

PHOENIX

MONTHLY INTERNATIONAL[®]

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GGA



Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."--C.S. Lewis

WHERE AND WHEN IT'S HAPPENING
GGA Chapters do not act as dating services or dating brokers. Do not call asking for that service.

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE

******NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA******

SAN JOSE - 1st and 3rd Friday, 8 pm.
Write PO Box 62283 Sunnyvale, 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 for specific details.

SANTA ROSA - Meetings: 1st Friday, 3rd Wednesday each month at 2525 Cleveland Ave. Call (707) 526-2500 for specific details.

SACRAMENTO CHAPTER. Meetings on 2nd Friday each month. Write: Bonnie Goodwin, POB 38918, Sacramento, CA 95838 for details, meeting time(s) and place.

SAN DIEGO-GGA: Contact W. Thomas, PO Box 99732, San Diego, 92109.

*******DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA*******

DELTA CHI-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. Write POB 11254, Lincolnia Station, Alexandria, VA 22312.

CAPITOL CHAPTER-GGA. (Balt-DC Area). Pam Haynes, POB 651 Marshall, VA 22115. Meets 3rd Staurday.

*******FLORIDA*******

SUCCESS CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly Meetings. Contact Susan Armstrong, POB 1601, Pinellas Park, FL, 34290.

*******IOWA*******

EASTERN IOWA GGA. Write Occupant, PO Box 1205, Bettendorf, IA 52722 for meeting specifics.

*******ILLINOIS*******

WINDY CITY CHAPTER-GGA. Monthly meetings. Contact PO Box 2312, Chicago, IL 60690 or call (312) 472-4518.

*******NEW JERSEY*******

NU CHAPTER-GGA. 1st Saturday each month. For specific information write POB 9034, Morristown, NJ 07960.

*******NEW YORK*******

NYC-GGA. 2nd Saturday. Changing facilities available. Members may arrive anytime after 4:30 pm. Meetings run from 7 - 11:30. Muriel Olive, Suite 601, 157 W. 57th Street, NYC, 10019.

*******OREGON*******

NORTHWEST CHAPTER-GGA Regular meetings. For information concerning activities in NW Area contact POB 13173, Portland, OR 97213.

*******PENNSYLVANIA*******

PHI CHAPTER-GGA (Philadelphia Area) Contact: Linda Walker, POB 7330, Newark, DE 19714.

*******TEXAS*******

GENDER DYSPHORIA CENTER. Galveston GGA Chapter. Meetings: 8pm 1st Saturday every month except July, Aug, Sept. Contact Alice, (713) 763-6227. Especially helpful for the TS.

*******VIRGINIA*******

HAMPTON ROADS-GGA. Meetings: March 3rd and May 14th. Contact N. Cooper, S-180, POB 2400, Virginia Beach, 23452.

*****OTHERS GROUPS*****

CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC CENTER - 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley. 1st & 3rd Wednesday rap session. Last Friday, special topic or speaker. Meetings run from 7:30 - 10:00.

BI-SEXUAL CENTER. Rap sessions from 7:30 each Tuesday and Wednesday. \$3.00 donation requested. For specific information write PO Box 28227, San Francisco, 94126 or call (415) 929-9299.

SOCIETY OF JANUS. For those into or seeking adventure in S&M. Write PO Box 6794, San Francisco for information.

ETVC. Last Thursday each month at Chez Mallet, 527 Bryant St. San Francisco.

MISSION VIEJO/ORANGE COUNTY AREA. Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Information brochure - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, 31815 Camino Capistrano, Suite L, San Juan Capistrano, CA 92675. Group Counseling: Dana Point facility - 2nd & 4th Monday. San Juan Capistrano Facility - 1st & 3rd Monday.

SHANGRI-LA: Nancy Watson, PO Box 18902, Irvine, 92713.

*******COLORADO*******

DENVER. Gender Identity Center. Staffed by professionals, pre and post-ops. 3715 W. 32nd Ave, 80211. Phone (303) 458-5378.

*******CONNECTICUT*******

XX GROUP. 45 Church St. Hartford.

*******DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA*******

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag gay). Carl Rizzi, 1015 Quebec St. (#9), Arlington, VA 22204.

*******GEORGIA*******

ELITE TV CO. Write GiGi Grant, PO Box 47686, Atlanta, GA 30362 for specific information concerning meeting time(s) and place.

*******HAWAII*******

SEXUAL IDENTITY CENTER. TV/TS discussion group. 7:30 pm each Tuesday. Address: 2139 Kuhio Ave, Honolulu (in the Waikiki District). Phone 926-1000.

*******ILLINOIS*******

CHI Chapter (Tri-S). Marilyn Broer, POB 2055, Des Plaines, IL 60018.

*******MASSACHUSETTS*******

TIFFANY CLUB. Tuesdays & Saturdays 7-11 pm. Very attractive private facility. GGA Members welcome. Write Tiffany Club, POB 19, Wayland, MA 01778 or call (617) 358-5575.

KAY MAYFLOWER SOCIETY Every Wednesday 7-11 pm. For information call (617) 254-7389.

TS SUPPORT GROUP. Write Rachia Heyelman, POB 25, South Orleans, MA 02662 for information.

*******MICHIGAN*******

CROSSROADS. Irregular meeting schedule. Write POB 1298, Flint MI, 48501 for information.

*******OHIO*******

PARADISE CLUB. Reservations required as meetings are held at a motel and a room is often required for overnight stay. Meetings: Oct. 22, Dec. 10. Write Paradise Club, POB 17032, Cleveland, OH 44117.

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MICHELLE'S MEANDERINGS

by Michelle (IL-58)

After reading It Happened to Me, by Virginia (TX-38) in the June '84 issue of the Phoenix Monthly-International I thought of some the tricks I've developed over the years to prevent such a thing happening to me, and I thought I they would be appros for a column dealing with travel. So, this month's title really should be:

HOW TO KEEP FROM BEING A VICTIM

The main thing to remember is that a personal attack can happen to anyone. For example, Jan Morris was recently the victim of a particularly vicious purse snatching incident in Rome.

In her book Second Serve, Renee Richards mentions several incidents of personal attack. And, the list goes on and on. I imagine each of us appearing in public en-femme hasn't at least once felt attack was eminent. So, for those of you "just coming out" I hope the following will keep you having to write another article like Virginia's.

