

JOURNAL OF

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JOURNAL OF MALE

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Editors Note

The article on page 13 is directed to the single TV who is looking for a relationship. We realize fully that there are those of you whose wife is not aware of your "hobby" and in some cases telling her might end your marriage. Please do not misconstrue this article.

*Editor: Glenda Rene Jones
Associate Editor and Secretary of the Alliance,
the lovely and beautiful Phyllis Robbins.*

The International Alliance for Male Feminism is incorporated not for profit in the District of Columbia. The basic purpose of the organization is to function as a support group for transvestites, transsexuals, and the members of their families. In addition the Alliance serves as a center for educational activities aimed at bringing about a better understanding of this phenomenon to professionals and the public at large.

The Alliance publishes The Journal of Male Feminism quarterly, the non-confidential membership directory annually with updates throughout the year, as well as various miscellaneous newsletters. Normally a person's first femme name, state, and zip code is listed in the directory. Any other information is entirely at the discretion of the member. All Alliance material is sent first class in plain envelopes.

Membership in the Alliance is open to anyone over the age of 18 who agrees to abide by the bylaws of the organization as they relate to behavior which will not bring the Alliance into disrepute, and protection of security of the membership.

Those interested in joining should write to the address shown inside the front cover and request the membership package. The charge for this is \$5 to defray the cost of mailing. It is more than worth its price. Included is an application for membership. Membership is \$20/yr., however, the cost of the membership packet is deductible from the first years dues.

In addition to the publications mentioned, the Alliance has many resources for counseling members on their problems. There is a board of professional advisors as well as many members who have had many years of experience in dealing with problems which members may have.

The Alliance maintains a number for the convenience of members and others. It is (215) 395-4794. Wives in particular are welcome to call and ask for Phyllis Robbins. Phyllis has had years of experience in counseling and is most happy to talk with other TV wives.

FEAR

by Phyllis Robbins

Recently, I have had several wives of TV's call and want to rap with the wife of another TV. Here I am and I am most happy to talk with you. Give me a call any time after 7:00 pm EST at (215) 395-4794.

I guess I am new to this too. Three years ago, I thought a TV was a television. "I've come a long way since then." At the Fantasia Fair I met some really neat, sensitive, sweet men who are TV's. Many of them have wives who either don't know, or who don't accept the fact that dressing is as much a part of their husband as his big toe. Needless to say, the wives who went to the Fair were treated like visiting royalty and welcomed with open arms by the TV's there.

When I got back I started wondering why so many wives are threatened by their husband's dressing. Why are they so afraid? Some TV's in the culture have told me that their wife's femininity is threatened. I have wondered what that means. Am I, a genetic woman who has borne two wonderful children, less a woman if I am with another woman wearing workshirts, Levi's, work boots, cotton T shirts, (the way many of my friends dress)? I guess I must be secure in my femininity because I am a woman no matter what I have on. Maybe all of us need to ask ourselves what it means for us to be "real women".

Some wives who talk with me don't understand why their husband likes to dress. I have asked a lot of TV's that question and they don't know either. If they, themselves, don't understand it, then we can't. Frankly, its not important to me to know why Glenn dresses. I recognize his need without even trying to understand it! This point of understanding brought me a long ways.

At the Fair a couple of guys told me that their wives were sure they were homosexual because they wanted to dress. I inquired if they had told their wife they were not and they said, "yes". Especially when there is no evidence to the contrary, I believe it important for your peace of mind and for your relationship that you believe him. Bet your life that guy of yours is straight old heterosexual. Homosexuality doth not a TV make and dressing doth not a homosexual make.

Some wives tell me that it is not "manly" for a man to wear women's clothes. I guess that is a matter of perception of what a "man" is and what a "woman" is. Maybe that perception is not real. We women are at times aggressive, competitive, hostile, strong, etc. All these traits are associated with maleness. Yet we don't think of ourselves as men. In our society, these are considered "masculine". Yet, these traits are shared by both sexes. I feel men in this society are stifled because we don't admire their gracefulness, sensitivity, meekness, gentleness, and artistic creativity. Traits we too often consider "feminine". So many times TV's feel they can express these traits only when they are dressed. At other times they are living up to the expectation of what is considered "manly behavior".

I have had other fears expressed to me such as his getting fired from his job. None of us want that, but yet, he might get fired for other reasons aside completely from dressing. Yet, most of us can handle that: simply look for another job. Him getting fired for dressing is probably imaginary most of the time. Who is going to bring it up on the job? I just don't feel I should spend valuable time worrying about that.

I have two kids myself and wondered at first how Glenn's dressing was going to affect them. I have always felt it was up to me to set an example for my kids. They usually follow your lead. I have always found that when I am open with my kids and don't bullshit them, they respect me. I used that no nonsense approach when I first discussed Glenn's dressing. If you want the children to be accepting of others, its important to let them know you accept their father's dressing. The point is, that regardless of what their father may be wearing, he is still their father. I be-

lieve that children need to know their parents as human beings, for what they really are, and not for some imagined expectation of them. I have always leveled with my kids.

It amazes me the number of TV wives who know about their husband, yet have never seen him dressed. (God was I ever curious when Glenn first told me.) I was afraid of how I was going to react or if I would be repulsed. Still, as I drove out to the mountains that night I was very curious about what I was going to see. (He looks a lot better since I have started to help him with his makeup.) I decided that night just to detach myself and look at him objectively. I found that while Glenda is slightly different from Glenn, she is a beautiful person and definitely male.

For me, the three most important ingredients of a happy relationship are mutual support, communication, and concern for the other's happiness. Crossdressing doesn't hurt anyone. It is a harmless pastime. I have found that wives who do support their husband's dressing realize a genuine undying gratitude in return. Communication of feelings can be done without laying down a guilt trip and that is what builds the relationship.

Fear is usually of the unknown. When issues are confronted and examined, fear goes away along with anxiety. Frankly, knowing what I know now, if I were single and looking for a relationship I would call Ariadne Kane and say, "what can I do to help out at the Fair?"

I do hope I have given you some food for thought. Please write or call me.

*Love,
Phyllis*



Dear Alliance Members,

I wanted to correct a couple of things I said in my last newsletter: It was Virginia Prince and Carol Beecroft who together started Tri Sig and together they lead the organization. My apologies to you Carol. Carol also was concerned about my comment that the Tri Sig Chapters "do much as they please." She wanted to point out that the National organization sets standards for the chapters.

I am going to say that I am slightly irked at someone as the words reached me from several quarters that a merger between the two groups was imminent. That is not the case. I feel it has been useful to discuss where we stand on things and the members of both groups have things they can mull over. Nothing on this going to happen quickly and will have no immediate effect on either our activities or theirs. I do hope I have made that point clear once and for all.

