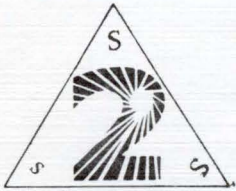
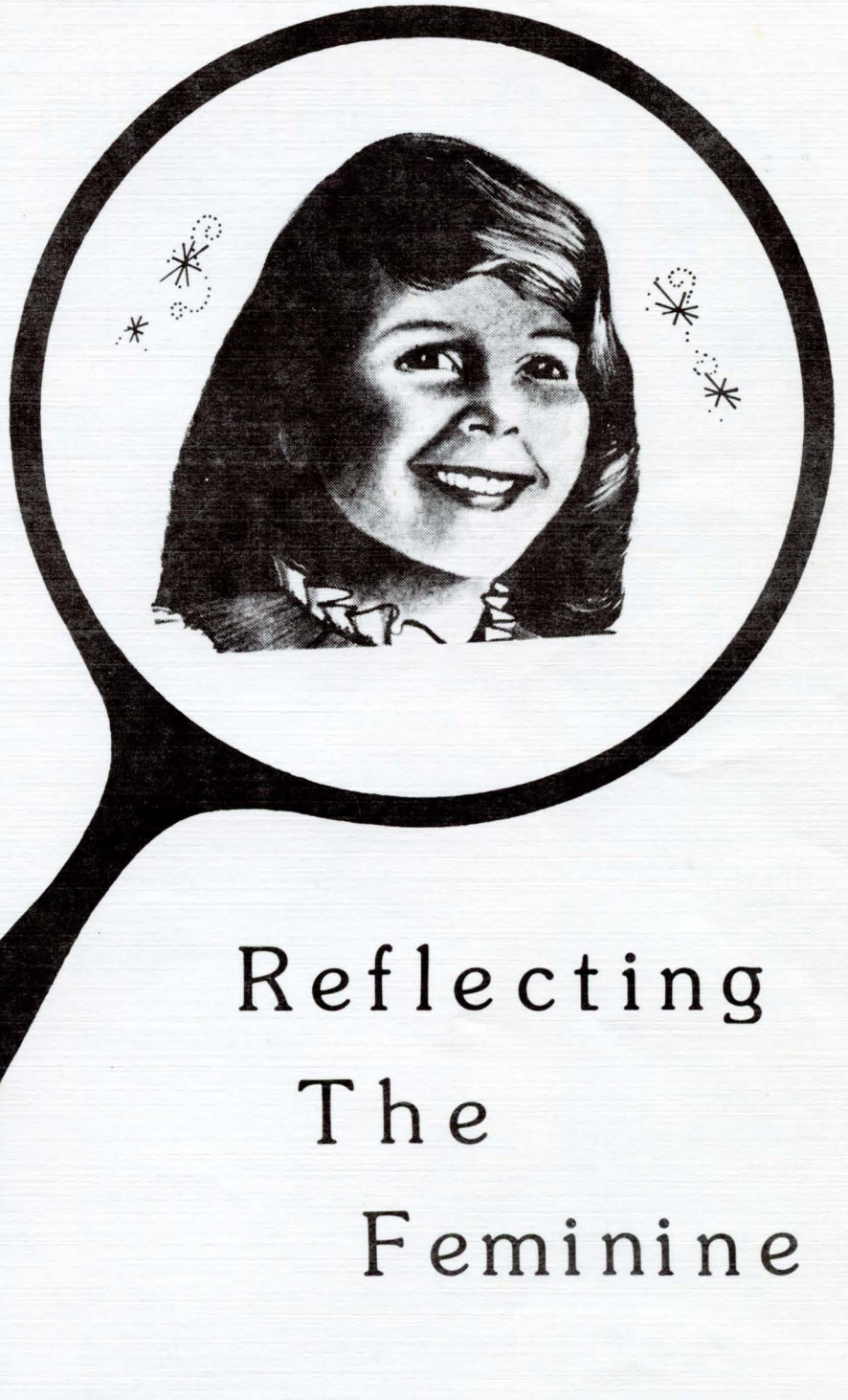


Femme Mirror



Tri-Ess Sorority



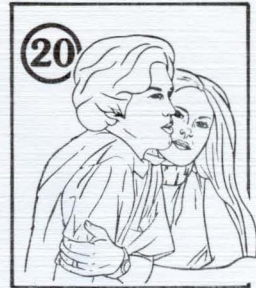
Reflecting
The
Feminine

FEMME MIRROR

VOLUME 6, No.

1981

Reflecting the Feminine



DECEMBER

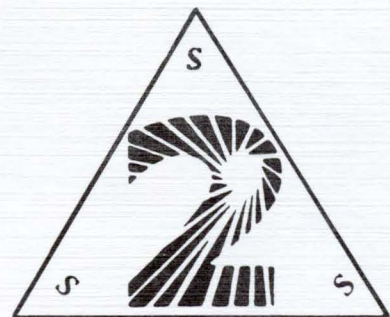
SPEAKING OUT by Carol Beecroft	3
POET'S CORNER	5
SO. AFRICAN GIRL SAYS "THANKS"	6
JENNY CROSSES CANADA EN FEMME	7
IS THIS FOR REAL?	9
HERE AND THERE	10
TEE VEE TIPS	11
HOW TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE	13

GLORIA ANN GOT IT!	14
THE FEMME SHOPPER	15
LOOKING GOOD IN THE DIRECTORY.	16
PEOPLE STILL NEED US!	16
LAURA SAYS, "NO!"	17
TRI-ESS GIRL PUSHES PUBLICITY	19
FOR COUPLES ONLY	20
TRI-ESS ALBUM	21
EDITOR'S MAILBOX	22

EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR: Carol Beecroft

The FEMME MIRROR is published for members of the SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF at P.O. Box 194, Tulare, California 93275

Manuscripts, photographs and letters should be sent to the above address. Submission of letters implies the right of the Editor to edit and publish, although true names and addresses will not be used.



Tri-Ess Sorority.



SPEAKING OUT

Carol Beecroft
EDITOR

I hope that you liked the Directory. It certainly took a lot of time. It also cost a lot of money. The original estimate was \$1800. But the printer did not take into consideration that the Directory, this time, was at least half again as large as the first Directory and that we almost doubled our order. (650 this time). It was a huge project, especially working with the photographs, and the master book he used to compute a cost price on such a run (similar to the manuel that a mechanic uses to compute a job he does on your car) indicated that he should charge over \$6000. Now, Jess, our printer, knows that we do not have that kind of money so he cut corners as well as he could and came up with a final figure of about \$3500. It would have been more if I had not done the paste up work as well as other work to make the material camera-ready (with the exception of the photograph work). However, it is still a lot of money and we are going to make the bill out in payments. Therefore, because of the cost of this Directory, please don't let it sit there - unused.

To save money in the future I have devided a new format wherein I can get 6 girls to a page instead of four. And I am going to send "supplements" out every so often so that you will not have to wait so long to find out who is new in the sorority. If the supplements do not make this edition of the Femme Mirror, I will be sending such "supplements" out with the next Tri-Ess Clarion.

I hope that you liked the Clarion. It is fun to put out but I need material to fill out the pages. So you girls in the chapters should get on the ball and see that I get material about your meetings.

