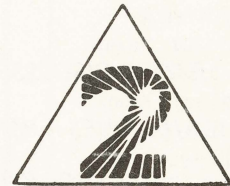


Femme Mirror

Reflecting the Feminine



TRI-SIGMA SORORITY

VOL. 4, NO. 5 & VOL 5, NO 1

DECEMBER, 1979; FEBRUARY, 1980

CAROL BEECROFT, Editor

DOUBLE



ISSUE

"Agatha, iron the paisley print shirtwaister with the ruffle -- I'm getting dressed up tonight."

The FEMME MIRROR is published by the SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF. Correspondence and articles should be sent to Carol Becroft, 256 S. Robertson, Beverly Hills, CA 90211.

SPEAKING OUT

NATIONAL LEADER DISCUSSES TRI-SIGMA'S FUTURE --

IT'S GOALS AND OBJECTIVES -- IMPORTANT CHANGES IN THE
SORORITY

There are a number of things that need to be considered at this time. I hope that you will pay particular attention to what follows because what will be examined and discussed will not only be important for the year 1980 but in the years to come.

An item of importance which needs your immediate attention is the National Convention to be held again this year in late September. You will find more details about the convention in another part of this issue of the FEMME MIRROR. However, I do want to say that this gala event will be held once again in that wonderful city of NEW ORLEANS. Those sisters who attended last year will vouch for the grand time that they had there. It was an eye-opener for those who have rarely gone out 'dressed'. I hope that more of our sisters will attend this second annual convention. I especially appreciate having Linda (Tx-8-D) and Cindy (Ca-58-P) assist me in all the work and planning that is necessary before this convention can be held. Both sisters have been of great assistance and volunteered to work on this years convention. I will keep you informed of their progress in each edition of our newsletter.

In this issue of the FEMME MIRROR, you will read of Ruthann's (Wi-14-M) contribution in the form of a News Release which I hope that most of you will help in sending it to your local newspapers. If we all put our shoulders to the wheel we should get a lot of publicity for our sorORITY and no doubt come up with many new members. But you've all got

to take a little of your time to help me out!

And in the matter of 'help', I need a sister who has the TIME and TALENT to act as Director of Communications. This person will be responsible for all advertising on a national level. I have had some help in the past by interested sisters but something always has crept into their lives to prevent them from continuing with the job. However, I CAN say that we

have been very successful in the past with our national advertising. I really need the assistance from some sister who is available and who isn't already busy doing something else for our sorORITY.

I should also mention that the Director of Communications will also be responsible for a Speakers Bureau. This subsidiary of our sorORITY will consist of chosen and qualified sisters who will be available to speak at colleges, medical gatherings, on radio and television and other places. The Director will also be responsible in locating capable writers who will be able to effectively communicate with the news media. Now, you can see that this job is a most responsible one and will take a most dedicated sister to do the work. And, it will take a lot of work! But, it can't take NEARLY the time that I gladly put in each week for all you gals out there. I recently estimated that I put in an average of twenty hours a week for Tri-Sigma and do NOT receive any remuneration other than payment for some of the expenses I incur.

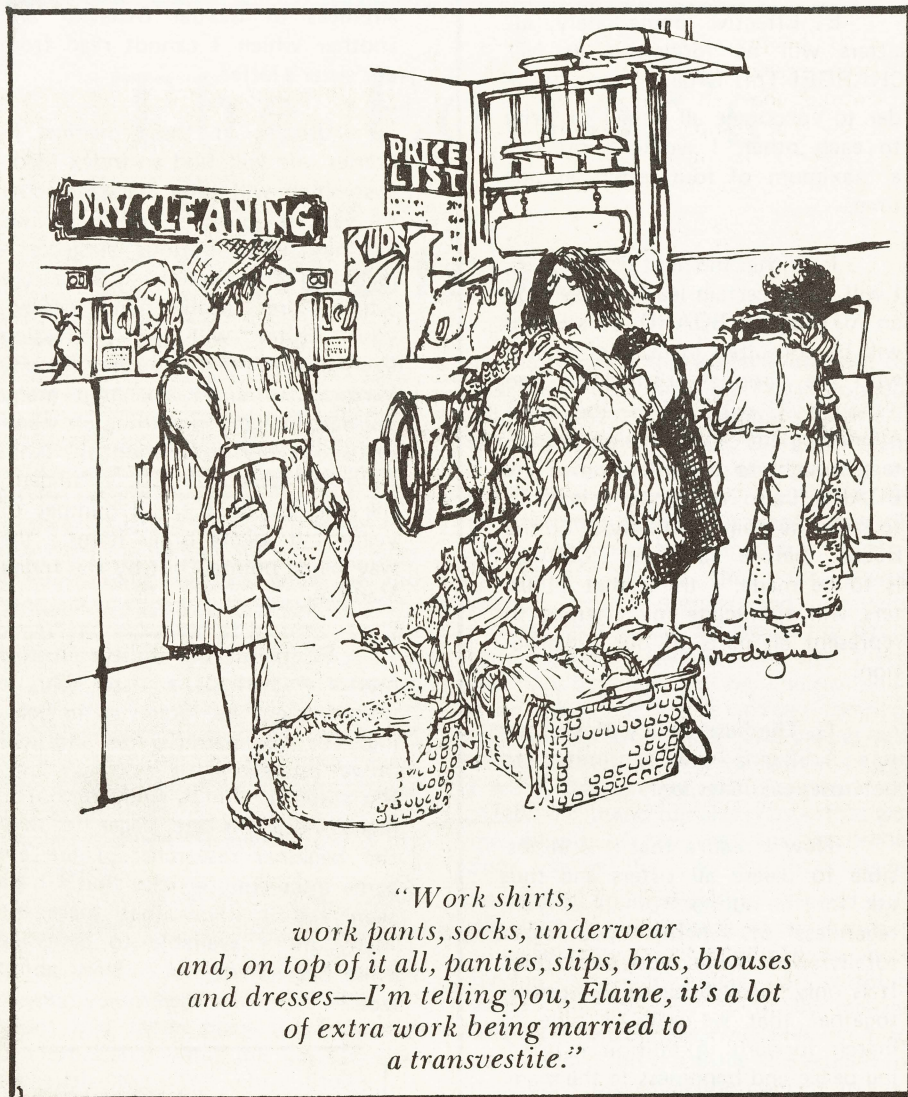
There is the matter of



"other" organizations. The question might be put -- "WHY SHOULD I BELONG TO TRI-SIGMA IN THE FIRST PLACE? WOULDN'T I BE BETTER OFF AS A MEMBER OF THAT OTHER TV ORGANIZATION OR THE ONE I HEARD OF WHICH IS JUST STARTING UP? WHAT DOES TRI-SIGMA OFFER ME?"

This series of questions and the "kind" of answers we are able to give our questioners will greatly reflect on the type of growth that we will enjoy in the future. For unless we can convince transvestites that OUR sorORITY will do MORE for them and is more beneficial for them, than it will just be a case of being one among many organizations -- all claiming to be the best organization for hetero Tvs. So, at this time it might be appropriate for you to hear of my general feelings in regard to WHY Tri-Sigma is the BEST of all the organizations for transvestites.

To begin -- one thing that sets us off from "other" organizations is that we do NOT accept other than heterosexual Tvs. This automatically makes us "one of a kind" and not an organization composed of a jumble of assorted Tvs who really are NOT compatible. We must always remember that MOST of us are married and nothing bothers a wife more than to have a cute



*"Work shirts,
work pants, socks, underwear
and, on top of it all, panties, slips, bras, blouses
and dresses—I'm telling you, Elaine, it's a lot
of extra work being married to
a transvestite."*

point out is that most chapters having been allowing prospective members to attend several chapter meetings for quite some time. The feeling of many people is that it is time to legitimize such practices.

C. Still another thorn in the side of many members and leaders has been that after joining the organization late in the year, they have had to come back around the beginning of the next year and pay another year's dues. Even though they were given back issues of the FEMME MIRROR and of the directory many felt that they had got the short end of the stick. And, as a result, many members have not renewed their membership.

D. A source of irritation to many sisters has been the use of £8.00 out of each £20.00 in dues

which has been given to Virginia for the old directory. A large amount of sisters have felt that such a large amount of money given for such a "poor job" was just not right and that the directory could be put out much less expensively. There was a certain amount of feeling that Virginia was being paid over and above the actual cost of putting out the directory and they felt that this was not fair to those who work without any compensation. They felt that spending over £3000.00 a year for the directory was way out of line.

E' A minor source of complaint has been the £1.00 charge by Virginia for forwarding letters to members. To many writers, it has been a case of throwing many dollars down the drain because not all sisters will reply.

RECOGNIZING that these problems have been actually hurting the organization rather than helping, I contacted most of the leaders not so long ago and discussed these matters with them and made some suggestions of what might be done -- suggestions which have been given to me for the past several years. I asked these leaders to comment on the "proposed changes" that I had outlined and indicated that I would discuss the comments with Virginia at a later time.

Almost all of those who received my questionnaire and set of proposals made an effort to comment on them and these comments were later compiled into nine pages of matter which were then sent to those who participated. Virginia and I also discussed them -- a number of times. I favored the changes and Virginia did not. Soon after, Virginia indicated that perhaps it was time that she retire as co-leader and that I should carry things on. But before retiring she wanted to send a questionnaire to all members. Unfortunately, the questionnaire that was sent out to all members was preceded by a somewhat emotional outpouring by Virginia which caused some people to feel that many sisters would be negatively influenced. In addition, it was felt by some that the "other side" was not at all represented in whole. I also discussed with Virginia the matter that two or three of the "changes" were NEVER under consideration as regard to a change in the first place. I could not understand why she would want to distort what the original proposals were about. Some sisters felt that by adding additional "changes" of a most controversial type, that this would negatively influence those who filled out the questionnaire. It was felt that such people would feel that the organization "was going to the dogs" and possibly vote negatively against all proposed changes.

And now I am announcing the following changes to begin April 1st. These changes are for the benefit of the organization and although a few might think we have surely "gone to the dogs" I earnestly believe that such is not the case. After all, I certainly do not

want to harm an organization in which I have been doing 90% of the work since its inception.

A. As of April 1st, instead of having inquirers PURCHASE the book Understanding Crossdressing, we would, instead, recommend that book highly and GIVE those prospective members a new booklet dealing with transvestism and Tri-Sigma Sorority. To this end I have asked Ruthann (Wi-14-M) to assist me in producing this new booklet. The booklet will discuss, in some detail transvestism from many points of view with an attempt to help educate the reader. The booklet will also discuss our place in the world of transvestism and will also point out who is eligible for membership as well as pertinent points which we wish to make in regard to our sorority. The important thing here is that no more can people point the finger and say that we are out to make money through the sale of a book.

B. As of NOW, we will allow the visitation of non-member Tvs to chapter meetings PROVIDING that they have been interviewed by someone within the chapter FIRST. They may attend as many as three meetings. After that, such individuals must become members of the NATIONAL organization if they wish to continue meeting with the chapter.

