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Wilma Thordsen

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Hi Girls:

The day started out beautiful, nice warm weather no snow on the ground, just a nice day for traveling. These are the girls that did that traveling.

Sonya and Cynthia from Ancramdale, N.Y., Dennie and Michelle Ann from Somerville, Mass., Pricilla and Eileen from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Vickie and Yvonne from Poughkeepsie, N.Y., Debbie and Stephanie from Colonie and N.Y. N.Y., Sue from Nassau, N.Y., Winnie from Schenectady, N.Y., Joann from Monroe N.Y., Joan from Colonie, N.Y., Frances from Rochester, N.Y., Elanda from Rome, N.Y., Alice from Colonie, N.Y., Florence from Conn., who was a guest of Cynthia and Sonya. Pricilla from Scotia, N.Y. made it for a few hours as she was busy all day making her maple syrup. Pricilla brought some of her syrup for the girls, do hope they enjoy it as much as Wilma and I do.

You'll notice I can't say anything about Pricilla and Cheryl this month as Cheryl couldn't make the meeting this month. I still have two months to tease them.

The meal for the girls was: Baked Ham, Mashed creamy potatoes, corn, peas bean casserole, cole slaw, pickles, olives, apple-pear sauce, rolls and butter. For dessert I made tapioca pudding and cookies, and coffee.

I want to thank all who helped serve the meal when it was ready, and then the clean up part.

Next month we will celebrate Michelle Anns wedding anniversary. This was our first time we had a wedding of a T.V., we all had a good time then and hope to have another good time next month. I wonder how many more out in the land of T.V.'s would love to do the same?

It was good to see Frances here last night after such a long absence, now we have to get Kathy back here as she too has been away much too long. Too much work and no play Kathy makes for a dull life.

What I have to say now I say with a heavy heart. It seems someone at the meeting last month called Karens wife and told her all about the short dress Karen tried on. Michelle Ann had made it for herself but didn't care for it and sold it to Karen. Karen tried it on so that Michelle could take it in to fit Karen better and nothing more. Karen does not exactly have a good relationship with his wife about transvestism. I don't like the idea of anyone telling tales after they leave here. Why hurt the T.V. who enjoys dressing and the company of other T.V.'s. There has never been anything shady going on here and there never will be as long as I am the Hostess. I am sorry I had to put this in the paper but I don't want any of the T.V.'s hurt and have to stay away. I do hope we never have a repeat. I said before, what a person does away from my home dosen't concern me only how they behave in my home is my concern.

A little more on Sex and the Law.

One of the least understood and most complex sexually related phenomena in our society is that of cross dressing. That is, the emotional need of someone to wear women's clothing. Not only is cross dressing little understood, it is also little accepted by straights. As a result transvestites live in fear their predilection will be discovered, that they will be publicly shamed beyond their endurance. They go through periods of self doubt, recrimination and guilt, often trying to give up the cross dressing.

No one knows why some men need to dress as women or exactly what the dynamics of transvestism are; the basic fact is, it exists. Transvestites are actually two people, one feminine and one masculine, with distinct personalities in each role. When cross dressers are in their role as a male, no one would suspect that they also have a feminine side to their personalities. They are thoroughly and completely male, with no desire to behave or act as a women. Conversely, when they dress up, bringing themselves into contact with their feminine side, they largely forget their lives as men. Strictly speaking, transvestism is not always sexually related. Some find the periods of cross dressing to be emotionally satisfying rather than sexually pleasurable.

Hope you enjoy reading my little tidbits.

For now I'll say goodnight to all may God Bless and keep you happy and healthy and we'll see all of you next month.

Love to all

Helen



## W I L M A ' S V I E W S

## THE INTERNATIONAL GENDER DYSPHORIA SYMPOSIUM:

I am disappointed with the standards proposed to and adopted by the International Gender Dysphoria Symposium held in Coronado, California.

I feel that these standards are not in the best interest of the prospective transsexuals and were designed to protect the medical professionals from any comebacks from dissatisfied patients. They severely limit the number of otherwise eligible patients; the general attitude is to discourage, to place insurmountable obstacles in front of; and/or restrict the number of candidates for hormonal or surgical reassignment. Most of the standards also benefit the patient does not soften the implied negative attitude of the accepted standards.

