

Femme Mirror

Reflecting the Feminine



VOLUME 2 Number 3

May, 1977

Carol Beecroft, Editor



The girls of SIGMA chapter, Denver, Colorado

Janette, Shari, June, Karen, Cheri,

Alice, Joyce, Barbara, Maureen

(Absent were Wilma, Donna and Kim and
not in the picture-Joy Lynn)

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In His Own UNlikeness ?

Virginia Prince



"Man creates woman in his own UNlikeness". I read that somewhere and it stuck with me because I think it expresses pretty well something that all men are hazily aware of without verbalizing it. Perhaps way back in more primitive societies where men not only ran things politically but exploited women economically and biologically that statement wouldn't be true. But for the greater part of the last 2000 years, in most Western countries at least, there has been a tendency to exalt womanhood in one way or another. I believe that there are unconscious remnants of the ancient awareness that the female of the species is something above, beyond and more fundamental than the male.

Thus in our culture man has created woman, that is, in the sense of the woman or "lady" concept. God created females, but men created woman. And men endow women not only with all the material things that they do have, but also with many spiritual and emotional qualities that they do not have. Woman has become the repository of those things that a man values but does not possess or wants to express but cannot. This is illustrated on the material level by the fact that in current Western culture men cannot wear furs, co-

lors, jewelry or enjoy other ostentatious ways of exposing himself to his fellows. Thus he heaps the jewels, the furs, the cosmetics, etc., onto his woman folk. He cannot show his affluence and position by his own personal image, so he does it on his women folk in the terms of jewelry, clothing, furs, expensive homes and furnishings (which are in woman's province).

The significance of this is that all of these things, whether material, emotional, or spiritual, are given into the care of another - the woman. She, therefore, represents all the things HE wants but cannot have, is, but cannot show, feels, but cannot express and needs, but cannot get. She is unattainable in the biggest sense. There is, therefore, a continuous and permanent unfilled yearning towards her.

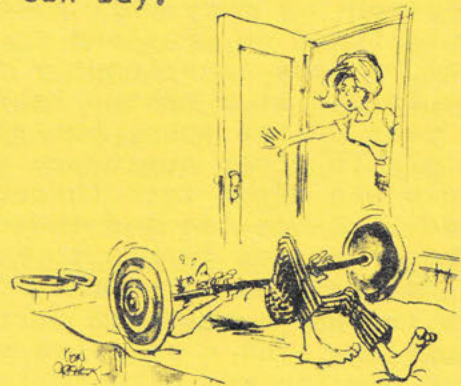
Philosophers will equate the mating instinct to a drive for re-unification of the sexual cells to reconstitute a "whole" and that the libidinous energy involved in sex appeal and actual intercourse is just the power source which brings this about. This is perhaps as far as one needs to go when considering the mating instincts of animals, but it leaves a lot unaccounted for with mankind. If one can postulate a sort of primordial reproductive cell that has become divided into two parts, and seeks reunion, as the force behind physical reproduction, isn't it just as reasonable to consider a sort of primordial mental/emotional state which has become subdivided during human history into two parts, the masculine and the

feminine, and which also has a drive towards reunion? In other words, the anatomical-physiological beings are drawn together and this is sex. But the psychological-sociological beings which we can consider under the term "gender" are also drawn towards each other.

Animals exist only on the sex level, but mankind exists both there and on a gender level and observation, studies, and interpretations of sex alone are not adequate to explain and understand GENDER!

What has all this got to do with transvestism, you ask? Well, just this: I feel that Tvs are simply persons who, through some accident of experience, have found that crossdressing is a means of emotionally unifying something the non-union of which was vaguely if unconsciously disturbing. Let's put it this way. If we took all the traits, behaviours, feelings, tendencies, abilities, attitudes, habits, customs, etc, that the human race, in one culture or another, has divided one way or another between males and females and lumped them together in one pile, we could say that this pile constitutes the total potentials residing in a human being, as distinct from an animal. This is the primordial psycho-social organism. When, in the course of human culture and civilization, this pile is divided on a "this for you and that for me" basis, one can sense in this division the creation of an attraction between the piles in exactly the same way as an electrostatic attraction is created when rubbing certain parts of substances such as fur and hard rubber and then separating them. Some of the electrons from one are pulled away by the other leaving each material electrically unbalanced and with a "need" to be reunited with the other to restore the original integrity and balance. Even the language of both physics and psychology is the same in this regard - they both speak of "attraction" between unlike things.