Did I mention that I do the typesetting on both the Femme Mirror and the Directory? Well, I do - with my trusty big IBM Composing Machine. I also did the typesetting on the Directory. Up to now, I have been doing this for nothing. To havesomeone do the typesetting on any of these publications would cost a pretty penny. I have decided that I will charge a token \$125 per issue of the Femme Mirror. That is peanuts, actually. I won't charge anything

for the Clarion or the Di
And to help out the T
I am NOT going to t
\$100 a month that I w
to get for my plane fa
I visit the chapters. So
ahead, actually!! No
bankrupting the treasury.

Let's pat the HO
Chapter on the back fo
perimental job that th
working on. (I should h
Tri-Tex, since that is t
name that they have.)
been on my mind for a lo
for our sisters to donat
dressing books to libr
their vicinity. Well, I st
this to JUDY (TX-209
she took the ball and
it for a touchdown. F
backed her up and th
nated 2 copies each of
standing Crossdressing a
TV And His Wife to a
nearby. Since I own C
Publications, I sold th
to them at a 50% d
The books have now be
to the library and we no
to see what happens.
not some of you other
the various chapters try
same thing. You need
to the library, asking

THE TEA PARTY
Beverly, Quebec, Canada

**POET'S
CORNER**



I am having the girls
in for dinner today
the shortbreads and napkins
have to look so gay.

I've been dressing for hours
in nylon and lace
Now to slip on rose and organdy
and put on my face.

They're all at the door, now
in chunky fur wraps
High heels, short skirts
and silver-lamme slacks.

They all tumble in
laughing and talking
nail polish flashing
and mincing when walking

Audrey says she got
the invitation last night
and Dawn always complains
that her girdle's too tight.

We kiss and shake hands
then sit in the nook
and start telling each other
how lovely we look.

Diana is divine, wearing
chiffon, cut low
Jan said, "she's look darling
if only her beard didn't show!"

Some one mentions
about June (Who'se not there)
that the back of her thighs
are covered with hair.

We sit around, talking
and showing our legs
nibbling on pastry
tuna and eggs.

Dianna thinks that I
shouldn't wear Rose
she says that it accents
my slightly large nose!

Dawn lifted her skirts
to show the new panty
It was quite new
belonged to her Aunty.

Shirley said she thought
Women's lib was flawless
but she wouldn't join
she'd have to go braless!

The girls all started
to put on their clothes
pull up their stockings
and powder their nose

Betty said she didn't care to
go out dressed in the street
so she went into the bathroom
and turned into Pete.

They all tumbled out
into the dark night
Dawn, waving her hand
said, "my girdle's too tight."

THE TEA PARTY
Beverly, Quebec, Canada

**POET'S
CORNER**



I am having the girls
in for dinner today
the shortbreads and napkins
have to look so gay.

I've been dressing for hours
in nylon and lace
Now to slip on rose and organdy
and put on my face.

They're all at the door, now
in chunky fur wraps
High heels, short skirts
and silver-lamme slacks.

They all tumble in
laughing and talking
nail polish flashing
and mincing when walking

Audrey says she got
the invitation last night
and Dawn always complains
that her girdle's too tight.

We kiss and shake hands
then sit in the nook
and start telling each other
how lovely we look.

Diana is divine, wearing
chiffon, cut low
Jan said, "she's look darling
if only her beard didn't show!"

Some one mentions
about June (Who'se not there)
that the back of her thighs
are covered with hair.

We sit around, talking
and showing our legs
nibbling on pastry
tuna and eggs.

Dianna thinks that I
shouldn't wear Rose
she says that it accents
my slightly large nose!

Dawn lifted her skirts
to show the new panty
It was quite new
belonged to her Aunty.

Shirley said she thought
Women's lib was flawless
but she wouldn't join
she'd have to go braless!

The girls all started
to put on their clothes
pull up their stockings
and powder their nose

Betty said she didn't care to
go out dressed in the street
so she went into the bathroom
and turned into Pete.

They all tumbled out
into the dark night
Dawn, waving her hand
said, "my girdle's too tight."

So. African Girl Says "Thanks"

While I am not a member of Tri-Ess I would like to take the opportunity to express my gratitude for the assistance you have rendered me, unknowingly.

I used to be what you may call a "secret Dresser," storing my clothes and wig in the office, in a suitcase and a camouflaged wigbox. Whenever I went on business trips I dressed at the hotel where I was staying for an evening. At various times I have tried to raise the subject with my wife but have always encountered resistance. I believe that the main problem lay with some problems of my wife. But, surprisingly, when I finally got my wife to talk about the subject of crossdressing, her problems seem to have vanished as well as her resistance to my crossdressing.

Our life, after six years of marriage and two children, is like a honeymoon.

I want to tell you how the whole thing came about. It seems that the wife went on a holiday with a girl friend down southcoast, so, of course, I took the opportunity to dress in the evenings as soon as the children were in bed. One evening (I will never forget it), I had a member of the sorority visiting me and we had a lovely evening. Before leaving, my "sister" gave me Virginia's book to read - *The Tv And His Wife*.

After finishing with it I forgot to take it to the office for hiding and it remained in the bedside table. The wife came back and settled into her routine

again. A few days later, after we had finished our evening supper and she was lounging in a nice soft chair, she got up and came over to my chair and sat at my feet.

She told me that she had found Virginia's book and read most of it. Then, with tears streaming down her face, she asked that I tell her about it.

What could I do but tell her about the basics as I understood them. When I was finished, she suddenly got up and sat on my lap and embraced me, crying her heart out, and, repeating over and over how bad she felt for not understanding me.

After she calmed down, she confessed that she had the common attitude that all crossdressers are homosexual, but she did not think I was because she knew me so well.

Virginia's book had opened her eyes and now a lot of things made sense to her -- my more than usual consideration for her female problems -- my good taste in ladie's fashions -- and in cosmetics.

Having told her the basics, I intended to elaborate more on the subject in order to give her a chance to digest things properly. A few days later she found my spongebag with cosmetics in the "boot" of the car, where I had hidden them after returning a short time before, from up country. She did not tell me this and after supper I went to a business meeting. When I returned, well after midnight, I located a letter under the pillow. I hastily sneaked into the bathroom and read it. In it, she poured her heart out to me, saying that she had put all the pieces of the puzzle together and now understand that crossdressing was a harmless thing. She indicated that she had

found my cosmetic bag. She asked in the letter if I had told her everything?

After reading the letter at least five times, I went to bed but couldn't sleep. I just laid there, with my eyes open and suddenly turned towards my wife and saw her observing me - wide awake. She crept over to me and we started talking again about my crossdressing. We talked for something like three hours and finally went to sleep in each others arms.

The next day I left the office early and lugged all my secret clothing and the wig to my home. My wife was quite enthusiastic about my shoulder-length, blonde wig and with a twinkle in her eyes, she tried it on. She sorted through my dresses, underwear and stockings and put aside those things which needed mending and washing. She even did all of this right away. On top of all this marvelous activity on my behalf, she allocated some room in our wardrobe for my clothes.

That evening she saw me dressed in my clothes for the first time. She complicated me on my good taste and figure and we spent the remainder of the evening on the verander.