For our next Journal scheduled to come out the latter part of February, I am especially looking for articles from wives. Many of you can share with the rest as to how you and your husband dealt with and deal with the problems associated with crossdressing. Any article or letter is virtually assured of being published.

We are also looking for good fiction. This is an area where I want to tread somewhat carefully. It is fine to bring sex into a story if the sex does not dominate the scene and takes its rightful place as a natural part of life. I want to stay away from the idea of a human being being degraded and put down, but many areas of fantasy are definitely fair game.

We are also more than interested in articles that deal with human feelings and emotions. We are very human and we have all laughed and cried. Those experiences are so so welcome to share. We need a good article on make up and if anyone wants to write on that it will be most welcome.

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Betty Lou Comes Out

by Betty Lou 122-FL-33901

Betty Lou came into being 35 years ago, although was just recently named such. She has always been a part of me.

I can remember my first TV experience as if it happened yesterday. I was spending the night with a friend and for lack of nothing else to do, went into his mother's room. We took off our clothes and tried on her panties, bra, slip and a dress. We tried our hand at some makeup as well. After a couple of hours, we changed back into two ten year old boys. The sensual feeling that came over me was fantastic. That feeling prevails today.

Like any other TV, I thought marriage would change me. It didn't, of course. On two occasions I threw all my clothes away and vowed I would never again do "it". Always within six months I was back in heels and loving every minute of it. Hopefully the day will come when I will be able to perform my daily duties as a wholesale milk man, come home, shower, and become Betty Lou; homemaker.

The initial step of coming out of the closet was one of the hardest decisions I have ever made. Yet, it was a choice I should have made years before. At first, Joan, my wife, was confused, upset, and jealous. She said that she understood, but I knew she didn't. Six months of tension, fighting, and arguing we discovered the book, The Transvestite and His Wife, by Virginia Prince. What a fantastic change for the two of us.

Since reading the book we no longer fight or argue. The tension is gone and proper discussion prevails. I find myself unburdened of a secret I kept inside of me for so long. I want to live now - I enjoy life much more now. I am at ease with myself. I laugh more now and drink less.

Betty Lou and Joan still have a way to go. But the important thing is that we are doing it together. We openly share each other's clothes and thoughts.

Something I have always dreamed about has become a reality.

To all my sisters let me say "thank you." I am so happy to have found the International Alliance.

Please write Betty Lou Ellis - 122-FL-33901.

How I Have Told My Friends

by Stacy C 3-AZ-85021

I find that I am starting to tell more and more of my straight friends about my alter ego. I have met with almost unanimously favorable results. Of course, not everyone wants to participate, but I have yet to be ostracized by any of them. I think that this is due, at least in part, by the way I present it.

When I decide that one of my friends has a need to know about my femme side, I present it to them totally honestly. I look at it that if the person is a true friend, my wearing dresses and nylons should have little effect. Initially I try to stay away from jargon. Terms like "transvestite", or "femmiphile" people really don't understand until their meaning is explained. One way I broach the subject is to say that I like to be a female impersonator at times (actually not far from the truth). This sets the ground work about the clothing etc. I emphasize, of course, that I am hetero and really love women. (Actually I don't know how important that is. Actions speak louder than words.) At this point I then explain what "femmiphile" and other terms really mean. I get quite a few questions and once the subject is broached, you have to continue with it.

I certainly don't go around telling everyone. I am selective for sure. My true friends stay with me and many are quite supportive. The only area where I don't discuss it is at work.

The Morning After

by Stella B. 30-MD-21150

For the first time all day Claire and I were alone. Oh my God she was so beautiful. I slipped off my clothes and started to go take a shower when she said,

"I have a surprise for you Jim when you come out."

The water was so refreshing. We had been on the go since the wedding that morning. Friends mean well, but it was rush rush to make the plane by 3 and it had to wait in line to land in New Orleans.

At first I thought the surprise was to see Claire in a beautiful light pink satin gown. That was certainly enough, but she motioned over to the chair and I saw a similar gown in light mint green.

"Here," she smiled, "let me finish drying you off."

With that she dried me and finally slipped down over my shoulders the cool feeling satin fabric. In bed we held each other and she began to run her hands over my satin covered hips. Oh my God. First our lips met and then our tongues. She began to gently pull my gown up.

The next morning I awoke before her. Her breasts gently rose and fell as she slept. I called room service for a pot of coffee. The guy gave me a funny look when he saw me wearing a nightgown, but a dollar tip was enough to quell any remarks. I mused how the whole thing began.

I remembered back several months ago when my friend Tom called me one Tuesday evening.

"Jim, this is Tom."

"Yeah, what's up?"

"Well, nothing much. I am having a little blast at my place on Saturday and wondered if you would like to come."

"With or without girls? You know how I am around girls."

"Well ... with. Don't be so shy Jim, you will have a great time. Anyhow don't sweat. I have a date already lined up for you. Really cool lady. She is a friend of Nancy, my lady, and knows I dress."

"Well, I guess so."

"See you Saturday good buddy. By the way it is a straight party. BYOB and, by the way, I know that Claire likes Daiquiries. You might practice making them."

I had been burned before. Maybe that is why I had butterflies in my stomach. Still Nancy was certainly cool and if Claire was her friend it might just work out.

I finally bailed out and picked up a bottle of Heublein Daiquiri and found myself at Tom's door.

"Hi Jim, glad you made it. Was getting worried there for a minute. I'll introduce you to Claire in a minute. Put your goodies out on the bar."

As I wandered into the living room. I noticed a tall statuesque lady over in the corner. I wanted to charge over and introduce myself, but figured I would wait.

"Jim I want you to meet Claire. She works with Nancy at Eastern. I have meatballs about to come out, so I am going to leave you two to get acquainted."

It was Claire who took the initiative and asked,

"What do you do, Jim?"

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Crossdressing Throughout History

by Susan T

The occurrence of transvestism can be traced back to the beginning of recorded history. Because of its erotic appeal, it played a prominent part in the sex orgies of fertility rites. The early Hebrews vehemently opposed those fertility cults and associated all crossdressing with them. This was reflected in their law such as Deut. 22:5,

A woman shall not wear that which pertains to a man, neither shall a man wear women's clothes; for all that do are an abomination to the Lord thy God.

It should be noted that this law as well prescribed stoning for any girl found not to be a virgin at marriage and required a woman to sleep outside the camp during her period. The low status of women made it unthinkable that any man should want to wear their garments. If a woman tried to raise her status by attempting to "pass" as a man, it was an excellent way to be stoned.

The early Jews were practical however, and had no hangups about using any method to win a military operation. In some cases early Jewish soldiers would crossdress to confuse the enemy.