C. As you have been recently notified, we will have a new type of Directory for 1980. This directory will contain pictures and a "profile" of each member. I believe that this new type of directory will be a big plus for our sorority and that it will encourage more members to correspond with others. It is nice to "see" those with whom you write,

D. Effectively immediately, each member will be given a 12 month membership. Thus, the new member who joins in October or even in December will NOT have to renew again until a full year later - thus having a full year's membership. This should eliminate the many complaints of those who join in the late months of the year.

E. Effective immediately, all letters will be forwarded at NO CHARGE! This is being done in order to encourage all sisters to write to each other. I would appreciate a maximum of four letters at one time.

F. Within the next few months, I will select certain leaders to 'sit' on an ADVISORY BOARD. This Board will be consulted in matters dealing with the national organization and although I will retain the right of making the final decision in matters brought to the attention of the BOARD, I also realize that it is BEST to have the opinions of those on the Board before a final decision is to be made. I think that all sisters will appreciate my attempt to represent all parts of our organization.

G. The basic policy of who can join Tri-Sigma will be limited to heterosexual males, only.

Now I realize that it is impossible to please all sisters and thus ask for the support of all of you, regardless of whether you agree totally with what you have read. It is only through all of us working together that we will be able to march forward in unision -- bringing peace and happiness to the many Tvs and wives out there - people who are still searching for an answer to their 'problem'. Please do your part in helping Tri-Sigma grow. We can do it -- if YOU help!!

Research Minded?

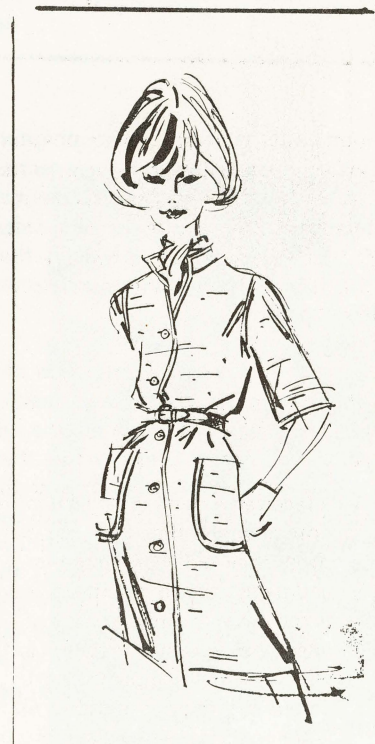
There are a number of professionally articles covering transvestism which have appeared in various 'Journals'. I believe that our readers would welcome the opportunity to read such articles if we could locate them.

It has been suggested by one of our sisters (an M.D.), that some sister who is close to a medical library (usually near a medical school) might be able to help. Several of such 'journals' are the

Archives of Sexual Behavior and another which I cannot read from our sister's letter.

Usually at these medical libraries one will find an Index Medicus which will refer the researcher to various journals which include writings about various subjects -- including transvestism. After the articles are located and copied, your Editor will get permission to publish them in the Femme Mirror. Our sister said that many journals include something on transvestism every few months. And, if our researcher (s) is diligent, she can go back for a number of years and locate other items - the way being pointed out by the Index Medicus.

So help your Editor in this matter -- perhaps a sister who is retired might be interested in helping. It's not hard to do and will prove interesting as you get into the swing of things. And, of course, many librarians are eager to help the beginner researcher. There are some interesting articles that I have seen and I know that there are many more available to someone who digs them out. How about you?



"Guess what, mom? I didn't pass the physical for the Nurse Corps! The Doctor fainted!"

The Editor's Mailbox



Carol Becroft

Dear Carol:

I want so badly to be one of the Tri-Sig girls as I feel that I so readily identify with all of you as I read and reread the *Femme Mirror*. But I have to be very careful about security. The last thing I want to do is to upset my darling wife! The sheer pleasure of having made this contact got me going on a minor splurge and I just could not resist going out and buying myself new pantyhose, lipstick, earrings and a couple of blouses — all to express Cecily the better. But what a lot Cecily has to learn about such things as make-up, and hair-dos. In fact, just about everything feminine you can think of! When I look at the pictures in the *Feeme Mirror* I feel incredibly dowdy. Please rest assured that you have a loyal and enthusiastic supporter even if she is the rawest recruit.

Cecily, Ottawa, Canada

Dear Carol:

. . . only yesterday I heard on the radio that a number of male to female operations had taken place in Melbourne and I wondered what the Doctors had done with the "Y" chromosome. It seems to me that these operations are becoming commonplace and that with every new one the task of the hetero-Tv in convincing the public that he is what he states he is will become more difficult if they are included at our gatherings and within our Sorority. I feel that most Tss are really not Ts's at all. I can see the terror in their faces if they were told that they were pregnant and were able to suffer the pains of childbirth; I feel certain that none of them would survive and what a price to pay just to wear women's clothes full time. If society would only accept that a male has a right to dress as he pleases and adopt the gender of his choice then it would most surely follow that many of these so-called sex-changes would not need to occur.

Cahterine (FAU-1-P)

Dear Carol:

I first realized I was a Tv at an early age. When I was 14 or so I went to my mom's closet and saw a very fancy gown so I slipped it on. I was very excited by this excursion yet scared. I thought, "My God! What's wrong with me?" For a time I dropped any further thought of crossdressing. Then came Christmas and

my Mom got a slip which I later put on and from that time on I was hooked. When I was 16 my brother's girlfriend would stay at the house. One day I went to my room and there was a change of her clothes on my bed. I put them on and was very happy! But since I was still quite frightened I refrained from further "dressing." During the next several years I did no dressing and I actually thought that I had out-grown my desire to crossdress. However, one day I was visiting a girlfriend and her companion at their apartment and I noticed some of my friend's underwear drip-drying and before I knew it, on they went and away I went. Soon, I got real brave and purchased a slip and top and skirt — that was the extent of my feminine wardrobe. Soon I joined the Navy and there was no way that I could allow my "second self" out with the exception of weekends. I still was rather bashful and nervous about buying feminine articles of clothing. About the age of 23 I finally realized who and what I was and then on I accumulated a full wardrobe and articles for makeup. I even had the courage to take a trip to Maine where I spent the whole week as a girl and WHAT a blast I had!

Jeff (Houston, Texas)

Dear Carol:

It appears that once I start writing I can't stop. I have the same problem when I start talking to real women who are sympathetic and accept me as Mitzi. My wife and daughter are on vacation and so I've been dressing most of the time at home. Yesterday I got dressed "all under" but with my male shirt, pants, shoes and sports jacket on and went shopping in Janesville. Many of my friends call me a shoe freak and they may be right as I did sell over 30 pairs in almost new condition in our rummage sale in May. Anyway, Mitzi in her pantyhose and painted toe nails tried on at least a dozen pairs of shoes with the help from the salesgirls — this at four different stores. I purchased two pairs. The conversation and treatment were pretty normal. I've done this many times in many different places and now seldom buy shoes without trying them on except in my home area. I've also found that salespeople in all departments will be normally as helpful as you will allow them to be.

Even if you tell them that the dress, bra or whatever is for you, they won't call a manager. I know that it is hard for many of us who have been "put down" by wives and families in the past to believe and find the courage to try it but it is TRUE.

Mitzi (IL-8-C)

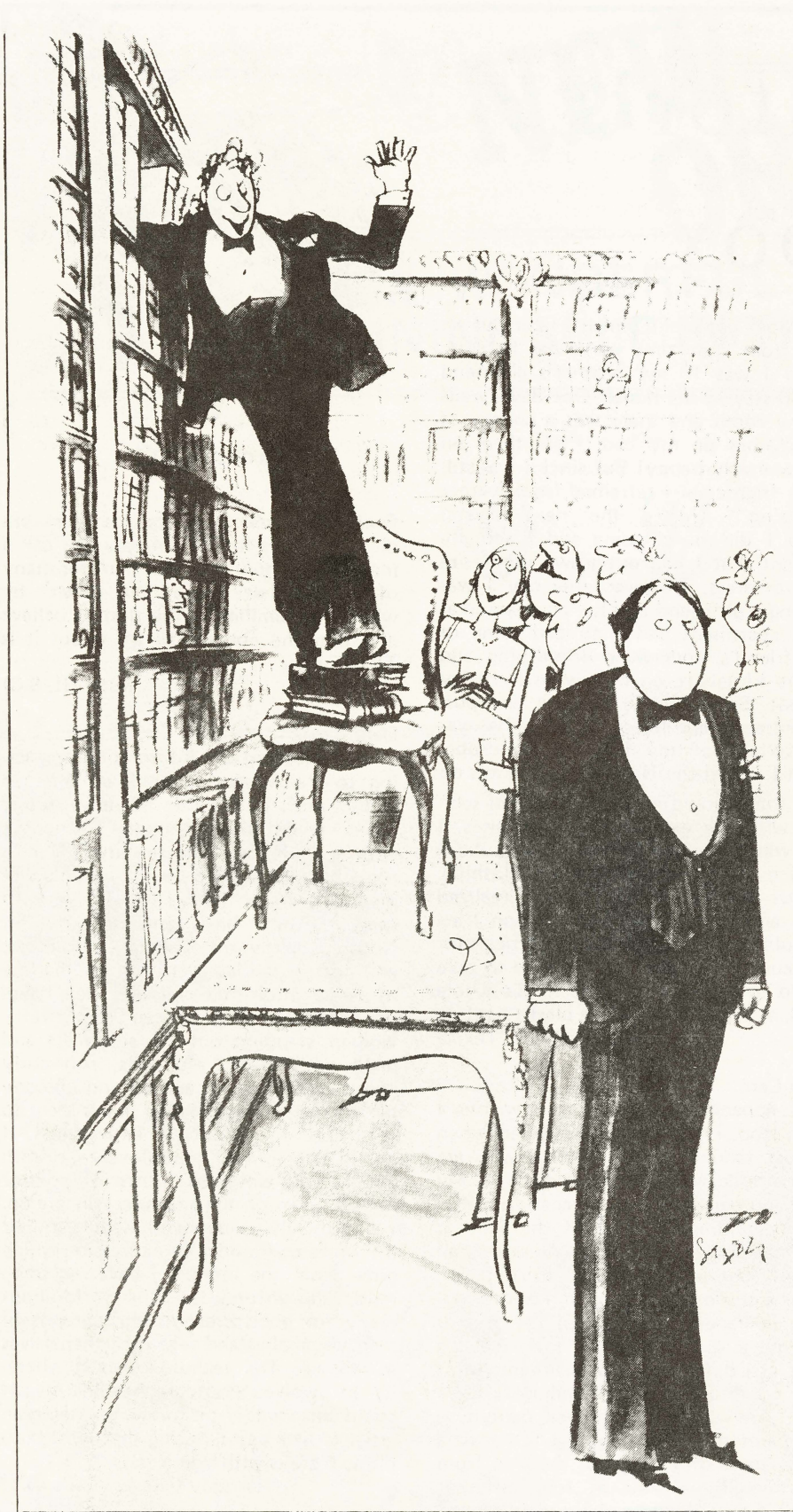
Dear Carol:

I am seeking out information pertaining to transvestism since I am inclined in that area. I can't help but envy young ladies when they enmesh themselves with a wide range of textures. There's something so right in seeing a young woman wearing a flimsy, silky dress with sparkling high heels and nice nylons. Nothing in my male world of uniforms and cotton fabrics even borders the line of demarcation that separates male hang-ups from feminine freeness. Seeing pretty women stepping out on sidewalks and malls with pretty red nails, soft curly hair, long lanky legs and on and on completely devastates me. We males seem to miss out on beautiful experiences. I would like to find some lovely girl with whom there would be no strange looks or remarks. I'm on the side you gals are on. I impulsively understand within myself my urges and modes of expression which grow from the interest I have regarding music and writing. Isn't the world about ready for good creative photographs of men visualizing and regarding themselves as women. The techniques exist whereby an involved photographer like myself could successfully perform this. Being an artist is like never having that light bulb blow. It stays with you always.