The transsexual occupies a unique position in the history of medicine—he (or she) is the only patient a doctor may see, who walks into the office with a diagnosis and course of treatment already mapped out. I feel that the professionals bear a resentment to such patients and that these standards may represent a retaliatory viewpoint.

Thru multiple sources who were in attendance at the symposium, I have heard reports of an attitude that was expressed openly by many participants of the symposium. This opinion was: the transvestite is more psychologically disturbed than the transsexual. This attitude is inaccurate and prejudicial. Based on the fact that the professionals see only those transvestites whose hobby has gotten himself into trouble or is having trouble in adjusting to his lifestyle. No consideration is made of the many thousands of us who have never had such a problem adjusting to our ~~to our~~ lifestyle to require professional treatment. In contrast to the true transsexual, who knows beyond a doubt what he/or she wants, the transvestite who seeks help is disturbed, he doesn't know what he wants: He may feel persecuted and may show signs of other emotional disturbances.

It is an implied right of the U.S. Constitution that we may live our lives in any manner we choose, as long as this manner does not infringe upon the rights of others. The first standard of the symposium rejects this premise by the statement that, "reassignment on demand is contraindicated." My question is WHY??/ don't people have the right of self-determination/. I feel that some guidelines are necessary to prevent overt abuses of sex reassignment. The current standards for entry into a gender identity clinic are far too strict. There is a distinct possibility that it may be better to liberalize the entry standards; perhaps include a few individuals that reassignment may be a questionable benefit for; and include more individuals that reassignment may be slightly or moderately beneficial for. The only comparison I can offer for clarification would be the rules for admission of evidence in a criminal trial; strict rules of evidence may mean that a few criminals may go free; liberal rules of evidence admission may mean that a few innocent people may be jailed. In our case, the rules are strict; some deserving persons may be excluded.

I disagree with the standard in which hormonal reassignment is preceded by a lengthy period of time living in the role of the opposite sex. This standard is discriminatory against those persons whose appearance is less than completely masculine/feminine and would pose unnecessary hardships on the individual seeking reassignment. This is cruel and inhumane treatment, since these less fortunate individuals may face unnecessary amounts of harassment and the loss of their livelihood at a time when they can least afford to. Hormonal reassignment should begin first; the switch to the other social role should be made when any hormonal changes may become obvious. These comments also apply to the standard concerning non-genital surgical reassignment (cosmetic surgery).

The necessity of a second opinion is questionable. I do not feel that a 2nd opinion, from a short-term counselling relationship, would not be valuable to the patient or to the person making either the initial opinion or the 2nd opinion. I feel that it may be more useful to both the patient and the counsellor to sustain in a long-term relationship rather than shuttling the patient around.

I disagree with the standard that limits patients to those who are of legal age. There are exceptions, these may best be determined by the individual clinics.

There are some omissions in the standards; I'll outline a few of them. (1) There is no provision for peer counselling by a post operative person who is living in the role of his/her reassigned sex. These people may be able to help in practical matters of value to the prospective patient. (2) There is no provision for the use of hormones as a diagnostic tool. In cases where there is any doubt whether the patient is a transvestite or a transsexual, I favor the use of hormones as a basis for diagnosis, as, in time, the transvestite will lose his libido and his desire to live in the role as the erotic appeal decreases. Others may eliminate themselves due to nervousness or irritability if they are not ideally suited for hormone reassignment. However, the transsexual would not be affected by this and would continue to live the role. This would only be effective for a male-to-female transsexual as some of the effects of male hormones are irreversible. (3) There is no provision requiring a team approach to treatment of patients. The standards seem to apply to individual professionals working independently. I would prefer to see the establishment of more facilities based on the clinic approach. I would also like to see more facilities established across the country where patients may be evaluated/treated on a local basis.

While my ideas may not be representative to the entire tv/ts community, they are my honest opinions.