Crossdressing was practiced in many other ancient civilizations as well. The ancient Greeks believed that crossdressing would increase sexual potency. It was actually a status symbol and it was not uncommon to find noblemen and statesmen appearing in public wearing women's clothing and make up. At weddings the couple would exchange clothes at times and on the isle of Cos, the man would be married in women' clothes.

In the minds of some, however, the desire to dress (particularly men desiring to dress as women) was regarded as a disease. Hippocrates in the fourth century B.C. wrote as follows about what he considered to be "No-men" as follows:

We believe that this illness like any other comes from the Gods...Here is, I believe, how this impotence happens: It is the result of the perpetual horseback riding of the Scythians. When they go to a woman and cannot perform, they do not worry at first and simply rest. If two or three attempts do not succeed, they feel they have committed some offense against God to whom they attribute their affliction. Thus they don women's clothing, admit their impotence, and from then on, live their lives as women. This illness afflicts not the poor, but the rich and the noblemen. Horsemanship is the cause. Since the poor do not ride, they are less subject to it.

In Greek mythology, one finds detailed accounts of crossdressing. One interesting tale is the adventure of Achilles. It seems that his mother sent him to King Lycomedes in Scyros disguised as a girl in order that he not join the expedition against Troy.

Achilles alone lay hid among the daughters of Lycomedes and was trained to work in wools in place of arms. In his white hand he held the bough of maidenhood. He put on woman's ways, and a bloom blushed on his cheek of snow. He walked with with a maiden's gait and covered his locks with snood.

Later Achilles was read by Odysseus when the latter offered various gifts to the maidens and Achilles picked up a spear and shield.

Hercules too was a TV at times in his capacity as a love slave to Omphale the Queen of Lydia. She would dress him up in her clothes and put jewelry on him. He would then spin wool for her and tell of his past exploits. He passed pretty well as Pan tried to make a pass at him and got clobbered for his trouble.

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How To Catch a Class A Wife

by Glenda Rene Jones

The following article was originally written more than a year ago. It was originally intended to merely outline some of the problems cross-dressers would experience in dating and forming relationships with women. Since then, however, many additional factors have come up for consideration. Indeed, this is a problem upon which one could write a book, only to have a sequel in mind as the book is on its way to the printer. This subject fundamentally addresses the question of how to build a class A relationship and marriage; something which is a lifelong endeavor. Hence, what follows is an attempt to touch on many points with the realization that it is a beginning at best.

In the culture jargon a "class A" wife is one who is supportive of her cross dressing husband. One who will help him with obvious matters such as clothing, makeup and the like. On a much deeper level, it is a relationship that shares in all areas of life - be at his side when matters wholly unconnected with dressing are involved, and to be his lover and companion. Hence, the real title of this article might be,

"How To Build a Class A Marriage."

Cross dressing in the final analysis has to be about the most innocuous "hobby" in existence. Men and women have for various reasons dressed in each other's clothing since the beginning of time. Sometimes for disguise purposes, sometimes for sexual purposes, sometimes just because it is fun. Regardless of history or present motivation, the fact remains that while female cross dressing is more or less accepted by this society in the name of "fashion", male cross dressing is regarded by this society at this time as a deviation. Something all of us can hope will ease in the future. For this reason, a guy who wants to form a relationship with a woman for whatever reason usually has a degree of guilt, paranoia, and a lowered self image from years of hiding and rejection. This is the place where a person must start: the process of self-examination, introspection, and self actualization.

It might be well to reflect on the fact that everyone who knows you, knows at least one cross-dresser - everyone you work with, everyone of your friends, all of your neighbors, and everyone you ever went to school with. That is a whale of a lot of people. Multiply yourself by 3-5 million and we might well ask if there is anyone at all who doesn't know at least one of us. Probably not. The other day I was in Penny's buying a few pairs of hose when the girl asked, "are these for your wife?" For some reason I just slipped as I was in a hurry and replied, "no, I ran my last pair of nude toe." Without changing her expression any, the girl replied, "there must be a lot of you guys, I get men buying women's things for themselves all the time." I was embarrassed at the time and then realized she was sincerely trying to be of help to me as a sales girl.

Those of you reading this article are already far ahead of the closet TV. Closet TV's are the one's most likely to marry a woman keeping their "hobby" a secret - the one living in fear of exposure. Worse yet the closet TV might entertain the thought that marriage is a "cure". Social interaction, and putting clothing into its proper place as a means to a social end is always the important first step. Still, many of us who have ventured into the culture may have a way to go. Suffice to say that the biggest obstacle to meeting, getting to know, and building a relationship with a woman is the degree of guilt, fear, and low self esteem which we may possess. Much more important than the lack of understanding on the part of women is the state of our own self image.

One additional point that cannot be too strongly emphasized, is that of knowing for certain where one lies on Benjamin's scale. A process of personal realization takes place when a person makes that first step out of the closet and starts to dress to look nice and not just to have on anything feminine. As one comes to realize that they can venture into public and pass, there is a tremendous process of personal realization which ensues for a few months before one knows where they lie on the scale. In this period, inevitably, the question of whether one is a TS is examined. While the answer is "usually never", the fact remains that

probably the most dastardly thing one can do to a loving supportive wife is to jump onto the operating table. This makes very important the necessity of socially interacting a good deal en femme before seriously trying to form a relationship with a potential mate.

A TV who has his head together is a damn good catch. A TV husband is above average in intelligence, usually well educated and good looking, and a woman can well consider herself lucky to have him. Still the "cross dressing hurdle" must be surmounted. For this, the TV needs everything going in his favor. This means that small things which some men might overlook, the TV must pay attention to. The old rule of brushing three times a day and flossing twice, seeing the dentist twice a year, and by all means the daily bath are especially important. It is well to develop a "gimmic". Gimmics can take on just about any form: amateur magician, having an interesting slide show of a recent trip, working up a talk of interest to single's groups such as how to refinish furniture. In short, a gimmic is anything one can use to get himself before groups of people. Regardless, it is basically a matter of meeting lots and lots of people in the single's community and getting known.

At this point let us reflect on some of the things the single person is looking for in a relationship totally apart from any cross dressing concerns. You will meet many, many women, but marry only one (or possibly not marry right away, just have a relationship). What things make for an endearing relationship? What about being able to express your feelings, or being able to express the feeling to the other person that her actions cause you to feel good or bad without a condemnation? "When you lose your temper, it makes me frightened." Fundamentally at stake is communication! Communication is the fundamental keystone to building a relationship.

People do ask, "where can I find other single people of my age and background?" To anyone who has been around,

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A Uniformed Decision

by Janet B

Hassles are nothing new to those of us who enjoy cross-dressing. Somehow, we usually manage to overcome various problems so that our femme qualities can be expressed. Frequently these are family problems where those close to us do not appreciate this basic need which we have. Another area is that job security may be compromised.