All this was 14 days ago and now my wife's female problems have disappeared. She says that she is completely relaxed for the first time in six years.

We still have lots to tell each other about crossdressing, but she is adjusting extremely well. The other day, I heard her yelling from the dressing room, "Darling, can I use your eyeliner?" Talk about a happy feeling that crept over me. It should not be long before we can go out together as two girl friends and I look forward to the occasion. But I'm a very happy person. D.O.



Jenny Crosses Canada En Femme

Jenny (FCO-5-G) jumps into her car and without hesitation, goes her girlish way over 2500 miles of highways without a second thought. Neither policemen, nor fresh drivers, were to take away any of the joy that our Jenny experienced in her most interesting journey!

In the spring of 1980, my mother moved to Victoria, British Columbia from a small town in eastern Ontario. While she wanted to keep her car, which she loved, she couldn't face the 2500 mile trip herself. So she offered an expense paid trip to me which I accepted with alacrity. Unfortunately, school was in session at that time of the year, my wife and children were not free to travel and I would have to make the trip alone. Naturally, therefore, I made immediate plans to take "Jenny" along - in my place.

It's funny, but it seems that after a certain period in the closet, I'm shy about coming out, so I did not dress en femme until I had stopped for the first night in a motel (well-dressed ladies traveling alone don't camp in pup-tents - it wrinkles the clothes as well as the hair-do). However, from there on, it was JENNY all the way!

The first problem occurred when I had to take back an alarm clock I had bought the night before at K-Mart in Sud-

bury. This was in Sault Sainte Marie at another K-Mart store. It was the end of a busy day, for me and the girl at the Courtesy Desk, so when the lady security guard started questioning her as to whether I was a man or not, the Courtesy girl snapped back a sharp "I don't know!" - clearly indicating that she didn't care. After getting permission to take another clock (which I tested before leaving), I just left as anyone tired from a day on the road would do.

Problem two was being red-lighted and stopped by the Ontario Provincial Police for speeding. He nailed me fair and square for doing 135 clicks (kilometers per hour; we're metric here, now) in a 90 zone. That's about 80 miles per hour in a 50 zone. You had to be there to appreciate the look of confusion on his face as I tried to explain that I was Dennis and that Margaret (the name on the ownership) was my mother. I'm sure that he thought I'd come away with my husband's driver's license. In any case, since only

the speed law was broken, the ticket was the only consequence. To wit, \$40.00 and three demerit points, enough to earn me a nasty letter from the Ministry of Transport.

During this part of the journey, I stopped at a small truck stop to go to the powder room and also to have a cup of coffee, in that order. As it wasn't busy, the wife-half of the husband-and-wife team, that operated the place, was just sitting, watching television and knitting. At first, when I tried to strike up a conversation, she seemed a little hostile, but as I persisted in chatting about the curling bonspiel on the television, she soon thawed and we had a nice little Kaffee Klatsch -- just the two of us.

I seemed to pass all right, eating in restaurants, some quite crowded, some not, taking rooms in motels, and refueling, with no problems. Once in the Saskatchewan prairies, two young men in their late teens, dressed in neat, conservative blue suits and driving a neat pickup truck,

clearly went out of their way to get a second look, as I sat at the gas pumps. And in British Columbia, a pharmacist insisted on waiting on me personally when all I wanted was a nail file. I was flattered by the attention until he ended with a "thank you, Sir." Those two incidents taught me not to hurry my make-up job and to test it in the daylight.

But in Winnipeg, I dropped into the Bay (The Hudson's Bay Company is still a fur-trading empire in the north, but in the cities it's a chain of large department stores) to check out a sale and found the most adorable outfit consisting of a full, permanent-pleated skirt (I'm a sucker for either pleats or full skirts - to have both is heaven) with a matching pullover, in mauve, one of my favorite colors. When I realized that it was only a size 16, but at a price that I couldn't resist, I asked the sales clerk if I could try it on (to give her a chance to say no). As it was fairly busy, she didn't even look up, but said, "Take it into the fitting rooms back there, Madam." So I did, and it fit like a dream! So I bought it! And no one batted an eyelash out the entire incident. Later in Vancouver, I bought a lovely turquoise, pleated skirt in a shop specializing in tall sizes. I tried it on and paid for it with a charge card. It had my real name, but my femme signature, and after verifying with the charge card company that everything was all right, the manager bagged my purchase and thanked me very much. I also used my charge card to obtain additional traveller's cheques in Brooks, Alberta, without any difficulty.

This was my first trip by way of the Rockies, though I'd

been as far as Alberta many times in the past. How beautiful they are! How sad that I'm not a poetress to express their loveliness. I just couldn't bear to drive through, so I stopped for the night in Golden, British Columbia. The room had windows on both front and rear, so there was always a spectacular view. Fortunately, it was the off-season and half-price or I could never have afforded this room which was gorgeous in its appointments as well.

About 150 miles out from Vancouver, I stopped to pick up a young Indian girl who was hitch-hiking into Vancouver from her reservation. I was a little hungry for company by then, and she seemed safe enough to travel with. It turned out nicely. We had a nice chat, stopped for lunch together, even exchanged spritzes of each cologne.

After dropping her off, I drove around Vancouver to familiarize myself with its general layout. Nine O'clock in the evening, closing time for stores, found me just finishing the exploration of a large shopping center in North Vancouver. As I got off the escalator, in the parking garage, a little fellow, not more than 5'6" (I'm 6'1") asked me to go with him for a drink. He was quite persistent, though I refused him politely three times and kept walking towards my car. There was no real problem; I was not at all afraid. In fact, I was more amused: what a Mutt and Jeff couple we would have made if things were different and I had gone with him.

By the time I got checked into the motel, it was late and I was very tired, so I decided to drop into the bar for a nightcap. Midweek, things

were slow, and the only real activity was a foursome of women apparently closing off a out together. They didn't seem to pay me any attention but as I left the bar and walked towards my room, I heard a scuffling behind me and looked around to see that one of the women had followed me and was giggling. As I turned, she dashed off back into the bar. The interesting thought crossed my mind to go back and sit down with them to see if they really wanted their curiosity satisfied, but I frankly was so tired that I did not give a darn at that point.

Next afternoon (I slept until noon) found me exploring central Vancouver and shopping. After supper, the evening began to chill and I hadn't brought a wrap into town from the motel. But I remembered a lovely white woven shawl with black lines through it that I had seen earlier and decided not to buy because the budget had long ago gone out the window.

So I hurried back to the store and found that they had changed the display and my shawl was gone! The sales clerks were very kind as they tried to find where it had been stored away. After a few they located it and the purchase was made. It was an interesting experience as I had not been insistent or assertive, but had merely expressed to them my strong attraction to THAT wrap, and they seemed pleased to cooperate (They: I had THREE of them looking for about five minutes!).

I had discovered that a local traditional jazz club had their meeting that night not far from my motel, but when I arrived, I was a little disconcerted to find out that it was a dance. However, it turned out to be crowded, but in distinct

lost in the music and enjoying myself, when a man, young enough to be my son, appeared at my elbow and asked if I liked the band. He so startled me that before I could adjust, my "brother's" voice answered, "yes." I don't think that I

crowd faster than did he. In spite of the late start, it had been a heavy day for me so I left about 11:00 p.m. and returned to the motel.

