late as you are well aware. Chistmas and a very heavy career pressure have been the main contributors to this. I hope that the old saying better late than never will apply on this occaision.

The format of the magazine has changed only slightly. The pages are less "crammed" and the the typing has improved. I thought at this stage "IT'S TIME" for your opinion of what Feminique should contain. Inserted is a questionnaire. It concerns your preferences could you complete it and return it to me.

I normally make a request for more material at the end of this section. So far it has had little response. The situation is becoming desparate. Issue Number five is due for printing within the next month and ~~there~~ is very little material for it. Particular requirements are "Personal experiences, Members Histories(femme Focus), Fiction, Articles. This can include interesting snippets from magazines or news-papers. Photographs are also in short supply, you see rather too much of the Sydney girls and not enough of those from further out. Technically black and white are most suitable. Colour ones are almost as good providing the background is light and ~~there~~ is plenty of contrast. I should have added that the contrast also applies to Black and white prints.

A new feature of this issue is "Letters to the Editor" I hope that you will ~~make use of this~~ feature. It is easy to write letters about most subjects. It is also an easy way of desribing some of your more interesting experiences.

The "technical article" discusses and highlights the major differences between SEX and GENDER. Again it's a reprint from Doctor Virginia Prince's area and it makes interesting reading. A major contribution was received from Coleen [redacted]. It is titled a book review of I Want What I Want. After reading it I'm sure you will agree it is far more than that. Personally I think it is rather a brilliant analysis of the Transvestism versus Transexualism in the writing of the book. If it is read in conjunction with the Sex and Gender article you will see the relation

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EDITORIAL (cont)

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.....-ship.

Well if you recall last months (that should read issue). A month I think is being ambitious. As I was saying about the last Editorial. That we should be making more contact Etc with "outsiders"(that is people not directly connected with Femphilia. Since then several doctors, a leading psychiatrist and two social service groups have contacted us.

Progress is slowly but surely being made in this direction. That of making the general public aware of the exact nature of the group. It seems to be still in their minds that "Les Girls" and other similar establishments make up the complete transvestite world. It is going to be quite a struggle to convince them that this is not the case. Eventually though we will be accepted.

"In business world I'll promote what is called a thought starter" It's a horrible term but it will cover the following points. In the future I think that we should plan for a week-end seminar. It could be held at a small hotel or motel. It could start for example on Friday night and finish on Sunday afternoon. It would quite naturally be held completely "En Femme", it would give you the chance to live as a woman for the whole period, you would have the chance to meet other members in quite neutral surroundings. Wives and friends with an interest in Femphilia would be very welcome. There would be entertainment, beauty courses, a dinner party and grand ball. Security would be complete and the hotel management and staff would find it completely acceptable.

I suppose you think I'm day dreaming, well far from it. Overseas it is quite a common event and the feelers I have put out show that it is quite possible here. Next issue I'll furnish some details of the oversea event. Think about it and let's have a few thoughts on it, and if you would like to attend.

For the next issue, the long promised beauty and makeup article. Some details on the overseas clubs. Once again a plea for more material.

See you next issue.....

Trina [redacted] r.....

.ARTICLE

FEMME FOCUS

.....

This is the third article featuring the history and involvement in transvestism by our own members. Last issue we read Wendy's experiences. This time Jeannette from Western Australia tells of her experiences.

The History of Jeannette.

At the age of thirty five I planned to play a female part in a local stage production. I was at first rather reluctant to do this and it took considerable persuasion from other members of the cast before I would agree. I will not go into the details as to the type of play etc as it is not of interest except that I found reluctance in shedding my female attire and resuming my male clothing.

A party was held after the performance, and with a little time wasting and dalliance on my part back stage it was too late to change in to the male clothing. Nothing was said as I spent the next couple of hours enjoying myself to the full in the clothing I really love.

For a few months following this I just did nothing about my feelings, although at this stage I knew then that I was a Transvestite. Eventually I started to purchase a few items of female underwear. At first it was rather difficult to approach the shop assistants, but using the pretense that it was for my wife I gradually gained confidence.

I hope you will permit me to list the items it's rather large as over a period I appear to have acquired quite an extensive wardrobe. These are some of the items:--8 dresses, 4 skirts, 5 blouses, 2 twin sets, 6 jumpers, 4 cardigans, 12 pair panty hose, 12 panties, 6 girdles, 5 long line bras, 4 short line bras, 5 slips, 3 pair slippers,

FEMME FOCUS.

HISTORY OF JEANNETTE. (cont)

.....5 pairs shoes size 10c, 3 pairs sandals
3 handbags, 1 makeup case, and three
complete make up sets. (Inoxia and Ya-
-rdley), 4 nighties, 3 shortie pyjamas,
3 winter pyjamas, 2 brunch coats and
2 dressind gowns. Also to complete my
wardrobe I have one pairs of shorts and
two pairs of slacks.

To assist in attaining the correct fe-
-male shape, I have had made a number of sets of fem-
-ale busts. These are made from flesh coloured foam
fit the bras perfectly, and when in place are very
hard to detect from the real thing.

I feel that it is necessary to complete
the wardrobe with suitable accessories. For this pur-
-pose over a number of years I have obtained the fol-
-lowing jewellery. A gold wrist watch, wedding ring,
engagement ring, three dress rings and
bracelets to match. Pearls I find go
very well with most garments so I
find three different adequate to suit
all occasions. Also I have a dozen
diferent necklets with earrings to
match. Hair styles are now very easy
to match to an occasion as I have
now three wigs. A lovely dark brown
wig, and as this colour is most suit-
-able for my complexion, a short and
medium length in the same colour.

As you can see I have managed to obtain
a rather extensive wardrobe. Also I am in the process
of continually adding to it. Most of the items have
been purchased myself from the larger department stores.
An added bonus is the use of a dressmaker who both
makes clothing from patterns for me, and most conven-
-iently alters any garments that are not an exact fit.
(The dressmaker thinks I still act in plays). My
stage experience has been quite a help to me in both
the make up art and the selection of clothing to make the
most of what female attributes I have.

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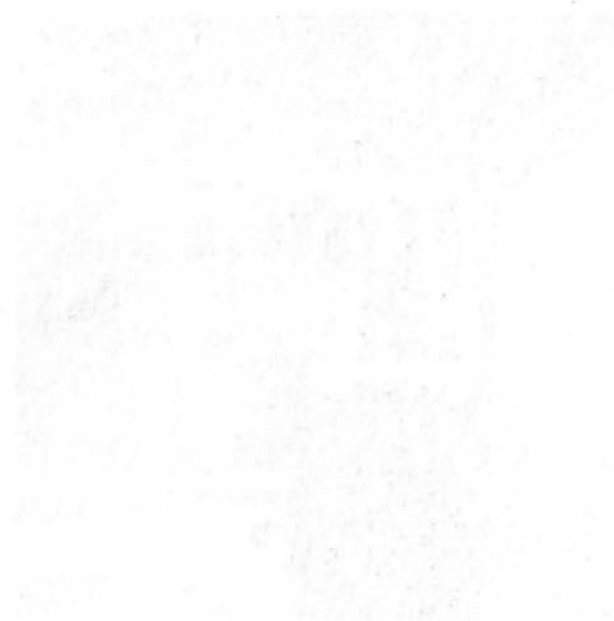
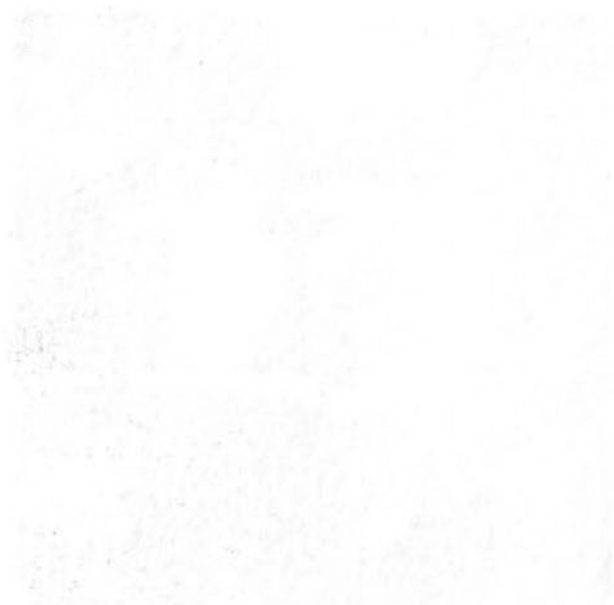
Femme Focus girl Jeannette [redacted] s relaxes at home.



Jeannette takes advantage of a secluded garden.



New Adelaide member Lynda with a friend.
"The FAB ad girls".



FEMME FOCUS.
.....

HISTORY OF JEANNETTE. (cont)
.....

My wife also helps in most facets of my transvestite life. I am very fortunate in this regard. It took her sometime to become used to this rather strange (that is how it seemed at first) extra dimension to my life. Now it has just become a part of both our lives. In a way I suppose it is others now that are abnormal rather than ourselves.

I have two children who by this time are quite grown up. Sometime ago both my wife and I decided to tell our children rather than have them find out by accident. It was with some surprise that they like my wife accepted it so easily. It is now quite commonplace to greet both dressed as Jeannette.

I wear female night clothes with bras and the figure corrector each night. Rather than changing into my more drab male clothes immediately I arise in the morning, I continue wearing the gown and dressing gown until just before I have to leave in the morning. Then it is a quick change into a business suit until the evening

As soon as possible after arriving home I resume female attire and remain in the clothes until ready to retire for the evening. Normally I spend this time watching television, reading the latest woman's fashion magazines, or carrying out one of my many hobbies. I'm sure you have all found by this time how much more pleasant everything is when dressed as a female. During the week end it is much the same unless it is absolutely necessary I continue wearing my clothes as long as possible in the morning.

At least once per week I make a special point of dressing completely "en Femme". This calls for careful preparation to obtain as realistic an appearance as possible. Once completed I then go out sometimes alone at other times accompanied by my wife. Possibly to one of nearby beaches or for a walk around the shopping area in the city. Later I usually call on my eldest son for supper. It is certainly wonderful thing to have such an understanding family, who will

.....

FEMME FOCUS.

.....

HISTORY OF JEANNETTE. (cont)

.....