Several years ago, I found an article in a west coast TV publication which touched on a subject very close to home for me. The article mentioned crossdressing within the military services. After reading it I could not help but wonder just how many others like myself also found themselves at times in a uniform.

Eventually, I became somewhat disappointed that this subject did not receive any kind of follow up over the next few months. WHY? Was it a case of apathy which caused the dropping the issue? More likely, fear of being discovered, singled out or otherwise compromised. I do believe that here was a chance for us to speak out - a chance for those of us who can relate to similar feelings and experiences to share our most inner thoughts with each other for the common good. Shall we fail to heed the call again?

Those of us who are associated with the military can surely attest that hassles are part of our daily lives no matter how we may be dressed. Finding the opportunity to dress for instance may puzzle some, especially those living in a barracks environment. Certainly clothing storage could pose some concern for others. Now that I think back, I believe the hardest situation to contend with is the close-minded attitudes of co-workers towards anyone who does not conform to their "straight" image of what a person should be. Any guy who wears a skirt is automatically considered by many as gay. Its sad indeed that some people judge others by appearances rather than by the person's inner traits.

FANTASIA FAIR OCT 1979

by Glenda Rene Jones

Fantasia Fair. Different things for different people. Pro vincetown, Mass.—A Storybook town and an opportunity to be yourself for nine days. A convention by another name. An opportunity to live by still another. For some it was simply a chance to get away. For others it was a chance to become a living human being.

Provincetown is out of a dream. A small fishing village at the tip of Cape Cod. Now a major tourist attraction. Different things to different people. For me a total experience in living.

As I was on my way through the Poconos Mountains in the early morning hours I could have been going through the Pecos back in New Mexico. Only I wasn't in New Mexico. I was entering New York State and on my my way to a wonderful adventure in a place I had never been in Massachusetts.

At the Fair one is on the go all the time. Up at 9, frequently not to bed until 4:00 am. (I would occasionally catch a cat nap). I felt and experienced every human emotion. I laughed and cried, felt love and anger. On Sunday morning, several of us went to the Universalist Church. The minister and the people welcomed us with open arms. It was obvious that they were very happy to have us. Afterward I returned to my room and was overwhelmed by emotion. I had lived a lifetime of being rejected and put down, being told I was "sick" and to go to a shrink, being asked, "why would a handsome man like you want to dress up like a woman?" And now I had just experienced warm loving acceptance. I bawled and bawled. (Messed up my eye makeup for sure).

Not all people were as warm as those at church, but generally we had no problems. If we were not accepted, we were at least tolerated. You have to realize that virtually any person in P'town with a skirt on during Fair week is read as a TV. The GG's cultivate the "P'town Annie" look of blue jeans, sneakers, and a sweat shirt.

One interesting event was when a very attractive female graduate student visited us who was doing her doctoral research in human sexual fantasies. Tina asked us if we would fill out a questionnaire for her. In the course of conversation, someone suggested that she walk down Commercial St. in P'town dressed in her attractive suit and heels. Sure enough, some dope who couldn't tell a boy from a girl read her as a TV. It is one thing to read text books, it is another to feel something first hand. Most of the time it was good natured. Little teen aged girls saying, "your slip is showing" and off to titter titter tee hee. Or, "say I didn't know 'South Pacific' was playing in town." One person did nudge me and whisper, "fucking cocksucker". Considering that some of us had played pro football, been war heros etc., it said a great deal for our character that no one lost their cool.

Our culture is truly phenomenal. At the Fair were people in their early 20's all the way to senior citizens. Shirley and Frances are in their late 70's and Charlotte is a young and beautiful 80. (Has legs like a model.) People from all walks of life. Many were engineers like myself. Others were lawyers, businessmen, dock workers, you name it. All were so warm, wonderful, and beautiful.

One charming couple from Indiana stopped me on the street and politely asked if they could take my picture. It was fine with me. We had a very interesting conversation about their nephew who likes to dress. I told them about the difference between sex and gender and that dressing was really nothing to worry about. I added, "didn't you like to play dressup when you were a little kid?" We all had a good laugh.

It was such a ball. The bathing suit contest, talent night, and the drag show. My room mate, Michelle W., won acclaim with her Marie Antoinette skit. Her costume was just something else. She also won third place in the drag show with her sequined dress. A lot of cutting up and kidding and joking. Like a bunch of little kids having more fun than in years. There were

some heavy trips as well. I stayed up until 5 a couple of mornings talking with people. (My trusty Tarot cards came through again as a way of introducing discussion.) One person who was deciding whether to go TS, another with some heavy family problems. Another whose kids were beginning to suspect.

One morning an old retired Portuguese fisherman and I got into a discussion. Fishing back in the old days was rough. Out to sea, little time for family when in port. He told me about the origin of the word "drag". It turns out to be a nautical term. In the days of sailing ships they would sometimes disguise the appearance of a ship by pulling in the sail if pirates etc. were on their trail. It was called "dragging" the sail, or putting the ship in "drag".

One thing that really interested me. I arrived in P'town on Friday and a week later on the next Friday drove over to Boston to pick Linda up at the airport. This was my first time in a week in male attire. (Linda came up on the condition that I would be Glenn one day so we could go out as husband and wife.) When I saw Linda and held her it was the first time in a week I felt horny. And the vaunted shrinks think this is a sex trip. That evening I even put on my three piece grey flannel suit and took Linda to dinner. I actually enjoyed my three piece boy suit. And I sure as heck enjoyed having Linda with me in my room after not seeing her for a week.

Time went so fast that it ^{was} over almost before it began. The last Saturday night was the awards banquet, the highest drag affair of all. I had a week's experience by now and pulled every stop. I had on a long rose colored evening dress with black sandals and purse. I wore a beautiful silver necklace along with my turquoise jewelry. Linda did my hair. Glenda had never looked so stunning.

There were many thoughts and memories on the way home. No one, at least no first timer, ever leaves Fantasia the same way they came. Maybe for the first time in my life I feel truly free to be myself. I found it so easy to hold and kiss my many new friends good-bye.

Dear Glenda,

Enjoyed the newsletter (August), but I don't think a transsexual has to "pass" perfectly to be allowed an operation. However, if they can't pass and do have the operation they should be exceptionally strong emotionally and psychologically. Eventually, if enough pioneers stand forth, the world will be safer for the timorous.

The desire to pass is a neurotic response to sociologically imposed guilt. Aren't you delighted and happy to be "you" among friends who know all about you? Do you need to pass...bull! Recognize your rights and "normalcy" and help stamp out the "sickness" in society.