In the morning, I let my "brother" out of the suitcase, while I climbed back in. "He"

drove down to the bus station and put me UNDER the bus back to Ottawa, while HE got to FLY back after crossing to Victoria, delivering the car and visiting with mother (who doesn't know she had TWO daughters) for a day.

Is This For Real?

Barbara Ann Writes Like It Is!
How Could Anyone BE So lucky?!

I was born to old-fashioned parents -- they had what people today would call "odd" ways of bringing up children.

My folks were both about 40 years of age when I was born. As was the custom in those days, I, as a baby, wore long dresses. When I became a year old, I was then put into short dresses. But instead of eventually getting me into boys clothing, I was continually wearing girl's clothing. At least up to the time for me to go to school.. This happened to be age 7 because as my birthday came in May and all children started school at seven.

During the summer before school started, my Dad wanted me to be more of a boy so he and Mom tried to get me into pants. But as for me, I didn't want any of it!

But just before starting out for school, we had to move because the owner of the farm, for whom my father worked, passed away and the farm was sold. Off we went to my grandmother's home and I still

persisted in wearing dresses. My grandmother didn't mind it either. I actually started school, wearing dresses. My mother took me to school to register me and I was introduced to the principal as a boy. My appearance said otherwise. The principal was somewhat taken back by all this, but soon took me to my room and informed the teacher that she had a new student.

No one seemed to mind and after a few days teasing by some of the children, I was accepted by all.

I went to school for about three years and then my father got employment in another town. So off we went again.

Again I was forced to wear pants (how I hated them) and started in another school. I dressed as a boy in school, but at home I would often wear my dresses. My father's job did not work out well so we returned to my grandmother's home.

But this was not for me. I had an aunt who was older

than my mother and as I was then 12 years old, I went to stay with her. She knew all about my liking dresses and approved. She had had a daughter who had died at the age of 13. So my aunt easily got me back into dresses again. There were a lot of little girl's clothes around and she gave them to me. I went to still another school and wore dresses all the time. At age 17 I graduated in a beautiful pink and blue dress.

I worked after graduation as a clerk in a dept store so I had plenty of access to all kinds of beautiful clothing.

I soon met a girl and I fell for her - hard! I had to go back to wearing boy's clothes and we were later married.

I've dressed as a young girl, teenager and women all my life and I love it. My wife buys many things for me - so we get along nicely. I expect to go on dressing like this for the remainder of my life. We own a home in a small village and the neighbors don't seem to mind my gardening, mowing the lawn, etc., in a dress or shorts. When I worked in a shop, I did dress in men's clothing but since we know so many of the town's people, no problem has arisen. I actually do not know what people think but no one has actually said anything negatively about my clothing. Barbara Anne (Sinclairville, N.Y.)

HERE AND THERE

Well, here we go again! Mary Ann (IL-203-B) tells us that she would like to start a shoe-exchange club for Tri-Ess sisters who have size 11 narrow and larger ONLY. She says that she will call it Mary Ann's Shoe Exchange. So, you gals out there who qualify, please drop a note to Mary Ann. You might be pleasantly surprised.

Got a letter from Vicki (ID-200-W) in which she inquires how often our sisters get dressed up. Might be interesting to know about. Drop Vicki a note via the forwarding service.

A robbery defendant was awarded a new trial because he was not allowed to try on a pair of women's shoes in court. Golly! How far will these crossdressers go to do their thing? Anyway, the defendant was convicted of a robbery of a Des Moines grocery store. Witnesses said that the robber wore female attire, including high-heel shoes that were left behind when a security office gave chase. As part of his defense, the defendant wanted to demonstrate to the jury the fit of the shoes without giving any other testimony. Hope it wasn't one of our sisters there in Iowa!

Jaye (TX-202-R) informs us that there is a Crisis Help Line which receives a number of calls from crossdressers. Usually, such persons are automatically referred to medical people who specialize in problems of homosexuality. She said that the Help Line was totally unaware of the general nature of crossdressing as well as the non-

sexual aspect. She says that they are totally ignorant of what the American Psychiatric Association has to say about crossdressing. Neither did the Help Line know about Tri-Ess. So Jayne decided to take care of this situation and provided them with some information which with information that they could pass on to their callers. She also referred them to Virginia's books Understanding Crossdressing and The Tv And His Wife. And, lastly she volunteered to journey to the Help Line and give the staff a day's in-service training on the subject of crossdressing. What a girl!!

Enid, (NV-10-S) writes that she has for sale: One pair taupe, dress pumps with a 2 inch heel; one pair black zipper rain boots. Both are size 11-M. Nearly new. I take it back - she'll GIVE them to you - no charge.

Every once in a while some generous sister will write and ask what she can do to help the sorority. In this case, it was Eileen (OH-205-P) and she is now bust writing to our sisters who are in the service. Thanks, Eileen for a noteworthy contribution to your sisters in the service of their country.

A reader recently wrote to a columnist about using her wife's face cream that included hormones. She was interested in knowing if the hormones would hurt her. The columnist replied that the amount of hormones in the face cream was small and that even a smaller amount is actually absorbed into the skin and then

to the bloodstream. She said that normal use shouldn't hurt.

Don't forget to seriously consider the brochure you recently received concerning the Holiday En Femme in New Orleans. It is going to be a great occasion and we urge you to try to make the event.

Mention was made earlier concerning sisters who are doing special things for their sisters. It is noteworthy to also mention that the following sisters are working hard on special projects: JERI (WY-1-G) is working on a dating service; Judy Daniels (TX-209-L) is developing something for Leadership Seminars; Gloria Ann (Serv-106-W) is working on the auxiliary for couples (as reported elsewhere in the Mirror); Ruthann (WI-14-L) is developing a program for publicity of the sorority (and also reported elsewhere in the Femme Mirror); and finally, Susan (CA-88-T) is developing material for a Speakers Bureau. ALL of these sisters are to be commended for their interest in helping others and for the sacrifice of their time needed to develop a successful project. If you would like to help any of these sisters, please contact them via the forwarding service.

Enid (NV-10-S) says that she has ordered glasses from the National Eyeglass Service at 2340 North Shore Dr in Delaven, Wisc 53115 and has been very pleased with the results. Don't forget Regal Opticians at 2026 West 6th St in Los Angeles. They are very understanding and give good service.



TEE VEE TIPS

How To Build A Basic Wardrobe

WHAT TO WEAR WHEN!

A friend once confessed that she gets terrible nervous butterflies in her stomach every time she goes to a party. "When I was thirteen," she said, "I was invited to my first 'grown-up' party. I spent hours bathing, washing my hair, and putting on my first pink blush of lip color, and finally stepping into the white party dress my mother bought for me. I could hardly wait to get to the party, but once there, I was horrified. There I stood, in my short white dress with shiny white patent shoes, looking out at a room full of other girls ALL in long 'sophisticated' dresses."

Many women have at least one similar memory that years later makes us cringe with embarrassment. That memory is so profound it often impells us "to look like everyone at the party" for the rest of our lives. The ideas in this issue are not meant to tell you precisely what to wear when or to give you the impression that there is only one right choice. They ARE intended to give you some reliable clothes options which will work in many different situations and leave you feeling relaxed and ready to get on with the business at hand.