So I believe that one of the forces driving us as Tvs is a real "need" to reunify on a gender level with our polar opposites just as we need to do on a sexual level. Male attracts female and masculine attracts feminine and vice versa. While sex, being primarily a matter of anatomy, is the same in all cultures and times, the types of divisions of the "gender" pile occurring in various cultures are many and varied. But this makes no difference. Fifty percent is fifty percent of the whole, no matter which fifty percent it may be, so the "urge to merge" will always exist until such time as humanity realizes that the only dividing line of real importance to mankind is that dividing it from the animal world, not one dividing mankind within itself on a psche-social-emotional level such as we do when separating "masculine" from "feminine". We Tvs are just one jump ahead of the rest on this score. We are aware of this dichotomy and are driven to "solve" the situation thru our own internal type of unification. This is the essence of the dual personality idea. We cannot be all one, encompassing everything, so we accomplish the same by possessing both halves and by giving expression to both halves. Someday, in a rounded, full society, full personality expression will be possible for both sexes. Today it isn't so and meanwhile we Tvs do the best we can in at least partially satisfying our own needs in our own way.



Honey, I know that you're trying to lose weight so that you can get into a size 14 again, but I think you're trying too hard!



The Makeup Lesson

Charlene CA-27-D

One day I was looking in the yellow pages for a place to have my wigs reset when I noticed the name of a place that gave makeup lessons. I thought to myself that it would be a great experience since my limited reading and experience made such professional help necessary.

So one day I took two wigs into the shop and was met by a woman who was obviously the owner. She was most friendly and I was able to tell her that I did amateur impersonations - I even showed her some of my pictures while dressed. When I returned several days later to pick up the wigs I inquired about the cost of makeup lessons. I was informed that there were two types - one on basics and the other for high fashion. She did not have evening classes so if I were to attend it would have to be during the afternoon. I nervously asked if I might attend as Charlene so that I might be less conspicuous - perhaps I could sit at a makeup table near the rear of the shop, but still visible to other customers and to people who might look through the window. I was assured that this arrangement was fine with her as she had made up men before for parties and had no hang-up about the situation.

On the appointed day I selected a pale blue skirt, a lacy pink half-slip, a short-sleeved blouse, white shoes and hand bag. I applied my makeup, adjusted my wig and off I went to the shop. The owner, who

I shall call Dianne, did not recognize me until I spoke. Then she said "you look taller." She wanted to see the height of the shoes I was wearing.

After seating me at a makeup table she pinned back a few locks of my hair and cleansed my face before using a freshener. She discussed skin color, dryness and oiliness and several other subjects which helped. During the time she was talking she used a light colored stick to cover dark spots under my eyes. She did comment that many women have dark circles under their eyes during "that" time of the month at which point we both laughed when she realized what she had said. She then applied a liquid base, some rouge and powder. About this time some customers came into the shop and she had to wait on them. When she was able to return to me she plucked my eyebrows to give them a prettier arch and then skillfully used an eyeliner pencil - then came eye shadow and mascara. She topped the demonstration off by outlining my lips with a lip pencil and then filling in with a pretty shade of pink lipstick. I certainly had to admit that she achieved a softer overall look that thrilled me to my toes.

During the latter part of the lesson a man that Dianne knew came into the shop and sat nearby and chatted with her. About this time, I realized that I had better buy something since this was to be expected after her demonstration. During this time her male friend continued to talk to her and never appeared to even notice that I was there. I guess

that it was sort of a compliment that he did not know that I was not a female.

Several weeks later I returned for a second lesson. During one of our little conversations I asked if her male friend had said anything about me after I had left the store. She smilingly said, "Do you really want to know what he said?" I assured her that I did want to know and she replied with, "she wouldn't be bad looking except for her nose." The reply made me chuckle.

She inquired if I had been practicing what I had learned earlier and seemed to be satisfied with my answer. She began to explain the use of high-lighter and pearlescent powder and eye shadow. She would make up one side of my face and I would do the other. About this time a young woman came into the shop and sat across from me and watched the entire proceedings. She evidently was interested in selling cosmetics for Dianne. Her scrutiny was a bit unnerving but good ole Dianne kept up a constant dialogue with me and helped me overcome my uneasiness. She demonstrated how a darker shade could make the nose look smaller and how a lighter shade helped to hide the smile lines and also the

lines under the eyes. Soon another customer came in to pick up a wig that she had ordered. I nearly fell off the chair when Dianne sat her down at the table next to me and put the wig on her and combed it out. This lady was very chatty and even suggested that I should try one of the new wigs - a curly type that she was buying. She asked if I was having the lessons in order to sell cosmetics or if it was just for my own personal satisfaction. When I explained that the lessons were just for myself she said "I think it is almost as much fun as getting a new dress" and I quickly retorted "I think that it is even MORE fun than a new dress." If she only knew how much I was enjoying the whole experience. A man soon came into the shop who was obviously a friend of Dianne and she asked him to make some coffee for the girls - which he did. Then a young girl entered, accompanied by her mother. The young lady was interested in a wig but seemed rather uncomfortable with the man present. At this point, the man softly remarked to Dianne, "Do you think she is embarrassed because there is a man present?" Dianne told him that she was just an overly shy girl. I wonder what the girl would have done if she had known that there were TWO men in the shop. I left - happy!