It has always puzzled me how TV's, TS's or any other people involved in their own pursuits of happiness can capitulate to the guilt trip laid down by others. You are alive, you really exist, you aren't anybody else's figment of imagination ... so dare to be. Takes guts and you have some unpleasant moments, but you also have some terrific moments. For instance a 16 year old boy from a local high school came to visit me a few days ago.

"Gee, Mr. L, you dress up in girls clothes and everyone at school thinks its funny, but I do too and could you talk with me about it because I wouldn't dare tell anyone but you?"

Yes I am wide open and I'm so glad I cried.

Love,

Darlene 103-AZ-85017

ed note,

I love the way Darlene speaks her mind. You never have to wonder about her. She is beautiful and smart. Still, I do feel I should make a comment. While a TS can always in the final analysis pull down her panty

hose and prove she is a girl, it is a real hassle. The pre-op and the TV in any case, do not have that prerogative. Having been both in the position of having passed perfectly in public and having been stared at by 50 people, I can say that regardless of one's emotional strength, it's much more fun to pass than not to.

Regardless, if one is going to use the lady's room, you better come off well. In addition, if one is around men who have been drinking, you better not only come off well, but be able to handle the situation.

Fantasia Fair - ctnd from 19

It says a great deal for Ariadne Kane, the Outreach Foundation and the Fair steering committee to have created such a wonderful event. I cannot thank them enough. It was one of the best run conventions I have ever attended.



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Dear Glenda,

As a member for both Tri Sig and the Alliance, I wish to address the issue of a merger.

In short, I disdain such a move. You see, I am bisexual. The Alliance is receptive to this orientation -- as it is to all orientations across the gender spectrum. Unfortunately, when I am in the company of my Tri Sig sisters, it's strictly "Mmums a word."

I enjoy meeting all people of all persuasions. In the absence of that contact, people culture false -- and oft-times malicious images of their sisters. And, unfortunately, this is the case with Tri Sig.

Although I deeply respect my Tri Sig sisters, I believe they are slighting themselves with their homophobia (Anita Bryant couldn't be happier). In all the realm of equality, it's just plain ridiculous to inhabit a closed clique. The issue is freedom from sex role stereotypes. And although I respect Tri Sig's numbers, I feel -- in the long run -- an organization such as the Alliance will make greater strides in breaking down these malicious barriers.

No doubt, Virginia Prince and Tri Sig have played an immensely important historic role in bringing the scope of gender dysphoria to the forefront. Institutions, however, age.

Hopefully, the Alliance will champ at the proverbial bit. But an Alliance diluted in what I feel to be an extremely homophobic Tri Sig would, frankly, die of asphyxiation.

Homosexuals, bisexuals -- and, realistically -- the entire issue of humanistic sexuality -- rely on openness. If the doors are open, society's myths soon perish. Enough said.

My vote is a resounding no.

(name withheld by request)

Dear Glenda,

Please accept my apologies for my husband's discontinuing his Alliance membership. It was because of my urgings. After more than four years, we are still struggling with the issue.

I'm sorry the Journal was returned. It should have been forwarded.

I personally feel that the Journal is more relevant and interesting now. It also seems that you have greatly improved the Alliance. The enclosed check is to cover Wendy's (that is very difficult even to write) dues for the coming year. Please understand that my husband definitely feels that the Alliance is worthwhile in its cause and that he needs it.

Thank you very much for your personal attention and please try to have patience and understanding with those among you who have to cope with people like me.

The Best of everything to you,

Susan H.

Dear Glenda,

As to a merger, I have no axe to grind with any TV, TG, or TS. I am not opposed to any of the above gaining membership in either organization. I do object to the membership being open to those into the 'far out' bits. We should not open our doors to those who wish to practice the 'oral' or anal' bit, the enema thing, extreme bondage or other far from the ordinary sexual processes. If you wish to accommodate such into the Alliance, okay, but not into a merged Alliance-Tri Sig outfit. Empathy takes care of those fairly well.

In Tri Sig or the Alliance, the fetish is unimportant in the milder forms. Most all of the members of both organizations have some sort of 'hang-up', quite inoffensive such as undies, high heels, which are parts of the plain, ordinary, basic, dull hetero TV...as most of Tri Sigma members are, I guess.

I have friends, a lot of them, that are TV, TG, and TS, all great persons and all perfectly welcome at our home. We draw the like completely on the kooks.

Love to ya, Connie 18-NY-14701

ed note,

There is an old proverb (attributed to Persia)

Erotica is where one takes pleasure in smelling a rose.

Pornography is where one takes pleasure in destroying a rose.

We are planning to present future articles (fiction and non-fiction) in the Journal which present sex in good taste. Erotica, but never porn. As for kooks, I want to make it clear that we have very few active Alliance members now into any type of wild sex. (The few we inherited were simply allowed to let their membership expire.) It is not our policy to encourage any such persons to join the Alliance. Undies, shoes, etc. are erotic to virtually all of us. Women certainly don't wear high heeled sandals because they are comfortable!! I can certainly attest to that personally. There are a few bi's in both Tri-Sig and the Alliance. It is simply not considered polite to "play rustly slip and tell". In those areas, I would say the two groups are virtually identical in policy and membership composition.

Dear Glenda,

...
I have a question, have you tried H2O2 to bleach your beard or forearms? I was wondering if it would make the stubble easier to cover. If so, should one use it before or after shaving? By the way, I find the Atra shaver particularly good, - even better than the Trac II.

I would like to mention that I think a merger with SSS is a step in the right direction. We are a small sub-culture and we are likely to accomplish more if united. I think it important that the organization which results be democratic in nature. If this can be effected, I am all in favor.

Love,

Linda F. 100-KS-66044

Dear Linda,

I have not used H₂O₂, but I know some who have and report good results. I Nair my forearms, hands, and legs and wax my beard, or shave it and use Recover.

Your comments on a resulting organization being democratic have been made by many people and I feel safe in saying it represents a consensus of opinion in the Alliance.

For the October Wash/Balt Alliance meeting, Art A treated the group with steak, drinks and other goodies. The group wishes to express its appreciation and love. Art also has brought many pieces from his exquisite lingerie collection for the group to admire.

Questions and Answers on Electrolysis
by Denise M. Cook

Q. Before you said that it might take up to 200 hours to complete electrolysis. You mean a year or two to see results?

Oh no. You will see results right away, but after an area is pretty free from regrowth, the results are really noticeable. As the hair regrows you will notice it is getting finer. As the hair becomes finer, the follicle is becoming smaller and your face is becoming smoother. No longer is the hair like telephone poles. Gradually your face becomes soft, smooth, and beautiful.

Q Will it help if I am on hormones at the time I am going through electrolysis?