(Woody (Niagara Falls, NY)

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"Hey, everybody! Look what I found 'way behind the regular stuff -- some hidden reading material that ole Charlie must be tryin' to hide from us. Say, Charlie, what's the Femme Mirror and Transvestia?"

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(Woody (Niagara Falls, NY))

Dear Carol:

I have just finished *Understanding Crossdressing*, which I consider first rate. So much has fallen into the right slots of late and I find that I understand MYSELF ever so much better. In particular it is good to know that one's own case is nothing out of the ordinary. And this has added to my desire to be a member of Tri-Sigma.

Cecily (Ottawa, Canada)

Dear Carol:

I have enjoyed the last two issues of the *Femme Mirror*. I thought Bernadine's "Wives Talk Back" column in the February edition was brilliant. Her analysis of Tvs was very good. Her description fit me almost perfectly. Last month I was in a "drag" show. This was the first time I had ever done anything like that and I enjoyed it immensely. We had an instructor from a local beauty college assist us backstage. I thought that I had done a good job with my makeup but with a few strokes with an eyebrow pencil, a few changes in the eye shadow and a slightly different way of combing my hair, the instructor transformed me into a rather attractive girl. I was most thrilled, as I had never experienced anything like this before. When the show was over I was invited to participate in future shows.

Last night, Joyce (a Tv friend) and I went out dressed and ended up at a local bar where we met two gals we know. When they left one of them managed to get her car stuck on a retaining wall in the parking lot. We went out to help them but being in high heels and in our best dresses Joyce and I had to watch while the girls, in pants, jacked up the car and did most of the work to get the car unstuck. Joyce and I had to play it straight as we were close to a main street.

There was a real turn-around from the usual situations where we normally would be doing all the work. The girls now want to get dressed as guys and all four of us go out in "drag" in Colorado Springs. This should be interesting and if we do it I will let you know how it came out.

Shirley (CO-25-W)

Dear Carol:

I am writing to request information pertaining to your organization. I first became a Tv in the late 1950's. A neighbor lady had the habit of hanging out her under clothing on the line where they were very visible. I used to go over there to play with her kids even though they were a lot younger than me. While there I would sneak over to the line and feel the fine texture of the materials of her under garments. That family used to go on long week-ends into the mountains and it just happened that I ended up with a key that fit their back door.

One night I went over, opened the door, and went to her bedroom and tried on some of her under clothes. They fit so nice and made me quite happy. As time went by I became more brave and went into that house more often. As it happened, they went away one weekend and gave me the impression that they would be away for the whole weekend and I figured that I would have plenty of time to dress at her house. I went in and got all dressed up when to my horror, they returned and that lady discovered me in her clothes. As first I thought that she would tell my parents but she said that I looked kinda cute and offered to teach me how to do things up right. Needless to say I had plenty of fun being dressed up in that lady's house from then on. When I graduated from high school she bought me a matching set of bra, panties and garter belt.

Soon I went into the service and when I came back we picked up where I had left off. She took me out and helped me buy pretty dresses and assisted me in my makeup. We went out several times in public and REALLY enjoyed it.

Unfortunately this lady had a move so for a few years I was relaly lost. I came upon *Transvestia* magazine in the late 60's and purchased a lot of the padding and other materials. But I did not know of other Tvs so I was quite alone. I dressed for awhile but was frustrated because there was no one to share my cross-dressing. I would like to make some friends and share my experiences with them.

Marty (Long Beach, Calif.)

Dear Carol:

I have seen your ad in *Human Behavior* and I would like to know more about your organization. I am 29 years of age and live in New Delhi, India. I work as a receptionist in a nice hotel. I love to wear

feminine dresses and makeup but cannot because of problems in this area. People in India are not broadminded as in western countries.

Anyway, I would be happy to learn the art of crossdressing and meet with other Tvs. I would be interested in exchanging letters and photos with other Tvs and would be of great help to any Tv who was visiting India. I am interested in becoming a member of your organization. Maybe some of your members or their wives might be interested in Indian female dresses and jewelry. Do write me a letter giving complete information about your organization.

Vijay (New Delhi, India)

Dear Carol:

I would like to find out more about your Society. I really don't know where to begin, so please bear with me. Several months ago my husband of eight years confided in me that he felt that he was a transvestite. He has felt this way since he was four or five years of age. I knew for some time that something was wrong but didn't know what. Instead of being very shocked I was more relieved to know what was bothering him and was ready to set out and help him.

My husband went to a psychiatrist last summer who sent him for tests and told him that he was probably a trans-

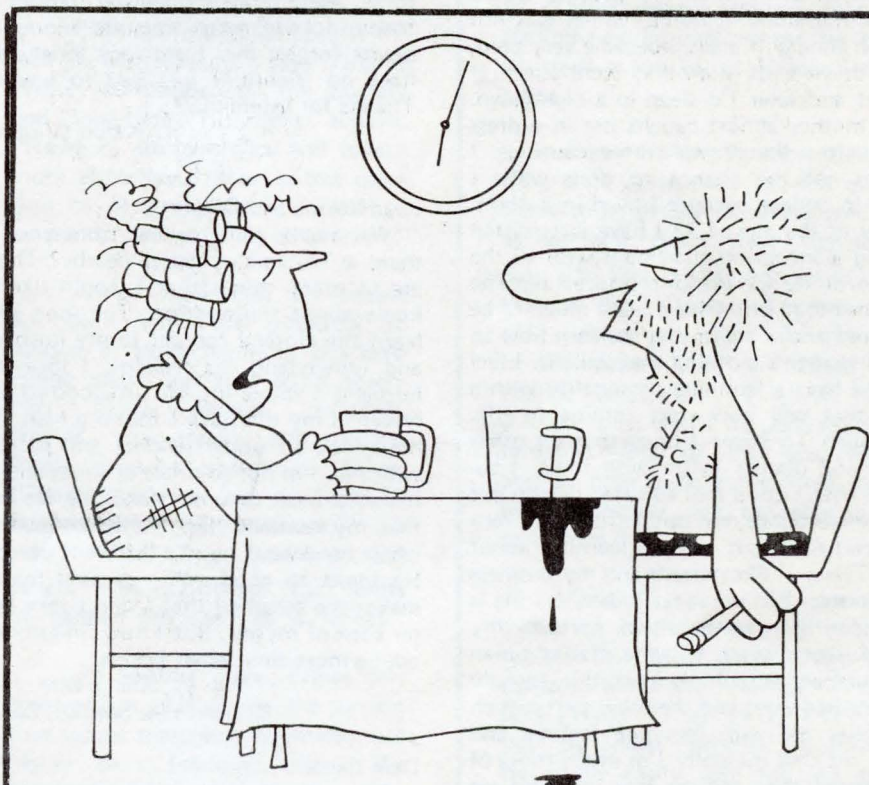
sexual. I help him dress, apply makeup, wigs, etc. The psychiatrist called me up and literally told me to dump him — which I can't because I love him too dearly and I try to understand as best I can his emotional feelings. I'm confused in some areas and scared for the future. He gets upset when we discuss certain matters which is understandable. He stopped going to the psychiatrist because he didn't like the way she handled things — she got to talking more about his finding a condo for HER (he's in real estate) than his own problems. We've told no one about this with one exception. I saw Nancy Hunt on the *Phil Donahue Show* and called in. Later we contacted her my mail and she suggested a Dr. Sandughi, who works with Tvs and Ts's.

Nancy and my husband have gone to see this doctor and appear to feel comfortable with her. We have also given my husband a femme name — Karen.

However, I am getting more and more confused. Religiously, I'm Catholic and even though we're not very religious we do worship God in our own way. What does the church have to say about this?

If he does decide to tell his family about his being a Tv is there anything legal that can be done by either side of the family to take the kids from us since I am going to try to abide by him.

Our children know nothing about his crossdressing since Karen only dresses at



Well, I see that the ALPHA girls had another late-night blastout!

home and when the children are asleep. This scares me because we do not want to have the girls find out or lose them.

When dressed there are times that we would end up in bed but sometimes I would feel like a lesbian although I know that it is not a lesbian relationship. Karen might try Estrogen therapy but as for surgery he would forgo it at least until the children are grown. He really wants to let loose but feels guilt for hurting me and I feel like I'm betraying him when I get overly upset. He can hold off from "dressing" if he want to but develops a bad case of "nerves" if he goes without dressing too long. Can you give me suggestions of what to do for myself. Therapy is so expensive and with him going it would be too expensive and beyond reason. The present psychologist said that she'll want to see both of us and totally rejected the attitude and decisions of the other doctor.

Marie

Dear Carol:

I shall soon be a member of Tri-Sigma and feel that this would be a good time to tell you a little bit about myself.

I first became aware of my feminine self when at the age of 10 I put on one of my mother's bras. After this I would dress up every time my parents would leave me alone at home, which was not often enough. Finally I became very bold, got dressed up when they were asleep at night and later I'd sleep in a nightgown. My mother almost caught me in a dress and after that I was more cautious. I never got the chance to dress while I was in college because I lived in a dorm. Now at the age of 23 I have just started living alone in an apartment with all the opportunity I want for crossdressing. The clothes that I now have leave much to be desired and I am trying to learn how to find women's clothing that will fit. I feel that I have a feminine personality within me that will now start coming to life. Through Tri-Sigma I hope to meet other girls and discuss Tvism with them. I believe that I am a well adjusted person but there are things that bother me. I am very concerned about people learning about my Tvism — like parents and my business associates. But what really bothers me is the conflict between two parts of my head — one which tells me that as a man I must act and think in certain socially prescribed ways and the other part, which supplies me with feminine feelings and tells me that mentally I'm much more of a woman than society ever intended me to be. I also feel a great need for a female to be attracted to both sides of my personality. I wonder if most sisters feel this way?

Charlotte (Tennessee)

Dear Carol:

I would like to be a Tri-Sig girl. I was impressed by the packet of things that you sent me. At the present time I am a complete novice and am restricted in my freedom to dress. I am in the "lingerie stage" now but I hope to build up to a more complete wardrobe soon. I used to go to bed in a satin slip as early as the third grade but that stage was quickly ended and I could only daydream of my feminine delights through the rest of my school days. I did have a favorite piece of lingerie that I would use with the usual feelings of guilt during my high school years. College and the military service put my desires on a back burner and I rarely thought about female clothes.