.....accept me as a normal woman or man as the occasion demands. My home is very private and I have both a large garden and patio. In this locale I can sit or walk dressed as a woman without fear of interruption or being looked upon by others.

Although I am now middle aged my appearance when dressed is five or more years less than my true age. I have the appearance of a mature woman and naturally dress that way. My body, arms and legs by choice I keep hairless. My skin luckily is very good, it still remain fine and soft.

I know that I am fortunate in having such cooperation in my desire to be feminine. An understanding wife and family, have turned what to many T.V.s must be almost a nightmarish existence of hiding clothing and only dressing when they will be sure there is no danger of being caught. My own existence in comparison is almost idyllic.

My latest adveture was in Adelaide where I spent a week before returning to Perth. I stayed at a motel, most of time dressed as a woman. It was quite an experience and I am almost positive that I "passed" to all who saw me. (not that many). The only thing I have not been able to master is my voice and any suggestions on how to master this would be most welcome.

Being a Transvestite to my mind is really something, especially when your own family will accept it. Dont from these remarks get the idea that we do not lead a completely normal marital life, we do, and are a very happy "normal" family.

I have little time for those who will not let others lead the life they wish, nor for pornography or smut. I believe in letting those live their own lives. I wish to be left alone to live mine in a way I enjoy, as a heterosexual transvestite.

JILL'S JOURNAL.

.....

Well you might term this magazines report as a Presidential report---- My first term as your second president is almost up as our elections will be held soon-- Trina gives details of this elsewhere in the magazine.

It may pay at this point to look back over some of the achievement accomplished since last February.

The expansion of our main method of communication, "FEMINIQUE. It has at last got a cover. The photo gallery has expanded to four pages, extra stories, readers letters etc.

Membership has increased to 80 members 35 of whom live in Sydney.

The opening of further groups in Canberra with Coleen [redacted], very recently in Brisbane with Fiona [redacted]. Also our new councillor in Melbourne Robyn [redacted]. While we are discussing the groups many thanks to Catherine [redacted] in Adelaide for the excellent work she has done.

Correspondence has continued with our "associates" in Western Australia. Hopefully we expect that a full group will be starting over there soon. I know it is difficult but I you will be patient for just a little longer.

Welcome to all our new members since the last issue. Babara, Renee, Anne. Plus all of those we still have yet to see at their first meeting. Included in the new members is Jane. She resides in Sydney and is also our first Oriental member.

We have had a number of visitors to Sydney recently. In particular Anne from Hong Kong who we were fortunate to see quite frequently over the three months she has spent in Sydney.

JILL'S JOURNAL.

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.....We have established contact with the Salmacius Group in the U.S.A. Their Director Sally Anne [redacted] has spent a week here on a business trip and we were fortunate to establish contact with her during the visit. A number of their member visit Sydney frequently. Hopefully we will see more of the society. If any of you are pondering on the name, it is a Roman derivation of the greek God/goddess Hermaphrodite.

Further on the international scene Trina has established contact with Joan [redacted] in New Zealand and we hope to be seeing and hearing from her more frequently.

Our letter to the Forum magazine has been published resulting we hope in a greater understanding by the general public.. Of our position and position in society. It has also attracted a number of new members.

Further on the publicity side, and again resulting in further enquiries was our listing in the 'Alternative Pink Pages'.

Trina and I interviewed (or he interviewed us) a very well known Psychiatrist and gave him a greater understanding of TVs and a possible referral for the future.

The list could go on further but the club is in Trina's debt for almost all the spade work. For these and a dozen others too numerous to mention.

For the future a meeting will be attended by a female "beautician". A interview with the councillors of "PHONE*A FRIEND", the counselling group of Camp Ink will be completed soon by Trina and I, It may possible for some others to assist in this work.

Looking back over the last twelve months I can only say how much I have enjoyed the work, attending meetings and helping intending members join the ranks. We can only go forward from this point to become a unified Australian wide group.

Who knows-- perhaps 1978 will see us hire the ballroom of the Chevron Hilton for our interstate convention/????

Best wishes....

Love, Jill [redacted] n....
.....

ARTICLE.
.....

FOLLOWING THE FASHION BY
THE STARS.

by Trina [REDACTED].

Can you honestly say that you never glance at your horoscope in a newspaper or magazine to see "what the future holds in store for you? So writes a world renowned fashion designer.

This article has been adapted from a recent magazine article. Although he did not write exclusively for the "Seahorse Club" I think it applies as well to ourselves as the "other girls" he intended it for. I'll let him continue the article in his own words.

"I wonder how many people have a zodiac sign or a birth stone as some sort of charm or decoration?.

I was discussing this very subject with an astrologer friend recently, who surprised me by claiming that she could tell a woman's birth sign from the type of clothes she wears--well some of the time anyway..

I know very little about astrology but something about fashion and decided to put the theory to the test and it certainly seems to work.

Try it yourself--- look at the attributes and characteristics for people under each sign, then try to match them with people you have met.

Aquarius ~~Men~~ ^{Women} for instance are modern and independent. Usually very creative, they are often rebels against convention. Their fashion colour is silver: silver grey outfits with outrageous hats; lots of silver jewelry, glittery tee shirts, lots of scope for silver lurex for the evening. Low daring necklines, batwing sleeves trailing, and yards of silver chiffon.

Piscean femiphiles usually rather emotional, have a habit of acting out every conversation. Imaginative and intuitive they tend to live in a dream world, and usually conduct their day to day lives in a muddle. The fashion colour for the Pisceans is green. Dramatic, emerald green blouses, with romantic hamlet sleeves; fresh peppermint , pants for casual wear.

ARTICLE
.....

FOLLOWING THE FASHION BY THE STARS (CONT)
.....

.....Aries Tvs are highly enegetic people who like to be where the action is and enjoy a challenge. They like to be smart and efficient. Any other colour than red would die the death besides such abundant enegy. Match up your navy blue outfits with lots of bright red touches. What could look better than a navy dress and coat, teamed with red patent or leather shoes, envelope style red leather hand bag and red silk scarve at the neck.

Taurean TVs are practical and efficient. Poised and sociable they understand the art of making people feel at home. Blue is the colour for you with the softer fabrics. For practical daytime wear a practicle new soft crimplene. Even the faded demin. For the evening a silk or crepe.

Gemini femiphiles are restless, extremely talkative, very lively, and like to keep on the move. Yellow is their colour. Easy to look after, non crease takke you any where fashion should be their choice. No clutter to slow you down. All this can be taken into account by lively sunflower yellow co-ordinates-- jacket and skirt or jacket and slacks, (well why not for a change?

Cancer: tranvestit&colour is white, for they are soft and feminine, with gentle and cautious natures, They are also extremely capable, and make good cooks and hostesses. They like entertaining and for the evenings at home and elsewhere look their best in soft white or unbleached natural fabric. Day time wear includes lots of soft white cardigans and sweaters. Evening can bring out the feminine and romantic side with soft white jersy silk.

Leo people have great personal magnetism and love showing off. (and can be extremely vain). Gold is their colour--gold lame evening wear and lots of gold and gilt accessories, including belt and shoe buckles. Gold crowns are not the trend this year, and so do not be tempted.

Virgo femiphiles are almost as practical
.....



Jeanette as "Scarlet O'Hara"



Anne in a contemplative mood.



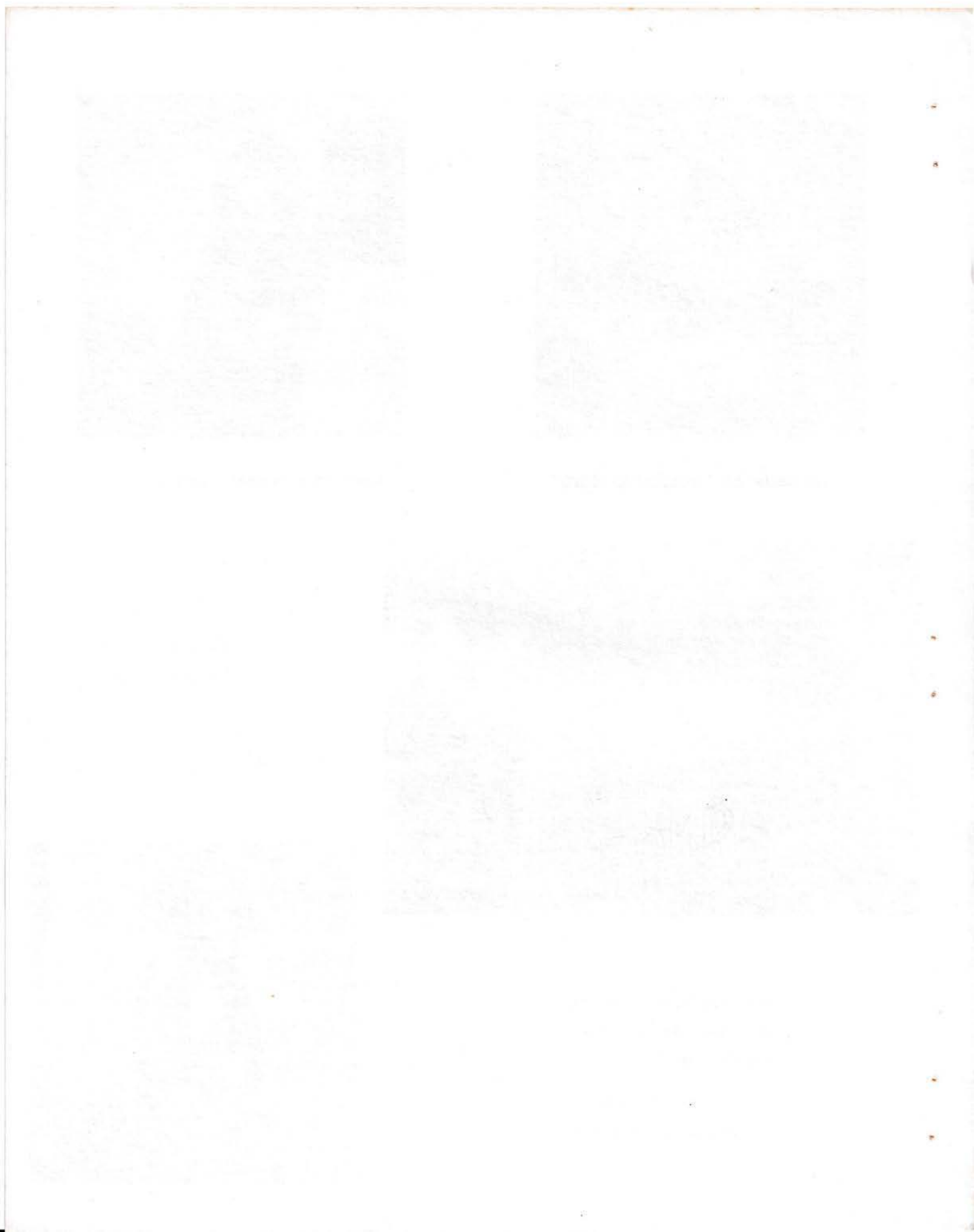
First night at
Seahorse for
Renee.