Female hormones do not change the need for electrolysis because you will still have the same amount of hair as before. Hormones, however, seem to make it somewhat easier for the hair to be terminated by electrolysis. Hormones seem to make the hair finer and not so dark and coarse. This helps to make the hair more feminine in look and feel. This change takes place all over the body. I believe hormones and electrolysis go good together.

Q What is that first visit like?

On your first visit take a look at the office. It should be clean and meticulous indicating that good hygiene is practiced. Usually there is good music playing. You will notice a comfortable treatment table with a pillow. You lie down on this before the treatment begins. There is a bright magnifying lamp which is used to see exactly where to insert the needle.

The electrologist will want some information about you such as any medications you are taking or any other information that might affect the treatment. She will also tell you how far to let your beard grow as it shouldn't too long nor too short.

Q Where else besides the face is electrolysis performed?

Many times other areas besides the face are treated. For example, the eye brows, ear lobes, chest especially around the breasts. For those with a nice femme figure who might be wearing bikini bathing suits, there are areas such as the abdomen, arms, hands etc. About any area can be treated except for the mucous membranes.

Q I have heard there is a surgical procedure for hair removal. Is it any good?

I can't say too much about this method. It is performed by a plastic surgeon who lays back the skin and scrapes off the hair follicles. This is an expensive method and its track record hasn't been well established. I understand there can be complications such as the possibility of nerve damage.

- ctd back cover

Dear Glenda,

Recently, I became a member of the International Alliance. By a strange coincidence, my Lane Bryant order arrived the same day as my Journal, so as I am writing this I am wearing a new skirt and blouse. It is interesting how the purchase of a new article of feminine clothing can trigger intense feelings of enjoyment for a TV like myself. Although putting on an older dress is enjoyable, there is extra enjoyment in slipping into a new dress, zipping it up, and wearing it the first time.

I am a heterosexual married transvestite with a wife that is very tolerant and understanding. We frequently spend evenings together with us both dressed as women. She knows how much I enjoy dressing and often helps me with my makeup or polishes my nails. I know I am very fortunate. I enjoy living as a man, but I get an intense pleasure in transforming myself into an imaginary woman. I enjoy seeing women in feminine flowing dresses, make up and high heels. I like to experience the enjoyable feeling they must have and they go about their daily activities enjoying their womanhood. I know women you might call adult "tomboys". They engage in sports and other strenuous activities, but they reserve the right to become feminine when they choose. A woman can wear a gown tonight, Levis tomorrow, and be perfectly "normal". But I cannot wear a business suit during the day and then become "Carol" tonight without violating "normal" male behavior.

Laypersons and even the traditional medical community cannot see the reasons why a man might want to live as a woman or even pretend he is a woman, as TV's do. Many psychiatrists think TV's have a dual personality problem. Most of us would dispute that. When we become women, we are fully aware that we are still male, but in a sense, we are "male actresses", playing the part of a woman, largely for our own entertainment. In addition to trying to look like a woman, we often attempt to think, walk, talk, and behave as a woman. This is often accomplished by thinking to yourself, "I am a woman". The outside observer might mistake this for some kind of mental problem.

If other TV's wish to ask me about my crossdressing, how I got my wife to accept it, how I live with my crossdressing desires, or anything else, please feel free to contact me.

Carol 106-CA-94580

ctnd from P 6

I wanted to mention that there are many fine local groups the International Alliance works very closely with. The Washington/ Baltimore Alliance meets every 2nd Sat. north of Washington and we are happy to supply directions to the meeting place. Linda and I have talked about having a dinner on a Saturday night other than the regular meeting night where the guys would come straight once with their wives. This is a good ice breaker for the wives to realize that their guy is not all that different and we can talk about the subject in a less threatening environment. Please give us your thoughts on that.

I wanted to mention that the Tiffany Club has acquired a house for meetings and social interaction in the Boston area and we encourage anyone in that area to write to Merissa Lynn. This is something that is definitely needed. We also maintain close contact with Paradise in Ohio, Crossroads in Flint, Mich. and with Golden Gate in the bay area. All of these groups we highly recommend as well worth joining. All of these groups have a membership policy similar to that of International Alliance.

The next supplement to the directory will be issued in March. Unlike the Journal, the directory is mailed only to members. Still with a million office copiers in existence, it is impossible to control the directory once it leaves here. Therefore it must be billed as a non- confidential directory. Early on, we devised the system of putting in the directory only exactly what a member sent in as camera ready copy. The system has worked well and we will continue with it. Draw a

square 2" high and 3 3/4" wide (just look in your directory for the size) and put in the square anything you want to say about yourself including, if you wish, your name and address. We will collect these and publish them. We will, of course, continue to forward letters through the Alliance.

As for pictures, we didn't include any in this issue of the Journal because we didn't have enough. Note that any photo you intend to publish in the Journal must have on the back, a) your name and member number and b) a statement "ok to publish". That is the only way we can stay out of trouble. (Color photos we do the best we can with, but black and white come out much better.)

The Alliance is by far and away the most interesting and beautiful group of people I have ever met anywhere. We all are making friends we will share for life. The clothing always will be of importance, but clothes are just pieces of thread. It is the person wearing the clothes that is the thing of real importance. I love you from the bottom of my heart.

Helen Ren Jones

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How to CATCH - contd from 15

the answer may be obvious, but to a newly single once again it is a very important question. To start out, the organized single's community is always a good bet. Once a person has their feet on the ground, it may become unnecessary, but not bad for starters. Churches with a good single's component are excellent. Groups which meet for social interaction abound. Most are very legitimate, a few are "rip offs". Beware of "dating bureaus". You don't need any computer to find women. Other excellent places are special interest groups with a good single's component. As an example, "single backpackers" etc. Single's bars can be very good or very very bad. Exercise due caution.

At first in a relationship there is little to be gained in bringing up anything about cross dressing. There are so many other things which need to be covered first in the process of getting to know one another. The point will come sooner or later when a relationship is sufficiently serious that the fact of your cross dressing must be brought up. One should not put it off after a certain point.

THE LADY SIMPLY MUST BE TOLD.

Yes, we all know of someone who married a gal who didn't know and she turned into a Class A wife after the marriage. More often it ends being spread all over a court room in a divorce proceeding with the concurrent embarrassment. The thing that happens even more often is that it becomes a point that needles the marriage and leads to a life of conflict and tension. It is no fun being married to a woman who is hostile to your cross dressing (the so-called C wife and below).

The question is then, "how should I tell her?" There is no pat answer. One way is to simply be honest and say, "June, our relationship has become more than just a friendship. We seem to be seeing each other more and more often. There is a matter that I think it is time for us to discuss: I am a heterosexual transvestite. From time to time I enjoy dressing in women's clothes and expressing myself in the feminine gender." Another approach is to first let her know that you wear nylon

underpants. This approach has an advantage in that if there is any repercussion, it is minimal. (There is little difference between men's and women's briefs.) If she can't handle you wearing panties, she sure as hell won't be able to handle you wearing a dress. And, then, she may simply come across your clothes and wonder to whom they belong.