1. Remember, anytime you are on the street as a woman you are subject to the same things that can happen to a woman.

2. Don't think it can't happen to you because it can.

3. Don't panic. Stay cool. Keep your wits. Fear will only immobilize you.

4. Forget you're a man. Your desire to appear as a woman got you into this situation so it's up to your feminine mind to get you out of it. Besides, you come off better as less that your authoritative best.

5. Put something between you and your attacker. It can be distance; a car; a trash can — anything. Just so long as there is a barrier of some kind. make it as inconvenient as possible for him to continue the attack.

6. Don't run. But it is okay to make a quick retreat.

7. Follow the crowd. An attacker will almost never follow you into a store, restaurant, landromat, theater, etc. So, if possible get off the street. Go where there are people.

8. Don't expect help. Studies show that people tend to stand by and watch a wo-

man being raped — and, in some instances have cheered the attacker on. It may be sick, but it's true.

9. Survive. If all else fails you might escape being raped by claiming to have AIDS, Herpes or some form of VD. It's perfectly okay to lie through your teeth. Be creative. But, if you can't escape it don't struggle (it will only turn the attacker on more), just make it as unexciting as possible for him.

10. Avoid one-on-one situations. The best defense is prevention. Don't, for example, get into an elevator with a man if the two of you are the only passengers. Wait for the next one.

11. Always check the back seat of your car for an unwanted passenger.

12. Don't walk down dark streets at night.

13. Leave public places when other people are leaving. Never wait until everyone else has gone.

Purse snatching is almost a national pastime in some countries and has been refined to a near science in it's country of origin - Italy. However, purse snatchings have many characteristics in common and if you don't make yourself vulnerable, you can prevent this type attack. I did have my purse snatched once in Amsterdam, but I decided it would be more lady-like to figure out ways of preventing recurrence than taking revenge on a future thief by putting a pit viper in my coin purse or some such thing. So, I developed a set of rules:

1. Carry your purse next to you. Don't let it dangle at your side.

2. Use the shoulder strap - wear it diagonally for optimum protection.

3. Don't hang your purse on a door hook in a restroom. It's a very easy thing for someone to reach over the top of the door, grab your purse and leave you sitting (your are sitting, I hope) with your panties down. It's much wiser to place your purse between your feet or to hook the strap over the tissue holder.

4. A sudden commotion may signal an attack. If someone starts something around you consider yourself under Attack and make an immediate defensive maneuver.

5. Be alert. Listen to what is going on around you. If you hear someone running up behind you and feel you might be the target, turn so your side is toward the po-

tential attacker. Not only does this brace you for the attack, but it gives you a good view potential impending action.

6. Carry the smallest purse necessary. The smaller the target the harder it is to steal. Many times I just a carry clutch.

Carry **minimum** valuables. Have only as much money as you could afford to lose. Leave any unneeded valuables locked in your car's trunk, the hotel safe or even in your room.

Although there are many special problems a woman has in the area of personal security the last of this trilogy I will deal with is **Driving a Car**.

I hope you already know enough to roll the windows up and lock the doors at night, but here are a few more bits of advice.

1. Be careful of the phony Good Samaritan. If a car with only a man in it pulls up next to and tells you there is something wrong (a low tire, tail light out, etc.) **don't stop**. Instead, drive to a well lighted service station and have the attendant check it out - after all what does a woman know about cars? Right?

2. If another car follows you or acts suspiciously, get the license number and, if things really get out of hand look for a cop. If you see one going the other way (coming toward you) on the street signal him by flashing your headlights at him (them) three times.

3. If you have an accident **don't panic**. Most police departments have dealt with the TV/TS before and they will usually afford you the same courteous and considerate treatment they would normally give any other woman. However, **don't get smart and don't lie**. Honesty and a little feminine timidity goes a long way.

I know that are many other rules which can be applied to the situation of personal attack. As a man you would no doubt handle things differently but, since fear for personal security is very real for all women we are certainly no different and just as vulnerable and perhaps moreso than genetic women in similar circumstances.

CLUB VICTORIA, CHICAGO, IL A Special Report by Kay (CA-58)

Well, I finally made it to the famous Club Victoria in Chicago. I was in town for the Fifth Annual Miss Continental USA Pageant and the opportunity presented itself for an unannounced visit. So off I went, in a sexy business suit, to 3153 N. Broadway to interview Jennifer, the owner.

I had visited the Club, about a \$4.50 taxi ride from the downtown hotels, the night before without anyone knowing who I was and had seen the show. I visited both Saturday night, and Sunday as well, to see how the crowds were. The Club Victoria puts on an excellent show all the time. The shows are on Thursday and Friday at 10 and 12 p.m. and Saturday at 10, 12 p.m. and 2 a.m. It's best to call for reserved seating because they are usually full.

They have a regular cast of entertainers consisting of Jennifer, Gloria (Brian Winston), Abbey Rhodes and Daphne Daniels. I saw them all perform and was impressed. Jennifer, a post-op TS, is absolute dynamite. She is a very sexy blonde with a lot of class. Her style is classic and she has the sexiest gowns (just like the old time strippers). That's necessary because as well as a super presentation of her style, in the last show she does a classic, sexy, alluring striptease. The crowd loved it as I did. By the way, they have a bartender, Dido, who is a dead ringer for Tom Selleck.

Because female impersonation is an illusion, Jennifer does her's in the classic style - one she learned over the years beginning at the Cockatoo. Gloria, done by Brian Winston, is a multi-faceted character. She is both an up-beat comedienne and a sexy singer-dancer. Abbey Rhodes presents one of the most dynamic pieces of entertainment I have seen this year. Her "Sweet Dreams" number stopped the audience. You will be entranced by it if you take the time, as I did, to go and see it. Lastly, I can't end without covering Daphne Daniels. She is a talented black girl with so many moves you won't be able to count them. The music fully supports her life and up-beat dancing.

The cover charge is only \$4.00 and they don't heavily push the two drink minimum. They welcome TVs and treat you

will pay some of the expenses of providing you many of the services now done out of Georgia's pocket and through donations from people in the immediate vicinity of the "Home Office" and allow further expansion of the System if necessary. Some of incoming revenue will go to pay the phone bills (for calls to the System) of the people, such as Dear Counselor, Dear Mistress and so on, responsible for answering many of the questions left by callers. Their participation is, in part at least, responsible for much of the incoming traffic.

Each of you is invited to call GenderNet®, at least once, to see what is being offered.

COUNTERFEIT GENDERNET

by Georgia

While imitation may be the sincerest form of flattery I must admit I was more shocked and angry than flattered when a GenderNet® subscriber brought to my attention the apparent presence of a system located in The East and using the name "GenderNet-East." The operators of this system, which is seldom on-line, have neither the right nor the authority to use the name GenderNet® since it is registered in my name.