"Why do they give the
photographer such a
rough time?"

Trina, Margaret, Anne,
Wendy I and Wendy II.





ARTICLE.

FOLLOWING FASHION BY THE STARS. (cont)
.....

.....as Taureans. They are very methodical and helpful, but usually lack confidence. Their natural shyness is reflected in their colour grey---- stick to your favourite grey by all means but liven it up with gay accessories such as sensational silk scarves, bold jewellery, a silly hat, or a gimmicky hand-bag with a stuck on pop slogan.

Libra transvestites simply ooze charm and fashion sense. They are usually are very feminine and sympathetic. Pink or any of the other pale pastel colours are for them and they feel happiest in quiet gentle colours. Dressing presents no problem this year for them. The colours are natural with lots of lilac, pale blues, shell pinks and gentle misty greens in soft mohair and silk.

Scorpio's, dynamic and intense are in a class of their own. They tend to lead very emotional lives, emphasized by their colour violet. It is a superb colour , but do not overdo it, or you will look like an aging actress. Violet velvet evening skirts can be stunning when teamed with plain white. Always balance the main colour with something plain and simple for the best effect.

Sagittarians are good sports, usually easy to get on with, but they can sometimes be a little eccentric. They are usually energetic, and sometimes enjoy walking or cycling to work in cold weather. And their colour is an energetic one too----purple.

Capricornian femiphiles are lucky, for their fashion colour, black, is right back in vogue. Capricorn TVs are often quiet, but capable, seldom pushing themselves forward. The little "black" dress epitomises unobtrusiveness and will see you through a multitude of situations.....

.....
Well have you recognised yourself in the above. You never know do you, if you are not getting any wolf whistles etc , you may not be following the stars.

FICTION.
.....

THE FIRST NIGHT..
.....

by Trina [REDACTED].

Several window shoppers enjoying the glorious Sydney evening paused in their activities. As a gleaming black Rolls Royce glided smoothly to a halt outside the brightly lit exterior of Sydney's premier hotel, "The Menzies". At this late hour in the fashionable down town area, the social whirl was just beginning for the late spring Friday night. They stopped to see who would emerge. Even if they could not participate in the glamour, hopefully some of it may lift their own hum-drum existence.

For the out of towners here was a possible gossip item they could take back to tell the neighbour.

"You wont believe this Mable dear, but I saw Lady SO and SO arriving for the Such and Such Ball." It may give some impression of glamour to the rather dull package holiday .

The hotel doorman attired more to resemble an Admiral in the mythical Ruritanian Navy, rather than his real role hurried forward to meet the car. Opening the door he stood to one side ready to assist, as first a very shapely leg clad in the sheerest of nylons and exquisite evening sandle's emerged from the luxurious interior of the Rolls Royce. The audience pausing to ogle the scene were not to be disapointed as the young lady emerged. Elegantly attired in a gown of palest blue satin, daringly cut with a plunging neckline and the skirt cut to give a glimpse from knee to ankle of a shapely leg.

The golden blonde hair was perfectly coiffed and formed an ideal frame for the delicate feminine face, cornflower blue eyes and tiny uptilted nose. Around the neck was a magnificent necklace, this also matched by earrings, bracelet and rings.

As she turned to speak to the chauffeur the onlookers asked amongst themselves who could it be and what on earth was the event, it would certainly

.....

FICTION
.....

THE FIRST NIGHT. (cont)

.....

.....be worth mentioning "back home" unfortunately not one of them had the answer, however the conclusion reached was both most important.

"Return at two o'clock James, we should be finished by then." she said to the chauffeur. The voice had a husky quality, rather reminiscent of Ertha Kitt.

"Yes Miss Bellamy, I'll be waiting for you".
The doorman stepped forward to escort her into the Hotel.

"It's very nice to see you again Miss Bellamy. The Seahorse Club dinner seems very well patronised tonight. Your group always seem to bring some life to the hotel, I hope you will continue to patronise us."

"Why that's very nice of you Albert. Well the membership has certainly been growing over the past six months." Robyn Bellamy replied as she stepped into the waiting elevator. He reached in and pushed the button for the sixth floor.

"Have a pleasant evening Miss" he said as the doors closed.....

....."You seem to have given Mr Bryants proposals some very serious consideration Mr Bellamy. Could we have your opinion on whether we go ahead or not."

Suddenly Robin was back to earth, luckily the Managing Director "Old Smithers" as he was affectionately (and sometimes not so affectionately known) had thought it was the new advertising budget he had been thinking of, luckily;. He would have been really surprised if he could have read my mind. I don't think he would have appreciated my thoughts of the Menzie's. Now I must keep my mind on business for the rest of the afternoon, he thought. The meeting is not till later, though it still seems an eternity.

"Well Mister Smithers, I think thier are one or two areas Mister Bryant could cover in more detail, the phase in of the promotional activity for instance":

.....

FICTION.
.....

THE FIRST NIGHT. (cont)

.....

.....That will keep him busy thought Robin, and give me enough time to collect my thoughts. "Old Smithers" tipped him a knowing wink, well he certainly thought I was on the ball then. At least it will give him a chance to air his paternalism at the club tonight. "that young accountant I've got, he knows how to keep those Advertising Chappies on thier toes. Picked up all the points at the meeting. Picked him my self you know. Knew he was the man we neede the moment I saw him. Young Bellamy, will go far:."

Wonder what he would have thought if he realized I had been day dreaming. Oh, well tonight won't be at the Menzies, and there will be no Albert to graciously recieve us. I'm positive however it's going to be better than I have ever dreamed of. He took the opportunity to surreptitiously glance at his watch. Almost four thirty, hopefully "Smithers" will want to get to his club early, that will allow me a little time to make the transformation.

Almost on cue it happened,
"Well gentleman" said Mister Smithers cutting the Advertising man off in mid point;; "I think we need the weekend to give carefull consideration to this promotion. We will meet again on Monday morning, I wish you a pleasant weekend ."

Robin needed no more persuasion, tactfully turning down his normal Friday night drink at the local bar. Rather cheekily using the explantion that he had to change for a special function he was attending tonight.

"Is she a bit of all right then Robin!, don't do anything I wouldn't do, "were some of the remarks that followed him from the office.

Checking that the parcel he had purchased during the lunch break was still there he set off on the short drive to his Hunters Hill townhouse. Thinking as he drove of the fortunate experience with Wendy in purchasing todays last item the lovely satin corsolette.....

FICTION.
.....

THE FIRST NIGHT. (cont)

.....

Chapter two.
.....

Tonight was the first meeting he would attend of the Seahorse Club. Several weeks ago he had noticed a discreet advertisement in the "National Review", a weekly tabloid that carried a number of "contact" letters. With increasing excitement as he had hurriedly scanned the small two column advertisement he realized at last he would be able to contact people with the same desires as himself. A reply was sent the next day and with mounting impatience he awaited the reply. He had taken to visiting his post office box twice a day, and two weeks later was almost resigned to never receiving a reply the fateful letter arrived.

Together with the letter thanking him for his interest, was a booklet explaining the club's aims and objectives and a copy of the club's newsletter. He had been asked to read it and if still interested to forward another note to the club President.

He met one of the interviewers two weeks later, on Paul's advice the meeting was at a small restaurant. At first he was terribly nervous, not knowing what to expect, however over a meal and coffee they were soon chatting as old friends. Towards the end of the meal Paul produced a number of photographs of his "sister" Pauline. Robyn was staggered, the person sitting opposite him was a rather average looking man, between 35 and 40 years old, of slight build certainly not someone who would stand out in a crowd. As a woman however, well the only word he could think of was !wow!. It was almost unbelievable that the glamorous blonde and Paul were one and the same person.

Robin was positive that his appearance could never equal that of Pauline, expressing his concern that he may not be up to the standard for the club. Paul put his mind at rest it was the person that counted not the appearance.

"After all" he said "remember the old saying

.....

FICTION.

.....

THE FIRST NIGHT. (cont)

.....beauty is only skin deep, well with us unfortunately it is normally even shallower. Relax Robin with a little bit of practise you will probably outshine the lot of us."..

Paul gave him a few tips on the application of makeup , and the address of a number of dress boutiques that he said were "sympathetic. He would ring later as to the address of the next meeting which would be held in three weeks time. It was to be a rather special event with a number of overseas visitors attending...

The closer the time came to the meeting the more nervous he became. A telephone conversation with Paul three nights ago had given him some reassurance, however he was beginning to understand the trauma that young debutante's must feel when making their first appearance into society. Several times he had felt like telephoning to say he would not be able to make it to the party. However the thought of not attending was even stronger, now as the eve of his entrance into the transvestite world neared the nervousness and fears became more real.

.....

Chapter three.

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These were thrust from his mind as he drew into the garage directly beneath the town house. He had discussed the problem with Paul on whether to travel "femme" or not and in the end decided to rather than change when he arrived. It would be simple enough to get to the car as the garage had an entrance directly into the house. He glanced at his watch how the time seemed to fly, he wanted to be perfect tonight and it took some time to change.

Gathering the day's purchases into his arms he opened the door and stepped inside. There would be no need for a meal, as the meeting tonight would be in the form of a cocktail. Now he thought first things first, I'd better unpack these. He removed the wrapp-

.....

.....

THE FIRST NIGHT.

.....-ings from the corsolette, the new satin slip and pantie set that Wendy had so carefully packed before he left the shop. Taking them through into the bedroom he carefully laid them out on the bed. Then unlocking the right hand side of the massive wardrobe he checked to see whether anything had been disturbed.. no... everthing was in place exactly as he had left it. It had taken some time last night preparing the wig and hanging the gown to ensure no creases. Robin was positive that his "daily" help Mrs O'leary must ponder and speculate on what lay behind the locked doors. It was better that she continued to ponder than knew however.