SUSIE SUGGESTS

Your editor received a nice letter from Sheila WA-13-M in regards to some advice your editor passed on about selecting shoe sizes. "I read the letter about the inquiry for the relative size for a man's size 9D shoe, that is, what would be the corresponding size for a woman's shoe." She goes on to say, "My answer would be that it depends upon the shoe style. Springolaters would possibly be 9 or even 10. The width would be the killer. The majority of woman's shoes are of medium size -"B"- and it would probably be hard to find a corresponding size for our Tri-Sig sister.

The question Susie asked was how do you keep clothes around the house when you have a "D" wife - where are they kept? Leslie MA-19-R says that she used to hide just a bare minimum of girls clothes because of the danger involved. On the other hand, another sister suggested that your femme clothes be kept in a box and the box stored in the trunk of the car - way back. Of course, if you have a station wagon you're still in trouble. I wish that more of the girls had written.

The question this time, is, If your wife knows about your crossdressing how did she come to know about it? That is, did you tell her about it or did she discover it accidentally.



"Isn't it fun George, to be a little girl for a change?" "Sure is Harry, but I almost gave it away when the little boy next door offered me some jellybeans."

Problems Of A Teenage Tv

Kay, despite a father who would beat her for Crossdressing, and a mother and sisters who would not understand her, just had to get "dressed up" - regardless of the consequences!

"I'm not ashamed anymore," she says. No more sneaking around or feeling guilty for Kay

For those sisters who came to recognize their Tvism rather early in life, some of the trials and difficulties of KAY might bring back memories of your problems in trying to express your "second - self". Your Editor and KAY have been exchanging letters since February and the following is a resume of the correspondence from her side"

February 20, 1977

I saw a copy of the Playgirl Advisor and it had your name and address. I hope and pray that you can help me. I am 18 years old, 5' 6" tall and weigh 138 pounds. I am the youngest of 5 children, the others being all girls. While I was growing up I was around my sisters often since my parents worked. Being around my sisters so much I could not help but notice that their clothes always looked so soft and comfortable. I remember one day when I entered one of my sisters bedrooms and tried her clothes on - I was about 12 then. Needless to say I was caught by my oldest sister and she called me every name in the book and when my parents returned in the evening they were informed of what happened. My father used his belt on me but this did not take away my fascination for my sister's clothes and over the next several years I wore their clothes whenever possible, regardless of whether the clothes were from the dirty clothes hamper or from the

clothes line - at night, which was the only time that I could cross-dress. I was caught and punished many times. It wasn't very long after I started dressing in my sister's clothes that everybody in the family knew what I was doing, even my younger sisters. I even went into a neighbor's house to try on some clothes and, again, I was caught. Now just about the whole neighborhood knew what I was doing. My parents finally sent me to a doctor for therapy and he suggested a private boys school - where I was sent until last year.

While in school the other boys got wind of my interest in girls clothing and I was teased and made to feel abnormal and sick. While at school I met a girl at a dance and eventually told her about my cross-dressing but, unfortunately for me, she couldn't handle it and broke off our nice relationship and then I took an overdose of pills. While recovering in the hospital I read in Playboy Magazine a letter from a wife who told about her husband being a Tv. After she caught him in the act of dressing they had a talk that evening and she decided to do everything she could to help him. I decided right then and there that I wasn't going to feel guilty and more or sneak around to get the clothes I needed.

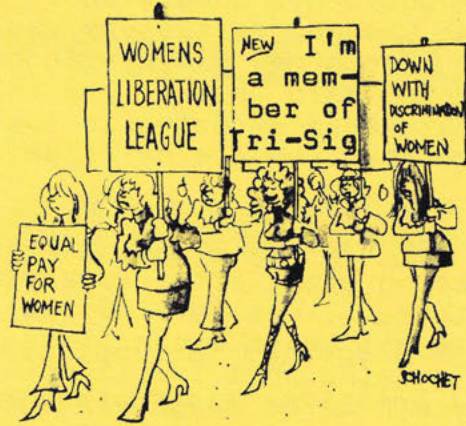
Since leaving school I've gotten hold of a few articles of clothing

but nothing really fits properly. I keep the items in my locker at work. I guess that I feel very guilty at times and would like to learn how to buy the clothes I want and how to use makeup as well as to know how to select correct sizes. I will move into an apartment this summer but right now I am still at home. Carol, please don't let me down like so many others have done. Please write back. (Kay)

April 16, 1977

Thanks for your letter and forgive me for taking so long to answer. Yes, I did get caught again and this time the police were called. You see, after I sent the letter to you I decided that it was time that I did as I pleased, especially when it came to the clothes I wanted to wear. Since my mother has legal control over my money until I turn 21, I waited until a payday and took my allowance and went shopping. I actually only wanted something to sleep in. Well, I didn't know my correct size and didn't dare ask to try the nightgown on so I went from shop to shop until I found a place where I could hold the gown up to me to see if it was large enough. Unfortunately for me, someone who knows my family saw me going into shops and called my home. My youngest sister was the only one there and she left a note for my mother. During this time at the store one of the salesgirls saw me turn my back so that I could hold the gown up to see if it was large enough and she evidently thought that I was shoplifting and reported me to the manager.