Everytime you step outside your door, you've made a decision about what you're wearing. Often this is an important decision because the success of your plans may be crucially affected by it.

DEVELOPING AN EYE

Learning to be a good observer is crucial to making successful clothes choices. You observe what people consider appropriate dress in various situations. Again, appropriate is the all-important word; it's not a question of right or wrong. You can save yourself much embarrassment and anxiety if you become a good observer, storing away facts about what you observe so that you can use them later.

For example, when you go to the theater or a concert on a weekday evening, you might notice that most women are dressed casually in skirts and blouses or casual dresses. There are only a few wearing long skirts or dressy cocktail dresses. From your observations you can conclude that you will be appropriately dressed if you pick casual clothes for this kind of an event any time in the future. You may observe that on a Saturday evening you see many more long skirts and really dressy looks. Some people call this kind of observation "people watching" and it can be useful as well as amusing.

USEFUL CLOTHES CHOICES

The best clothes choices are versatile enough to go many places. Below, we give you some good choices for a few of the most common social situations.

RESTAURANTS: If you are lunching at a good restaurant in a city environment, any kind of wrap jersey dress, a shirt-waist dress, a suit, a silky shirt and skirt, a blazer, shirt, and skirt will do beautifully. A well-put-together skirt and sweater look will also work. If you go this casually, wear a handsome silk scarf and a piece of jewelry to "dress up" your sweater look. A pair of well-cut pants and a silky shirt could also work.

If your restaurant time is for dinner, most of the lunch options will still work, but you need to pick slightly dressier versions of these looks. The shirt should be a soft blouse of some kind, the wrap dress might be in a dressier fabric, say a silky knit. You might wear a velvet blazer rather than a wool one. A satin blazer and a skirt or dressy tapered-leg pants would be a nice look for a dressy dinner.

LITTLE OCCASIONS: If the occasion is a movie and a bite to eat, you can consider it pretty casual and pick a shirt and a skirt or pants, a dress and blazer, maybe a corduroy blazer, or a sweater and skirt. Any of these put-togethers would also work for a casual dinner in an informal restaurant, a lecture or a drive in the country.

BIG OCCASIONS: This really depends on where you are going but this is an opportunity for you to impress people. Under-

stated but elegant is a good look to aim for. If the occasion is formal, a dinner party or a cocktail party, consider a midcalf or angle-length slip dress, one with a camisole or slip top and shoestring straps, or a very dressy blouse and an ankle-length skirt. Subtle details such as a deep slit in a skirt can be construed

as dressy, yet keep you from looking overdressed in situations where you're not quite sure how dressed up you're expected to be. A few dressy accessories like a pair of glittery earrings or bracelets can do the same job.

EVENTS: This can be anything from a chapter meeting

to a window shopping tour. Dressing conservatively is the wisest choice. A suit, a blazer jacket, skirt, and shirt, a jersey dress would all be good choices. Add some polish with a good looking scarf or the subtle gleam of a piece of gold jewelry, but don't overdo it.



The above pictures of one model wearing different clothes was presented to a variety of experts, who were asked to comment on the "image" factor. The overwhelming winner was the first (left), a conservative, definitely feminine look. The runner up (center) presented a very soft, feminine look. The last (right) was a perfectly good look but somehow unfinished. What seemed to be missing was a jacket.



HOW TO GAIN ACCEPTANCE

JULIA MATHESON British Columbia, Canada

Reading the true accounts and letters to Carol in the *Femme Mirror* and *Transvestia*, I have been struck again and again by the understandable difficulties that we encounter having our cross-dressing being accepted by our wives or girlfriends.

I feel very sympathetic towards the great number of my sisters whom I read of, having to dress in secret or with only grudging permission, rather than with approval and active help in appearing more believable woman.

Because I have achieved some success in being accepted by my lady friends, I would presume to make some observations and suggestions to my less fortunate sisters.

I realize that I have been very lucky, partly because I am divorced and over 50, but, nevertheless, over the last seven years I have had four lady friends who not merely tolerated my crossdressing, but actively encouraged it. How was I so lucky? None of the women in question were so desperate for male companionship as to accept my crossdressing as a price to pay for having a man around.

The following conclusions are the result of discussions with my present lady friend as well

as a chance remark by my grown-up daughter who knows nothing of my crossdressing.

It was my daughter, who, when I was musing about why I had so many more women friends than men friends, said, "That's easy, Dad, you like to talk!" This set me thinking about how many male activities like fishing, hunting and sports, have very little conversation about them. I might add that my lady friend says that I like to listen as well. Anyway, it appears that one of the attributes for acceptance is that of being a reasonable conversationalist.

It next occurred to me that I am very interested in the visual and performing arts, and am presently engaged (along with my lady friend), in forming a group of people to attend live theater performances.

Sure enough, over half of the group is turning out to be women. If you go to any live stage performance, especially classical music, opera and ballet, just look around you at the sexual composition of the audience.

I do not think that men avoid the arts because they think it is sissy — it's just as a general rule that fewer men than women have what J.K. Galbraith called the aesthetic

response. Interestingly enough, a high proportion of artistic men seem to have been highly sexed. It seems that there is a connection between having women accept one's crossdressing and sharing some of the interests of the majority of women.

Obviously you can't chatter and fake an interest that is false, which would be dishonest and false as well as being certain to be found out, but it wouldn't hurt to keep these interests in mind and cultivate them when possible.

I strongly suspect that cross-dressers tend to be sensitive people. The fact of being attracted to the more delicate world of feminine clothes would seem to bear this out. Just listen attentively to what women think about such things as clothing, art and music and children. There is no need to reinforce your male self in her eyes by whooping it up at football matches.



However, it was my present lady friend who supplied the main reason for my empathy with women, when she said that any male who wants to relate well with women, must show some UNDERSTANDING of and sympathy with the frustrations of the average women in her feminine world.

Consider, for instance, the stressful situation of a mother of small children, with virtually no time to call her own, and often receiving limited understanding of her stresses by her husband.

To quote my lady friend, "How the heck do you have time to fix your make-up and be glammers when your husband comes home, when the smallest of the three children has just thrown

up on the carpet?"

Such understanding of the world of a woman is something I have not before seen discussed with the exception of an editorial by Carol in the Femme Mirror.

I wonder how many of we who crossdress have heard a woman saying that the whole crossdressing experience is a ridiculously idealistic view of being a woman. She might say, in effect, that , "it's all very well for you people to luxuriate in the delicacy and the fine clothes, but you will never come to grips with the reality of menstruation, child-bearing and the gamut of male chauvinism. You will not HAVE to do the housework and accept the submissive position in the household and job-

market, on a continually day-to-day basis.

My lady friend and other former lady friends who have accepted me are all in their mid-forties and by now are pretty sure of themselves as people and females so their ideas and present position of being understanding of crossdressing cannot be said to be those of immature people. However, if these same people had been confronted with my crossdressing some fifteen years ago I wonder if they could have psychologically afforded to be so generous.