The pressures of living at home while being unemployed brought out my feminine self and I had an uncontrollable urge to buy lingerie which I finally did. It was as if some mysterious force was sapping me of all reason. I made a mistake one day and my mother discovered my "cache." She blackmailed me into throwing my things away or telling my father. Now that I have become liberated I don't have to worry about the folks any more.

My pet peeve about the area where I live is that quality lingerie is not to be found. Satin, much less double faced satin, is non-existent! The old fashioned nylon of the 50's was more soft than these acetate-rayon-polyester fabrics of today. I have gone on quite enough so please forgive me. I am very lonely and have no friends. I just had to unwind. Thanks for listening.

Karen (Virginia)

Dear Norma and Carol:

Was really glad to hear from you. Is there a Tri-Sigma chapter nearby? There are so many things that I would like to know about transvestism. The more I do learn the closer I can get to my husband and understand his feelings. I love my husband a whole lot. He's so good to me. Never in my life have I found a man like him. He's so understanding and patient with me. I'm not so smart at times and so it's very hard to understand the feelings that my husband has. I only know that when he dresses he is a different person. He looks so good while dressed that it makes me ashamed that I don't take better care of myself. But I now find myself taking more time when I dress.

Joan's wife, June
(Desert Hot Springs, Calif.)

Dear Carol:

You are a very close friend to me and I deeply appreciate your advice. Since you are a happily married Tv I am sure that you are familiar with all the pitfalls that attend upon a marriage between a Tv and a lovely woman.



"Mom's not going to like the mess you made in there while you were getting 'en femme', pop!

Tina loves me very deeply and completely accepts me as a dedicated and organized Tv who has two closets full of femme attire. She has met several of my Tv friends and enjoys their company. There are a few who I wish could move more into the spirit of crossdressing gracefully and with ease confront the femme selves. We have a wide variety of guests visit us and there are a few who come not to dress but to talk and don't mind that at all. Others are so in a rush to dress that they are almost crazy until it becomes their turn to use the bathroom and bedroom to "dress." The wonderful and incredible fact is that Tina understands all this and is totally accepting of it. She is quite at home with both my masculine and femme image and loves me no matter how I appear to the world.

Teddie (IL-29)

Ruthann Develops

NEW PRESS

RELEASE

At long last we are able to bring you the good news of a press release that we can use all over the country -- and including any English speaking countries. It can even be used in other non-English speaking countries if we can get out a translated version. We are indebted to Ruthann (Wi-14-L) who has spent many hours in developing this worthwhile project.

Along with the press release will be a letter explaining why we are sending the "release" and which explains that we are dedicated to enlightening the public about transvestism. We will have several suitable pictures since transvestism evokes such a strong visual interest and thus photos become a necessary part of the package. The national office will be in charge of sending out the news-release package to those publications that have a NATIONAL or at least multi-regional circulation.

Regarding LOCAL coverage, each sister will be offered one or more packages for use in sending the information to local newspapers - including weeklies. And for those who are too nervous to do that, we at headquarters will send the packages to the local publications IF the sisters will send us the name and address of the publications involved.

Ruthann makes the point to say that since she has put in many many hours to bring us this press-release, she hopes that our sisters will support this project - just like they have done with the library cards.

So, gals, let's get behind this project and push it all the way to a successful conclusion. It's an opportunity to get some needed publicity as well as to locate additional sisters who are just waiting

for a "news-release" like the following:

GROUP HELPS TRANSVESTITES FIND PEACE OF MIND

A SORORITY WITHOUT WOMEN!

Say the word "Sorority" and the last thing that most people will think of is an all-male organization. But this is not your ordinary sorority. Called the Society For the Second Self, it exists to help the heterosexual male transvestite (TV) -- men who have a recurring desire to dress in women's clothing.

"Tvs are really up against the wall in our culture," says Virginia Prince, co-founder of the Society and long-time Tv rights activist. "Nowhere are ignorance and taboos more entrenched than in this question of gender identity -- what it means to be a man or woman."

Prince feels that all people are born with the potential to behave in both feminine and masculine ways, but that social teachings (from parents, teachers, friends, the media and others) force us to be one or the other. "These teachings are so basic to our concept of ourselves," she says, "that Tvs, feminists and others who challenge the limits of gender are seen as a threat."

On another plane, Prince sees transvestism challenging the sexism that values masculine qualities more highly than feminine ones. "We somehow see man's embracing femininity as a humiliating step down. He no longer 'wears the pants' in his family or in society," she says, "and that threatens our entire con-



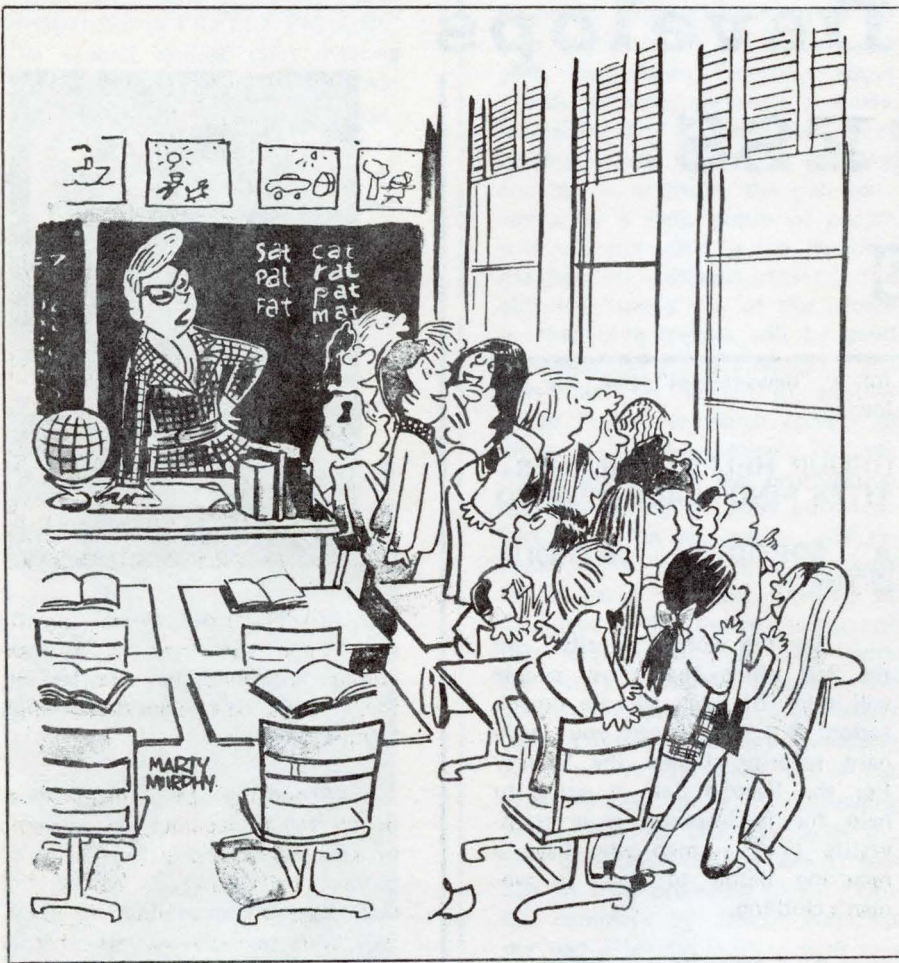
cept of social order. Women, on the other hand, can "step up" to masculinity with much less risk. In fact, these days it's considered high fashion."

According to Prince, most people fail to separate the concepts of sex and sexuality from that of gender, to separate maleness/femaleness from masculinity/femininity. "Most people assume that a feminine-acting male must be gay or must want to be female," she says.

Prince feels that most authorities now agree that Tvs are most likely to be heterosexual and readily accept and assert their maleness. Says she, "It's also important to distinguish the Tv from the transsexual (TS). Where the Ts feels trapped in the wrong body and wants to change sexes, the Tv knows he's a male but wants to express the feminine side of his personality and to have some experiences that, in our society, are available only to women."

Another source of popular confusion is the invisibility of the typical Tv. "Most people have no contact with the average Tv," says Prince. "That Tv is intimidated by most peoples' hostility. He could easily lose his job and in some places even be arrested."

Prince reports that many Tvs keep their crossdressing a secret from their closest friends and fam-



"All right, class, all right! I believe we've all seen Mr. Brown in a dress before."

ily. Some even avoid close relationships entirely, fearing that their partner would inevitably discover and reject their feminine side.

As a result, Prince says, "Most people see entertainers like Jim Bailey or Craig Russell, or gay drag queens being outrageous or soliciting for sex, or hear about people robbing banks in drag, and they think that this is what Tv's must be like." But, she says, "in almost every way that you can imagine, Tv's are just like other men. Family men, in fact or in their hopes. They're all races, religions, nationalities, ages, sizes, occupations, income levels. You name it."

The cause of transvestism remains largely a mystery, to the medical profession and to Tv's themselves. For instance, researchers have found that most Tv's come

from families lacking a strong father presence. But they are unable to explain why other sons in that same family, or sons in similar families, don't become Tv's.

The question of "why" is a popular discussion topic among Tv's. "We can talk about how it makes us feel," says Carol Beecroft, the Society's other co-founder and now its national leader. "We can talk about what it does for us emotionally and even psychologically. We all know the sense of comfort and relief from tension that it brings to us. But none of us really knows why it's happened to us and not others."

Beecroft feels that Tv's don't DECIDE to become Tv's, at least not consciously. "It's just a strong urge that we all have and the only decision, really, is whether we sit on it or let it all out," she says.

Letting it all out is where the Society For The Second Self comes in. Preaching Tv self-acceptance and dignity, the Society provides its members with a nationwide network of heterosexual Tv friends. It has also established local chapters which have regular gatherings for area members and their wives or girlfriends.

"We're really excited about the growth of the chapters in the past year," Beecroft says. "Chapter meetings give our sisters a safe place to go when they're dressed, and give them and their mates a chance to see and feel first-hand that Tv's are really as likeable and respectable as anyone else.

Transvestism is often a cause of domestic tension that frequently ends in divorce or separation. So a prime Society goal is to promote mutual understanding and accommodation between the Tv and his mate. Says Beecroft, "We hope that our literature, books, and chapter meetings can help break down the women's misconceptions and fears. We also encourage our sisters to meet their mates halfway. We think it's working in enough cases to keep us at it."

Besides direct service to its members, the Society also works to break down Tv stereotypes. Beecroft recalls that "a couple of years ago we ran a letter-writing campaign to a noted newspaper columnist. She had counseled an obviously upset Tv wife that her husband was probably homosexual and that she ought to 'grab her hat and run.'" Beecroft reports that by the time the Society's campaign had ended, the columnist had checked in with some medical experts and changed her tune. "These days," says Beecroft, "The counselor tries to calm the wife's fears about her husband's sexuality and suggest counseling for the wife if she continues to be upset."

However not all counselors or medical experts are as neutral or as knowledgeable about transvestism. Beecroft reports that the medical establishment still tends to classify Tvism as a psychological disturbance.

Beecroft sees this attitude changing as experts gain more information. "What they don't realize," she says, "is that they only see the most disturbed Tvs and generalize about the rest of us on that basis. Our research shows that only a small minority of Tvs have ever sought any serious psychiatric treatment for their cross-dressing, and that many of those that have feel that it was a waste of time and money." Beecroft adds that the majority of Tvs that she has contacted would like to INCREASE their Tv activity, rather than ridding themselves of the desire.