I cannot accept nor am I willing to accept any responsibility for any information gleaned from this counterfeit system. I have placed calls from my computer to it several times and have yet to get an answer so I can only presume it is a dormant system and seldom available to callers.

While I agree that other systems on the line of GenderNet® are needed I cannot allow the use of a name registered to me to be used without my expressed written consent. I have worked too long, invested too much of my time and money in GenderNet® to allow it to be prostituted by someone else's use of its name and reputation.

If any of you are willing and able to put a system on the air and wish to use the format and style of GenderNet® I will gladly discuss it with you and possibly franchise the use of the system and name, but I will not sit idly by while others attempt to steal my idea and trade on my reputation and the reputation of something I established, produced and make available for others.

,unlike Finnocio's in San Francisco, just like any other visitor. Of course, you should be well put together when you go. They do not allow street queens or hustlers in the bar nor do they allow drugs on the premises. The local Windy City GGA Chapter holds its regular monthly meeting at the Club. The drinks are good (not watered) but, most of all it's friendly and clean. Do try and take in the show there, you won't regret it.

GENDERNET® NEWS

By the time you read this GenderNet® will have been expanded to the 5meg hard disk, be a use fee System and on the air almost 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The number of calls to the System and the demands people are making on it are more than we ever anticipated. Last month we said there had been 3,000 calls as of the end of August. As of the 15th of September the number has increased to 3,402. Quite a few in a 15 day period.

Because of the need for contact between members of the Gender Community we have loaded the Correspondence Directory (minus the No Information Provided entries) into GenderNet®. This should open the avenues of communication even further. We expect many of you will be hearing from people who may not be GGA associates, but who are Subscribers to GenderNet®. The same security rules in effect for contact via the CD are also in effect for GenderNet®. We have removed all the addresses and phone numbers from the CD entries listed on GenderNet® so as not to compromise anyone. By the way, those you who call and have access to the Contact Section of GenderNet® may notice that some of the System listings have a -G appended to the listee's ZIP code. This identifies the listee as a GenderNet® Subscriber but not a GGA Associate.

If you object to your listing information being on GenderNet® drop us a line asking for your listing to be removed from the System and we'll comply.

For those of you having a home computer and a modem we suggest you call GenderNet®, at either 300 or 1200 baud, and see what it has to offer.

First time callers are provided a small amount of information, in the Free Section, to browse but, to get into the real meat of the System a use fee is required. This fee

THE MISTRESS' LAIR by The Mistress



In the previous issue I defined some of the terminology associated with Dominance and submission. I will devote this and the next few issues to discussing these various aspects, resources for people who are or wish to be involved such practises, safety rules, etc.

D/s is an all encompassing term and may or may not include any or all related aspects.

You will find varying degrees of Dominance and submission in every human relationship, be it friendship, marriage, business or family. Traditionally, the male dominates the female. That is to say, he holds the power position in the relationship. He is the initiator, holds the purse strings, makes the major decisions. She exists to fill his needs, to feed him, care for him when he is sick, clean for him, satisfy him sexually and perform related services.

This distribution of power may be more or less pronounced within individual relationships. Usually a couple will agree to vary from the old social structure to some degree. Whether he does some housework or she participates in decisions, or whatever arrangement suits both, the exchange of power in certain areas is clearly defined, and the power is handed from the male to the female.

The Dominant/submissive relationship does just that - one individual hands all power to make decisions to the other. This, of course, requires a great deal of trust. Many established Dom/sub relationships distinguish themselves through an extraordinary closeness and sensitivity. While the submissive cares for the Dominant much in the way the devoted wife cares for her husband, the Dominant assumes complete responsibility for the welfare of the submissive.

Unattached Dominants and submissives

are often faced with a dilemma. This applies especially to unattached submissive males, since there are nowhere near enough Dominant females to go around. The result is that many Dominant females become professional. The proposition is tempting: She can spend the day doing what she likes to do anyway, without worrying too much about finances.

However, upon closer inspection, once the Dominant accepts money, she is really not in charge anymore. Now she is financially dependent on the submissive. He is paying good money to see her and expects something in return. If he doesn't like what she does, he's unlikely to return. Professional Dominance has nothing to do with prostitution, as no sex is involved. The Dominant can best be classified as an actress since she is paid to act out people's phantasies. The submissive is usually quite aware of this. It interferes with his pleasure - he still has to use his imagination to create the feeling of submissiveness he is searching for. He wants her to do as she pleases - yet he has very definite ideas about how she is to derive her pleasure. The Dominant wants a satisfied customer. As a rule she will ask him about his likes and dislikes and do just that.

Thus the situation is merely another stimulus for the submissive's phantasies. Live enactment is certainly more satisfying and realistic than Video movies or pornographic literature. But is not true Dominance and submission and should not be confused with it. The submissive often ends up in a life long search for a true Dominant who will sweep him off his feet and carry him to her lair where he will submit to her unconditionally. However, having been molded by the image and behavior of professionals, he rarely recognizes a true Dominant, and when he does, is unable to deal with her Dominance.

After all, she is much more demanding than the professional, unlikely to oblige by acting out his phantasies on demand, and probably doesn't dress the way professionals do. Our poor submissive is confused and frustrated. For years he has phantasized about finding a real Dominant. By the time he found her, his phantasies have taken such a defined path that the Dominant perceives him as a demanding brat rather than the pliable submissive she desires. Truly a dilemma.

While it may not be easy to find a compatible partner for a Dom/sub relationship, the merit of such a conflict free relationship make it worth the trouble. What about equality? If two parts make a whole, the size of each part is rather irrelevant. Together they make a whole, and as such they are equally important. Since there are no battles to be fought, equal power or strength is irrelevant.

THE MAN WHO WORKED AS A FACTORY GIRL FOR EIGHT YEARS

The above headline and the following article appeared in the San Francisco Examiner on July 10, 1897.

"New York, July 13. As a long distance female impersonator Max Feinberg holds the record. For eight years he wore corsets and passed as a woman in the hat factory of Henry Wallner & Brother at No. 208 Wooster Street. By strict attention to his attire, he succeeded in elevating himself to the position of forelady, and he might have been holding the position yet had not Dan Cupid thrown Sophie Goldstein in his way. Sophie was a fashioner of paper boxes in the factory of Rudnick Brothers, two floors below the Wallner factory. Two week ago Max married Sophie, and they are at present in Chicago, where he is working in a cap factory. He is now wearing the regulation male attire and gets shaved in a barber shop.