PARTIES :

Many who have a public position worry about being revealed if you attend a TVIC party; perhaps you are an executive or a corporation president, and being discovered a transvestite would harm your job status. This is a major concern of many people, and justifiably so. However, in my 30 years experience with TVIC, I have yet to hear of any case of blackmail or any other type of bad experience. In truth, there seems to be a kind of mutual respect between the members of our group. Each respects the privacy of the other, and wouldn't dream of "exposing" another member. Remember, you are all there together, expressing yourselves by being dressed in your favorite feminine clothing. You are all in the same bag, more or less, and the object is to enjoy yourself as much as possible. Of course, there is a certain amount of nervousness at first, but that quickly wears off during the course of the meeting. Some TVs are afraid to go because they feel that they don't look good enough. This may or may not be true, but I have never heard of a person being mocked or ridiculed at a party for his appearance. What usually happens is the person is given tips and ideas on dressing in a very tactful manner. It's a great opportunity to learn about dress and grooming by doing and watching. I have noticed a great improvement in the personal appearance of many TVs after attending several parties. The change is often gradual, but definite, and covers areas of self-esteem, confidence, and comfort in the female role as well. For those who are still afraid, why not attend your first party as your male self? This will give you a chance to look around and decide whether you really like what you see. If you are like most people, you will wish that you had dressed-you might even feel out of place, and somehow you'll feel that you are missing out on a lot of fun. However, this is a cure-all-I-guarantee, you will make your debut "en femme" at the following party.

TVIC holds its parties on the 3rd Saturday of the month. The next 3 party dates will be MAY 15th - JUNE 19th & September 18th. There will not be any parties JULY & AUGUST. All members planning to attend any of these parties must make reservation at least 4 days in advance.

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NEW MEMBERS :

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of one new member this month.

BARBRA P. .... SMITHFIELD ..... NORTH CAROLINA.....

\*\*\*\*\*

HAPPY BIRTHDAY TOO

ANNES [redacted] ..... MAY 2 ..... R.J. [redacted] ..... MAY 10 .....  
KERRY P. [redacted] S ..... May 2 ..... RENNE [redacted] ..... MAY 26 .....  
ESTHER [redacted] E ..... MAY 9 ..... JAMES [redacted] ..... MAY 30 .....  
CAROL [redacted] ..... MAY 15 ..... HELEN [redacted] ..... MAY 30 .....  
RICHARD [redacted] ..... MAY 17 .....

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HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TOO

Mr. & Mrs P. [redacted] ..... MAY 17 ..... MR. & MRS K. [redacted] ..... MAY 11 .....  
MR. & MRS. D. [redacted] ..... MAY 25 ..... MR. & Mrs H. [redacted] ..... MAY 16 .....

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QUESTION OF THE MONTH

- (1) Do I write too much about the transsexual ?
- (2) Am I giving out the wrong impressions about the transsexuals?
- (3) What do you think a transsexual is?

(before answering these questions please read the editor's note on page 6)

I would like letters from the TVs as well as the TSs, and above all from the PROFESSIONALS. Now let's make this a game. Who will send in the most letters the TVs or the TSs. So get your answers in early so that I can give you the score TVs vs TSs in the JUNE journal.....

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SPECIAL THANKS

ESTHER RANDLE for the extra \$ sent in for postage. also JOAN EDWARDS.....  
Esther Randle & Rosemarie Eply for the lovely photos sent in.

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FINANCIAL HELP

"Where can I get financial help is the question I am most often asked." I have no knowledge of any financial aid (or loans) available for transsexual operations.

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ADVERTISMENT RATES

1/16 page - \$5 - 4 insertions.                      1/2 page - \$25 - 4 insertions  
1/8 page - 10 - 4                                      FULL " - 35 - 4  
1/4 " - 15 - 4    "

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Chicago - Transsexualism is a "rare phenomenon", according to Playboy Magazine, apparently unaware of the tremendous increase in the number of transsexuals in recent years. (There are around 100 sex change clinics and surgeons in the U.S. alone now.) In response to a man who said he was a bit upset after discovering that his lovely girlfriend in Miami Beach was a transsexual, Playboy advised him that "if you can't tell the difference, there isn't any." Several hundred transsexuals, some of them



Dear Wilma:

To answer a few of your questions. Femme Name- Just picked it out of a baby book. BREAST - Don't like implants only want my own flesh. It's more natural CLUBS - Only club I belong to is TVIC.

