

THE BEST SOLUTION IS SELF-ACCEPTANCE

Self-acceptance is greatly facilitated by a knowledgeable society. Many TVs have come to a peaceful contentment after years in their dual dressing roles. Methods for "cures" that have been tried and repeatedly fail include:

- purging (discarding all female clothes, makeup, etc.)
- professional counseling to change
- growing a beard
- willpower
- immersion in career
- alcohol and/or drugs
- getting married
- getting unmarried

Over and over, partners and close friends of TVs learn that transvestism is a condition of life, that it's not going to go away. The transvestite is not going to outgrow his desire to dress in women's clothes. He cannot change his condition, although the chances are that he's tried hard to do so. The choice for the partner or friend is to leave, to tolerate it, or to accept it. Many who do accept it are finding numerous advantages in relating to a transvestite—increased self-awareness, opportunities for humor, new friends, and sometimes more clothes. Some women, upon learning their "man" is a TV, feel a loss; others feel it would be a loss if he did *not* crossdress. Misinformation is steadily diminishing as more people come out of isolation into the large supportive community of TVs and their friends.

TRANVESTITES ARE ALL OVER!

In the United States alone, over fifty transvestite organizations exist today, as well as at least a dozen TV magazines, and much literature about the subject. As many as several million American males have been estimated to be TVs. Transvestites are in most professions—as laborers, lawyers, military personnel, business executives, contractors, teachers, clergy, and so on. Every income level, race, continent and major religion is represented. Many Americans probably do business with, live near, or worship with, a transvestite, but just don't know it.

IT'S AN EXCITING TIME TO BE A TV!

The TV subculture is rapidly expanding; societal values are challenging gender roles and stereotypes; men's fashion is becoming "feminized" (e.g., more varied colors and textures, skin care products, earrings, salons, and even skirts). We all gain by discovering more about the possibilities of being human. It's clearly a pioneering period to experience!

For more copies, a donation of 25¢ each is appreciated.

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TRANSFER
TRANSITION
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TRANVESTITE!

*THE WORLD WOULD BE NARROW
IF THERE WERE NO CROSSINGS!*

TRANSVESTISM IS A FORM OF SELF-EXPRESSION

A literal definition of transvestism is "crossdressing" (from the Latin "trans" = across + "vestire" = to dress). Not all crossdressers are transvestites. A TV is *not*, for example, the same as a "drag queen," a professional female impersonator, or a transsexual, although all these persons crossdress. Transvestism is a recurring desire, sometimes compulsive, to wear the clothing associated culturally with the opposite sex, to impersonate that sex, or both. It is a way for a man to express affinity with the feminine. Certain specifics may be emphasized, such as high heels, lingerie, or silk. A total "passing" look may be carefully sought, and is often skillfully achieved, since the natural expression of femininity frequently occurs almost instinctively. Today, most transvestites (TVs) are men, partly due to the greater freedom of women to select their "look." This pamphlet focuses on the male-to-female dresser.

Most TVs are heterosexual; some are bisexual, some gay. Dressing is sometimes done to enhance sexuality, and is erotic. At other times crossdressing may have no sexual context at all, but is indulged in for purposes of relaxation and well-being. As the crossdresser comes to accept himself, he may embrace a wider range of dressed activities. Many TVs have a definitely masculine, non-effeminate persona, in addition to the feminine. In ordinary life most TVs display no traits that would set them apart from other men. Yet they are different—their orientation towards the female sets them apart from the "norm." Transvestism is not an exclusively modern phenomenon, for it has been a form of self-expression in many cultures and periods in history.

SOCIETY HAS NOT HAD A CHANCE TO UNDERSTAND TRANSVESTISM

Where *does* society get its information about TVs? Where did you? The image of the transvestite in the media is often exaggerated, or is a cue for laughter. Due to the shame our culture associates with crossdressing, and to the mistaken identification of transvestism with other types of behavior, few people have had unbiased exposure to a TV, or have heard anything positive about the experience. Society has much to gain by accepting transvestism:

- by allowing its TV members to strive closer to their potential
- by learning the rich and varied stories of crossdressers
- by realizing all its members are hurt when squashed into narrow expectations

PEOPLE BEGIN TO CROSSDRESS FOR VARIED REASONS

The causes of transvestism, variously theorized, remain one of life's mysteries. It's not caught, taught, or inherited; it's not anyone's "fault"; it's not chosen. Usually it's unrelated to what a parent did (or didn't) do. Often the TV is aware of his specialness at an early age. Although none of the following cause transvestism, one may have brought the desire to awareness:

- dressing as a female for Hallowe'en
- playing a female role in a play
- losing a bet or taking a dare
- simple curiosity (e.g., finding Mom's slip in the hamper and wondering what it feels like to wear)

TRANSVESTITES ARE FAMILY MEMBERS

Many transvestites are rearing, or have reared, children. Numerous people have a TV in their family—a husband, parent, brother, son, nephew, or cousin. His needs are the same as the needs of any family member—to be both acknowledged and accepted. Rejection of a TV is a loss for every person in the immediate and extended family.

CROSSDRESSING HELPS TRANSVESTITES TO BE MENTALLY AND EMOTIONALLY HEALTHY

Transvestism is not a mental or emotional disorder in itself. A strong majority of TVs are responsible employers and employees who pay taxes, are cooperative neighbors, care about family and community, and are careful not to offend others when dressed. Unhealthy aspects of transvestism have largely been created by the negative and uninformed attitudes of our current culture. For many TVs, crossdressing is a solution, not a problem; it's an answer, not a question. Crossdressing is a release, a non-violent outlet for suppressed frustrations, a time for an agreeable and mellow attitude, a natural expression, and a way to be comfortable. People crossdress not to be like others, but to be like themselves.