We must be honest at this point; she may break off the relationship. It is a heartbreaking moment and can lead to feelings of rejection and a lowered self-esteem. It is a time when one should have other friends and activities to fall back on. An understanding friend in the culture who has been there and can hold your hand over a glass of beer. A time perhaps to treat yourself to a trip, a couple of new albums, or a \$25 Christian Dior slip. Whatever, realize that breaking off a relationship is a thousand times easier than ending a marriage. But that is pessimistic. More often than not she will not fly into a rage, but want information. Here is where your background in the culture will come to your aid. Start with the basics, the difference between sex and gender. Point out that most cross-dressers are entirely heterosexual and normal in every other way. And the most important thing of all: the desire to cross dress is utterly incurable, it persists for life.

A situation can develop that is particularly insidious. A situation I call the "deadly embrace." A deadly embrace is where the woman appears to go along while subtly persuading you to seek a cure. In the psychological literature of the past, many methods have been proposed and supposedly proved to cure the tendency to cross dress. Psychoanalysis even today occasionally gets touted as a cure in spite of decades of experience to the contrary. The other method of cure which pops up from time to time is aversion therapy. Aversion therapy aside from being ineffective is dangerous. It can lead to serious mental illness and sometimes to suicide. Particularly the guy who is lonely, thinks he is in love, and certain that this woman is the exception to the rule that "girls don't like me" is vulnerable. The problem is that a deadly

embrace is long term unstable. Aversion therapy, behavior modification therapy, and even psychoanalysis can be effective in the short term, hence their coverage in the literature. Remission (loss of desire to dress), however, is seldom for more than a few years. If you do get cured, get married to this woman who obviously is not supportive of dressing, what happens when the desire comes back (usually with a vengeance)? Again divorce and all that it entails.

The "cross dressing hurdle" is passed when the lady understands thoroughly the workings of the paraculture. Stated in plain language this means she has seen you en femme countless times and accepts it as everyday. One book that is still is very good, The Transvestite and His Wife, by Dr. Virginia Prince. Another well worth reading is, The Transsexual Phenomenon, by Dr. Harry Benjamin. The best education of all is, of course, an experienced Class A wife. Best in person, but by correspondence if nothing better.

If there are children involved there is no pat answer. Drs. Green and Beatty from NYSU Stony Brook, and Dr. Money from Johns Hopkins have made extensive studies of children of parents who are sexual minorities such as homosexuals or transsexuals. Their results show no inclination on the part of these children to follow their parent's preferences. While Dr. Beatty's study on children of cross-dressers is not yet complete, his preliminary results as well as general experience of the culture would suggest a similar result can be expected. Kids generally think little about seeing their father getting dressed to go out en femme when the subject is handled in a matter of fact way. Kids do prefer for their friends not to know. That would be expected.

This phase of the relationship fortunately need not take up an inordinate amount of time. From there it is on to the really important things, the sharing of feelings, experiences, and life itself. It does take longer for a TV to find a wife or other close relationship than his straight brother. It is probably the best investment of time you will ever make. It takes a feeling of self worth to deal with the rejection. When

ctnd from 12

Crossdressing was common in many other ancient civilizations as well. It was common in the Roman civilization as well. The Roman Emperor Caligula was a TV as was Nero. It is said that the latter watched Rome burn while playing his fiddle in drag. Interestingly, priests in the pre-Christian Roman culture donned femme apparel to perform their religious rights. They were considered the "third kind of human", the notions of sex and differentiation, as we know it, not having been established.

Crossdressing has not been peculiar to only the advanced civilizations of ancient times, but to the primitive as well.

Anthropologists have found transvestism widespread among many primitive peoples. One study found that 49 out of 76 societies studied, accepted transvestism as "normal and socially acceptable for certain members of the community." It was found that this occurs most often when sexual differences were not emphasized in the culture.

Among the Sea Dyak of Southeast Asia, some of the priests dress up as women and like to be treated as women. It seems that if a supernatural command is received three times in a dream to live as a woman the person considers refusal to seek death. In many primitive societies, men who dress as women are considered to have supernatural powers. In other cases men would crossdress when a plague hit the tribe believing that the evil spirits would be more after the men and bypass the weaker women.

Such camouflage of sex was particularly practiced in the case of children. The fact that they were young made them most likely to be attacked. To avert the attack, they were dressed in the other sex's clothes. Since boys would be the chief victims, they were dressed as girls. In some cases ears or noses were pierced as well.

Eastern Cultures

In the orient, themes of transvestic behavior thread the literature of both the Far and the Near East. More than thirty centuries ago, transvestism was recorded in Oriental religious practices. The erotic literature of ancient China and Persia particularly abound with references to TV's. When an Egyptian boy was circumcized at the age of five or six, he paraded the streets dressed as a girl in clothes and jewelry borrowed from a lady. A woman sprinkled salt behind the boy to counteract "the evil eye". The reason is that the Egyptians believed that evil influences are more likely to pass over the sex which, from the male point of view, is the less important.

India has several change of dress customs. One is for a husband to wear his wife's clothes when she is in childbirth to bear part of the pain. Another ritual to enhance fertility is for men dressed as woman to lead an elephant painted white through town. The change of clothes is to pay homage to the cosmic female principle and to feed on the energy of nature.

In Japan the famous Kabuki actors, who take female roles, are raised as girls from a young age to give them a "feeling for their roles." There are two reasons for men to play these roles. First the Japanese claim that only a man has the power hidden by softness which is required for a successful role creation. The second, more practical, is that with many heavy layers of clothing and a wig which may weigh thirty pounds or more, only a man would have the strength to stand up for ten hours or more a day.

Medieval and Modern History

In England crossdressing has been a part of life for some time. One tradition called mumming was where people would don clothing associated with the opposite sex during the yuletide season. Although prohibited during the time of Henry VIII, the custom in various forms persists to this day.

One foundation for the present attitudes in Western society towards crossdressing is the traditional belief that women are inferior to men. St. Thomas Aquinas in the thirteenth century wrote:

Good order would have been wanting in the human family if some were not governed by others wiser than themselves. So by such a kind of subjection woman is naturally subject to man, because in men the direction of reason predominates.

To some degree the Church, if it did not actually encourage female-male transvestism, it was not strongly discouraged. Rarely was it punished. Indeed, there are twelve female saints who were transvestites! There, are, however, no male transvestite saints. In fact, male-female crossdressing has been associated at times with witchcraft. In the case of Joan of Arc, the issue was as much homosexuality as her transvestism.