As I was leaving the store the manager pulled me up and got smart with me and said that I had stolen something and that he was going to put me in jail. The police soon arrived but I couldn't tell them why I had turned my back to the salesgirls but I did ask them to search me if they thought that I had stolen anything. They took my name, address and phone number and called my mother and had her come to the shop. Boy, was she MAD! She thought that I was stealing.



Notice who is smiling?

I was searched in front of everyone, but nothing was found, of course. My mother wanted to know why I was in the store and the manager told her of the nightgown. She flipped out and called me name and name. Then she told the people gathered around what I had been doing and they all acted like the truth was worse. The manager added that he would make sure that I would never come into that shop again. The police asked if I had been in any trouble and I had to tell them that I was on probation for trying to take some clothes off of a clothes-line last year. I was taken to court and fined and then ordered to take therapy. This time when I reappeared before the judge he ordered my mother to supervise me more carefully and to take control of my money and bank account. My pay check is mailed to my mother and I am only given so much money each day for living. The only way I can accumulate any money is to save a bit each day out of my allowance.

I finally went to the legal aid and was advised that there was little chance to have the court order overturned and there was more of a chance that I would be sent to an institution if I lost. I was advised to leave things alone and to leave home as soon as possible. Why is it so wrong to wear pretty clothes? I'm not hurting anybody! I wanted to show Mom the literature that you sent me but I know

that she would not understand. I wish that she and my sisters would help me. Two of my sisters do not come down so hard on me. The only thing that keeps me going is the knowledge that you are my friend. (Kay)

May 15, 1977

I am feeling great after receiving your letter. I was worried that you would not write again. I've made up my mind that I will not allow myself to be caught in such circumstances again. Therefore I will have to forget for awhile my desire to accumulate a wardrobe of nice pretty clothes - at least until I have my own apartment. And when I do, I'm going to have a ball going shopping for pretty things. By then, perhaps, I will have a female friend who will help me select correct things. It is really too early to bring my two younger sisters into the cross-dressing scene. They still yell at me if they find that I have gone into their rooms and touched any of their clothing. My mother doesn't allow any of my sisters to leave any of their dirty clothes in the bathroom - now everyone has a clothes hamper in their room. Two weeks ago I was home with Amy and Carey. They took their baths and told me to get mine. I was shocked to find their clothes lying on the floor. Need I tell you that I went through each article of clothing, checking the size and observing how it looked against my body. The girls did not say a word about the length of time I spent in the bathroom and since then neither they nor I have mentioned the incident. I appreciate your sending me the book on crossdressing - I can not afford to buy it as much as I would like to pay for it. (Kay)



NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Co-Directors of Tri-Sigma Sorority
Virginia Prince CA-17-P
Carol Beecroft CA-3-B

Executive Secretary
Charlene [REDACTED] CA-64-P

Great Lakes Regional Coordinator
Donna Martin IL-11-S
Nancy MI-22-H (Assistant)

So. Calif. Regional Coordinator
Dianna [REDACTED] CA-48-D

Alpha Chapter
Bunny CA-108-F President

Chi Chapter
Jeanette IL-3-Z President

Nu Pi Chapter
Franny NY-19-F President

Sigma Chapter
Karen President



Franny
NY-19-F

President
of
NU PI
CHAPTER
Buffalo, N.Y.

CHI CHAPTER LEADER



"Smells like dad is going to spend the evening working on his hobby again."

"COMMENTS"

Jeanette, IL-3-Z, President of Chicago's CHI Chapter, comments on an article appearing in the November, 1976 FEMME MIRROR, entitled "THE LADY DIDN'T CARE! A good point to remember.

This is directed to all Tvs who have a shop where they can purchase female clothes and are known to the staff. I am personally known at several shops and one in particular which is located right next to my Beauty Salon. If I arrive early at the salon or the girl who takes care of me there is running behind, I will often go next store and talk to the lady who owns the shop. On one such visit she related a story that was thought-provoking and one which I think our readers would like to hear.

We were discussing some of the excuses that I had used in the past when I was younger, in an attempt to buy girl's clothing - when she interrupted to tell me that about 3 weeks ago a young man had entered the store and rather shyly browsed around but always seem to return to a rack of sweaters. After about 10 minutes the owner approached the young man and asked if she could help. He appeared very nervous and kept glancing at the front door. He muttered that there was a sweater that he would like to buy but was unsure of the correct size and asked what the "chest" size was for each sweater. She said that his phrasing of the question seemed odd at the time but went and secured a tape and proceeded to measure the sweaters. He finally selected a large size and she took it to the counter. He followed and fumbled with his money and finally produced

a bill. The strange thing was that he never looked at her all the time it took to help him.

She inquired if she could gift wrap the item but he said no. She then placed the sweater in a box and informed him of the total amount due and after he had paid her he hurriedly made for the door. But she had to call to him that he had some change coming, so he returned for it and then almost made a run for the front door - this time leaving his purchase on the counter. Once again she had to call after him and after he had come back for the second time he almost ran from the store.