Look to a fuller understanding of both positive and negative aspects of a womens world and then you may have a fuller and more satisfying feeling from your crossdressing.



GLORIA ANN

GOT IT !

The accompanying picture of Gloria Ann (Serv-106-W) and her daughter, Dawn, represent to Gloria Ann, one of the greatest

moments in her life. The only other that tops it is when her wife accepted her crossdressing.

It all started before Halloween. Gloria Ann and her wife had told the girls that they were going to a party dressed as women. The two daughters are ages nine and ten and a half. The girls really took it in stride and made sure that Gloria Ann walked correctly and acted nicely as a woman.

During this time of involving the children, Gloria Ann and her wife asked them if it was a bother to them that their daddy dressed in women's clothing. The children apparently did not mind at all and asked if Gloria Ann would keep on dressing after Halloween.

Their request might have been because their daddy didn't get so grumpy when they were noisy and the children really acted quieter when Gloria Ann was around. Since that time, the girls have asked their daddy to

dress on several occasions. All are agreed that such things are a family secret.

Gloria Ann says that she is quite excited about the whole thing. Now she doesn't have to sneak around or worry about the children waking up and discovering her. This whole situation takes a lot of pressure off of Gloria Ann, needless to say.

The whole subject is treated as something not to be ashamed of. Gloria Ann even explained to the children that most men were afraid that people would not understand this side of their personalities. Gloria Ann assured the girls that she loved them and wanted to share her whole-self with them. She says that the whole situation took full acceptance from her wife in order for Gloria Ann to carry it off.

Gloria Ann and her family are away in the service at this time, but they both want to help the sorority grow when they return home.

The femme shopper



Depilatron Center of Sandy Springs
6600 Roswell Rd, Atlanta, Ga 30328

They specialize in painless hair removal. Contact Betty Roulston at 404-252-6803

They have experience with crossdressers;

Shear Delight
350 Boston Post Rd (Rt 1), Orange, Ct. 06477

They feature hairdressing, facials, manicures and waxing. Contact Georgeanna at 203-795-

Sorry but after-hours appts can not be made.

Ann's Cameo Shop
13455 Olive St Rd, Chesterfield, Mo
878-4144

They feature lingerie and custom fitted bras. They evidently also feature mastectomy inserts. Call before you come.

Big and Beautiful
Greece Towne Mall - 2211 Ridge Rd West
Rochester, N.Y. 14626 716-227-0929
Ramona (IL-223-S) says she has purchased shoes there and the sales girls are wonderful!!! You might contact Joan for help. They make suggestions on look, fit and encourage you to try the shoes on.

Lee Rona Beauty Supply
4403 W. Pt. Loma Blvd
San Diego 714-222-4180 Contact Lee Rona

Distinctive Hair and Skin care products. Also does facials and makeup;

Four Seasons Hair Design
5725 Buford Why Suite 115, Doraville, Ga 30090

They feature hair designs, hair removal, facials, manicures, etc.

Contact Jean Smith at 404-455-3500
They have worked with crossdressers.

The Hidden Honey
605 N. Ballas Rd, Creve Coeur, Mo 63141

They feature wig for sale and the restyling of your wig. They also sell hats, jewelry, purses and blouses. Call 872-8150
Ask for Marilyn, Jenny or Donna

Alice A. Baker, Inc
334 Central Ave, Albany, N.Y. 12206
518-462-5678

Alice is a professional electrologist. She promises discretion. Very sympathetic to crossdressers. Lots of experience with men.

People Still Need Us!



Mid-West Sister Regrets Leaving Tri-Ess! Wants To Come Back!

Carol, I want to come back! I miss you all. Remember, I wrote to you several months ago and asked that you cancel my Tri-Ess membership because I had to do some thinking about my life?

Well, my life is still not together but I know now that I need the friendship and love from my Tri-Ess sisters.

I haven't dressed since that letter, two months ago, and it has been a miserable hell for me. I've done nothing but think about my desire to express my feminine part of my personality.

I do so much want to rejoin the sorority. Even though I only attended a few of the meetings, they were the most exciting and wonderful times of my life. I had the chance to be MYSELF and to share with the other sisters the love that I felt as a woman. That love has been out of my life these past two months and I just must get it back.

My problems that I had were not in any way related to my femme self. Sometimes, I wish that they were because maybe it would be better. No, the problem I have is a bad marriage and it is just not improving. Neither one of

us will mention the idea of a divorce because I honestly believe that we love each other. But it is not the same kind of love that we earlier had.

The biggest problem is the constant bickering and my wife finding fault with everything that I do. The only escape that I had was in my femme self. And I feel even now that it is important to me to be able to become that side of my personality if I want to keep my sanity.

Please don't misunderstand, Carol, because my love for the feminine in me has always been a part of me and it is not just an excuse for me to escape my problems. I always will have this wonderful part inside of me that cries out to be feminine.

I am probably happier at this time than I could ever hope to be. And this is why I am writing to you now. I desperately need to express myself as only I can - as a woman.

Please, may I be reinstated in Tri-Ess sorority? I want to be able to meet my other lovely sisters and be part of that life that we all need so badly - the recognition of our feminine side. (Anonymous from Illinois)

LOOKING GOOD IN THE DIRECTORY

South Dakota Girl Gives Expert Help On How To Get Good Pictures For Directory/Femme Mirror

Christiana (SD-200-V)

There has been a very great need for information, developed in an organized way, that would help our Tri-Ess sisters to take better photos of other sisters as well as better pictures of themselves for the Directory and Femme Mirror.

Fortunately, Christiana (SD-200-V) has submitted a manuscript devoted to helping our sisters to produce better quality pictures. Your Editor hopes that many of our sisters will learn much from her techniques and that the sorority will be richer through better photos being sent to the national office for printing in our national magazine.

"Here are a few suggestions on how to get a better personal sketch in the Directory or in the Femme Mirror:

1. Get your hands on the best camera available. Nearly any 35mm camera will produce a better picture than the best 126 or 110.

2. Since the Directory is in black-and-white, use black and white film. Kodak Plus X and Ilford FP4 are two excellent choices in 35mm or 120. Verichrome Pan is for you if you need 110, 126, or 620 (also in 120).

3. Because of the small size of the pictures (about 2¼ by 2¼) in the Directory, the use of a full length pose is rather impractical. Get a little closer to the camera and show your figure from the waist up. Save the full lengths for trading or for inclusion in the Femme Mirror, where they can be larger and will therefore show more detail.

4. Wear clothing that CONTRASTS with the background so that viewers can tell where the wall ends and you begin. Remember, this is black and white.

5. Keep your background uncluttered or containing a few of non-interfering objects. Each foreign item distracts from the important subject (YOU) in the picture.

6. If you do your photographing indoors, as most of us do, then work in a WELL LIT room. Black and white film depends on light, rather than color to produce the contrast which makes a good picture. Even if you are using flash, keep the room well lit. This will help reduce SHADOWS and should eliminate the possibility of "red eye."

Hopefully, these few suggestions will help you get better photos for the Directory and for exchange. While my comments specifically are aimed at black-and-white film, many of the ideas can pertain to the use of color film as well.

If I can be of assistance to anyone, please feel free to write to me, via Carol's forwarding service, and I will do my best to answer your questions."