HORMONES - PROUCRA 10mg daily.- PRAMORIA 2mg, 2 a day for 3 weeks on and 1 week off. TIJELTABLE 40mg. Bi Monthly. I am about a 30B now. SEX - I am straight - no sex in 20 months. FEELINGS \* I'm happy but still shy in femme role.....ERINI B....PENFIELD...N.Y.....

Dear Wilma:

The February issue of TVIC asks 4 pertinent questions to which this letter addresses itself.

(1) Do we keep in contact with a helpful TS group?

YES. I am an active, participating, paid member of the XX club of Hartford We meet semi-monthly for a 3 hour session including some unavoidable parliamentarianism, congenial "rap" period and a talk by a guest speaker. Many of us visit each other between meetings for support and comradery.

(2) What is your attitude regarding the silicone breast?

I refuse to invest money for augmentation mamoplasty. I have seen some successful and some unsuccessful treatments. I want neither. I want to be ME-not a plastic replica of a human. I will not trade my sponge pads for rubber boobs. Let the hormones do their best, and I will accept the natural result of estrogen therapy.

(3) What hormones do you use?

2.5mg. Premorin plus 10mg. Prover daily for 21 days - nothing for the next 7 days, then resume pills. Also 5mg. Delestrogen plus 250mg. Delalutin. I.M. weekly for 3 weeks - nothing the 4th week, then resume injections. After 2 weeks of therapy, reection & ejaculation become impossible. After an additional few weeks, the nipple protruded, and a lump formed at the areola. In 3 months, the breast had formed. In another 3 months, the breast had formed. In another 3 months, the breast would bounce during exercise periods. By the 8th month, the sponge pad was replaced with a lightly padded bra (present stage of development). Weight remained close X to PRE-therapy weight.

(4) How is your sex life?

Confused. Married to a woman at age 28 for the purpose of curing the cross dressing compulsion. Experiment failed. Marriage failed. Cohabitant with a widow at 48 - unsatisfactory relationship lasted one year. Cohabitant with a male homosexual at age 49- relationship ended in 2 years because I entered transition as a TS. Love affair with another M-F TS, converted after 4 months to deep platonic friendship (present stage of relationship). Frequent dates with F-M TS, straight men, and one special straight guy - Contemplating marriage after surgery. If present relationship fails, will seek (in order of preference) straight male, divorced TV, lesbian.celebacy

(5) (you didn't ask, but might like to know)

Are these questions being answered by a TV, TS or other?

I am a pre-op M-F TS scheduled for reassignment in Aug. The surgeon is 2/3 of the way across the country. My horoscope said PLAN FOR A LONG TRIP TO TEAR DOWN FOR THE PURPOSE OF REBUILDING ON MORE SUITABLE STRUCTURE.

(6) (I'm adding my own questions)

To what extent have you undergone electrolysis therapy?

75 hours over the past 10 months - dozens of hours still needed - not including shest hair.

(7) Are you by any chance Joyce Dolan of Hartford?

Yes I am. I am also yours truly.

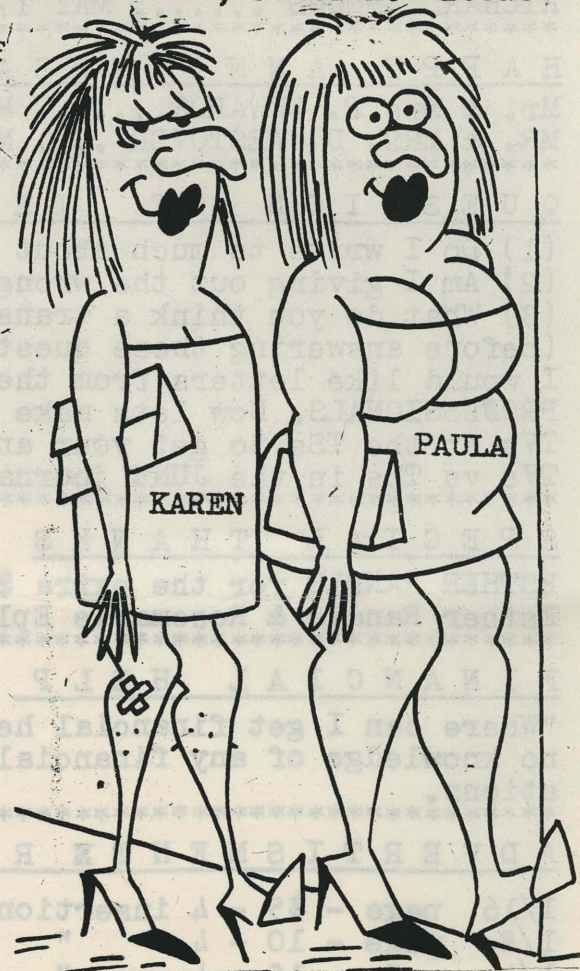
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Dear Helen; You asked how we come to pick our fem name?