On the stage, however, this censure of men dressing as women was relaxed as it was considered more improper for women to expose themselves than for men to play women's roles. In Shakespeare's plays The Two Gentlemen of Verona, and As You Like It, parts for girls were played by boys.

This practice was not without its critics. The Puritans censured the stage in general and Shakespeare in particular. They tended to be down on all leisure pursuits. Their thunderings were not strong enough to abolish the stage entirely, but they still considered actors to be bound for Hell fire. Biblical quotes such as cited earlier to show that crossdressing on the stage was an abomination to God.

In France, there were many public transvestites. Henry III insisted on being called "Her Magesty" and liked to wear gowns and jewels at court. Louis XIV also had nice legs and liked to show them off. The brother of the king, Philippe, Duke of Orleans, was a TV a well.

One very famous TV, of course, was the Chevalier d'Eon whose surname is another word for transvestism, "eonism". D'Eon traveled as an ambassador to Russia, and as a diplomat to England. Louis XVI, when he arose felt it wasn't proper to have a permanent fixture TV in the government and thus d'Eon was retired on pension being required to live the rest of his life as a woman.

The Puritan and French revolutions, however, changed the status of crossdressing in both England and France to a ridiculous perversion. Oliver Cromwell made any form of erotic indulgence a criminal act. In France, the Jacobians came down on the nobles who had up to that time been allowed to be pretty. With the dawning of the 19th century, crossdressing went in to the closet.

It cannot be overlooked that in this same pre-revolution period, there were some prominent American TV's. The most famous was Edward Hyde, Lord Cornbury, governor of New York and New Jersey during the reign of Queen Anne. He liked appearing in public in a hoop skirt and fan. In 1702 he stepped off the boat from England wearing a nicely coiffed wig, petticoats and an elegant frock.

Contemporary Western Civilization

In contemporary Western culture, social opinions on transvestism are different for the two sexes. Women have considerable license in the name of "fashion" to wear tailored slacks, short hair etc.

There are two interesting exceptions to the rule that males who wear skirts are "less than real men". One is in the Scottish Highlands. Men there traditionally wear kilts (a skirt by any other name), even into battle. In another instance, on the island of Marken in Holland, boys are dressed as girls, including petticoats and caps, with their hair fixed like girls until they are about seven years old.

On the stage and screen, crossdressing is quite common nowadays. Robert Morley, veteran actor, has recently played a transvestite in the British play, Picture of Innocence. The successful British comedy group, Monty

Python, crossdress frequently. The British are certainly more tolerant of men dressing in women's attire as shown by the large dressing groups there as opposed to America.

Still, here, there is also quite a bit of crossdressing among entertainers. Rock stars such as Mick Jagger, David Bowie, and Alice Cooper are examples. A recent very successful movie, The Rocky Horror Picture Show has as its main character a transvestite equivalent of Dracula.

On TV, of course, are the acts of Milton Berle and Flip Wilson who regularly play roles in "drag". Also there are many clubs around the country which feature female impersonator shows. Finocchio's in San Francisco is probably the best known and regularly plays to a packed house. "The Trocks", a troupe of 10 male dancers dressed as ballerinas, have received many good reviews.

The crossdresser of today certainly does not face the extreme persecution of even twenty years ago when going out in public dressed was almost always an invitation to spending a night in jail. Conventions such as the Fantasia Fair, Shangra La, and similar gatherings are now held regularly with usually little or no problems. More and more the public is becoming aware that crossdressing is not concomitant with homosexuality, the two simply being two completely different things. Many crossdressers regularly travel on airlines or other public transportation with little hassle. Part of this is due certainly to the greater acceptance of alternate lifestyles in general as well as the fame of celebrity transsexuals such as Renee Richards, Wendy Carlos, and Leslie Phillips.

Still the battle is far from won. People still lose their jobs when the fact of their dressing comes to light and many women immediately run to the divorce lawyer when they become aware of their husband's desire to dress. Unfortunately many in the helping professions still believe dressing to be a psychological disorder in spite of mountains of evidence to the contrary and some even believe that transvestites have more problems than transsexuals.

ctnd from p 10

"Oh, I am engineer at Marcos. We are developing a system to do computer graphics. You work at Eastern?"

"I am called an 'administrative assistant', but that is a polite way to say 'secretary who can do some bookkeeping'. We just got this fancy overgrown typewriter with a little plastic wheel. We are tied into a computer. Do you know much about that?"

My shyness began to quickly disappear. She really had a way to set me at ease.

"Like to dance?"

"Love to," she replied.

The evening seem to fly. I took her home and then went home myself, but I couldn't sleep. Was that ever a lady. But surely she wouldn't want me. I was probably just someone to play games with until someone better came along.

We had lunch the next Wednesday. Fortunately my boss wasn't too picky about my comings and goings as long as the programs ran. Then dinner on Friday night. Eventually our conversation turned to dressing.

"You mentioned earlier that Tom and Nancy met in Seattle. How did that come about?"

"Oh, Nancy went up there to help out with Dream." Claire causally replied.

The twinkle in her eye took me back. Dream, of course, was the West Coast version of Fantasia Fair. I knew darn well by now that she knew about me. Finally with my heart in my throat I asked,

"I love to wear women's clothes too. Sometimes I think I should have been a fashion designer instead of an engineer."

She replied, "why don't we go to my place and I will give you some pointers."

She picked out a black satin evening gown.

"Now, let's see. I think this silver necklace will go well. How about you? And we are going to have do something with your figure. A little padding here and there. Oh yes, here is a nice slip with a slit up the side."

I was speechless as she helped me dress. Finally she sat me before the mirror and did a real number on my face. I was a little nervous with the eye makeup, but when she finished the result was stunning. I would not have even recognized myself.

"You look beautiful in that blond wig. Here are some real spike-heeled sandals for you."

That was how it all began. My reverie was broken by a pair of arms about my neck.

"I love you so much Jim. Oh gooddo, coffee. What do you want to wear out in New Orleans today my dear?"



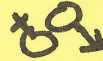
Uniformed ctnd - from P 16

While this situation is true to some extent in all occupations, it is especially so in the military. I hope those of us in the military who like to dress can band together and consolidate our interests to offer encouragement and advise. If we think back, all of us can remember when we could have used a helping hand from an understanding friend!



Q What is a "Depilatron?"

The Depilatron has been referred to the "space age" method of hair removal. With the Depilatron, the hair is treated by sending the electrical current down the hair shaft instead of inserting the needle into the skin. Its after effects are minimal. It does cost more than conventional electrolysis.



How to catch - ctnd from P 33

you find her realize that a class A wife is a gift from heaven itself. She is well worth any effort.



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