Beecroft is quick to point out that "this doesn't mean that Tvs don't have their problems." One indication of the inner torment that many experience is the "purge". The Salvation Army and Goodwill have no idea of how much of their women's clothing comes from guilt-ridden Tvs," says Beecroft. "Few Tvs are able to entirely escape the guilt and shame that's heaped on us by society. Many of us have sworn off cross-dressing at least once, and thrown away or given away our entire wardrobes. Only the desire to dress eventually returns, and we're back into rebuilding our wardrobes once again. Most experts," continues Beecroft, "agree that there is no known "cure" for transvestism."

The Society, then, offers its members a positive alternative to the rather negative popular view of Tvs. A hope for the purging of purges, so to speak. It's outlook recalls that of other recent American social movements. Just as the movements for black dignity, gay pride and women's liberation did, the Society is saying that the Tv's main "problems" are popular attitudes that put them down and make them feel embarrassed for being who they unavoidably are. The Society is saying that rather than seeking the elusive and essentially illusory "cure", Tv's can and should seek peace of mind through self-acceptance and mutual aid."

Conservative estimates place the American Tv population at about 3% of all adult males, or

over 6 million men. Clearly, the Society, with about 500 members, still has a long way to go. Says Carol Beecroft, "We've come a long way in our first few years, especially in building up our internal ability to serve our sisters and to expand. I think we're ready now to start multiplying like rabbits."

There is, perhaps, a touch of irony here. The current resurgence of college sororities, once the finishing school for female students of the feminine ideal, is being accompanied by the growth of a sorority without any women members. A sorority dedicated to making femininity accessible to all people. As our culture staggers into 1980, it appears that yet another set of social stereotypes may join the ethnic, racial and sexual stereotypes that these past two decades of change have piled up along the roadway. For more information about transvestism and the Society, readers should write to: The Society For The Second Self, 256 South Robertson, Beverly Hills, Ca 90211.

Here AND THERE

Dee Dee (Ct-7-W) always comes up with cute poems or other unusual contributions to the Femme Mirror and we are happy to include her latest contribution:

"The following is a will left by a former Tv --

1. Bury my clothes and give my body to the Salvation Army.
2. Put some clothes hangers in my coffin. They were my company in the closet during my lifetime and will make me feel more at home in death.
3. To the Traffic Officer who pulled me over while 'en femme' to tell

me that the tail light was out, checked my license and said, 'Have a good day, Madam,' I bequeath the sum of £99,999. To my wife who thought that I was a fag, I leave one dollar.
4. To the nosey old lady next door who tried in vain to see through the curtains of my bedroom, I leave the curtains.
5. To the jerk who dreamt up the phrase 'One size fits all, drop dead!'

The following sisters would be very happy to receive correspondence from other sisters:

- Maria, (Wa-5-R)
- Linda Kay, (NM-2-E)
- Diane, (Tn-100-T)
- Lana, (IO-3-P)
- Antoinette, (FMA-1-M)

YOUR EDITOR NEEDS ISSUE OF FEMME MIRROR FOR LAST OCTOBER . Your Editor mistakenly cut up her only issue remaining for last October. Any sister who has a copy that you could see your Editor would be an angel!

HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR HAS TO WEAR A SKIRT IN ORDER TO PLAY ON THE GIRL'S HOCKEY TEAM' A high school senior in Throndeike, Maine, was wearing traditional male clothing to play on a traditionally female team. until the local school directors got wind of it. Now he's going to have to wear a skirt, or a kilt, like the girls who make up the rest of the Mount View High School varsity field hockey team. The senior dislikes the attention that followed the school board's decision last week. "What I wear isn't important," the senior said. "I just want to be left alone and play hockey." Says the girl's coach, "It was inevitable that a boy would try out for field hockey, sooner or later.

MEMBER PASSES AWAY IN ILL We sadly announce that Cynthia (II-27-D) passed away several months ago. We hope that she can cross-dress in heaven.

JOINT MEETING OF CHAPTERS PRODUCES A PRETTY PICTURE' The second annual joint meeting of CHI and DELTA chapters was held several months ago. As reported by Donna (II-11-S), "We had a beautiful, modern and private facility right on the shore of lake Macatawa near Holland, Mi. We enjoyed every moment of the weekend together. We're only sorry that a relatively few of the Great Lakes Area members were able to attend. The following picture will attest to the happy gathering:



Front Row: (L to R) Deborah, Mi-18-K; Leslie (Mi-10-W); Elaine (Mi-16-W)

Back Row (L to R) Sonora (IN-3-C); Kacki (Oh-10-S); Donna (II-11-S) Sharon (II-25-H)

Not in the photo were Carolyn, (IN-7-B) and wife, Dee who took the pretty picture.

SIGMA CHAPTER GROWS!!

Janette (CO-22-F) and Barbara (CO-1-B) have been putting in extra time in an effort to uncover local Tvs. Janette says that she and Barbara ventured out into the Denver area looking for contacts with hetero crossdressers. They stopped at the Gay Community Center which had been receiving calls from our type of Tv. The girls were surprised but discussed their interest with the head of the center. Before the evening was

over, the girls had volunteered to be phone counselors for hetero Tvs who might call in. As a result the girls have been receiving about 2 calls per week and even, at times, several a DAY. These calls have opened many doors for SIGMA chapter. In addition, the girls have contacted a large group of people who are interested in the feminine life but for different reasons. The girls feel that a few of the people in that organization will be good prospects for Tri-Sigma. Also, the girls met the leader of another group in Denver which accepts all kinds of Tvs. Interestingly enough, the leader of this last organization has been trying to locate our members but with no results until recently. This leader feels the need for a group with the integrity of Tri-Sigma so that hetero members of that organization can join with the sisters of SIGMA chapter. The girls suggest that more of our sisters contact THEIR local Gay Community center because many Tvs of our type do call there, not knowing where else to call. We wish the girls of SIGMA chapter lots of success in their projected growth. One last comment by Janette was that she had a special meeting with two new sisters one day and followed that up with another sister the next day -- all three 'sisters' being interested in joining SIGMA chapter.

LIFESTYLES EXPO -- CHI members participate in seminar in Chicago.

Several months ago, four members of CHI chapter, Karen (II-3-M), Rachel (II-14-B), Sharon (II-25-H) and Ruthann (Wi-14-L), participated in a Lifestyles Expo held in a meeting place in Chicago. The purpose of chapter involvement in this seminar was to inform both professionals and the general public of the realities of crossdressers. Subjects covered by our gals were: Who we are; what we are; what we want; what we do not want; and the purpose of Tri-Sigma.

Attendance at the meeting was good and the girls were kept busy for most of the nine hours there. At the request of the sponsoring organization the girls came as their 'brothers' because the city of Chicago still has rather archaic laws on the books prohibiting

crossdressing. In retrospect, according to Donna, this worked out well, as people approached Tri-Sigma's booth with open minds to ask what we were all about and discuss our point of view intelligently, rather than look upon us as curiosities. Aside from answering a lot of questions, literature from Tri-Sigma was available as well as several photo albums. Many people that the girls talked to seemed puzzled at first by the word 'crossdresser' but responded readily to the term 'transvestite.'

Lengthy conversations were held with women. As a general rule, men apparently did not wish to seem to be interested in the subject of "dressing in women's clothes" but the women wanted to understand why we wished to be like them, how we felt when dressed, how we shopped for clothing and why we wanted to take it upon ourselves the 'difficulty' of being a woman.

A conversation was held with representatives of Chicago's Gay community who informed the girls that they get many calls and letters from "straight" crossdressers who are looking for any kind of contact and these leaders wanted to know if CHI chapter could work out a system of referrals with them.

A couple who ran a computer dating service spoke with the gals, and though they were interested in what they had to say, and seemed willingly enough to work crossdressers into their program, it was generally agreed that this was wishful thinking and not too feasible at present. They inquired where they could get more information about Tri-Sigma;

The girls concluded, after speaking to several other people involved in alternative lifestyles (who were admittedly more experienced with such seminars than were our girls), that the mood of moderate toleration found in certain major cities is not indicative of the feelings of the nation as a whole and should be looked upon as an exception to the rule and as isolated incidents. They felt that we have a long way to go if we are to overcome the Anita Bryants of the world and gain any measure of acceptance

from main-stream America. They felt that those who can, must leave the comforts of our hotel rooms and mail boxes and get to work, and quit leaving our collective tasks and responsibilities to the Carol Beecroft's of the world, who must face society virtually alone. All in all, the day was well spent. They helped educate some people, made some personal contacts that could be helpful in the future and were perhaps able to steer a few of our unknown sisters in the right direction. (Reported by Karen of IL-3-M.

Put it this way -- I LIKE girls.
I also like me, too.

Combining both, through fashion's art,
I'm happily me and you!

Lil

I like to dress up like a lady,
I can either be proper or shady!
Are my stockings on straight?
Is my dress very tight?
Oh, it's fun to be a transvestite!

MICHELLE

Beth's SUPER Weekend

Friday morning, I got up and enjoyed a pot of tea sitting in the sunlight that was pouring in the windows. Decided to take a bath and do my legs. At this point I should mention that I have always worn high necked dresses/blouses, and sweaters simply because I do have a bit of hair on my chest. I have considered taking it off before, but had not worked up the courage. Well, Friday was the day. I use Nair and have always been very careful with it (as the article in *Femme Mirror* pointed out). I put tiny bits of tape over my nipples to protect them and went to work. I was totally astounded and pleased with the results. Went and got my copy of Virginia's *How To Be A Woman Though Male*, and studied the section on how to use the medical tape to produce cleavage. Experimented a good deal and was very surprised with the results. Tried on each of my nightgowns, both of which have low necklines. The appearance was very pleasing, and I immediately decided that I had to take this still fur-

ther. In other words, to do my thing. Set the camera up on a tripod, made sure I had enough film, and did a thorough cleaning job on the room where I was going to take the pictures. Then took the tape off.

Had lunch and then laid down for a restful two hour nap. Got up and then bathed again. Used the tape, modifying my efforts again. *Very* careful makeup job, evening style with very dramatic eyes. Put on my under clothes including a low cut cleavage bra which I filled out with the smaller of Virginia's bust inserts. My closet gave me nothing to show off the cleavage except two blouses that could be unbuttoned -- tried on both of them and took pictures of each outfit. Then I really began to get the hang of things. Next was a black, one-piece bathing suit which I wore with four inch black patent leather shoes -- then the nightgowns, taking pictures all the time. Then to my GG's wardrobe -- she is smaller than I am but her back sip gowns could be pulled on far enough to make a very pretty picture from the front. Selected four gowns and one jumpsuit from her wardrobe and went to work. I really thought that the jumpsuit would be my favorite and tried it on first. The effect was very good -- sleek and slender -- many pictures again -- then started trying on the gowns. It turns out that my favorite was the simplest one -- full length in a lightweight, very dark purple crushed velvet -- deep V neckline edged with a two inch border of white satin. I had opened a bottle of white wine during this little escapade, and posed some of the shots closeup with me raising my wine-glass. Finally, at two o'clock (a.m.) Sat Saturday morning, having made a large dent in the bottle of wine, and having taken 72 pictures I had accomplished what I set out to do. The tape and the makeup quickly came off, and I got into a nightgown to relax a bit before going to bed.