I didn't. It picked me. About 2 years ago when I realized people like me had fem names. I was thinking of names and the name Janet popped into my head. Rather strange I thought. I know I didn't have any girlfriends with that name nor have I known any girls personally with that name. I don't particularly like that name but I can't change it because I feel that it is right for some reason. It's as if "SHE" won't let me. Well believable or not that's the truth so Janet will remain. JANET F., LYNBROOK, N.Y.

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NIGHTY TIPS: When laundering that nylon nightie drip dry it on a hanger & stretch it the long way before drying & pressing. This will add 4 inches to the effective length.



Said Karen G., a lady of the evening to Paula (another pro) Would you please lend me \$10 until I get back on my back.



E. E. ANDROVETTE  
 BX 77  
 SOUTH HERO, VT.  
 05486



Dear Wilma,

This letter is mostly congratulations on what you printed in your March 20 issue of the Journal. It's the most informative, helpful and encouraging "TV paper" I've ever seen, so far....

What you wrote on page 3 about the importance of behaving in feminine ways (as well as "Dressing up, using makeup, etc.") was right on target. This is true not only when attending parties or going out shopping together, but even in correspondence as a TV. I get tired of hearing from "girls" who brag about their wardrobes or their sexiness---but write like horny truckdrivers, making no effort to come across on paper as "feminine beings." (How can we expect to be "accepted" as shemales, if we treat crossdressing as just a Hallowe'en masquerade?)

The long excerpt on "Standards of Care" (from the proceedings of the International Gender Dysphoria Symposium) is something that every "pre-op transsexual" should read carefully and save. Most of the ultra-femme TVs who write to me have no idea of what they're getting into when they start saving money for surgery, etc.

Those "Questions of the month" you inserted just below it on page 4 are exactly what I'd like to ask TVIC members, myself, in gathering more material for the book I'm still working on.

Since you sent me a copy of the Directory, I've been writing to TVIC members almost at random, telling them about the book and asking them to write about their own careers as crossdressers (in strict confidence)--including the problems they've had, etc. Three\* of them have done this in a friendly, helpful way; the others haven't replied so far. (About a 33% "response to my letters.")

If you feel you can do so ethically, Wilma, I'd really appreciate your speaking to a few of the "girls" who attend meetings, and encouraging them to get in touch with me. Please don't list me in the Journal as "looking for correspondence," because it's all I can do to answer the mail I get now. What's needed are letters from "concerned girls" who have managed to "adjust well" as crossdressers\* and "cope with leading a double life," etc. By discussing how they do this (in the book) I can show others how to keep out of trouble....and perhaps convince their families, employers and friends that transvestism needn't be a big problem....

I wrote to Carol Beecroft, as you suggested, and corresponded with her briefly. But apparently I "turned her off" by saying that we should try to "bring all crossdressers together under the same roof, as a social minority." She insists that the heteros don't want any association--even a "political" one--with the bis and gays. I argued that what consenting adults do together in privacy is their own business--not hers or mine--whereas public attitudes and local laws are a problem for all of us together, and something we should try to deal with together as best we can. She at first said she'd mention my proposed book in the next issue of the Tri-ess newsletter. But later, when I said I'd like to subscribe to it, and asked for details, she never replied. (Perhaps she thinks I'd try to "corrupt" the whole organization, somehow!)