First the bath, and whilst it was running he began to shave. "A T.V. must have been responsible for the invention of the twin blade razor " Paul had said when asked what was the best to use. On his advice he had also not shaved that morning, this left the hair follicle pull back below the skin. Well it certainly seems to work he thought as examined the finished job.

The bath was now ready, feeling rather daring he put two scented bath cubes into the water before sliding in. Normally he spent some time in the water relaxing, however tonight was far to important and he was soon out drying himself with a soft towel. All his rather sparse bodily hair had been removed the previous evening so there was no need to complete this rather onerous task. A liberal application of "Tweed Lenthgic "body talc and he was ready to begin the metamorphosis from male caterpillar into a glamorous female butterfly.

Underwear before makeup Robin decided as he returned to the bedroom. It always felt far more comfortable sitting before the mirror partly in the role of a woman. A pair of pink satin stretch panties the fit was perfection, tight to mid thigh then with a slight flair. The short legs trimmed both with lace and flower appliques. The corsolette was next, the shoulder straps had already been adjusted and it was merely a matter of fastening the delightfull creations

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FICTION.

.....

THE FIRST NIGHT (cont)

.....

.....hooks and eyes that ran slightly left of centre on the garment.

"Whew"! merely a matter of fastening he thought. It was turning out to be more an exercise in physical fitness. At last everything was in place. Seizing the back lace in either hand he then began to tighten up the waist cinch. Breathing in deeply he gradually tightened it until, the back busk fastening met. Robin knew then there would be no problem involved in wearing his latest gown.

Panty hose was next, he had had to practise now to be troubled by what can often be a rather tricky job for a beginner. They were quickly in place. He had always preferred the smoother stocking to the stretch type, the only problem was they were becoming rather hard to find.

Time was beginning to slip by as the full length nylon satin slip slid over his head and slithered into place, smoothing it as he stepped to the dressing table, he began the delicate operation of applying makeup.

Up till now he had always been rather lavish with the materials and his appearance as Robyn tended to the theatrical. Looking at Paul's photo's he had realised that a natural appearance was the key to successfully "passing". The last weeks had involve some intensive practise in the art. The result of his efforts had really surprised him. First an application of the 'gel' foundation, it's very smoothness was the real factor in his improvement. Allowing it to set, Robin carefully applied the mascara. He had been tempted to use the false eyelashes. These were to unnatural for tonight.

Eyeliners was next, a soft brown, lengthening it at each corner to add a little more width to the eyes. A light touch of gold frosting on each lid and a deeper brownish gold to act as a high lighter. The foundation had set, as he began the application of the translucent powder. His face twisting and grimacing as though in pain as he made sure that every

FICTION.

..... THE FIRST NIGHT (cont)
.....

.....crevice and line in his fair skin was covered. Then what look to an outsider as rather strange. He apparently negated all the careful work of powdering by removing as much as possible with a soft sable brush. The final application was that of lip-stick. A sure and steady hand made sure that this was applied just so. The deep pink rosebud mouth smiled back from the mirror as Robyn checked to make sure that the finish was up to the usual standard.

The transformation was completed as he carefully eased the shoulder length blonde wig over his own hair. The light hair net helped secure any tendrils straying. At last it was in place, fitting perfectly. Robyn decided to complete the dressing before giving the wig a final touch up.

It had taken quite a bit of thought before selecting the dress from his rather extensive collection. Short or long? Sophisticated or simple? It had been quite a problem. Paul had said the variety was wide, the 'girls' had no set formulae. His final choice had been a simple yet sophisticated pastel blue crepe. Long sleeved, these loose and finished with a satin ribbon trim. The same trim in self colour forming the shoulder and bust panel. The Vee shaped neck forming into a panel gored skirt. It was a beautiful gown. The crepe, slightly bias cut showed every figure imperfection. This had been the main reason for the shopping expedition for the corsolette. Now looking in the full length mirror "she" realized what a success it was!

Now where was the wrist watch? Checking it Robyn could see 'she' was going to be late. That! Teach me to develop a narcissism complex! Robyn said quietly to herself.

Silver evening sandals completed the the ensemble. After fastening a silver bacelet to her wrist and fitting a matching ring Robyn was almost ready.

The siver "Oroton " evening bag all ready by the door. A quick check, for car keys, driving licence, and money. "Yes everything was there". All she had to do now was go down the steps to the car, climb in and drive off. ALL! it was at this point that the
.....

FICTION.
.....

THE FIRST NIGHT.(cont)
.....

.....immensity of what we was about to do finally hit her. Up till now IT had just been the problem of joining the group. Meeting Paul and preparing for the evening. Robyn had been to busy up till this point to consider just how difficult it was to open the door and step into the driving seat of the car.

This was the final 'committal point' as the computer people were so fond of saying. Once he was through the door it was a case of demonstrating to others. At this point true it was only members of the Seahorse Club, only in the sense he/she was one of them. That Robyn Bellamy was different to 96.5% of the "normal" population. He was declaring not only to himself but to others, that he was a tranvestite.

.....

Chapter four.

.....

"Now pull yourself together girl. you are being far to dramatic about the whole thing"

Knowing that further speculation would almost certainly lead to a cancelled evening, she scooped up the hand bag . Almost running Robyn moved quickly to the car.

It was the first occasion he had used the M.G.B whilst wearing a long dress. The low seating in the small sports car was rather difficult to manage. Where previously the male counterpart had just 'flopped' into the seat. Robyn was the acme of feminine poise. Seating herself on the low bucket seat, smoothed the crepe gown. Only then did she move her legs into the driving position. Closing the door, Robyn checked the driving mirror, typically feminine examining her makeup and wig before moving it into place.

The doors were electrically operated, she was sure that Robin had decided to put them in for this purpose. Even though the knowledge of the Clubs existence had not been publicised at that stage. She started the car. Pressed the button and as the doors slid open, moved out to what she was sure would be a

.....

FICTION.

THE FIRST NIGHT.

..... a rather unusual drive through the city. It was almost ten miles to Paul's or as it would be to-night Paulines residence. The most difficult area was the drive up onto the street. Past two of the other residences in the block. Both couples he knew rather well.

"Nothing to worry about had been Paul's advice," they want to know the next day who was it you lent the car too."

Sure enough there were Mildred and Susan conversing at the end of the driveway. Smiling slightly she drove quietly past into the road way. By now the nervousness had began to evaporate. Robyn was able to appreciate the new role. . The first test came at the traffic lights. The lights had just changed, so it was going to be a two or three minute wait. Suddenly she was aware of a "Hot Wagon", G.T. mag wheels, rorty exhaust, go fast stripes. Every accessory that could be fitted was attached somewhere to the car. In it were four "with it" men about town aged about twenty five and having all the bravado that a group of four gives. Both windows were wound down, as two heads leaning on elbows came forward to appraise the occupant of the sports car. It was obvious at once they liked what they saw.

"Want some company, seems a shame to be on your own"

"Come and join us love we'll show you a good time tonight" The whole conversation punctuated with nudges, nods, and winks within the car.

Robyn turned her head away praying for the lights to change, she didn't want to offer any encouragement to them. At last the lights change and with a squeal of rubber the car and it's occupants roared off into the night. No doubt to offer themselves to a more appreciative recipient.

The rest of the was uneventual, apart from a number of "wolf whistles" that Robyn was now beginning to enjoy. At last Paulines drive was in sight, parking carefully in the street she locked the car. With makeup case in hand Robyn walked to the door, givving the special knock she waited for the door to open on a new way of life..... the end:..

ARTICLE.

SEX

CHANGE OF

OR

GENDER.

by Virginia Prince.

This is a reprint from TRANSVESTIA and provides a very interesting discussion point. It eliminates a number of queries concerning the vital difference between sex and gender.....

A great many TVs can remember how as little boys, they prayed nightly to god that they would wake up the next morning as little girls. If this yearning did not evince itself in prayers for a change it surely did so as envy and an urge to imitate girls. The important thing to note here is that the change or emulation is usually felt either before there is much awareness of the difference between maleness and femaleness or, if later when the facts of life are known, the envy is not aimed at her FEMALENESS but at her GIRLINESS. At that age none of us realized that there was a great difference between sex and gender (and unfortunately a great deal of us still don't). We are not alone because the majority of the population does not realize it and even a great many professional people do not. Of all the people in the world TVs should recognize the fact that you do not have to be female to "be" a "girl", because a great many of us definitely feel ourselves to be "girls" when we are dressed even though we are perfectly aware that we are males. If a TV looks well enough to pass on the street it should certainly be clear to her that in society she IS a girl not only to herself but to everyone who sees her or has any sort of interchange with her. Girlness is set forth by her clothes, the hair-do, the shoes, makeup, jewelry, manner and the general actions. When these are appropriate and in good taste everyone sees a GIRL and nobody pulls up her skirt to check whether she is a female or not. Thus to herself and the observers the TV girl in passing is expressing her feminine GENDER and her anatomical sex doesn't enter into it. This should make it perfectly evident that sex and gender are not the same thing and are not necessarily tied together.....



A supper time discussion -
Wendy and Jeannette.