Now there is no way to be sure if the sweater was for him but she did feel that he was a Tv. But she continued (and this is what is important to this article) "I don't mind dealing with Tvs if they wish to trade here. What should I have done?"

I told her what I might have done which wasn't much more since when someone is already very friendly and interested in serving her patrons, as was this owner, - well, there wasn't much more that I could add. But a POINT to make is that there are many salespeople who are very interested in making SALES and as long as the customer is courteous most shops are grateful for such business - even from a Transvestite.

You Can Lead A Horse To Water.....

Some Tvs NEVER learn! When you have a wife who tries, the best thing to do is to show APPRECIATION. A wife writes about her Tv husband who apparently never heard of the words "I appreciate you."

Dear Editor: I've been wanting to write to you for sometime. In one of the last issues of the FEMME MIRROR it asked for wives to write in order to help other wives. Well, I need your help since my Tv husband has not learned at all.

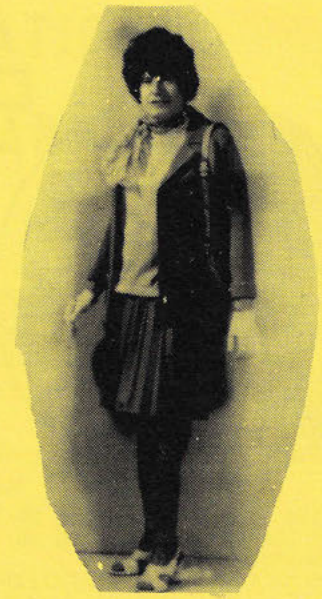
My husband told me about his inner self before we were married. At first I thought he was kidding, but as time went on we talked more about the subject and I read Virginia's book, The TV and His Wife." That book opened a new world that I did not know existed, Anyway, we have been married about a year and if things don't get better I guess I'll just have to learn to live with things - as bad as they are.

In Virginia's book it says that Tv husbands are understanding, caring, and thoughtful - even more so than non-Tv husbands - primarily due to their awareness of their femininity. Well, my husband is an exception to the rule.

As far as caring - he forgets my birthday - not even a card on time. His clothes are better all the way to his bras and panties. I have asked him to come shopping to buy things for me, but he never wants to come. He takes care of himself.

He feels so good in nice things. Well, what about a Tv's wife who would like to feel nice, too. I would like to look nice for him.

A nice word is never said about



MAXINE
(CA-124-D)

how I look - only about how nice he looks in his pretty clothes.

I even bought "her" a Christmas gift and never even received a "thank you." As a Tv he is supposed to feel a sensitivity about things, including my feelings, but he is insensitive altogether.

So, what I would like to know is, - is it against the rules to:

1. Tell his wife that he loves her?
2. Buy nice things for his wife and send cards for a word of appreciation?
3. Just be caring as THEY want to be cared for.

Please don't think of me as a selfish woman. I love buying things for my Tv husband but it would be nice to be thought of just once without reminding him. Thanks for listening. (Name withheld by Request)

Come on gals, Your editor hopes that this unfortunate letter is not from YOUR wife!! I would think that by now most of you would actually understand more about what femininity really is but it seems that regardless of how much we preach, some of you never learn!!

Poet's Corner

TRANSVESTISM

Beautiful Compulsion,
Enthralling delight,
Soft satin and velvet,
Sweet feminine night,
Vision in perfume,
Serenade to the stars,
Luxurious moments,
Transformation sublime.
(Lisa, FCA-7-V)

STATUS APPARATUS

There was a Tv of some status,
Who bought a bust-building
apparatus.
Tho with faith t'was applied
"Her" hopes were denied,
And "her" chest stayed entirely
flat.
(Taken from old FPE)



What's Happening Out There

NU PI Chapter - Our newest chapter was created recently under the direction of Franny (NY-19-F) who has worked so hard in the Buffalo area. She has enlisted quite a few of the sisters in Canada and so this chapter called "NEW FRONTIER" (for its international flavor) or NU PI, has started what we hope will be a long life. We hope that Franny will send us a nice black-and-white picture of the girls for the MIRROR. Your editor knows that she speaks for all the sisters in wishing our warmest regards to the eight members of NU PI Chapter.

CHI Chapter - Our Regional Coordinator, Donna (IL-11-S) says that things are moving well in her region. This chapter has befriended many of our isolated sisters in the Great Lakes Region and has made a number of girls "Associate" members. Your Editor appreciates the efforts of those sisters who have provided information regarding places to shop. And it was interesting to know that Laurette (FCO-4-K) has had her ears pierced. Of special interest is the work done to promote small newspaper ads that will attract prospective members.

ALPHA Chapter - The girls recently had an evening out on the town when they assembled at the Queen Mary Show Bar. The performers were excellent but the important thing is that the sisters had an opportunity to go out and be accepted as women - in public. Plans are being made by Bunny (CA-108-F) the Chapter President for a catered dinner to be held in July. Recent visits included three or four psychologists and several electrologists.