"Eight years ago Max appeared at the Wallner Factory and asked Henry Wallner for a place. He wore a blue dress. Mr. Wallner needed a female operator on caps with ear muffs and he hired Max. Max said his name was Bessie, and as Bessie he went on the payroll. It is not customary in big factories to ask the rest of a girl's name.

"Bessie soon showed that she — that is he — was an expert in the manufacture of caps. She went among the girls and acted as one of them. When the Cap Factory Hands Association gave their annual picnic and clam bake they had blue dance programmes for the women and red programmes for the men. Bessie took a blue programme and danced with everybody on the boat who had a red programme. On the annual shirt waist parade along Second Avenue Bessie was a star figure.

"With all this Max didn't look so much like his name was Bessie. It is true he had long black hair and that his voice resembled the voice of a woman. But it was rumored about the cap factory — among the female employees — that Bessie was not what she seemed. She had traces of a moustache on her lip that would do credit to a man.

"As a matter of fact,' said Mr. Wallner, 'we all believed she was a girl. I cannot call him anything but she. She was very quiet and attended strictly to her own business. The only peculiarity I ever noticed about her, outside of her moustache, was that she never brought working clothes to the factory and changed her as all the other girls do. All the girls change their clothes in a dressing room when they come in in the morning and when they go home at night. Bessie, while she utilized the dressing room for curling her hair and fixing up to go out on the street, wore the same clothes at work that she did at other times.'"

And you thought all this crossdressing stuff was new.

The preceding article was retrieved from the Examiner's microfilm library and sent to us by Lou.



CASE STUDIES

KELLY

(continued from last month)

The job didn't end in the time period expected but rather was extended for almost eighteen months before it was finally completed.

Quite by accident Kelly met another transsexual, and that contact led to several others. They began pressuring her to see a therapist and go on hormones. She resisted until finally worn down. She started seeing a therapist and was on hormones within two months. Kelly's already fleshy breasts, filling an A-cup even before hormones, blossomed; her hip size increased three inches and her already rounded derrriere filled out nicely. By wearing baggy old slacks, open-collared shirts and loose cardigan sweaters to work it was relatively easy to hide her new shape.

Over the next year her peers applied more and more pressure for Kelly to really start seriously reaching out for her surgical goal. Kelly refused realizing it meant giving up all she loved, Liz, and she was unwilling to do that. "She stuck with me thick and thin, and believe me there was more thin than thick. I can't desert her now. I can't. I owe her. She's been my life for all these years. I just can't desert her," she explained.

A few months later when offered a more permanent position with a large computer manufacturing concern, as a male, she took it, seeing it as the perfect excuse to stop taking hormones and revert to an apparent masculine role — not to mention leaving her transsexual peers. She bought a house and moved Liz to live with her.

Kelly dropped completely out of the TS community.

"About six months after my surgery," Lorraine continued, "I applied for a job; had my interview and was hired. A week later, on my first day, my new boss took me meet the Division Chief. Well, you could have knocked me over with a feather. There sat Kelly.

"She was working hard, presenting a proper male image at work — she went almost overboard in presenting a macho image. Snappy little sports car, three piece

suits, even allowed her beard to grow — she hadn't had much facial electrolysis. She took to smoking a pipe until someone mentioned that Scandinavian women also smoke pipes. She seemed to be working very hard to hide and deny her femininity. Her only apparent concession to femininity being her fingernails. She continued to wear them overly long for a male — longer than many of the female workers — and maintained them with manicures and clear polish.

"I stayed in her Division about a year before moving to another firm. In all that time she treated me no differently than any of her other subordinates. Although I sometimes felt she expected more from me than them. About the time I left Kelly was given the project of setting up the store here in the City. As usual she did an enormous amount of research into the project and took a long time making decisions as to exactly what should be in the store; how it should be staffed and then training the people she selected to staff it to make it a success.

"Obviously she has the respect of her professional peers and superiors."

I wrote most of Kelly's story over the following week-end and asked Kelly, using an equipment problem as a pretext, to come to my office. I explained Lorraine had told me her story and ask if I could include it in my book.

After reading the manuscript and making a few additions and corrections Kelly agreed to its publication.

Soon after the party Kelly returned to the main office of her company and it was almost two years and then, quite by accident before I saw her again.

I had been to a symposium and was on the way home. About two in the morning, I felt the need of body fuel so I stopped at an all night diner not far from home, just off the freeway for a snack. There were only a couple of people in the restaurant and as I followed the hostess to a small table when I saw a man beckoning me. It was Kelly. She looked terrible — gaunt face, circles under her eyes, a short, man's

haircut; her beard gone.

An operating systems at work had been in trouble so Kelly had spent hours working on the problem to get the system running again. While we chatted about inconsequential things I felt she had something on her mind and waited for her to tell me rather than pry.

Over what was to be her final cup of coffee she looked at me and said, "I've always wanted to tell my parents and sisters about my transsexualism but I never could. Didn't want to hurt them unnecessarily. Well, Liz and I went home to my parent's a couple of months ago. I hadn't been back in years and the folks are getting on in years. I told my mother about the feminine Kelly. I didn't mean to, it just slipped out.

"Everyone had gone to bed and I was in the kitchen reading an article by one of your therapist buddies when Mother came out about two to read also. We usually sit and talk 'til all hours at least once when I'm home, and this looked like the time. Well, we got to talking and she asked about the article I was reading so I told her it was professional article concerning transsexuals. 'Why in the world are you reading an article about people like that? Certainly you have better things to do with your time and talents than waste them on things about those people.' Angrily I said, 'Mother, I'm one of those people. I'm a transsexual. I should have been born, like Sis, with a vagina. I should have grown up to be like her -- a mother. Not a father, a mother.'

"Well, we talked for a couple of hours and just before going back to bed she said, 'I can accept what you've said.' I thought she meant she could accept me, the female Kelly. I was relieved, happy and floating on a cloud. After all these years I'd told her about me and she'd accepted me. The real me."

"When Mother's Christmas card arrived there was a note, as usual, from her. She didn't accept the feminine Kelly. She rejected me. Refused to acknowledge me."

I saw tears welling in her eyes. I blinked back my tears too.

"Oh God! Why must she continue to reject me? Hasn't she done that enough? I told her I'd never have surgery and would probably go the grave as her son. She knows I won't do that to Liz. I love her

too much. I can't help it, I do. I won't desert her at this late date. I did tell her that I'd have surgery in a second if circumstances were different. That had I known at twenty what I now know about myself I would have taken a different path through life, I would have had surgery and lived my life out as a woman."