Here's hoping you and Helen are well, and that sometime after May 15 you can visit my cottage to relax and enjoy the view.

*Eve*

\*\*\*\*\*  
 Dear Wilma: You asked in the question of the month if I would change my status if I could. The answer is no. Untill' recently, I would have probably have said yes, but the last year or so I have come to grips with myself and realized I am what I am. There's alot yet to learn about myself, but I can accept me for what I am, thought my wife won't accept my "feminine self" yet. If she would let me live my "feminine self" with just her, here at home, I would be so happy. I do not intend to change though\* because I don't think I can and I enjoy what cross dressing I'm able to do in the fullest. Wilma, thank you for asking those thought provoking questions. I never have expressed myself so openly and completely to anyone before. I'm still a novice to cross-dressing compared to many members in TVIC, but I'm slowly opening up and catching on. Bless you & Helen.  
 KATIE T....NORTH CHARLESTON....S.C.....  
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NOTICE::::: F-M TS's. There is a new help and news letter out by  
 METAMORPHOSIS-GENDER COUNSELLING EDUCATION SERVICE...P.O.B. 5963 - Sta. A...  
 TORONTO...ONT...CANADA...M5W-1P4.....  
 Bi Monthly Newsletter for F to M and Professionals \$12 for 6 issues.



Dear Wilma:

I believe a transsexual was a male who wanted to be a female. Further, I believed a transsexual would never be involved with a female.

In the late 1960's, I learned there ~~wax~~ were females who wanted to be males. In the 1970's, I learned there were husbands and fathers who wanted to be females.

I have no more answers now than I did in the beginning; I don't know why I was born to have sex-change surgery. I have no need to know why. I am happy and feel lucky to be the individual I am.

Today; there are thousands of transsexuals. No one knows how many. There are no accurate statistics; and if there were, they would be of no value as a preventative or as a cure.

I hated the word transsexual for many years, or at least I thought I did. What I really hated was society's conception of the word. But the day will come when the words transsexual and homosexual will cause no more waves than the word heterosexual.

We are dealing with the more advanced society that once burned-at-the-stake those suspected of practicing witchcraft and more recently were inhumane to the mentally ill and epileptics.

For every freedom, there is a battle. It won't be easy but to "win the freedom, we must fight the battle."

PHOEBE [REDACTED] THE TRANSEXUAL VOICE. [REDACTED]

(EDITORS NOTE) I have been told by ONE PERSON that I write too much about the transsexual and give the wrong impression. If more transsexuals write to me than transvestites that must mean more transsexuals are interested in what I have to say. I am not a transsexual but I do not see the true difference between a transsexual and a transvestite. A person who takes hormone pills and shots but does not want the operation or does nothing about it is not a transsexual by any means. He is just a cross-dresser who likes to show his boobs and feels more feminine when cross-dressed. I wish that this ONE PERSON would get her courage up and write me a letter I could publish in this Journal on what she THINKS a TRUE transsexual is. This should be a good question of the month. WILMA)

Dear Wilma & Helen;

Thank you ever so much, for the kind words. And, Thanks---to the assembled Members, of the club---for their thoughtful notes and letters.

But, I want you to know that this was not a "generous" gesture, but one of "selfishness". You see, Velvet and I had decided that we would never get to attend one of your meetings, so---to make us a part---we decided on this action. We felt that we knew, already (due to Helen's vivid description of the party) all of the people there, so the "Toast" was a remembrance of those, of us, that could not attend.

Besides, you have no idea how difficult it is to get to ALBANY, From TENNESSEE. In fact, I do not think you can get there, from here (by Air). I have been told that there is one part, of the Country, between Albany, and Memphis, that is still served by "Pony Express" (Ed. don't knock the poney express they did better than the U.S. mail) and---judging from the Postmark, and date of delivery, I do not doubt it.