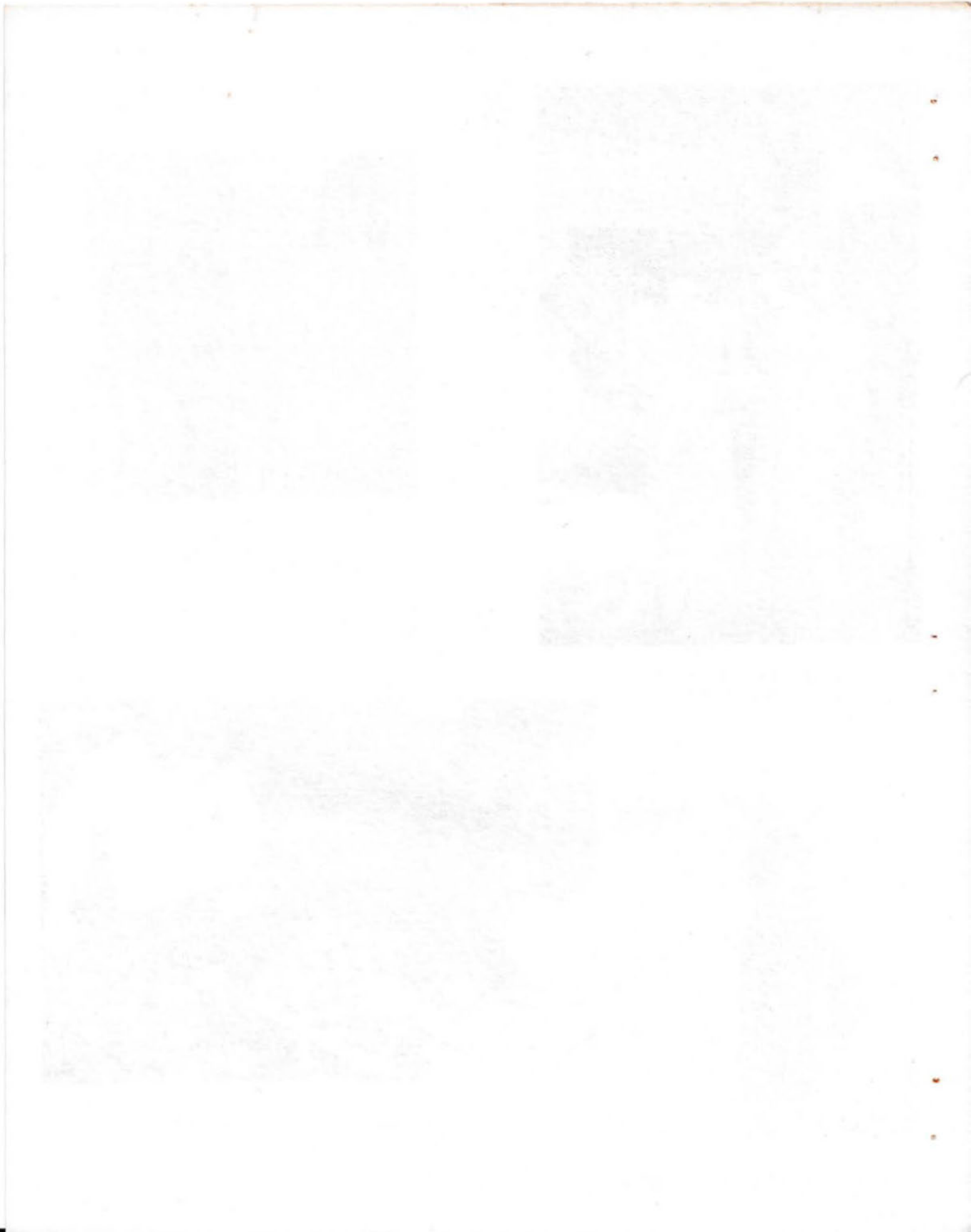
Anne from Hong Kong with
Wendy [redacted].



Leslie steps out for the night.



Jill Austin and Fionia [redacted]s -
"A Queen for a Knight".



Change of Sex or Gender. (cont)

.....I, myself, provide a perfectly good living proof of that. Although I am a male sexually I am a woman generally. I look, dress, act, do and express as all women do and even though some of you cringe at the term I am more properly described as a male woman because the first word describes my anatomy and the second my social appearance and behavior.

Now I'm not using myself as the example in any sense of bragging or putting myself forward but simply because many of you have met me and all of you ought to know me pretty well from my writing by this time. I think that I can present a practical example that I hope you can understand better than an abstract and theoretical description and your knowledge of me as a specific person should help in the process.

All right then what of it?. Well exactly this-- TVism consists in imitating and partaking of the GENDER qualities and prerequisites of girls and women, i.e. their femininity. All of you do it every time you dress and it's only a matter of degree as determined by your physical characteristics and your personal and domestic acceptance that separates one TV from another in this regard. All of you without exception I'll wager would like to be about 5'6" a 125lbs have a pretty more delicate face without a beard. At least that exists in your femme dreams. Naturally in your man life you are satisfied to be taller, heavier, more rugged picture of a man. The point I'm getting to here is that your dreams, fantasies and mental picture of your femmeselves are 99% general in nature. You prayed to be changed into a GIRL, not into a female. You would not have been satisfied with the deal if you had had that anatomical change while you slept to be discovered when you awoke, then to put on your boys clothing and go out and play baseball with the gang. Of course not, that would have been ridiculous because you didn't want a sex change , you sought a gender change....

.....

.Change of Sex or Gender? (cont)
.....

.....You see therefore from your own past memories that you longed for girlishness not femaleness. As you got older, however you began to reason that girls got to be girls and feminine because they were females and if you obtained a vagina POW you'd be one. In other words it is really a semantic problem in that we tend to use the word girl as a synonym for female which it is not. Now it is true that most females are girls. They are human beings who have the two qualities of female sex and feminine gender at the same time. Because they go together does not make them the same nor does one require the other. This works both ways, I Virginia am a woman but not a female and there are a good number of other like me.

Well all of this may seem way off the subject of transexualism and sex change surgery but it is not. I have put it in this way because it is my hope that these articles on the TS thing will so clarify it that some of you who read them and who are now wistfully thinking on how you can accomplish the surgery will get a new slant on the matter and cool it. What I have tried to establish so far is:-

- (a) Sex and gender are different things.
- (b) TVs emulate gender and privileges, not SEX but femaleness.
- (c) That removal of the external organs will automatically give the desired gender.
- (d) Gender is developed by practise not obtained through surgery.
- (e) Forget an operation and express your Gender role,, enjoy being a girl.

The main trouble with the word TRANSEXUAL is that nobody has ever sought to define it. It is generally applied equally pre-surgically and post surgically. That is, not only is anyone who has already had the sex operation called a transexual but anyone who comes to the doctor and says, "I'm a transexual, I'm a female trapped in a male body I want a sex change" is considered by the doctor to be a transexual. It is the only one in which the patient presents the diagnosis and the doctor concurs uncritically.
.....

Change of Sex or Gender?
.....

(cont)

.....Now it follows that if one is going to alter any part of the body or of the personality it can only be justified if it can be shown that the part to be altered is not functioning properly. A damaged kidney not functioning as it should has to be removed; a person suffering from highly neurotic phobia needs treatment, a disfiguring facial scar, a dislocated hip or a club foot, all of which would prevent an effective adjustment to life would require surgical correction. It is my contention that ONLY THOSE IN WHOM SEX AND GENDER ARE NOT CONTRIBUTING TO A HAPPY AND EFFECTIVE LIFE SHOULD BE TERMED TRANS*-EXUALS. I emphasize both because it is not logical to change sex if gender adjustment is adequate nor to try to change gender by surgery if the sex apparatus is functioning.

Now what are the implications of this? First that a "true" TS should be a person whose maleness is non-functional, that is one who has been unable to become erotically aroused as a male (regardless of the sex of the partner). Second that the individual's gender, his masculinity, should be of a low order. He would be unable to relate to women as a man even on a non sexual basis, lacks ambition and drive and the ability to hold a good job etc. In short the true TS could be described as a person who is inadequate, uncomfortable, unhappy both as a male and as a man. (both sexually and genderally that is).

If this is accepted as a reasonable definition of the term, we next begin to look around for people who would fit it. Having defined the word and listed the symptoms that indicate the condition the doctor should decide whether John Smith does or does not fit the category (and not take John's own diagnosis) I would estimate that not more than 20% of those seeking surgery could really be considered to be proper Transsexuals by any reasonable definition. Well then for heaven's sake, what's with the other 80%??

I'm not in a position to divide that 80% into specific percentages but I can divide them into.....

Change of Sex or Gender ? (cont)

.....three specific classes. The first and largest , is composed of those persons who are really homo-
-sexuals. That is those who have lived openly a
homosexual life and are "drag queens" These come to
the conclusion that since they find drag an effect-
-ive means of capturing male partners, they feel they
would be even more efficient if they were able to
provide a "front door" for their sexual partners.

Unfortunately the new converttee become a
sort of outcast from his former associates and the
gay world and she has no choice but to turn to the
straight world. She feels it necessary to "prove" her
"femininity" which as she uses the word refers to her
sex and not to gender, by having sexual encounters
with as many men as she can. However her chances of
finding a decent straight guy who will love and ma-
-rry her are not great. She cannot provide him with
children and not being raised as a girl she cannot
really fulfill his needs as a wife, even though she
thinks she can and even if he knows nothing of her
past. Obviously therefore , sex change surgery is
not reasonable nor justified for these persons---
--they do not fit the definition----

The second class are those persons who may have
never had a homosexual experience but who on a con-
scious or sub-conscious level are attracted to penis-
-es and the idea of being penetrated but whose moral
code and upbringing makes such contacts unacceptable
to them as long as they are males. For such a person
it follows logically that if he is dis qualified as
a male and becomes a "pseudo female" such contacts
are now "all right". and morally acceptable. Needless
to say they have probably never had any sort of dres-
-sing experience that the drag queen has had. Nei-
-her this group nor the first will have much real
femininity prior to surgery regardless of how young
and pretty they may be when dressed. Femininity is
a feeling within oneself not just the visual impre-
-ssion given to others at a ball.

The ird portion of the 80% of non TS applic-
-ants are in reality misguided TVs. These remind me
of the humorous sign sometimes seen on office walls.....

Change of Sex or Gender ? (cont)

.....

-----"My mind is made up, don't confuse me with facts!!!". In this case, whether they have had surgery or not, are persons who in many cases are married and often fathers. This automatically disqualifies them from the definition given previously because if they have been able to have intercourse with a female it is obvious that the mechanism leading to attraction, affection, erection and ejaculation are all in working order. This regardless of whether they have fathered children or not, though naturally paternity is prima facie and irrefutable evidence that they were sexually functional.

On the other hand these people are usually disqualified on the gender level too. To begin with they were enough of a "man" to attract a female sufficiently to permit intercourse. Beyond that they generally have a history of having had the ambition to get and keep a job, earn a decent income and to be above suspicion and accusation. Some of those whom I class as misguided TVs and who have had surgery were married, fathers, successful business men and were entirely the opposite of the definition already presented. Of course they have no choice now but to make the best of it since it is an accomplished fact and, of course, no one of them would admit that it had been a "mistake". How could they? To admit it to the "outsider" they would have to admit it to themselves first and this is next to impossible. Few people are capable of that degree of honesty, of candour, and of self understanding.