SIGMA CHAPTER - The girls in Colorado have certainly pushed hard to develop their chapter and the results are most encouraging. Your Editor had the privilege to visit with these girls a few weeks ago and enjoyed the evening along with 17 members and guests.

OTHER AREAS - Much work is being done behind the scenes by many sisters throughout the country. Special mention is given to the work of the Washington, D.C. girls, the New York City girls, the girls in Texas and to the girls in Nevada. We hope that new chapters will come into existence soon.

HERE & THERE

RINGS & PINS: Our spunky little sister in Connecticut, Shirley - Ct-3-8, has not only made an excellent suggestion but she has gone the extra mile and followed through with her suggestion. She has felt that it would be nice to have a pretty Sorority pin to wear with our pretty dresses. After discussing this with your Editor, she went and contacted a manufacturer of such items and learned the following: "In regards to the Tri-Sigma Sorority pins for the ladies, we can make such a pin in several colors, about 5/8" size with a dutch-back pin for men and a regular pin back for the women. The cost would be \$1.49 each and we will absorb the cost of the tools and dies. (The design will be the same as our logos which you see on the front page of this issue of the FEMME MIRROR.) Your design will make a good looking pin." Perhaps we could sell the pins for \$2.50 + postage and add the profit to our advertising kitty. So, gals out there, ARE YOU INTERESTED? If so, contact your Editor at the address listed on the first page. If you want both type of pins, please indicate this. Send no money but just drop me a note and tell me if you would be interested.

NEW APPOINTMENT: Donna IL-11-S, has been needing an assistant for some time and after consulting your Editor, she has chosen NANCY MI-22-H to act as Assistant Regional Coordinator for the Great Lakes area. Nancy is a hard worker and we wish her much success in her new position.

WHAT ADDRESS DO WE USE: Your editor occasionally receives inquiries concerning the use of mailing addresses, indicating that many of your gals are not sure where to write in certain matters. So, you might keep the following in mind:

Tri-Sigma address for General Information: Tri-Sigma Sorority, [REDACTED] South Robertson, Beverly Hills, Calif., 90211.

The Femme Mirror: Same as above

Virginia Prince: [REDACTED], Los Angeles, Calif 90036.

Carol Beecroft: Same as Femme Mirror.

Chevalier Publications (Transvestia) Same as Virginia Prince's address.

We hope that this will assist those who have a problem of which address they should use.

Donations: Your Editor and Virginia want to acknowledge at this time the donations of cash to the cause of Tri-Sigma. And thus we mention here: Shirley CT-3-8; Sally Ann MD-7-K; Sharan Ann FCBC-4-H; Francis IL-5-I.

Adopt a Sister: For those girls who have a bit of time on their hands and enjoy writing, may I pass on a suggestion made by one of our sisters. When the new supplement for the Directory come out, why not pick out the name of a new sister and write her a welcome letter. I know that the new sisters would appreciate such a thoughtfulness gesture.

We're guerrillas? (Not gorillas, dear, unless you're wearing that horrible wig again) "Deliver us from Love" a new book by Suzanne Brogger, says of tvs - "Transvestites are in fact the guerrillas of the war between the sexes, the real partisans of the battle against the sexual roles, because for the moment they are the only ones who pay the price and risk their lives...When a man disguises himself as a woman it is not so much in order to become a woman as it is to illustrate and epitomize a NO to the male world."

Letters From Our Wives

Your Editor has felt that in order to have a happy Tv you need an understanding wife. And to get an understanding wife you have, up to now, had to be mighty lucky! But your Editor has always felt that given the right circumstances, many more wives could learn to be understanding. The problem has always been in getting the wives together so that some discussion can be had so that the wives who have arrived at some degree of understanding can help those who still need help. And there are LOTS of wives in this last category. Recently I have decided that what is needed is a special column for wives where they can receive help and counseling from other wives who have "been through it." It is very possible that in time we can have a separate newsletter for wives if ENOUGH wives participate. So, sisters, if you want to help YOUR wife or if you would like your wife to help other wives, show them this column. I am indebted to Meg, an understanding wife in Illinois, who has volunteered to help get this project started. So here she is, gals, I give you MEG MORAN.

Hi! My name is Meg and I've volunteered to edit a column for Tri-Sigma wives and girlfriends. At times I've wanted to discuss the problems and pleasures of having a transvestite husband with another woman but until recently I've never had the opportunity. Hopefully this column will provide us wives with a FORUM for sharing our views and ideas. Together, through an exchange of experiences, we may all grow in understanding and patience.

For most of us our husband's transvestic desires are secret from the rest of the world. This being the case, we sometimes feel isolated from our girlfriends. We long to talk to somebody about our doubts and fears but are either afraid of bur-

dening our already insecure husbands or scandalizing our uninitiated acquaintances. The solution to our dilemma? It may be the initiation of a column where wives and girlfriends could let their hair down and exchange information with girls who have traveled the same path.