I would, also like to hear from ALL of the "PRISCILLA'S", just to learn how they decided on the name. I thought---at one time---that I was the only one. I think this would be interesting to me. PRISCILLA

PRISCILLA [REDACTED]

Dear Wilma;

Question of the month answer. What do we think about women wearing male clothes? I don't like the way we are treated when it comes to wearing women's clothes. I say we should be treated the same way women are when they dress in male clothes. They can go where they please and won't be arrested. I think a man who dress's as a woman should have all the same rights. We are all human beings and should be treated as human beings. ROSEMARIE E. VANCOUVER, WASH

Some New Members Of TVIC. By DEE BEE WATSON. Olive Pitts, Angel Cake, B'Dammed, Pat Herass, Polly Ethylene, Dixie Cup, Mary Haddalam, Rusty Nayles, Barb Wyre & Candi Bear.

WIGS: A wig made of Synthetic "hair" can sometimes go as long as 3 months without washing. But when U do wash it, according to authorities in the wig industry, use cool water for sudsing and for rinsing. Wash the wig with a mild soap - baby shampo or one of the cold water soaps will do. (Ok that's it, now lets get it done.)

KANSAS CITY, MO. is a wide open town. The police do not bother TVs unless they are out of line.



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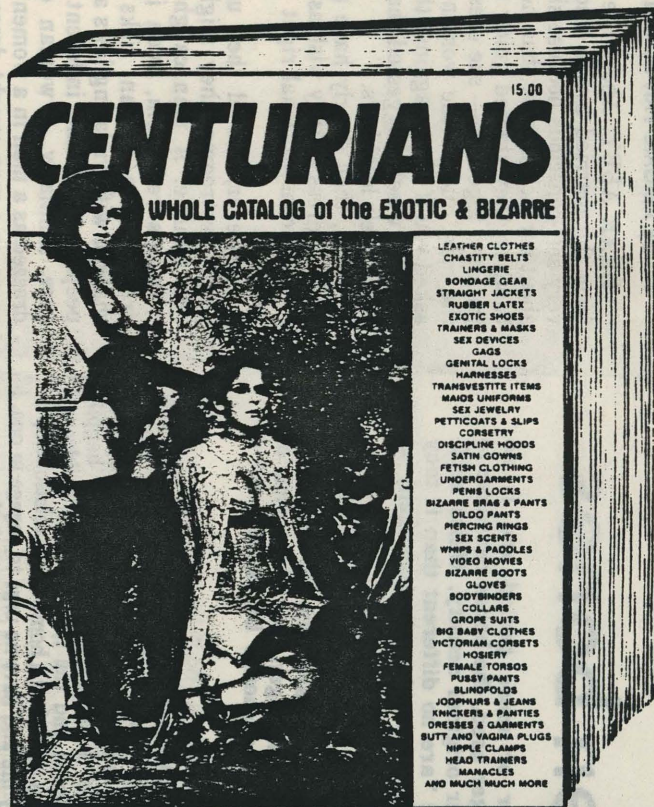
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# Estrogen may reduce risk of broken bones

**BOSTON (UPI)** — Older women who use estrogen for a period of years may reduce the natural brittleness that comes with age and lessen the risk of broken bones, a report in the *New England Journal of Medicine* said Wednesday.

Aging generally makes bones more susceptible to fractures, which can occur if an elderly person falls. Falls commonly result in injuries to the hip, arm or backbone. With advanced age, the healing process also takes longer.

But postmenopausal women who used the female sex hormone estrogen for five or more years averaged a 46 percent lower chance of suffering bone fractures than nonusers, according to the study of hip and lower forearm fractures.

"The estrogen doesn't actually make the bone thicker, but prevents it from getting any thinner, which happens with age," said University of Washington

researcher Dr. Noel S. Weiss.

Some women receive estrogen to soften the sharp bodily changes that come with menopause. But regular use of the hormone has been linked with uterine cancer and the study warned that guarding against bone breaks must be measured against the possible risk of cancer.

Weiss directed the survey of 327 postmenopausal, Seattle-area women ranging in age from 50 to 74. Researchers found five or more years of estrogen maintained bone density and reduced the chance of a fracture.

Women using estrogen for less than five years had a slightly better chance of avoiding bone breaks than women who had not used the hormone.