Saturday morning -- up very late, pictures to the drug store (brother), groceries, and then to a department store where I bought 40 pieces of Corning's Corelle ware and one of Ultima's "Face Case." One of the local Tri-Sig girls and her GG had invited me over to dinner that evening and, of course, I went dressed. My black blouse that I like



"Alright, WEAR the stupid bra and panties, but just untie me!"



"Gee Billy! You're lucky! The only part I got to play was the dunce!"

so much and a grey, mid-calf full skirt, and my black high boots. I had left the two top buttons of the blouse undone — this was noticed as was the lack of hair and both were commented on. I responded by unbuttoning the third button (shameless hussey that I am, did you chuckle?), and this blew both their minds. Then came the questions, how did you do it, what did you use, how is the tape put, is it uncomfortable, etc, etc. Dinner and drinks were very pleasant as they always are with those two girls and the evening went by entirely too fast.

Sunday morning, up and enjoying both my tea and the Sunday papers. One of the outfits in my wardrobe is a maternity outfit. Acquired it as a result of an article in *Transvestia* No. 83. Maureen Warfield was featured as the leading lady in that issue, and in an article she described her fondness for dressing up in maternity clothes. I got rather curious and wrote to her through the contact service asking her to explain exactly how she did it. She responded with a lovely three page personal letter, and included nine pages of diagrams, templates, comments, etc. Following her instructions I had experimented with this before — but always for short periods of time — two hours or so. Sunday morning I recalled that in the article Maureen had mentioned that she once spent an entire week, 24 hours a day, wearing the outfit, and how at the conclusion of the week she felt totally locked into the role. It has taken me considerably less time than that — I put this outfit on Sunday morning at about 8:30 and as I type this it is 2:30 — 30 hours later. I find the role definitely different — (believe me, if I was a GG I'd be on the "pill") by following Maureen's instructions for a full term pregnancy and by making the breasts

suitably large and heavy you add 25 plus pounds to your body. Whenever you walk, and you don't really walk — just sort of waddle, your shoulders are back, and your pelvic area thrust forward to compensate for balance. Very low heeled shoes are necessary and you find yourself sitting down and resting a good deal. Any sort of activity poops you out in a hurry. As an example, after I did the dishes last night, I had to sit down. I was very happy yesterday afternoon to just sit and read or work on my latchhook rug.

Virtually every movement you make is very awkward, and some movements must be planned in advance. You quickly begin to understand and appreciate the feelings and problems that a GG encounters even in the simplest of activities. As examples — sleeping, going to the bathroom, giving yourself a sponge bath, getting up from chairs or from a bed, and just plain sitting at a table. This is definitely a rather unique experience. But it is also one that I would have reservations about suggesting to any other TV. I am now wondering how I am going to feel when I take this outfit off.

Some of Maureen's comments were very interesting. Apparently she goes everywhere during her "pregnancy," and she stressed the fact that to do so you must be absolutely perfect since people tend to be more talkative, and your movements are inhibited. Since I tend to be very cautious anyways, this outfit has definitely been confined to the apartment. No one has seen me in it, although I have taken some pictures.

She also remarked that any appearance in front of my GG in the outfit or any discussion of it would probably be unwise. I agree totally. She indicated that most TVs would regard such an outfit as being one which a transsexual would

wear. I see the logic to her statement and suppose that I could agree with it, but I know that is not how I feel. To my mind each of us wishes to experience those things that a GG does, and this is one of those things. Perhaps I am oversimplifying the subject, but never-the-less, it is my impression.

I am going to be rather unhappy if I have to go to work tomorrow — I have enjoyed this weekend totally.

Many thanks for taking the time to read this. I do hope that you found it interesting and informative. And thank you for letting me share this experience with you.

SEX CHANGES AND THE REAL WORLD

Sex change operations -- while they may do wonders for a certain tennis player's career -- produce a lifestyle far from the Nirvana envisioned by many applicants for the operation, according to a follow up study by psychiatrist John Meyer of the Johns Hopkins Hospital. Meyer followed 32 persons (including 24 biological males) who received the operation and compared them to 66 (52 males) who did not have the sex change.

While he found little difference between the two groups in levels of socioeconomic advancement and emotional stability, Meyer did detect a postoperative pattern common to most who went through with the change during an initial phase of elation extending from two to five years, such patients are often exhibitionistic, seekings of jobs calling for considerable bodily exposure. After that period, however, most are 'overtaken by the painful realization that nothing has really changed except certain elements of bodily configuration.'

Preexisting emotional and personality problems reemerge and the patient begins to realize that he or she is only 'facsimile' of what was hoped for. "It is highly questionable," Meyer says, "whether sex realignment per se could be considered personally and socioeconomically rehabilitative."

For those who wish to read more about transsexualism from a different point of view of the general public you can purchase THE TRANSSEXUAL EMPIRE from Chevalier Publications for £5.95 in paper-bound edition: Box 19, Tulare, Calif 93275 Include 15% for first class postage!edition.

DENISE HAS HER OWN

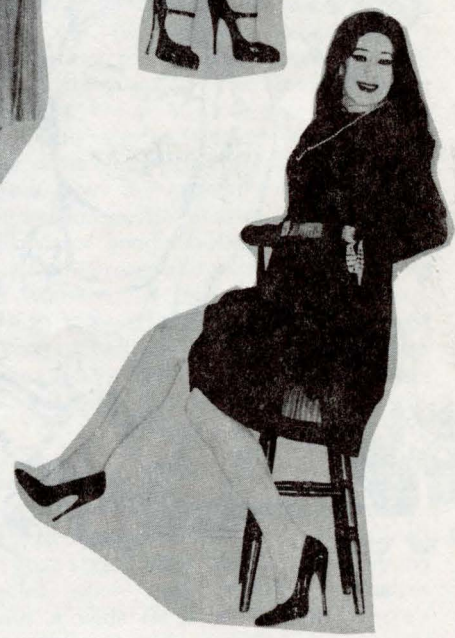
Fashion Show!

Dear Sisters: I am one of your members who is still in the closet and expects to be there for good. I am not said because of that because I do not pass very well due to my size. Anyway, that is not my way of expressing my femininity. I do it through photography and through perfection in crossdressing and posing. Not that I am perfect I am working towards that state.

The perfection I would like to attain requires attention not only through photographic knowledge but especially in self-photography! For this I bought a Nikron FM with remote control modulate of the shutter, which permits me to take pictures without the need of going back to the camera for advancing the film. I simply press a small button hidden in my palm.

heels in a Hong Kong store. My corsets are specially made in London and my long gloves are purchased in Los Angeles. My dresses are ordered by mail and are custom made in my own country by a good couturiere. Wigs, jewelry, stockings are of good quality also and usually bought by myself. I am not ashamed and do not care what people think when I buy my pretty things. I would like to exchange letters and pictures with my sisters DENISE (Foreign)

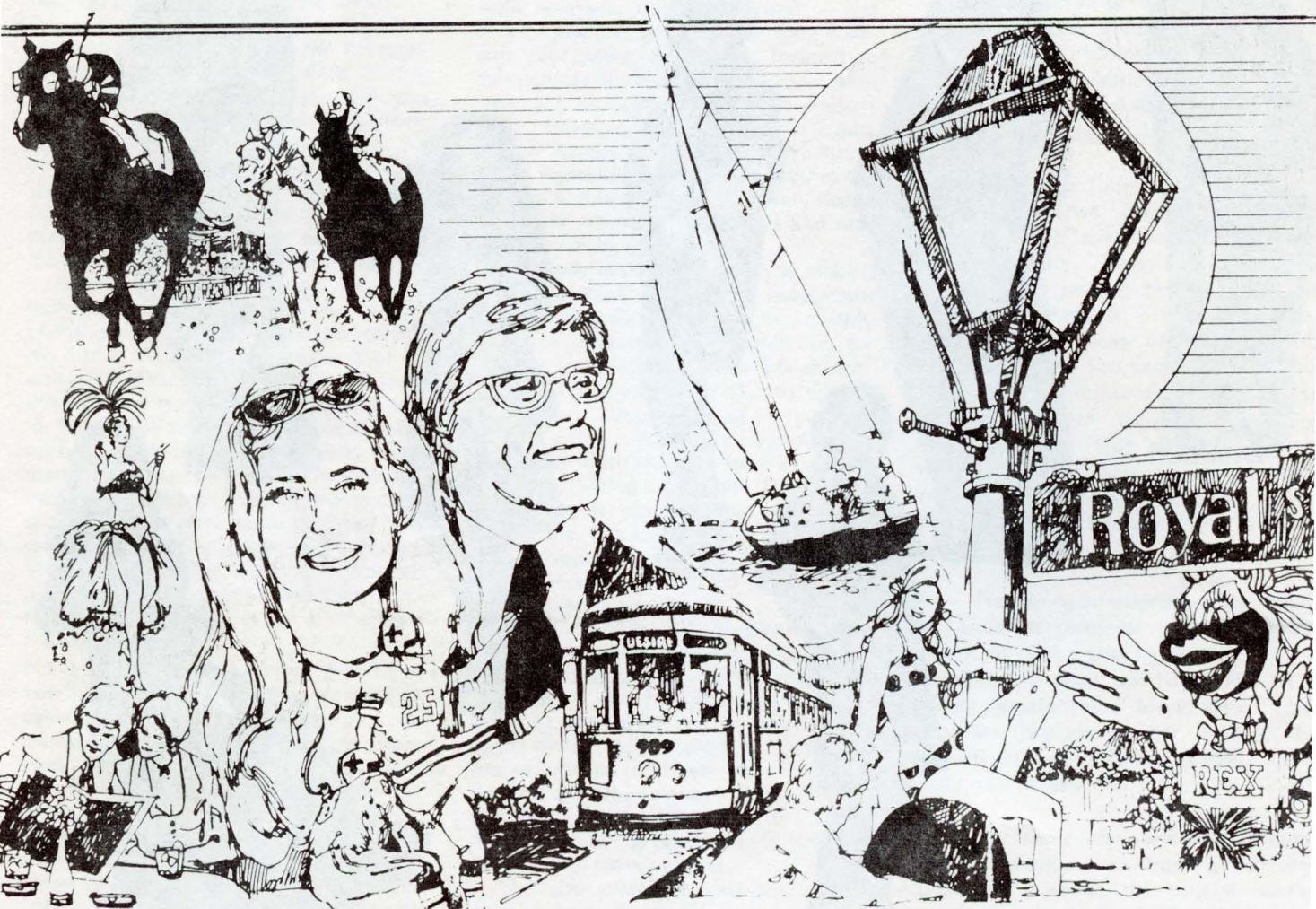
I buy my shoes in 6"



NEW ORLEANS

Six WONDERFUL DAYS AS YOUR FEMININE SELF IN THE Fall!!