Well the reader may ask, "if these 'misguided' TVs as you call them really aren't TSs why would they so avidly seek surgery". This is the \$64 question and the whole reason for this article. It goes back to what I dwelt on somewhat lengthily in the beginning, the fact that sex and gender are not the same thing, TVs aim at girlhood and womanhood and not at femaleness. Thus what TVism is all about is gender envy not sex envy. You do NOT acquire "femininity and womanliness by losing your maleness and gaining a FRONT DOOR ". Such a person still has to LEARN..

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Change of Sex or Gender? (cont)
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.....her femininity the hard way----by living itt
andexperiencing it and making foolish mistakes in
behavior feeling embarrassed when she does something
inappropriate to her visible gender.

What I'm trying to say is that the TV seeking
surgery is "misguided" because he fails to realize
that his very TVism is a gender expression and that
what he enjoys is dressing, looking, acting and en-
-joying his feminine gender and if he is passable
this is just as possible before surgery as after.
Its less dangerous, less expensive, less painful and
does not require constantly going back to the doctor
for additional surgical repairs or alterations. Most
important it is reversible. If a person such as my-
-self who is doing just this---living my womanliness
without surgery--- should get tired of the whole th-
-ing (which is extremely unlikely) she could revert
to masculinity without being a freak.

So the point is if you are a TV, if you have
in the past functioned successfully with a female
sexually, had a decent job, got a long with the boys
as one of them, it is unlikely that you are really
a TS. If you have been married and fathered children
it is almost certain you are not a TS--by definition.
What you are is a very intense TV who wants to give
up his masculinity and adopt femininity as a life
style. Your only trouble is that you are thinking
that surgery is the only way to acheive this. You are
very wrong. If you can make all the necessary plans
for change of life after surgery--- domestically,
family wise, job wise, and socially---then you can
do the same for a gender switch and be \$15000 ahead.

I have talked with a number of pre and post oper-
-ative "cases! What consistently emerges in all of
them is that when they have got the bit between their
teeth and the idea has really taken hold of them not
only can you not reach them with logic and reason---
--but every question put to them by friends and doc-
-tors is answered in such a way as to be consistent
with acheiving their goals.

I know full well the argument that will be ad-
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Change of Sex or Gender? (cont)
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.....-vanced either by some of the individuals concerned or by interested and sympathetic observers. I know because I've argued with Dr Benjamin about this several times. A person who has been a husband and a father may try to minimise the degree of his success as a male in his sexual experiences by saying something to the effect that "I was only able to have sex with my wife by imagining myself to be a female and she the male". That is trying to pit his psychology against his biology and it won't work. Sexual arousal and response are not amenable to voluntary control. Many a functionally normal male would give a lot to be able to have an erection and no amount of "reasoning with his penis" will cause it to erect. Thus the TV who is very intense and involved in his feminine identification may well be able to add markedly to his emotional satisfaction in the act of intercourse by such fantasies, but he is not justified in saying that erection, penetration and orgasm were ONLY possible BECAUSE of the fantasy. This possibly is not under his voluntary control however much he may rationalize the situation to persuade himself that such is the case. Rationally never beats down biology it can only modify it to various degrees. So I reject the statements of such people as being proof of their inherent femaleness --I am just a poor female trapped in a male body-- "BOLOGNA"! They are male persons who are fascinated by, envious of and seeking to emulate the total gender pattern of the woman and who visualise her sexual position as a by-product of her gender just the same as they think of the gender as being an essential aspect of her sex. Both of these attitudes are wrong and both stem from a lack of understanding that in the human species gender behaviour, although originally assigned because of the observed anatomy of the baby is a high sophisticated life style that is constructed on sex but not by sex.

Unhappily the idea of changing sex and gender appeals to some people as a sort of magic way of outwitting fate and destiny-- "see, I'm not that person anymore and all those hangups and monkeys were his, don't lay them on me. I'm new and different and free"

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Change of Sex or Gender? (cont)

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I've watched more than one TV, with various neurotic traits in his personality, seek to "escape" into a new personality. He finds when he emerges into it that lo and behold he still has the same brain, the same store of experience and memories both good and bad AND the same set of neurotic problems he always had, because they were a by-product of the experiences and memories that that brain had been through. We may have developed sex change surgery but we have not yet developed psycho surgery and the scalpel which cuts into one's genitals does not cut into his head. So the new "woman" finds that not only has she not escaped the neurosis of her past but the frustration and disappointment at not having done so becomes itself the basis for a new neurosis. It is almost exactly like going on a drunk because life has become too much for you. Eventually--a day, a week or a month later you come out of it with exactly the same problems you had before but with the new problems of a hangover, of lost time and money and perhaps job and wife. You are worse off than before.

Alterations of sex and gender is no more effective than a big binge in solving problems like these unless and specifically except when the problems are the result of sex and gender conflict. And those in whom this is true are the real transexuals in the first place by the definition given in the beginning.

Let us summarize this discussion concisely then in these ten points.

- (1) Sex and gender are not the same thing.
- (2) sex does not "cause" gender as an automatic biological and reproductive identity that leads society to assign the gender.
- (3) having been assigned the gender one learns it by direct teaching, indirect observation of appropriate behaviour, by intuitive conformity and approval and basically and unconsciously accepting the assignment given and "going along with it".
- (4) that TVs for various reasons early become

Change of Sex or Gender? (cont)

- aware of an unwillingness to go all the way into the acceptance of masculinity at least to the extent of refusing to give up all those qualities and feelings socially assigned to the feminine gender.
- (5) that the TV pattern is a matter of gender identity and not sexual identity (homosexuality)
 - (6) That a true transexual would be a person who was inadequate and uncomfortable both as a male (sex) and as a man (gender).
 - (7) that while there are people like this, the great majority of those who seek surgery do not qualify on this basis.
 - (8) That this large majority is composed in some unknown quantity of three types of persons, (a) Drag queens and impersonators, who think surgery will give them a super status, (b) inhibited homosexuals whose inner sex drives are to their own sex, who cannot bring themselves to recognise this while they remain males. They would be relieved of this if they were to become "females". (c) those persons who are truly TVs and who are seeking a full time gender expression and who mistakenly feel that the only way this can be achieved is through sex conversion.
 - (9) that persons who have been practising TVs and who begin to build themselves a fantasy about the wonders of being a woman should realize that what they are seeking is a gender expression---one that can only be acquired by learning and experience---and should be therefore set about arranging their lives so that they can achieve that goal (if that is really the most satisfactory goal in their lives) and give up ideas of sex conversion, and finally:-
 - (10) That sex conversion surgery really of itself gives you only two possible benefits --first that you can now go to bed with a male (and if that is your deep subconscious goal you were not a TV to begin with
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Change of Sex or Gender ? (cont)

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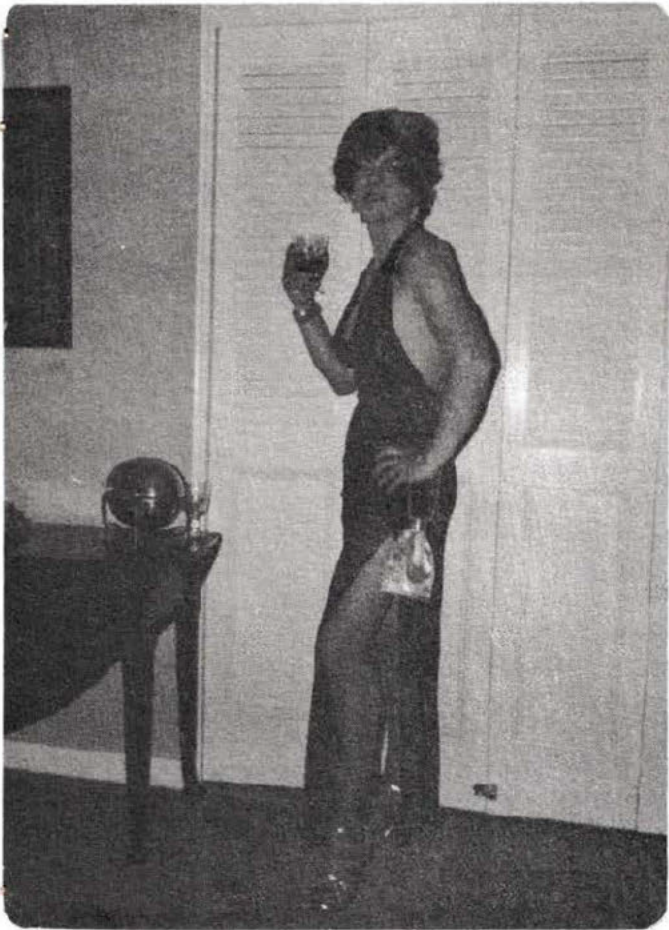
but rather an inhibited homosexual)and second if it came to a legal showdown you could justify your position as a woman. This is a terrible price to pay to achieve a small degree of security.

So before you get on the toboggan at the top of the run, which starts with hormone administration, you can't get off, it goes faster and faster and will eventually arrives at the bottom. As you slide , your speed in the sense of determination, self justification and rationalization becomes greater and greater. Soon you arrive at a point of no return, where you are incapable of making a sane, cool , rational decision. The only time for cool decision making is beforehand. So make THE RIGHT ONE. I hope some of the information and insights contained in this article will help you to make it.....

* * * *

As an afterthought, I think I might be entitled to point out that I who have had electrolysis, taken hormones and live as a woman full time an NOT a transsexual are wrong. While all those things are done by those who are transsexuals , it does not follow that all those that do them are transsexuals. This is the same false logic that society follows when it in effect (wrongly in both cases) that homosexuals wear dresses and make up, therefore all males who wear dresses and make up are homosexuals. I'm sure that most of you have been resenting that implication for as long as you have been TVs . Naturally I resent the assumption that I am a TS for the same reason----the logic is false.I at least, know the difference between sex and gender and have simply elected to change the latter not the former. If a word is necessary, I should be termed a "transgenderal".....

Virginia Prince.....