Tears were dropping on the table cloth with regularity -- both her's and mine. We touched hands. Kelly left the table to wash her face and puffy eyes. My heart wrenched as I watched this woman in a man's body walk into the men's room. She was back in a few minutes, kissed me lightly on the cheek, took my check as well as her's, walked to cashier and paid them - old male habits, once learned, die hard. I watched as she walked, straight and proud, out into the lightening morning, back to her man's life and the woman she loves so much. Perhaps, too much.

Poor Kelly, will probably never have the surgery she so richly deserves and will probably live out her life in that man's body, suffering and dying a little everyday.

GENDERNET ®



IT'S HAPPY BIRTHDAY TIME!



The following Associates have a birthday in the months listed. We hope you'll send each Birthday Person a nice card. We have.

NOVEMBER

Valorie	CA-157	Andrea	CA-159
Darlene	CA-243	Carol	CA-249
Tamie	CA-243	Teddy	FL-11
Becky	FL-34	Vanessa	FL-62
Elizabeth	GA-22	Marsha	IL-69
Yvonne	IN-29	Jane	KS-18
Ronnie	MA-23	Melisa	NB-10
Jineane	NJ-28	Diane	NJ-30
Barbara	NY-35	Maria	NY-61
Carol	PA-40		

DECEMBER

Anne	AZ-25	Charlotta	CA-14
Janice	CA-20	Cathy	CA-21
Kathleen	CA-70	Laura	CA-80
Ruth Ann	CA-98	Diane	CA-106
Joy	CA-223	Bobi Jean	CA-224
Stephanie	CA-261	Andy	CA-295
Julia	CN-32	Kathleen	CO-28
Karem	FL-55	Bryan	GA-25
Sharon	IL-1	Ramona	IL-63
Sal	IL-64	Diana	IL-75
Tammy	MA-25	Julie	MO-21
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Joan	WA-22	Judy	WA-27
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LINGERIE SEWING
by Glenda Jones (CA-5)

I've been sewing lingerie for about 20 years and find it an extremely enjoyable hobby, and you may find it fun to. There are several advantages to "sewing your own." First, you can get exactly what you want. Lingerie, like most clothing, is mass marketed and what is being pushed this season may or may not be what you are looking for. Secondly, you can get exactly the right fit which is of particular importance to those of us with a less than perfect figure.

Frequently you can find used garments for a song. Recently, my wife found a fabulous old woven nylon satin slip in a bin at Good Will. The trim was badly in need of repair and she picked it up for 75 cents. I replaced a lot of the trim, made a couple of other repairs and the result is stunning. I wouldn't part with it for anything and I'm sure it would have cost at least \$50.00 in a fine lingerie shop, if I could have found one.

And, of course, there are some things which are hard to find or unlikely to be found. I can't stand wool next to my skin and a pants-liner is, for me, a necessity. There are a few places selling pants-liners but, the selection of fabric and color is very limited. Men's undershirts are hard to find in a variety of colors and materials. And, the men of America are yet to accept lace trim on their underwear.

While lingerie can, of course, be made from many different materials this article will deal with nylon tricot (pronounced "tree ko"). Tricot is truly a remarkable fabric. The knit was developed back around the turn of the century and has an inter-locked warp which prevents raveling. You can cut it without having to pink it or edge stitch it. Nylon is a tough synthetic developed just before World War II. One nice thing about nylon garments is that they will, literally, last a life-time. I have some undershirts and slips I made more than 20 years ago which are still part of my wardrobe. A few years ago DuPont introduced a new wrinkle in their nylon process to make it very slightly electrically conductive to prevent the annoying "static

cling" which develops during the washing and drying of nylon garments. Finally, by adding one more step to the knitting process, one can obtain a satin finish on the right side of the material.

The first thing you need to know how to do is tell the right side of the material from the wrong side. Nylon (actually any) tricot has a direction that stretches much more readily than the other. This is called the right side and the other is the perpendicular direction is called the grain. Garments are normally made so the grain follows the line up and down your body while the stretch goes around your body. An easy way to tell which is the right and which is the wrong side is to pull the fabric in its stretch direction and watch it curl toward the right side. It's important to know which is the right side since a lingerie stitch is very difficult to rip out. Better to be right the first time around.

Lingerie fabrics are available nowadays in many fabric shops but, having been a customer of the mail order house Kieffer's Lingerie Fabrics and Supplies, 1625 Hennepin Avenue, Minneapolis, MN 55403 I can strongly recommend it. Their prices are reasonable and service is very good. They carry relatively few lines of fabrics but, what they do carry is stocked in depth. A Keiffer's catalog is, among other things, a miniature lingerie sewing handbook. They also sell two books, Sew Lovely Lingerie Slips and Panties and Sew Lovely Lingerie Girdles and Bras, both of which were written by Laverne Deveraux a noted home economist. The slip book sells for \$1.95 while the girdle book sells for \$1.25. There are lingerie sewing books selling for much more but, few are better. You might send \$3.20 for the two books when you request their catalog.

One thing to watch out for is "bargain" fabrics, especially trims. You can always check the fibre content of what you buy from a good merchant. Kieffer's in particular sells only high quality merchandise. If in doubt, wash the material **before** investing hours and hours making something. If it comes out of the dryer looking bad, toss it.

You **don't** need a lot of equipment for lingerie sewing, but a few things are essential. You will need a couple of pairs of

scissors - a small sharp pair for detail work and regular pair for normal work. Barber shears work very well for this. It also wouldn't hurt to get a little, inexpensive scissor sharpening tool. These tools are available at most places selling scissors and/or cutlery. Even so, you will need to have your scissors sharpened at least once a year by a professional if you are a regular sewer. You will also need glass bead ball point silk pins; some number 70 ball point needles for tricot and a sewing machine. I have a Bernina which I bought about 15 years ago. While it is considered the finest machine for knits, it is also very expensive and frankly, any good \$100 machine will do for most things. The only fixed requirement for your machine is that it **must** be able to sew a zig zag stitch.

Your basic lingerie stitch is a straight stitch followed by a zig zag in two steps. With the right sides together, held in place with silk pins, you first sew a straight stitch along the seam using about 12 stitches to the inch. Then you go back and sew a 1/8 inch zig zag stitch so the edge of the zig zag touches the straight stitch. Then you trim the material to, but not crossing, the zig zag. At first, allow yourself a 3/8 to 1/4 inch seam allowance and trim it off. The good news is that this stitch will literally last a lifetime and the bad news is that it's very hard - if not impossible - to rip out. The most common mistake for novice sewers is not keep the right sides of the fabric together. The right sides are **always** sewn together.