1 9 8 0



"Let's Do It Again", the girls shouted at the end of the New Orleans convention in September. So, we're going to do it AGAIN next Sept - at the end of the Month. We'll stay again at the Vieux Carre Hotel where the staff went to extremes to please us. But THIS time you will have the opportunity to stay for SIX days although you can stay for fewer days if you wish.

The pictures on this page reflect in a small way the wonderful time the girls had in New Orleans. We ate at friendly restaurants, including the famous "MARTY'S". We toured the plantations and visited historical sites - all en femme. The public didn't care how we dressed as long as we acted like ladies. We mingled with other tourists who hardly batted an eyebrow. We even visited three night clubs and the owner of one was so impressed by our sisters that he introduced us to the audience and then invited a number of the girls over to his home for a visit and refreshments after the show. What a treat! The girls took the town by storm and in turn were captivated by its magic.



The festive air and charm of New Orleans is exciting all the time. We will stay in the French Quarter where it is only a block or two before you come to a nite club where you can listen to Dixie Land music played by professionals. Al Hirt, Pete Fountain and other famous entertainers still perform there. There are a number of fine restaurants like Antoinnes, Brossards, Brennans and Delmonicos. And, of course, there are the Bayous and the Mississippi River - a small group of the girls took sternwheeler trip down the Mississippi (en femme) on the Sunday that most girls returned home. There is also Pirate's Alley where Pirates and Smugglers lived. Come with us and visit the beautiful plantations and take a carriage ride through the French Quarter. There are professional female impersonators performing in various nite clubs and there is a delightful walk down Bourbon street. You just have to see the beautiful lace-work balconies as well as many other interesting sites. This scintillating city is like no other city in the world.

The convention will blend many social activities, get-togethers and this time we plan on a number of demonstrations and important speakers. You will have free time to do some shopping en femme and we hope to arrange some seminars to help you become more relaxed when en femme. You can even visit a beauty shop as some of our girls did and have your hair restyled - it's just down the street. You'll be treated like a girl when you go there.



I have received a number of letters from the girls who attend in September and they have expressed their happiness resulting from their delightful experience. Being around many sisters and being able to go out en femme makes the total experience most worthwhile. You will return home with a certain sadness that you must become a pumkin once again - shame. So, start making plans to attend in late Sept 1980. Send in your \$25 deposit and then start looking forward to a glorious time - six days living as a girl in NEW ORLEANS.

Carol Beecroft
P. O. Box 194
Tulare, CA. 93275





"Chief, are you comin' to the Tri-Sig convention in New Orleans?"



COME ON, DONNA -- BE ELEGANT AS YOU 'GRACEFULLY' CROSS THAT BRIDGE



THREE MORE WAYS TO CROSS THE BRIDGE

little "transsexual" come up to her and tell the wife "all about" the upcoming "operation" and the latest information about her "boyfriend". I have personally observed wives who have been very upset because of thoughtless things said by "transsexuals". I have seen members stay away from meetings because their wives were so annoyed. I have seen the family life threatened by such thoughtlessness. Unfortunately, this has happened even at Tri-Sigma meetings when one of our regular TV members suddenly decided that "he" was really a "she"! BINGO!! There goes another wife - all the way to a "D" category. I have had many members throughout the world tell me personally that the MAIN reason they belonged to TRi-Sigma in the first place was because we only admit heterosexual TVs. And because I believe that most heterosexual TVs do not want their wives upset and disturbed, we will REMAIN an organization for the heterosexual TV - only!

So, how else are we different? Well, of all organizations for TVs (assorted and all), only Tri-Sigma has a well organized headquarters with authority delegated in the field to leaders such as Division leaders, Regional Coordinators and chapter leaders. True, there are "independent" organizations usually consisting of one chapter and at least one other "national" organization in existence, but none of them have the organizational structure that we have been able to form and, as a result, no organization has

been able to obtain the large amount of dedicated sisters that has Tri-Sigma -- dedicated sisters who freely give many hundreds of hours of their time each year for the benefit of those whom they serve!

I also have been able to observe the "periodicals" which other TV organizations put out. NONE of these other organizations put out a periodical with the professional quality, look and contents that you see in the FEMME MIRROR. And while mentioning our magazine I wish to thank Karen (Ca-30-G) for all the help that she has done for our magazine in an effort to raise the professional standards of the FEMME MIRROR. Due to some personal problems which have forced her to give up her position, your Editor and national leader has taken over the work of getting the FEMME MIRROR out. This issue is quite late but it has taken me a considerable amount of time to get organized so that I could assume Karen's duties. Since I am interested in doing a professional job, like KAREN, I have personally invested in an IBM electronic Composing machine which certainly helps keep the standards high. This issue of the Mirror was typeset by your Editor as well as pasted up for the printer. This composing machine is a wonderful thing - and is expensive as all heck! It ran me almost £9,000.00. The expense of the machine is MINE and not Tri-Sigma's. I hope that you will feel that this issue of the FEMME MIRROR is in keeping with the calibre originated by Karen. You will note that this

issue is a DOUBLE issue in order to get us up to date.

And the "programs"..... I do have goals and objectives for our sorority since we are not merely a social organization. I want to have our sorority serve as a source of inspiration and assistance for hetero TVs. As an example, I have recognized the need of our sisters to locate stores where they can shop without embarrassment. This is because I know that this need is uppermost in most of our member's minds. That is why I recently announced the development of a "letter" which can be sent to various shops and stores with the intention of securing their assistance in helping our sisters. And, already, we have had a number of stores return the little questionnaire on the back of the letter. So we are acquiring more and more places where you can shop with comfort. We'll have more if YOU do your part in mailing out the letters to businesses.

An additional need is the development of chapters within the national organization. We do have a number of chapters, old and newly born, serving the needs of our sisters in various areas. More are gradually being formed.

And, of course, our "forwarding service" is being modernized and you will learn more about this as you continue to read. This kind of service is a needed one and is best developed in OUR organization.

I still have visions of doing more for the wives -- more than we have been able to do so far. I have experimented in the Los Angeles area with a Sunday afternoon gathering of husbands and wives and where no crossdressing was allowed. Interestingly, the gatherings were successful. I know that the wives really liked the opportunity to get to meet other wives and to know our members as men! But we need to translate this pilot program into something on a national basis. But, I cannot do it all and I need a dedicated sister to assist me in this particular program. After all, a happy wife usually means a happy TV and perhaps even an "accepting" wife! I know HOW to do it,



"Since you became a transvestite, I haven't a thing to wear!"

but am limited because of the time I already put in and thus await for a volunteer. How about you? But, what "other" organization is even thinking of such things? ONLY Tri-Sigma!!

And there is the matter of the "escort service" which I know would be greatly appreciated by many sisters. What I have in mind is the locating of females who would not object to going out with our sisters on shopping excursions and dinner dates. We have so many single TVs who would love to have the sympathetic assistance of a female who would help them with their hair, makeup and in the selection of clothing. I know that we need this program and so do you! But, again, I need help. We have already located three or four such females without even looking (one just wrote to me recently from the state of Washington -- she really wants to go out with our sisters).

A brief word about my work -- like you, I work for a living. In my case, I have a Property Management office downtown and that takes about 45 hours a week -- sometimes more. I also put in a considerable amount of time in publishing TRANSVESTIA as well as getting out the orders and doing the paper work involved with CHEVALIER PUBLICATIONS -- which I now own. I already mentioned that I put in an average of 20 hours a week with Tri-Sigma work. There is very little time available any more for me to assume any more work. As it is, Norma and I do not get much chance to get out with the exception of going 180 miles to Los Angeles for the Alpha Chapter meeting. So, I certainly do need some assistance from more sisters.

All TVs need some sort of a social life as a Tv. Recognizing this Tri-Sigma sponsors a national convention. At this convention the sisters are allowed to live as girls for a number of days. They are taken on tours and often mix with the public in general. The experiences of those who participate in such activities are never forgotten.

So as to those aforementioned questions you earlier read, I say to

such people, "read what I have been saying and, after that, look around and ask yourself, 'What is there that compares favorably with Tri-Sigma in meeting the needs of heterosexual transvestites?' "

SO -- WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

The year 1980 should see some interesting changes in our sorority as well as a healthy increase in membership. The reason for this optimism is that there are going to be some needed changes made in policy -- changes that have been needed for a long time. NONE of these changes will hurt the sorority or its members and none of the changes will decrease the security system within the sorority.

A discussion of these changes and the reasons behind them might help the reader appreciate why it was necessary to make them in the first place.

For some time there has been an under-current of complaints by many sisters -- especially those who belong to established chapters. Among those complaints we can list the following:

A' The requirement that prospective members must PURCHASE the book UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING' before being allowed to join our sorority. There have been a number of very highly qualified sisters who would not buy the book either because they were already familiar with its contents or felt that the purchase of the book was merely a "ripoff" so that someone could make some money in the sale of the book. We certainly have lost a number of good people that way!

B. Another problem has been the policy which restricts attendance at chapter meetings to members only. There have been hundreds of times when qualified prospective members wanted to have the opportunity to visit a chapter meeting to see if our organization was suitable for them. But they were turned away EVEN though someone in the chapter could vouch for their qualifications as a heterosexual TV. We have lost additional members that way. What is interesting to



There's that
man again...

in a
Dalton

..who can blame him



TIME FOR A SMOKE AT
THE PLANTATION



RELAXING BY THE OLD
PLANTATION



WE'RE ALL READY TO GO ON THE TOUR!



IT'S SO QUIANT -- LIVING RIGHT
IN THE OLD FRENCH QUARTERS



GIRL'S DO NEED TO STOP
AND CHAT' YOU KNOW!