The goal of this column is to provide reinforcement for wives undergoing doubts or crises and thereby to promote understanding of oneself and transvestite. I sincerely believe that each of us who has elected to remain with our transvestite husbands needs the support of all the others. Please DO write in when you have a problem or idea to discuss, but equally important, please respond to letters when you feel that you can help. Your insight into another wife's problems could be invaluable.

All letters will be published on a first name only basis and a wife may use a "pen name" if she wishes. I am in the process of acquiring a post office box so I am relying on Carol to forward mail to me until then. Please send all letters to:
Meg [redacted]
c/o Tri-Sigma
[redacted] South Robertson
Beverly Hills, Cal 90211

Remember, this is your column. I am not an Ann Landers type and am relying on you to make the column a success. I'd love to hear any suggestions you might have on format and content, so please let me know what you believe that this new column will do for you. I hope to hear from many of you - soon.
MEG

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Ann Landers Column project a big success. Rather than cover this project in this issue, your Editor will be printing a separate booklet dealing with the column, the correspondence of our sisters and also the correspondence of your Editor with Ann Landers. Needless to say, we were very successful in reversing Ann's position. Food for thought for future projects. It certainly pays to work together!!

# The Editor's Mail



Dear Carol: ...I think that all of our sisters should keep in mind the fact that because of the great amount of competition, retail stores are fighting tooth and nail for business and I doubt if many of them are willing to lose a sale by insulting potential customers. Although I do not go out dressed up I wear nothing but femme clothes at home and have a large wardrobe of caftans and lounge wear. While shopping for a caftan one day I went into a speciality shop where I found a lovely caftan, and taking it off the rack, I held it up to my body to see how it was for length. The salesgirl looked at me in great surprise and said "Who is it for?" I stared back at her and said "Its for me!" "Oh", she replied. She did not say anything else and took care of the sale. Lisa (FCA-7-V)

Dear Charlene: This is just to say 'thank you' for your very warm note of welcome. I really was quite surprised to get a personal letter so soon. It makes me feel that Tri-Sigma does give the individual attention that we all need and appreciate. Carol wrote and told me that a chapter will be formed in the D.C. area. If so, I'm going to join. Rosalind VA-8-C

Hi Carol: ...I just want to say that it feels good to find a home at last! I am really happy for the first time in my life. I am enclosing \$20.00 to help cover some of the printing expenses. I have a lot to learn and I want to be able to help others. There are lots of Tvs out there who do not know about Tri-Sig so I hope that all the sisters will step forward in helping to locate others so that they can have the happiness that you and I have. And by the way sisters, if you go to church on Sunday and con-

tribute to the offering, well, I'm sure that most of us can find a little more for an offering to Tri-Sigma. Stop and think what Tri-Sigma has done for you so far and what it can do for us in the future. However, we must work together! Our sorority will grow if we feed it and it will die if we don't. Donna PA-21-W

The following is for the benefit of those who doubt the screening power of our literature:

Dear Virginia and Carol: Thank you for your kind, quick and full reply. But...it appears that my aims deviate from those carefully defined in your literature for Tri-Sigma. Best wishes to all the girls. M.B. Birmingham, Alab.

Dear Virginia: Without a shadow of doubt I know that I need the companionship of the girls in Tri-Sigma. I have never been "read" and have appeared frequently in public. Perhaps my secret is that I look upon myself not as a male who dresses but 1) as a male when dressed as a male and 2) as a lady when when dressed as such. As Muriel, I am just as real as when Fred. Muriel is feminine, not effeminate. She dresses like any modestly dressed woman. I use make-up for a lady of my age. There are no flashy pantsuits or extra hi-heels. Muriel has a well modulated, quiet voice which helps the appearance. Muriel is not one who tries to draw attention to herself. Muriel NY-26-W

Dear Carol:...I have no trouble in shopping in Kansas City. The clerks always try to help me when buying nice things for myself. I often go into women's stores and look around and if I see something I like the salesgirls are glad to help me. At one store which features large

sizes, the salesgirls let me try on a slip and dresses. They came into the dressing room and assisted me. When in London I purchased some pretty things. But the sizes were different and I had to return the dress. The saleslady just smiled and said that she thought that I probably looked very nice in my pretty dress. I just about kissed her for the kind remark - she assisted me in purchasing other nice clothes. Freida KS-4-H

Dear Carol: I received your letter, library cards and past issues of the FEMME MIRROR. I hope that we can get something going in the Texas area. I am placing ads in the personal sections of several large papers here to see if we can attract new members. I have placed the 18 library cards in various libraries - mostly colleges. Since I hold a high position in my church in Texas involving 141 churches, I can get my pastors to place cards in their areas - my church runs a gender identity program and the pastors are always glad to have a referral source. Linda TX-21-8