What I suggest for the new sewer is to plan and complete four projects. First: a couple of undershirts (or camisoles); a plain bodiced nightgown with lace trim on the skirt; a slip with a trimmed bodice and a pants-liner (or what I prefer to call a pants-slip). After completing these 4 projects you will have pretty well mastered the necessary skills and will be off an running.

An undershirt is simply a two piece garment. McCall's, among others, sells a pattern for a man's undershirt. Making it out of a thrilling pastel nylon satin and the possible addition of bits of lace trim can turn this into a delightful camisole (also called a "cami"). Whenever you sew some-

thing you should **always** adjust the pattern to fit **your** measurements. In the case of an undershirt (or cami) the seam allowance should reflect your individual chest measurement when your lungs are filled with air. The fabric is folded double along the grain with the right sides together. After you cut out the two pieces the side seams are stitched and the top and bottom are faced off. I recommend simple underlapping of the fabric rather than the more complex process of a separate strip of fabric. This will feminize the garment a little and is also much easier to sew. Personally, I like to have an undershirt come down well over my hips and panties so, adjusting the pattern to make the cami longer than normal may be something you'll want to consider. Interesting variations include the insertion of a lace panel in the front (it will be covered by your necktie and not be noticed). You may want to also consider lace rather than self-straps for a more daring look. When sewing camies I usually work in just a slip and panties so I can try the new cami on easily.

A nightgown is only a bit more complex than an undershirt or cami. Basically, it is a four piece garment. Again, adjust the pattern and this time I suggest an allowance of an inch or so in the bust measurement to allow for a more comfortable fit. Length is up to you. To apply trim to the bottom of the skirt I suggest it be applied with a 3/16" zig zag stitch **before** sewing the garment together. Then, the lace is sewn just like the rest of the material and trimmed off at the same time the gown seam itself is trimmed. Treat yourself in the project with a nylon satin tricot in your favorite color. I suggest you buy an extra yard of material and, after you complete your pants-liner project come back and make a pair of pettipants to wear with the gown for a bit safer feel when wearing the gown.

The fully trimmed slip is the hardest of the four projects and will take a few evenings to complete. The bodice is constructed by sewing 3 inch wide bands of lace together at the edges and then backing them with nylon sheer. Pattern adjustment

should be made from your measurements while wearing a suitable bra. The basic method is the same: pattern adjustment, cutting the fabric out with the right sides together folded along the grain and bottom trim applied before sewing the side seams. I always work dressed in hose, heels with a slip over my girdle and bra so I can try on my new slip with a minimum of inconvenience and can make minor adjustments for fit — particularly in the bodice easily. Length, of course, should be carefully checked with whatever dresses or skirts you plan to be wearing that season with your new slip.

To make a pants-liner or pants-slip I suggest a pettipant pattern lengthened to cause the completed garment to come just below your knees. This is a wonderful thing to accompany your new cami. It's quite straightforward except for putting in the elastic — something the first three projects didn't require. I recommend "casing" or "tunneling" the elastic rather than sewing it directly to the garment. Attaching elastic requires a special stitch and is better left for a future project when you branch out into girdles and bras. "Casing" it simply amounts to sewing about half an inch under at the waist and leaving a one inch opening. The elastic itself is then threaded through the casing with a casing needle (available from most sewing shops). The two ends of the elastic are then sewn together with a small satin overlay using a fine straight stitch. Tack the elastic at the top in four or five places and then close the casing. I suggest wearing your cami with knee length opaque hose and low heeled pumps. In this way you can try on the pants-liner to easily to check their fit an appearance. Wearing a lace trimmed satin camisole, a matching lace trimmed pants-slip under a nylon shirt and a suit is a big turn on for a lot of guys and gals. It can make the end of a date most exciting.

Once you master slips and panties, you may want to consider making your own girdles and bras. This is more challenging but, in some ways even more rewarding. I will discuss this in a following article. Do drop me a line and let me know how you made out with this exciting hobby. I will be happy to answer your questions if I can.

DEAR MARTHA

from the Dear Martha Section of
GenderNet®

Question: I am searching for a source for large bracelets and larger jewelry but bracelets in particular. Do you know of a source?

Answer: If, by larger you mean in diameter, try the Avon Lady. They have bracelets available in 2 or 3 different diameters. Avon seems to realize that women, like men, come in small, medium and large sizes. You might also try the local Salvation Army store for large, in other than diameter, jewelry. They always seem to have a large and varied selection of "junk jewelry" some of it quite nice and certainly inexpensive.

Question: So far I have never tried to pass. I would like to, but my life is too active. I would like to make a quick transition from female to male appearance, and I would have to look normal for me (i.e. like I always do). I will probably need to do a lot to pass, but I have to restrict what I do to things that can be undone in short order (hours at the most). What can or can't I get away with in this situation? Also, since I am new at this, are there any common pitfalls you can warn me about?

Answer: Water-based make-up can be removed in a few minutes. A hair style that is convertible can go either direction in a few minutes simply by wetting it and using a hand-held dryer and brush. It should be no problem to change clothing in a few minutes. Of course, shaven legs **could** be a problem, but **that** can be overcome simply by wearing flesh colored hose and then wearing sheer hose over them. It isn't necessary to pluck one's eyebrows or have facial electrolysis. The beard can be covered from view by the application of a **good** beard cover such as CoverMark or Recover (available in cosmetics sections of better department stores).

Question: How does a person go about acquiring hormones? With whom do you make initial contact? What types of questions are you asked?

Answer: If you are in therapy she/he should have referrals for you. If not, simply go down the list of endocrinologists and internists in your local phone book until you find one willing to start you on a program. Please read the article on hormones on the Board **before** starting on a program. Stay away from street hormones.

As for questions you'll be asked: obviously the prescriber will ask "Why?".

Question: I've been dressing up since I was 12 or so, but only in the last couple of years have I had the courage to go out in public. Once I went out with my wife and we went to a Peppermill for a couple of drinks and to another bar. Other times I went out by myself and had to be contented with walking around, driving around, and occasionally going into Ladies Rooms. One of the best experiences I had was when I was driving my car and felt not that I was pretending to be a woman, but that I actually WAS a woman. And I think I was, for that moment. The problem is that I really don't pass very well. I had a remarkable (to me) and very enjoyable experience about nine months ago, making a tour of Ladies Rooms on the Peninsula (I have no confidence in my voice, so I feel that restrooms are my only choice when I'm dressed), though I think I got by on some women's good graces a couple of times, and eventually was read by a couple of cowboys (a very embarrassing situation).