The TV Shopping Guide :

<p>Shoes: Sears to 11D Lane Bryant to size 13 Nierman's to size 14: 17 North State Street 16th Floor Stevens Bldg. Chicago, Illinois 60602</p> <p>On same floor there is a Tall Girls Shop. 10th floor is a manicurist who did nails as wanted \$4.00.</p>	<p>One Day Styling Available</p> <p>ANN'S WIG WAM</p> <p>606 Main (Walkway) Evansville, Ind.</p> <p>Mon.-Thurs. - 10-5 Fri. - 10-8 / Sat. - 10-5</p> <p>422-3358</p>	<p>Anesthesia Available</p> <p><i>Sigrid E. Luna, R.E.</i> <i>Associated Electrolysis</i></p> <p>Professional Building - Suite 706 117 E. 8th Street Long Beach, Calif. 90813</p> <p>Hair Removal By Appointment 432-</p>
<p>Dressmaker:</p> <p>Jacques Fashions 3823 E. 14th St., Oakland 94601 Telephone 261-2705</p> <p>Proprietor Jacques Meshiah is very experienced making clothes for TVs When calling mention Phyllis' name</p>	<p>WIG AND YOU</p> <p>Nine Mile Road and Woodward Detroit</p> <p>"Sharon Sent Me"</p>	<p>Anesthesia Available</p> <p><i>June Brennan, R.E.</i> <i>Associated Electrolysis</i></p> <p>Los Angeles County 5203 Lakewood Blvd. Lakewood 90712 (213) 531-7420 774-5000</p> <p>Orange County 8101 Newman, Suite Huntington Beach 92646 (714) 847-8544 540-</p>
<p>Hairdresser</p> <p>Twardy Beauty Salon 800 Percy, San Francisco 94109 Telephone 673-2330 Ask for "Rick" (Ricardo) Mention Phyllis' name Rick cuts styles long hair if you pass. Gives advice on styles and wigs</p>	<p>FONNA'S FASHIONS</p> <p>3265 AUSTIN PEAY HIGHWAY MEMPHIS, TN</p> <p>Carries all types of clothes as well as jewelry, some wigs and shoes Also carry many accessories and some large sizes. Contact Donna Blair, owner. Opportunity to try on clothes. Appts can be made for after-hours assistance. Very interested in our business.</p>	<p>LINDA'S LOVE LACE 1970 MADISON AVE MEMPHIS' TN 901-761-5610 or, 4964 Poplar Ave 901-761-5610</p> <p>See Mrs Blanchard at either store. They carry many kinds of lingerie and do mail order business from their catalog. There is an opportunity to try on clothing. After hour appts can be made.</p>
<p>JOHN GARRETT, B.S., R.E.</p> <p>Registered Electrologist Permanent Removal of Facial and Body Hair</p> <p>Suite 530, North Park Plaza 17117 West Nine Mile Road Southfield, Michigan 48075 By Appointment - 557-1906 Residence - 862-3693</p> <p>"Sharon Sent Me"</p>	<p>MARY KAY COSMETICS</p> <p>RT 2 BOX 97A NORTH BECKLEY STATION RD LOUISVILLE, KY 40223</p> <p>Phone: 617-266-5926</p> <p>Carry all kinds of cosmetics Will teach you how to use cosmetics Call Pat Roberts: 502-245-0508 Evening appts can be made</p>	<p>CAPRI</p> <p>146 E. HOUSTON ST SAN ANTONIO, TX</p> <p>Has Jr and Misses sizes. Ask for Mr Davis or Mrs Perez when you phone: 226-7735. There is an opportunity to try on clothes. Another store, CAPRI II, is located at 155 E. Houston and specializes in large sizes. That phone is 224-4598. Ask for Mrs Cortez or Mr. Davis</p>
<p>Alberto's WIG-N-YOU</p> <p>22967 Woodward Ferndale, Michigan Phone 398-6996</p> <p>Sell and Style</p>	<p>MARY KAY COSMETICS</p> <p>RT 2 BOX 97A NORTH BECKLEY STATION RD LOUISVILLE, KY 40223</p> <p>Phone: 617-266-5926</p> <p>Carry all kinds of cosmetics Will teach you how to use cosmetics Call Pat Roberts: 502-245-0508 Evening appts can be made</p>	<p>CAPRI</p> <p>146 E. HOUSTON ST SAN ANTONIO, TX</p> <p>Has Jr and Misses sizes. Ask for Mr Davis or Mrs Perez when you phone: 226-7735. There is an opportunity to try on clothes. Another store, CAPRI II, is located at 155 E. Houston and specializes in large sizes. That phone is 224-4598. Ask for Mrs Cortez or Mr. Davis</p>

<p>THE BARE NECESSITIES</p> <p>121 LaMirada Mall</p> <p>La Mirada, Ca 90638</p> <p>(specializes in foundations) Jean is the Owner. Specializes in Vasserette lingerie. Has regular women's sizes but can order other sizes, if necessary. Staff is helpful to Tvs.</p>	<p>THE BODY</p> <p>178 LaMirada Mall</p> <p>LaMirada, Ca 90638</p> <p>714-994-0241</p> <p>A small shop. Good quality and stles and good selection although many junior sizes. Mgr and sales girls are used to having Tvs come in. Semi-private fitting rooms so come in dressed to try anything on.</p>	<p>VOGUE ELECTROLYSIS</p> <p>11324 South St</p> <p>Cerritos, Ca 90701</p> <p>(at Vogue Hair styles) Ask for Ruth Lopez. She is familiar with Tvs.</p>
<p>VIVIAN WOODARD COSMETICS</p> <p>2400 MERCHANT DR NW</p> <p>KNOXVILLE, TN</p> <p>They carry quality cosmetics as well as "look alike breast forms" and bras and fragrances. They also do facials and help with makeup They will do business by mail. Contact mgr at 546-8892. There is an opportunity to try on clothing and after hour appts can be made.</p>	<p>MICHAELS ON BROADWAY</p> <p>4400 BROADWAY</p> <p>SAN ANTONIO, TX</p> <p>Phone: 512-822-0650</p> <p>Carry nice clothing and will give personal service. Does business by mail. Ask for Michael Shirey. There is an opportunity to try on clothing. After hour appts are available</p>	<p>JENELLE'S LTD</p> <p>14422 So. Outer 40 Rd</p> <p>CHESTERFIELD, MO</p> <p>Phone: 314-434-1922</p> <p>Ask for Jeff or Ellen. Owner is a Tv. Will make after hour appt.</p>
<p>OSMARINA BEAUTY SALON</p> <p>615 DUMAINE ST</p> <p>NEW ORLEANS', LA</p> <p>Contact Ivette, stylist. Some of our sisters went there during the convention and recommend her very highly not only for doing wigs but also for her acceptance.</p>	<p>SAKS SHOE STORES</p> <p>625 FANIN ST</p> <p>HOUSTON, TEXAS 77002</p> <p>Phone: 222-6042</p> <p>Specialize in shoes for girls from AA to EEEE -- 10½ to 12 and a few 13's Experienced with Tvs. Ask for mgr, Irving Glick</p>	<p>DR DONALD KINEDER</p> <p>Optomotrist</p> <p>12 S Phelps St</p> <p>Youngstown, Ohio 44503</p> <p>746-2478 by Appt</p>
<p>GLADYS TALBOT CORSET STUDIO</p> <p>465 COMMONWEALTH AVE</p> <p>SUITE 21 , BOSTON, MA 02215</p> <p>Specialize in foundations</p>	<p>HILLSIDE HAIR FASHIONS</p> <p>Rt 1 East Greenwich</p> <p>Rhode Island</p> <p>Ask for Connie Thomas</p>	<p>CARLYLE BOOTERY</p> <p>143 WEST 33rd ST</p> <p>MANHATTAN' N'Y'</p> <p>They have a terrific selection of fashion shoes to size 13</p>
<p>HOWELL'S SHOES</p> <p>12144 GULF FREEWAY</p> <p>ALMEDA SQUARE</p> <p>HOUSTON, TX 713-946-0209</p> <p>Carries 9 to 12 in narrow and medium widths. Carries 5 to 12 in C-D-E width. You can talk to anyone in store. Sat afternoon is not a good time to come. They are open Mon through Sat 10 to 6</p>	<p>THE TALL GAL - LERY</p> <p>511 W' CLINCH AVE</p> <p>KNOXVILLE, TN</p> <p>Carry clothes for tall gals including sleepwear, pantyhose and slips. Contact Mabel Burks at 522-7717 There is an opportunity to try on clothing. After hour appts can be made. Use discretion for the benefit of all.</p>	<p>THE FACTORY SHOE STORE</p> <p>231 West Federal St</p> <p>Youngstown, Ohio</p> <p>They advertise the latest styles in wide widths and extra large sizes.</p> <p>REGAL OPTICIANS</p> <p>2026 W 6th St</p> <p>Los Angeles, Ca</p> <p>213-483-3950</p> <p>Very excellent service for Tvs.</p>

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MERLE NORMAN COSMETIC STUDIO

103 LaMirada Mall

LaMirada, Ca 90638

714-994-0781

Opel Pollinger/Owner will be happy to arrange a personalized beauty analysis and lessons before or after regular hours. You can come "dressed" for the after-hours appts. Opel will also help our sisters choose a wig from another shop.

COLUMBIA STAGE & SCREEN COSMETICS

6098 WEST SUNSET BLVD
HOLLYWOOD' CA

Good place for beard cover. Ask for RECOVER facial cover-up cream; or, BEN NYE Studio Beard Cover, or MEHRON Star Blend Cake makeup.

IMPORT HOUSE OF LUCK

5816 N'E' Sandy Blvd

Portland, Oreg 97213

They serve Tvs. Have many types of women's clothing. Selection limited to larger sizes. Call before coming in. Will instruct in cosmetic techniques after hours by appt. Also have a large selection of wigs. Very sympathetic to Tvs. Phone: 503-287-7902

BARBARA DALE'S QUEEN SIZE

1218 BAYBROOK MALL

FRIENDSWOOD' TX

Located in Houston Surburbs. Carries large size ladies clothes. Happy to serve our girls. They have a large brochure of their clothing.

LAWSON HILL LEATHER & SHOE SHOP

One Lawson HillWay

Waltham, Mass 02154

Has sizes to 14, AAAA to EEE. Catalog shows nice looking shoes.

FIRMS WHICH OFFER CATALOGS

Aldens

Box 5362

Chicago, Ill 60680

Can furnish catalogs -- similar to Wards and Sears. Good quality. Has standard women's sizes

Hill Brothers

99 Ninth Stree

Lynchburg, Va SHOES

Beautiful Visions

102 Marcus Dr

Melville, N'Y' COSMETICS

Great Impressions

720 Anderson Rd

St Cloud, MN 56372

Lane Bryant

2300 Southeastern Ave

Indianapolis, Ind DRESSES

Lane Bryant Tall Collection

2300 Southeastern Ave

Box 7203

Indianapolis, Ind TALL CLOTHES

TOMOK'S

2801 W' Ball Blvd

Anahein, Ca 92804

714-828-4960

Tomoko Fujioka is the Owner. She features Shisedo Cosmetics. Just say that "Charlene sent me." You can go dressed if you wish. Also available -- wigs for sale and styling.

CUSTOM SHOE COMPANY

Box DH

Westminster, Ca 92683

Catalog is £1.00. Feature shoes made in Europe. Prices are high but of very good quality. Pick from the catalog or design your own. Any heel size to 7". Another catalog features corsets and is called High Heels and Corsetry.

Make Our List Grow!

We have more nice places to shop but unfortunately, I entrusted them to a sister in Oregon (who did not renew) and who will not answer my letters asking her to return the information. It is truly disappointing when someone offers to help and then betrays her trust in this way.

However, we can still make the list GROW and if you know places where our sisters can shop without embarrassment and with sympathetic understanding, please contact your Editor. I will assure that the information is inserted in the Mirror very soon.

Remember girls, we already have a form letter made out and all YOU have to do is request some copies from your Editor and then mail them out. The letters will be returned to this office if the particular business is interested in helping us.

Alice (Ky-5-D) has really gone out of her way to help locate such places and so has Charlotte (Tn-3-E). Between them they must have mailed from 40 to 75 letters. And I would say that they had a 14% return from those whom they wrote. Some of the replies have been extremely cooperative. We also noted that it was the smaller businesses that especially responded. And, using our form letter will help those who are shy to avoid a personal call to the stores. So, come girls, 'shake-a-leg', (under that pretty skirt) and help your sisters out.

A Tv named Mimi O'Graff
One day ran a mile and a 'haff',
In four minutes flat
And in high heels at that!
Asked why, she replied, "For a Lat