Dear Carol: I would like to say thanks for helping me join Tri-Sig. I never thought that there were so many sisters like me. I enjoyed the FEMME MIRROR so much and although I read a lot, I like the MIRROR the best since it makes me feel so feminine. I hope that I can work downtown as a woman - some day. I want to emphasize that Tri-Sigma is my home and that I am giving up my membership in the \_\_\_\_\_ when my membership runs out. Christine OH-24-P

Dear Charlene: Thank you so much for your kind note of welcome. As a new member of Tri-Sig the welcome is a bit overwhelming. "Special treatment" it is indeed and the warmth of it makes me a bit sorry that I didn't make contact long ago. In the same mail was a letter from Donna of CHI chapter inviting me to "come along." Will I? You bet I will! Jennifer IL-46-W

Dear Charlene: ...All of my cross dressing caused me trouble. As near as I can remember I was 9 or 10 when I had my first dressing experience. I found a dress and wanted to put it on. So I waited until it was dark and did so. Guess what? I was caught with it on, the next morning since I had kept it on during the night. Needless to say it was quite embarrassing. Later on in Jr. High School I started dressing again but my mother found out again and all hell broke loose. I vowed never to do it again but oh, how short my vows were. Again I was caught and this time it was "show and tell." My mother brought the leaders of my church over to counsel me and when they were there she brought my dress and other things out to show them. After they left my mother burned my clothes. But I never stopped dressing. But this caused great guilt. Through Tri-Sig I have met several sisters and our meetings have helped me. I have found a wig stylist who allows me to come into her shop. I can go into the shop dressed and since she has no backroom I sit out in front with the other customers. The stylist was a bit nervous in the beginning but she accept me now and says that I am like the other women. Shirley OR-7-8

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Many of our sisters do not know Charlene CA-64-P but on the other hand many do - Especially those sisters who are new to Tri-Sigma. Because Charlene is a tremendous help to your Editor in helping welcome the new sisters into Tri-Sigma. After putting in a full day at work Charlene puts in another three hours writing welcome letters to new girls. Charlene is very humble and her letters reflect this attribute. She expresses love in her letters and she has received many letters in return from grateful sisters. WE couldn't do without her!! Because the work load is getting heavier & heavier it will soon be necessary to appoint other assistants under her direction. We at headquarters hope that the new assistants will do their job as well as Charlene.

Maxine's Acceptance CA-124-D

Being a TV fer over 45 years I have been out of the closet for a long time. Even during my school years in Europe I was able to wear certain female garments and I was not the only boy in the class to do this. And the interesting thing is that many of the girls knew this but it was tolerated by them. They found it cute and it made us feel closer to them.

My mother did not like it in the beginning but gradually the knowledge of my dressing no longer bothered her and she accepted it as part of my growing up. At the age of 20 I was able to go out in public - all dressed up and felt so happy with this new experience.

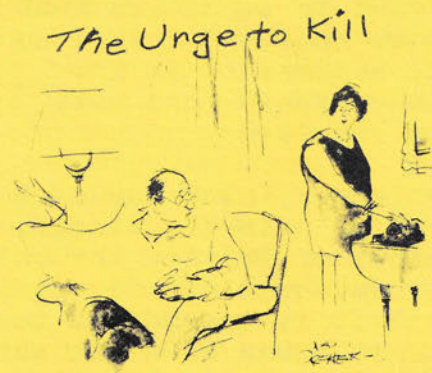
All the girls that I have met in my life, including my wife, were able to adjust to this situation although my wife did ask me once to give it up - this was before we were married. So I gave in, but no sooner was I married but I felt the need to allow Maxine to live again. I started to acquire a new wardrobe. And since my wife left fer work earlier than me I had the opportunity to allow Maxine to live it up before it became necessary for me to go to work.

BUT, it did happen - my wife did catch me and it was a shocking experience to her since she believed that I had given the "habit" up. Fortunately we were always able to talk over our problems and after some discussion she allowed me to wear certain feminine garments under my male clothes. But I felt so guilty about the whole thing because I realized that what I was doing made my wife unhappy. I just could not stand the guilt any longer and started taking group therapy.

The result of the therapy, after 18

months of it, was the development of a closeness to my wife that I had never felt before. We learned to accept each other as individuals - for what we were. I started to help my wife with her housework and learned to accept it without making excuses as I had done before. We have reached the point where not only can I do my own fingernails and toe nails but I am allowed to do hers too. She even allows me to do her eyebrows. Although my wife is not yet an "A" wife, she certainly is close to it. She has not yet gone out with me in public but I expect this to come about soon. I am allowed to dress at home in the evenings and I believe that I am most fortunate in having such an understanding wife. I am deeply in love with her and do not rush her in regards to my Twism.

APOLOGIZES: This issue is very late for the reason that your hard working editor moved her residence and it took a month before things were straightened around so that I could finish the FEMME MIRROR. I hope that all of you will understand the pressure that prevented me from getting the MIRROR to you on time. My goodness the July MIRROR is due just around the corner - gulp!!



I'm going to call your Alpha Chapter president and tell her you're not going tonight because I've burned all your clothes!!