My questions are — how do I know if passing is hopeless for me? Where can I get some tips? Is anyone interested in helping? I mean, are people around who would enjoy helping (or who would let me know if I am, indeed, Godzilla in a skirt)?

Answer: Using Ladies Room(s) while crossdressed could pose a problem. You seem to be close enough to avail yourself of the Pacific Center meetings or those in SF at the Chez Malet. If you wish, you are certainly welcome to attend the San Jose meetings. I hope people would be frank in response to your questions concerning passing — or not. I find it distressing when someone tells another they are passing when they really aren't. Passing is as much confidence as looks. After all, there are a lot of women out there who don't pass all

that well themselves. It is really a matter of attitude as much as anything else. Clothes, style, etc. are important of course, but if you look like Marilyn Monroe and don't think you're passing you aren't passing.

Question: I am curious about one of your earlier replies. I had resigned myself to wearing a wig, but you mentioned convertible hair styles. Please tell me more. What can be worn as a woman while still having "acceptable" sideburns so that it is ok other times?

Answer: Obviously sideburns would have to be minimum length. I prefer almost no visible sideburns. Select a style which can be shampooed everyday and still fall into place easily or can be changed with a minimum of hand-held dryer and brush work — the simpler and closer to you normal style the better. To see your natural style simply shake your head vigorously, where the hair lies when you stop is a "natural" style. This should tell you where your best hair part is and what type style to ask for. Try a shop where barbers work as opposed to a beauty shop since barbers seem to cut hair better than beauticians as far as styles are concerned.

PASSING TIP Martha, I found a great solution for the TV who wants sculptured nails but doesn't want to wear them all the time. All you have to do is get a home sculpturing kit and a roll of silver heater duct tape. You know, the real thick, strong tape. You can get it in hardware stores.

What you do is put the tape over your real nails, trim it very carefully with a razor blade or Xacto knife and then sculpture your nails as prescribed in the kit. After they've hardened pull them off your real nails. I mark which finger they go on, this way they're custom fitted for each finger. Then when you want to go out crossdressed with your new nails simply glue them on and paint them.

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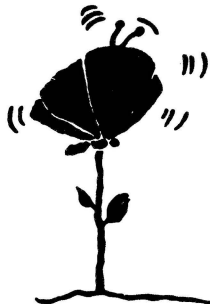
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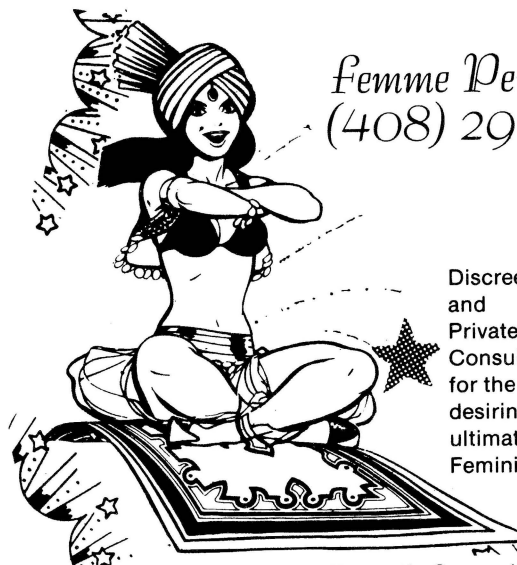
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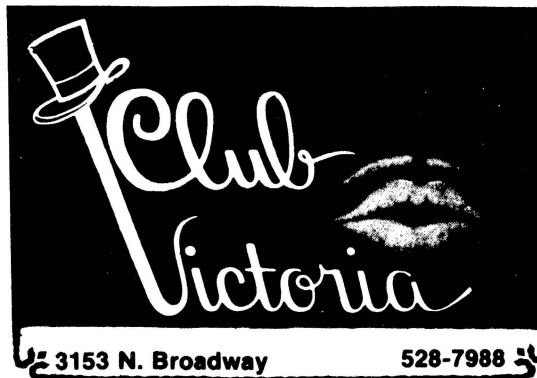
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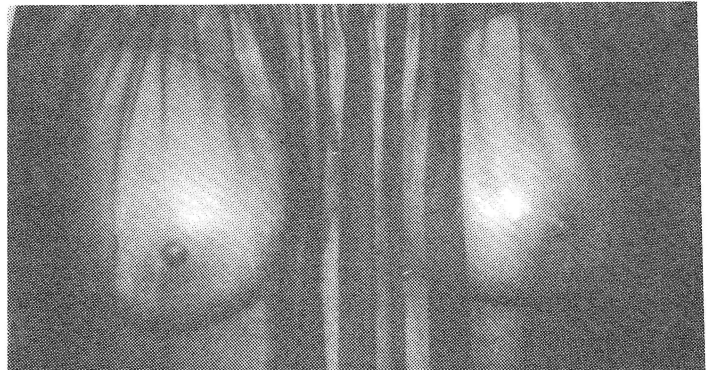
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COVERPERSON