Fionia [redacted]s Brisbane



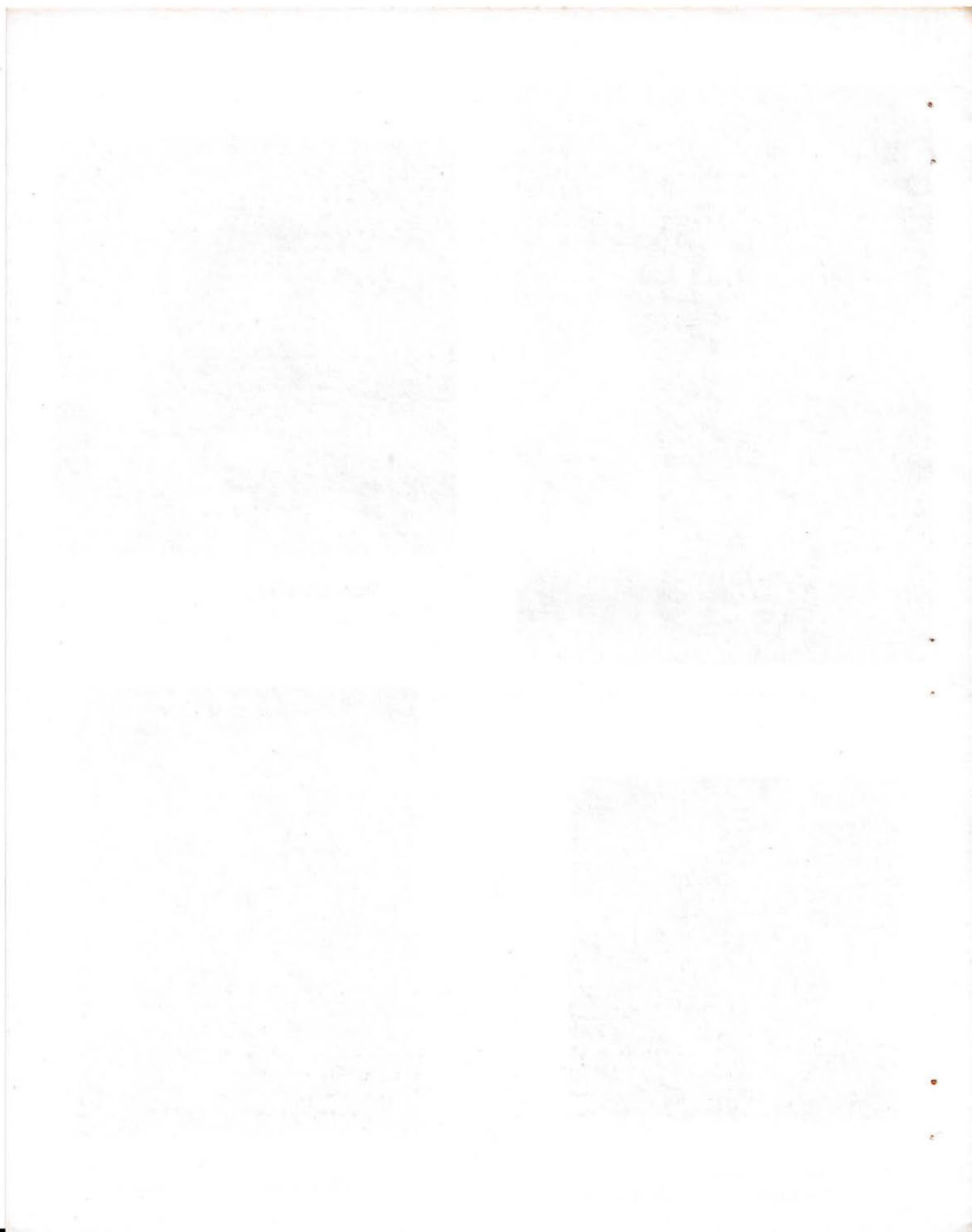
New Member
Lynda Adelaide



New Member
Barbara Sydney



Trina [redacted]r Sydney



BOOK REVIEW.

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By Colleen [redacted] ..
.....

'I WANT WHAT I WANT' by Geoff Brown.

First published in Great Britain 1966
Panther edition published 1968
Reprinted 1970.

'I Want What I Want' is a serious novel about transvestism/transsexualism. It is a well written book by any standard and I would recommend it to readers of this magazine both as entertainment and as a thought provoking study of the human problems of transvestism/transsexualism.

The book is in the form of an autobiographical extract covering a year or so of the life of Roy/Wendy, a young man who desperately wants to be a girl. The period covered, although relatively short, is a very critical one. As the story unfolds we see a progression of the central character from the frustrated, unhappy youth to a peak of happiness as a confident, attractive young 'lady' with all the outward trappings of womanhood. But Wendy is not yet a woman. Christmas spent alone in her room with nothing but her clothes and a bottle of whisky for company leads Wendy to the realization that it is not enough for a human being to exist as a clothes horse. A cautious friendship with a man she admires reinforces her desire to be more completely a woman. The story moves on to a climax in Wendy's visit to a sexologist and its aftermath. But I must not give the plot away.

There is no cover note or preface to tell us anything directly about the author, Geoff Brown. There seems little doubt that he is a transvestite/transsexual. This is a book written by someone with first hand knowledge of the subject, from the inside as any transvestite reader will recognise.

It is somewhat curious that throughout the book the hero(ine) is referred to as a "transvestite". In the modern terminology he is a transsexual, but as the book was written in the early 1960s, the setting being a town in the north of England. The non-TS or weakly TS will not identify completely within Roy/

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BOOK REVIEW.
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I WANT WHAT I WANT. (cont)
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.....Wendy, but there will be much within Roy/Wendy's experience which any transvestite will recognise as familiar.

The book has its share of both comedy and pathos. Although the autor explores the central characters feelings towards gender role in considerable depth, very little indication is given of Roy/Wendy's feelings towards sex. Perhaps the explanation for this lies in Dr H. Benjamins contention that many transsexuals have no overt sex life at all.

The book's dialogue is simple, to the point and often very character revealing. I like Roy's conversation in the early part of the book with a fair, athletic-looking nurse whom he meets casually in the mental hospital. Roy asks her if she plays tennis and as she attempts to talk about her game Roy always brings the conversation back to her 'tennis things!.-

nurse: "My forehand isn't to bad, but I haven't any backhand at all. I have to run around everything."

Roy: "Has your tennis slip any decoration on it at all.?" etc.

Later in ignorance of the nature of Roy's "illness", she tries to persuade him to attend the hospital fancy dress ball dressed as a Dutch Girl, but he refuses because he could not do this in the form of a light hearted masquerade. Roy explains:--

"But I would be trying to look nice".

"It doesn't make any difference."

"It does"

"How"?

"People might not like it."

"Nobody would mind why should they?"

She had not seen my father looking ill while he was punching me. "or her there were no rats running on a treadmill.

As her body was cool in her clothes, as her mind was cool and comfortably in place. I would wish that I were like her"

Inevitably , the book has some detailed
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BOOK REVIEW.

I WANT WHAT I WANT . (cont)

.....descriptions of feminine clothes, although the autor does not concentrate unduly on this aspect. Such descriptions are given where necessary to convey the hero's thoughts, attitudes and feelings. The following passage illustrates well the author's descriptive powers and his ability to create a scene and a mood-----

"I got the suspender belt and put it on, the suspenders dangled down. An unattached suspender looked unfortunate. I had a yellow brassiere and a yellow slip and pantie set. But the blue and white panties were very nice. Now I was going to put them on. They were mine. I was going to put them on. I was careful to hold them the right way round. I took them and stepped into them. They were on my legs. I drew them up. The suspenders got outside them. I pushed the suspenders in and drew the panties right up. The white flowers rounded on my tummy prettily. I had only two slips, a white one and a pale blue one, both of which I had taken when Shirley had lived at home. They were both tired looking. I chose the pale blue one and put it on. There was some lace around the hem. Now I was wearing a skirt. I was feeling happy. Putting stocking on was my favourite after putting knickers on. It was not so significant, but it required ladylike skill. The activity of getting the suspenders and fastening stockings was busy and self forgetting, yet feminine. When I had both stockings on I admired my legs. I had very good legs. They were not hairy. They were long and shapely and the knee-caps were small.

I was dressing up. Everything was better than it had been. The clothes made me feel more real and alive. They felt nice and I felt more like myself".

Some of the best insights into Roy's thoughts and attitudes are revealed in his relationship with his sister Shirley, who is older than Roy and married. Shirley has moved upwards socially through her marriage and lives in a pleasant house in middle class suburb. Contemplating her situation Roy sees a sharp contrast between men and women in society.-----

"All this Shirley had achieved by being

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BOOK REVIEW.

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I WANT WHAT I WANT. (cont)

.....

.....as she was. Men had built the house by laying bricks with their rough hands, by sawing wood and bending pipes and putting in electric cords. But, now that was all complete and part of the world, Shirley lived in it. She had got what she wanted by being, not by doing."

Perhaps Women's lib would have a counter to this notion, but in Roy's eyes the ultimate in good fortune was simply to have been born a female. I doubt whether that idea can be extended validly to humanity in general, but certainly comparing societies treatment of Roy and Shirley the iniquity is undeniable. It is not surprising that Roy should envy Shirley.

Yet later, when Shirley visits Roy/Wendy for the first time after he has been living as Wendy we can detect a certain note of satisfaction, even triumph, in Wendy's manner. Wendy may not be quite Shirley's equal as a female, but as far as outward appearances are concerned Wendy has finally made it.-----

Shirley rings the doorbell of the house where Wendy has a room.

"I opened the door. It was Shirley. I wished that I had not sent her the letter.

She said politely 'does Miss Wendy Ross live here?'

She was wearing a dark brown winter coat. For a moment it was like looking at my own face in a mirror, except that her face was plumper and softer and older. I could not say anything. I stood. She was not as tall as I was. She was not as clever with make up as I was. She was smart but domestic. My appearance was more dashing. I could not speak. I thought,

'It isn't fair that she should be a real woman', I pictured how her body was different from mine. I wanted to be like her.

'I'm looking for a Miss Ross' she said.

'Yes' my Cottingham voice said, 'I'm Wendy Ross.'

I saw her eyes widen. She looked into my face. 'It is you Roy? God! what have you done to

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BOOK REVIEW.

I WANT WHAT I WANT (cont)

.....yourself?!!

'Nothing' I said foolishly.

'Nothing !I couldn't recognise you at first.'

She saw my embarrassment but she did not spare me. She looked at my face and my hair and my dress and my shoes.

'Really,Roy,I don't know what to say. How can you behave like this?You must be ill. Have you been dressed up like that since you left home.?'