Weiss said it took about five years before any "steady buildup" was evident. Calcium, the mainstay of bones, is drained from the skeleton

with advancing age as the body requires more of it.

"Estrogen makes the bone less sensitive to the stimuli calling for the calcium," Weiss said.

Researchers found the bone became more dense the longer women took estrogen — a finding that supports previous studies linking increased bone density with estrogen use.

If estrogen was taken for a five

year or more period and is no longer used, the bones decrease to their original density, Weiss said, and "are no different than if they had never taken it (estrogen) at all," Weiss said.

Although the cancer risk should be weighed carefully, the study said use of estrogen to reduce risk of fractures should be considered a benefit.

## WOMEN RAPISTS

**LONDON**—Four women, aged 17 to 27, have been jailed for attempting to rape a man. A London night-club manager told the court the women



attacked him at night in a park, two holding him down while the other two pulled off his trousers. He was saved when a passer-by called the police.

**DEAR ANN LANDERS:** As I write this letter I am wearing a skirt and blouse, silk underwear, a wig, make-up and high heels. I am a 30-year-old male, happily married and the father of two children. I have never had a homosexual relationship in my life and have no urge to engage in one. I just enjoy wearing women's clothes.

When dressed as a woman I am completely relaxed and totally at ease. Also, the feminine side of my personality emerges.

As a woman, I do things any woman might do — straighten the house, cook, go to the supermarket or shopping for my feminine attire.

My wardrobe is extensive but not gaudy. Mostly skirts and blouses, dresses, underwear and high heels. I sleep in male pajamas. My wife understands my need to express my feminine feelings. We spend a lot of time together as two "girlfriends," shopping, chatting, etc. I pass easily and do not worry about detection.

The children are usually asleep when I come home, so there is no problem there. But as they get older and stay up later, I would like to know how to explain to them that Daddy likes to wear women's clothes. A sensible answer is all I want. I am not asking for your approval. — R.P.

**DEAR R.P.:** Stay in the closet as long as possible where your children are concerned. I see no useful purpose that could be served by sharing this information with them. It would only confuse the kids and possibly encourage them (if they are boys) to imitate Daddy. This you don't need. And they don't either.

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

**DEAR ABBY:** About the letter from the married couple who were very self-conscious because she was about six inches taller than her husband, so they started going to restaurants together — she dressed as the man, and he the woman: They asked you if it was against the law, and you wisely suggested that they check their local laws.

Abby, they clearly have a legal right to dress as they wish as a part of their constitutional right to privacy.

However, should they use the public restrooms, they might run into trouble. A man caught in a women's restroom, even if he's dressed as a woman, risks being charged with violating laws against peeping toms and indecent exposure. Similarly, a woman caught dressed as a man in a women's restroom, or a man caught dressed as a woman in a men's room, may be detained to prove correct sexual identity.

Also, a man who is jailed dressed as a woman may have to fight off indecent assaults from other inmates.

So perhaps they should consider these risks when weighing whether to do something they have a legal right to do.

**ARLINGTON, VA., ATTORNEY**  
**DEAR ATTORNEY:** You make several good points. Even though cross-dressing in restaurants may be legal, it's not advisable.



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P A G E 8

**DEAR ANN:** I'm a 50-year-old lady with her own Equal Rights Amendment. Last summer my husband and I spent two weeks camping. The feeling of freedom was wonderful. Part of it was going without my girdle for 14 glorious days!

The first evening back home we were eager to share our experiences with some close friends, so we treated them to dinner. When we got home, my husband said, "You looked a little sloppy tonight. Why didn't you wear your girdle?"



Ann Landers

I became angry and invited him to look in the mirror and see which one

of us looked sloppier. We both decided to go on a diet.

The next day I was still mad. I went downtown and bought a girdle — for HIM. When he came home, I said, "Put this on. You look a little sloppy." He thought I was kidding and replied, "Those things are for WOMEN." I told him they were for anybody with bulges — and he qualified.

Now we both wear girdles, and he not only looks better but says his back is giving him less trouble. Print this, Ann. We might get something going. — Equal At Dubuque

**DEAR EQUAL:** I doubt we'll start a trend but thanks for writing. Your letter was my laugh for the day.