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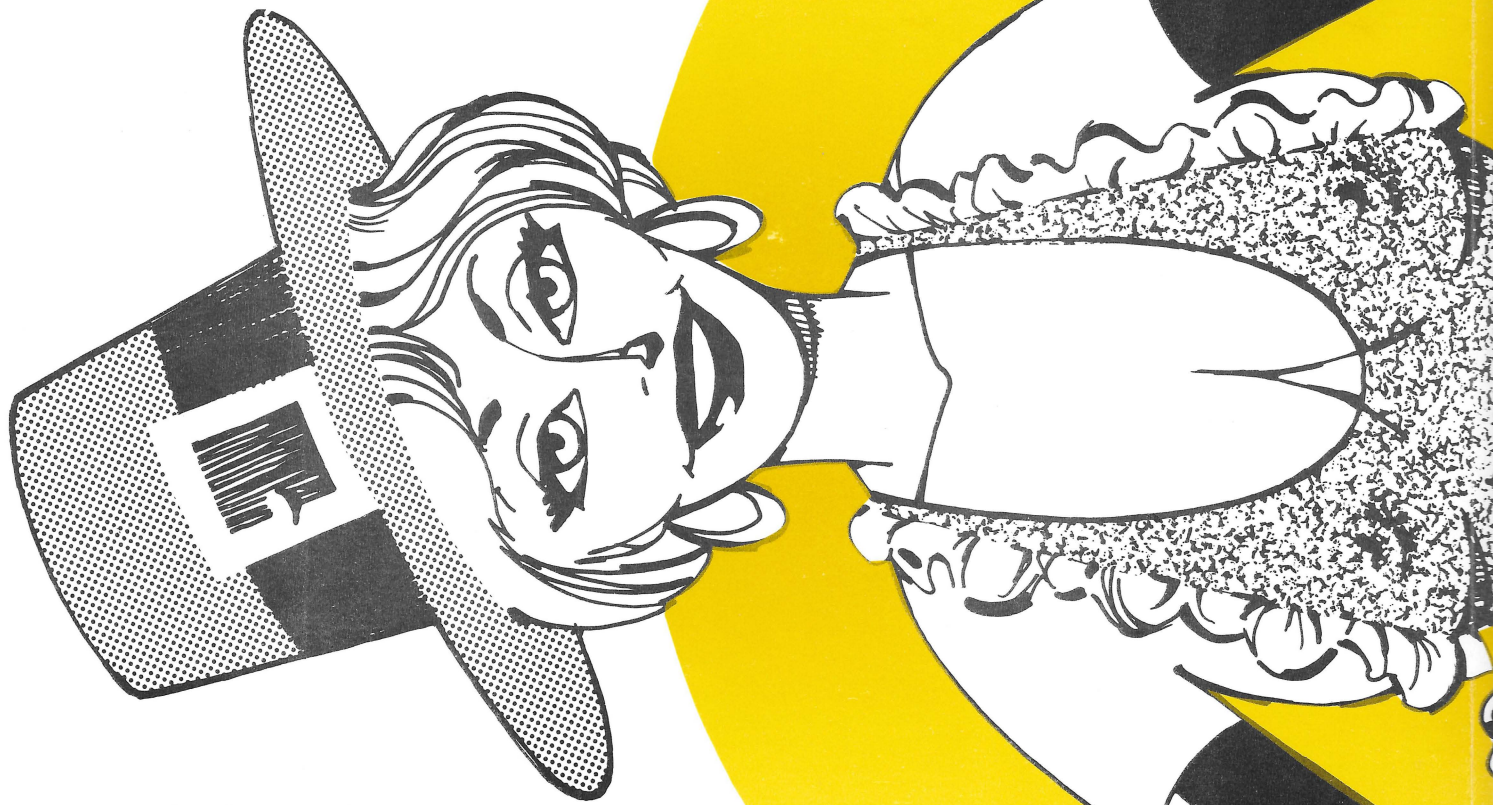
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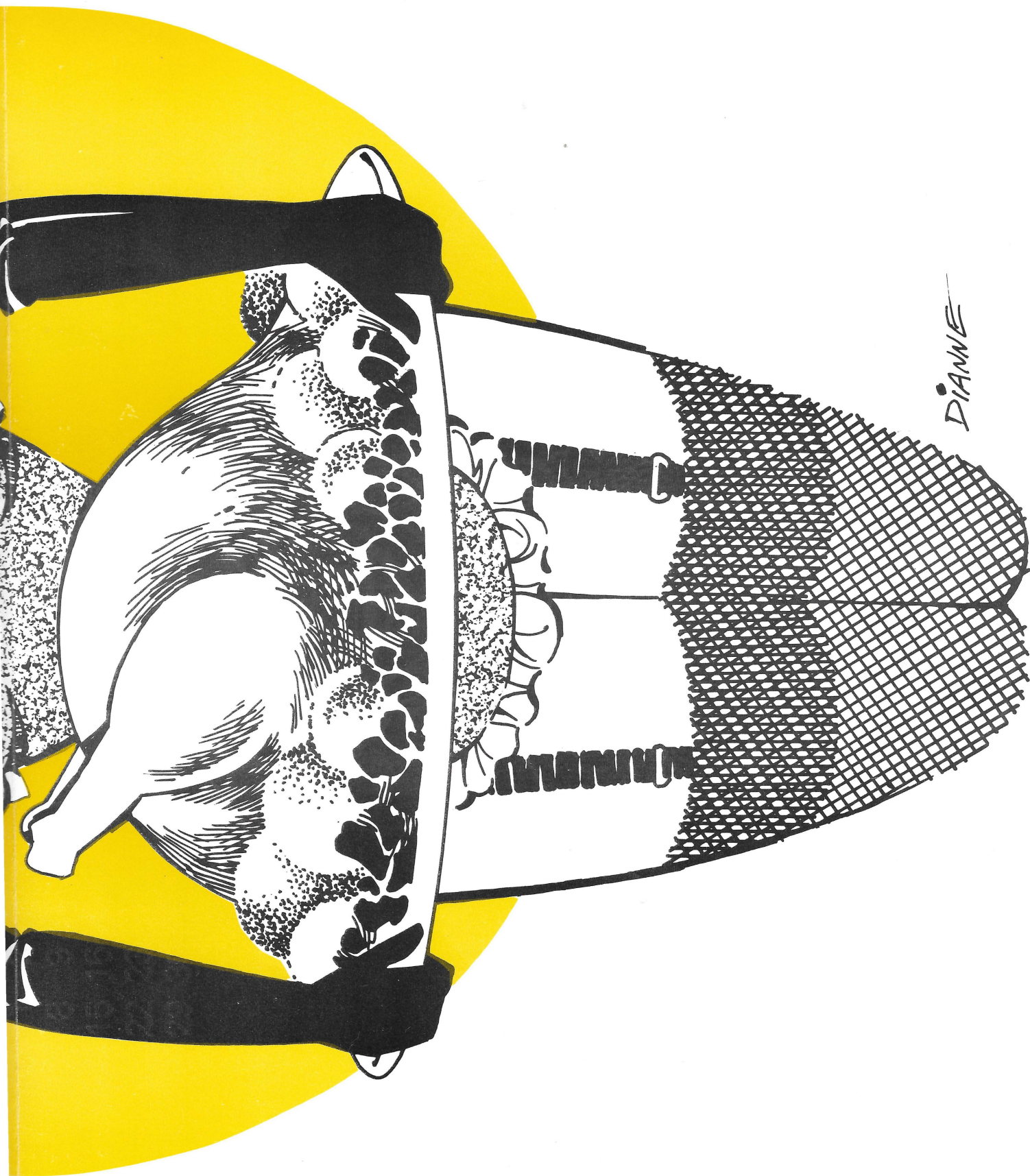


**MARCIE HI-14

November

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	





DIANNE