I surprised myself by saying 'Actually I haven't been weaing this dress all the time. I have other dresses'.

She stared at me as though dumbfounded by my wickedness.

I had taken the initiative. 'Won't you come in?' I asked with feminine friendliness"

Perhaps the best writing in the book is the account of Roy's first venture into public dressed as a girl. This venture is not to be a temporary sally forth in female clothes, but a rather complete break with Roy's past as a young man, a break for which he has long prepared. The episode is too long to be reproduced here, but the following excerpts illustrate the author's competent portrayal of Roy/Wendy's changing feelings as the adventure proceeds. Initially is apprehensive, self-concious, in a panic-----

"three women in headscarves were coming towards me . They were talking loudly. As they passed me one of them laughed. The noise almost threw me from my height on stilts. I seemed to reel. There were some moments in which I knew that everybody could see that I was a boy. I was enormous. I was extraordinary, I was a giraffe, I wished I were back in Africa. I wished I could run like a giraffe".

--other people are passed--a cheeky boy, a man--- there is the sensation that Wendy's clothes are slipping down. But gradually imagined crises recede as Wendy walks on.---

"There was a middle-aged woman coming past. I thought she had a kind face. I wanted to say, 'Help me. Hide me, Please hide me'. I looked at her

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BOOK REVIEW.

I WANT WHAT I WANT. (cont)

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.....eyes. She looked back at me. There was no surprise or contempt in her eyes. We were simply two people meeting each other's glance in the street.

I began to reason with myself. No one was taking any special notice of me.....

....Happiness was beginning."

Relief gives way to elation-----

"How I loved my city! I was walking along the pavement dressed as a girl in the daylight.

I covered some distance in a state of marvellous elation before I discovered that I needed very much to get to a lavatory. The public lavatories were in the centre of the city, and I was still walking in the wrong direction."

Wendy solves that problem and as she gains confidence the first trickle of happiness turns into a flood which even the reality of pain cannot

"Before I got to The Avenues my feet were hurting. Every step was painful. I was a woman. It was interesting to be hurt by high heeled shoes. The pain was more intense than I had expected it would be. When my foot struck the ground the ball of my foot felt as though it was going to burst with the pain. my toes were fiery hot--I supposed that I would get used to it. I would certainly go on wearing high-heels no matter how painful it was."

"I Want What I Want" is not a fantasy tale in which the unhappy boy suddenly finds his true role in life as a glamorous girl and lives happily ever after. I have the feeling that the story of Roy and Wendy is a real life story, perhaps the authors own story. Similar events have no doubt happened to many people at different times. It is a true story in a sense, even if not actual history.

Roy?Wendy's problem is a problem which many of us understand to some extent. For some people it is a tragic problem with no complete solution. The reader of "I Want What I Want" must wonder what eventually became of Wendy. If there is a sequel to this book I would very much like to read it.

LETTERS
..... TO
..... THE
..... EDITOR.
.....

This issue introduces an area that has been neglected until now. Here are some of the more recent letters that Jill and I have received. Any thoughts or ideas, comments, views etc drop a line to the editor.

Dear Trina,

Many thanks for your letter, also the magazine which I enjoyed very much. I will have a post office box soon and all the mail I receive will be in complete security. My wife is at home all the time now and it makes it rather difficult. She does not understand that a person, can feel like dressing up as a woman, just for the sake of wearing womans clothing, her whole attitude is that a person who does, is either mad ,or a homosexual.

I once raised the subject in a round ab-
-out way when we were first married. When she start-
-ed to express her views, of such people I let the
matter drop. However in recent times when some have
appeared on television or on a film she still holds
the same views. I have always been interested in wom-
-ans clothing, even as a child I would try my sisters
clothing on when I was alone at home.

I have tried to get the idea out of my
mind over the years, but find I am fighting a losing
battle. I see a nice frock in the window of a shop
and think how nice I would look wearing it. Sometimes
it is a nice bra, a set of underwear or a nightie.
Now I have given up the rather uneven task of fight-
-ing it.

I think the idea of the club is an excell-
-ent one. I now realize that I am not the only person
with this problem. I used to think that I was born
unlucky or defective. In my early years I felt that
society had rejected me, it would have been so easy
to have drifted into a homosexual relationship, some
thing that I did not want. I think that in the past

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Letters to the Editor ; (cont)

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.....people like myself have through being laugh-
-hed at and rejected by society have drifted into
homosexual relationships out of sheer loneliness.
As I see it much of this loneliness is taken away
when we realize we are not alone. Meeting others and
being able to dress "femme" at least once a month
seems like a dream after being on my one and living
with this problem for so long.

Thank you again for taking the trouble to
write. I wish you all the best of luck with the club.

yours sincerely,
B.....

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Dear Trina,

Thanks for the charts and information.
The meeting with Fionia has given me much more con-
-fidence than I had before, especially when buying
gear etc. I bought a nice four piece outfit the oth-
-er day, it's aqua and white, made by "Bindi" of
Melbourne. My main problem is height, I think I told
you I'm a little over 5'11". The outfit is a size 14
which fits pretty well except for the sleeveless top
which could be just a fraction lar ger. I'm wearing
the outfit as I write to you, together with a new,
longer wig(this mornings purchase) and white platform
shoes.

As Fionia has probably told you I don't
have a great deal of trouble getting shoes. The pro-
-blem is I don't really get the chance to try them
on properly. In a few cases I have been unlucky in
the fit. That is not the case with the pair I have
on now, a pair of "toms". I'll most likely becoming
through Sydney at Christmas on my way south for a
week or so. I'm planning on calling into Phyll Jacobs
shop. It will be nice to sit down and try on a pair
of shoes properly.

I think I said at the start of the letter,
meeting Fionia was a great help. Up until now I've

Letters to the Editor; (cont)

.....always been worried about buying any feminine clothing. When I first walked in to buy the outfit last week I felt at first that everyone was watching me. Once I started talking to the saleswoman I had no worries whatsoever. It was the same with the wig this morning. I'm also considering buying a small "polaroid" so I might be able to send down some photo's in the near future.

Well thats about all for now,

Best Wishes,

Julie, Brisbane.

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Dear Trina,

A friend of mine has asked whether "SEA-HORSE" would care to contact all the "CAMP" organizations since many T.V. personalities, not knowing of a more suitable club have joined "CAMP" only to find, as I did, that although they are tolerant they don't understand.

My friend, a "CAMP" committee member, has seen some of the introductory literature you sent me and with a promise of complete discretion in the matter has said she would mention "SEAHORSES" existence to her fellow committee members.

May I congratulate you on "FEMINIQUE", which must take up a great deal of your time. It has done much to relieve the feeling of isolation and uniqueness which I previously had. Some of the incidents related, closely parallel occurrences in my own life and I can well imagine the feelings and trepidation of the people involved. One thing though which does detract from the overall effect of "FEMINIQUE" is the spelling and typography--but I am sure this will improve as time goes on.

I wondered whether in future issues you might be able to have an article by some expert in

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Letters to the Editor; (cont)

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.....in makeup-- which for the less practised of us could be educational. One area which I personally have difficulty with is the "5 o'clock" shadow. As a male it is perhaps a good thing-- emphasizing masculinity, but to Jenny it is a constant source of worry. Another point of interest could be choice of wigs, hairstyle and wig care.

Finally, occasionally in your articles you refer to artificial liquid filled breasts-- are these "easily obtainable", if so where and how? Is your picture of Fiona [redacted] of Brisbane in FEMINIQUE no 3 obtained with the use of these or is she truly a female, she looks absolutely stunning.

Yours sincerely,

Jenny [redacted] Perth

Thanks for the letter Jenny, an article as requested will be in either this issue or the next. As for the breasts, they are obtainable either in Australia or from our sister group F.P.E. in the States. They are expensive the F.P.E. ones are the cheapest. (approx \$15 plus postage)

Fiona passes her thanks for the compliment you have my assurance she is a genuine T.V.

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SEAHORSE FORUM.
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CONSTITUTION REVISIONS.
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The present constitution which was drawn up some time ago. Was based rather specifically on that of the Beaumont Society. They differ in not having the geographical distances that are involved in Australia.

As you have no doubt discovered, correspondence with the President and Secretary can result in rather longer delays than either you or we would wish. Jill and I propose to overcome, or at least reduce the problem, by a very much in "vogue" system that of "decentralization. A large part of the day to day running of Seahorse could be completed at "area" level.

The first proposal is that a new role be created. The post of "COUNSELLOR" a term which we think will adequately describe the role. A Counsellor would be responsible for her area. The area would be much the same as presently established, that of a State Capital.

In her role the counsellor would have access to records, name address, etc for all the members in her area. The exception to this will be where "contact" is specifically not wanted.

The role of counsellor is an executive one and she would be responsible for interviewing, information and general contact with members, both new and established. To allow a troublefree growth of the group it is considered essential that this change takes place. It is hoped that it will be acceptable to you all.

Initially (that is this year) the post will be a "non elective" one, but in following years the election will be by members of her area. To be eligible "counsellors" must be members of good standing, have been a member of Seahorse for twelve months, or known by the executive for a similar period. They must have been met by the executive before appointment.

For this year, the initial period the
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SEAHORSE FORUM.
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CONSTITUTION REVISION (cont).
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.....appointments would be as follows:-

- Brisbane :Fionia [redacted].
- Canberra :Ccleen [redacted].
- Melbourne: Robyn [redacted].
- Adelaide : Catherine [redacted] s.
- Perth ; to be nominated.
- Sydney : A counsellor to be appointed
for a similar role.

Ypurs veiws both for and against these changes will be appreciated.

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1974 ELECTION OF OFFICERS.
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The elections for this year are almost due. Nominations for the only (at present) elective posts, that is of President and Secretary will be accepted.

In accordance with the constitutional rules, the two present members must present themselves for reelection.....

President.. Jill [redacted].
Secretary...Trina [redacted]

Voting will be completed by ballot on the 1st April (postal included) and nominations accepted until the 15th March.

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MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY...
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This is still in the melting pot, mainly because all members have not submitted the form. If you find a form enclosed, it means according to our records we have had one from you. If so could you please complete and send it in. I'm sure it will benefit both you and the Club.

Membership dues for some of youbare also now payable and notice will be sent. These will be the same as last year.....

sincerely,
Trina [redacted]