"The Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme sounds to me like more fun than a barrel of monkeys."
(Signed) Charles Darwin.

Laura Says, "NO!"

Alaskan Sister Asks that We Keep Our Sorority For Heterosexual's Only. Her Experience With Open Organization Not Good. "Please Don't Open The Sorority To Just Anyone!"

I became a Tri-Ess girl in February of 1981. I had known of the sorority for some time but had watched "from the outside" for some time.

I used to belong to a national organization for crossdressers that was an "open" type, that is, the organization accepted all kinds of people - heteros, bi-sexuals, and the like. Outside of meeting several sisters who were compatible with me, it was more pain than pleasure.

On three separate occasions I have met with my "open" sisters and it turned out that two were bi-sexual and the other I couldn't figure out. But each time I met with these people, my wife went down a notch on the 'acceptance level.' Now she is a "D", having dropped from a B+. In fact, my wife tried to burn my best bra - with me in it! But we also were happy to have met Wendy and Rhonda. They, too were withdrawing from that other organization. Those two girls were our type of sisters. They actually saved my marriage.

Wendy had just joined Tri-Ess and later led me to it, too. The whole point I wish to make is that these two sisters, Wendy and Rhonda, are the best examples of what OUR sorority is made up of. I am proud of Tri-Ess and my sisters! I know that some people consider us snobbish for being a "closed" organization, but without an organization like ours, many of us would be forced back into the closet by our families. When I first told my sister

that I was a crossdresser, I thought that all such were bi-sexual or gay. But I was able to point to Tri-Ess and her, quite proudly (I might say) that MY sorority is for heterosexual crossdressers only! Most of them are married and have children.

There is a newspaper which lists all kinds of crossdressers who are dearly loved when it first was printed. But as time went on, the format changed to one that appealed especially to bi-sexual and gay crossdressing as well as bondage and female domination types. I had to stop buying it because things like that ruined my relationship with my family.

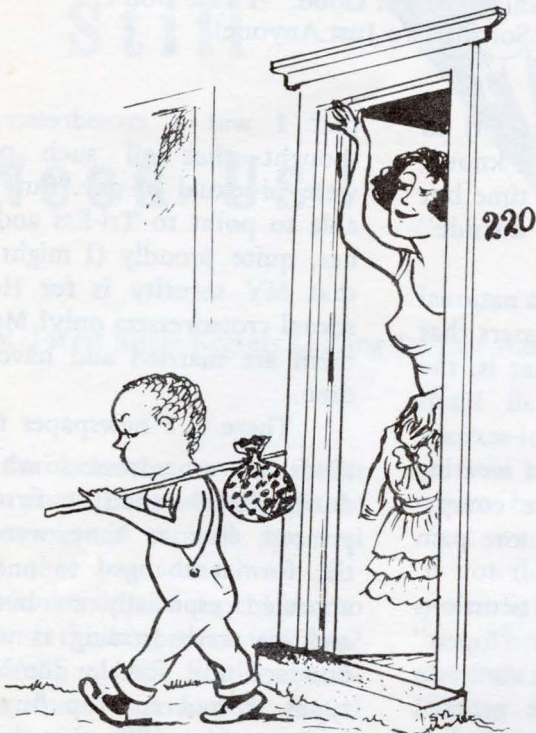
I say to my sisters, you girls, don't open the sorority to just anyone. I do have a few select friends who are not members and shouldn't be. If you feel that you don't have enough contacts inside your group and are willing to run the risk of causing family problems, perhaps you should belong to an "open" organization."

Opening the door to just anyone, so to speak, doesn't make sense to me because with the "open" clubs around (and even personal contact magazines), if I had wanted to associate with anyone, you wouldn't have had to start a Tri-Ess sorority in the first place.

Please, Carol, don't add a few of "them" in so as to make it for the rest of the sorority.
Laura (AK-200-D)

Ladylike Laughs

The following cartoons are the product of Sylvia (FCQ-1-K)



O.K. COME ON BACK EDDIE!
YOU CAN BE EDITH AN-N-NITIME.



"WHAT'S WRONG BOBBIE?"

"MY NEW GIRDLE'S KILLING ME JOE."



"THEN AFTER MOMMY FOUND OUT WE BROKE
THE WINDOW AND TORE UP HER FLOWERS,
SHE CHASED JOHNNY AND MADE ME PUT ON
ONE OF YOUR DRESSES."



"IT'S YOUR WIFE
SHE SAYS COME HOME AND YOU CAN
SLEEP IN HER NIGHTIE!"

TRI-ESS GIRL

PUSHES PUBLICITY



RUTHANN (WI-14-L) EXPLAINS HER PLANS FOR FURTHER PROGRESS IN BRINGING OUR MESSAGE TO UNKNOWN CROSSDRESSERS — AS WELL AS TO THE PUBLIC. HER SUGGESTIONS AND NEED FOR ASSISTANCE!!

As of December 29, 1982, I have sent out our "press-packet" to nine different publications.

Thus far, two of them have run stories about Tri-Ess and cross-dressing. They were the Rockford Daily and Green Bay Press Gazette. In both cases, the press-packet (consisting of a feature story, cover letter and photo sheet) was a vehicle for getting the media's attention. The feature story made them want to do their OWN story. To help make this successful, we needed to have Tri-Ess members nearby who were willing to be interviewed. In Rockford, Mitzi (IL-8-C) came through. In Green Bay, it was Lois (WI-13-V) and myself. Without these living examples, we'd have gone nowhere. We'd might have done even better yet if I, or one else, could have made a follow-up phone call to the features editor of those publications which did not respond — asking them if they had received our packet and asking for their reactions. Perhaps we could have negotiated our way into a story. This later method was suggested to me by a reporter who wrote the

Green Bay story.

Our success in Rockford and Green Bay makes me feel optimistic about breaking through in other medium-sized urban regions and, in any event, the harder that we hustle (follow up calls after the packet is sent out) the more successful we will be.

Where do we go from here. Well, we should recruit Tri-Ess sisters who are (1) willing to be interviewed by a local or nearby paper, (2) willing to distribute the press packet to their local papers and to make the follow-up calls to the editors, and (3) willing to monitor these papers to see if the papers had run our story — with or without an interview. And such sisters should be willing to forward copies of the resulting newspaper articles to the National Program Coordinator.

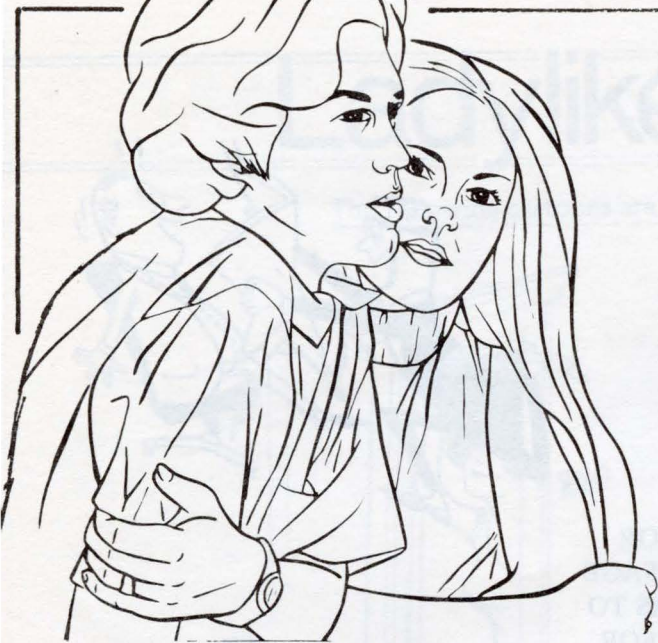
The story should briefly review the process that's worked in the upper Midwest and that we will be trying to duplicate on a national level. I'll be willing to write the story.

We should also revise the

"packet." In the cover we should suggest that if you don't want to run the story as is, we'd be happy to put them in touch with a Tri-Ess member who would be willing to grant them an interview. The "packet" should include copies of the Rockford and Green Bay stories and an introduction should be made to the cover letter. I can't do the cover letter.

But after the above is well on its way to a successful end, I am afraid that I will have to bail out. My life has become too complicated to allow me to coordinate this project. I like to suggest that among the 500 members who read this article, there should be at least one sister who would be willing to take over this project. If anyone is interested to assume my responsibilities, then that will tell the sisters don't want to do it enough.





“FOR COUPLES ONLY”

New Tri-Ess Auxiliary For Couples Proposed.
Gloria Ann (Serv-106-W) To Lead The Way.
Auxiliary Designed To Bring Couples Together!

Since Tri-Ess Sorority is basically a “service” organization, there arises, on occasion, a need that the organization tries to remedy.

One such “need” has been some sort of organization, perhaps an “auxiliary”, for couples, only. To make a comparison, just as the Masons have the Shriners for those of it’s members who attain a certain level of progression, we need a similar organization for those Tri-Ess members who qualify - namely, those who have (at least) tolerant wives and girlfriends. And just as the Shriners can be described as the playground of the Masons, so, too, can our social “auxiliary” provide special activities for it’s members. And, just as the Shriners do “good works,” so should our “auxiliary” do things which will build and strengthen marriages of our members.

Your Editor envisions an organization that will have at least regional activities for our couples. It may involve a weekend trip to a special place where all who attend can play, eat and learn. Hopefully, something on a national level can be worked in on rare occasions.

But the homogeneous atmosphere of the gatherings will be most beneficial to the couples who attend. Since most who attend will have understanding wives (or at least “tolerant” wives, there should be little in the way of problems that would disrupt the occasion. And, those wives who came but were only tolerant, surely would leave with a much more understanding viewpoint of dressing. The whole end-product of such occasions would be more harmonious and happy marriages. It is also pointed out that such gatherings would give our wives and girlfriends an opportunity to meet other wives (and girlfriends). Women seem to do best when they can talk and relate to other women. And there are other advantages to this auxiliary organization. They will be brought out as time goes on.

Like anything else, such a project needs a leader and your Editor is pleased to announce that Gloria Ann (SERV-106-W) and her understanding wife are very interested in helping us get started on this project.

They have come up with a

questionnaire (To be sent with the next issue of the Tri-Ess Clarion) that will help them.

Your Editor was particularly impressed with the list of objectives which they developed: (A) Help our wives and girlfriends to understand us and themselves ; (B) To provide a place where couples can meet other couples; (C) To form an organization to help other couples either by phone or correspondence. This has reference to couples who are having difficulties with cross-dressing; (D) TO HAVE FUN!

There are close to 200 couples who would qualify to belong to our proposed auxiliary. It is suggested that you sit down with your wife (or girlfriend) and discuss YOUR belonging . You might like to drop a note to Gloria Ann. She would appreciate such backing from her sisters.

Gloria Ann closed her last letter to your Editor by saying, “I honestly believe that this type of organization will do as much to help bring couples closer together as Tri-Ess has done for crossdressers all over.” Why not write Gloria Ann soon.

THE TRI-ESS ALBUM



GWENDOLYN (CA-231-A)



EVELYN (OH-212-F)



LAURA (OK-200-G)



KATHY (PA-13-H)



The Editor's Mailbox

Dear Carol: I received my latest Femme Mirror and would like to take the time to congratulate you and your office staff for a job well done. It was just beautiful - a work of art. I thank you for allowing me to be a member of Tri-Ess - I've been so happy since joining. I've received mail from other sisters and each of them is wonderful. In all my years of crossdressing, I thought that I was the only one in the world who did it and I enjoyed it so much that I was not about to quit. It makes me feel so good to know that there are others like myself who like the finer things in life like soft nylon, lace and high heels. Since joining Tri-Ess I have increased my wardrobe and even purchased some women's jeans to wear to work. I also wear femme under-

wear to work and at all other times. Eleanor (PA-206-R)

Dear Carol: My mind has gone back over the past year, thinking over how my life has changed since joining Tri-Ess.

Prior to meeting Ellen (OR-8-S), one year ago, I would go out and walk the streets but was so hesitant to go into a crowd. I had one wig that looked like an unmade bed and two dresses. Now I can go just about any place that I wish. I have four good wigs that are kept up by the House Of Luck, three suits, 3 blazers and 12 skirts. I have more clothes than does my

"brother." The past year has been a ball and I am looking forward to the next. I wonder where I will be

next year at the rate of progress that I have been making. Fran (OR-9-O)

Dear Carol:

Well, the unthinkable has happened! My wife found me out. I came in from work and forgot to take a letter from a sister out of my pocket. When confronted, she knew the other person was a man and not a woman. She wanted to know what was going on.

So, I spilled it all. I tried to explain how good it made me feel when I was dressed. I said that she did not have to feel threatened by it.

We talked for two or three hours and I really believe that with some knowledge of the subject, she will fully understand. She said that for now as long as my dressing is done here at home or in a motel room, it's OK. However, she said that she will not assist me because she married a man, not a woman.

She does not see my need to contact, write or be with others. I believe that she actually feels threatened by my dressing. She says that our personal relationship will not be any different than before and that she married me this way and it has not hurt either of us.

I really think that she could be a 'B' wife. I really love her and have never considered leaving her. ALONA (WV-100-M)

Dear Carol: I've really enjoyed the Femme Mirror lately. The issues are becoming much more newsy, real-person oriented and interesting. The contents also are edited in a way that allows me to share them with my wife without being embarrassed which is nice for both of us. JUDY (WA-6-O)

Dear Carol: My job as a truck driver allows me plenty of time to day dream about my "Second Self." During one of my recent trips I finally found the courage to do something I have longed to do for many years.

On a previous trip in the same area, I had noticed a store which specialized in women's shoes in wide widths. I found myself parked in the parking lot, rehearsing a story I had been fabricating for several months. Nervously I entered the store and was greeted by two very pleasant ladies.

The younger women asked how she could help me. Trembling, I told her that my wife's college room mates were giving a party in which the men and women were to exchange roles. Before I could finish, she concluded that I needed a pair of women's dress heels. I gave her a list of requirements, supposedly from my wife, and she asked what my normal size was. Then she disappeared behind a curtain and I sat in a nearby chair and removed my boots. After what seemed an eternity, she reappeared carrying several boxes. She looked at my feet and remarked that my socks might not be thin enough for a true fit and that I might have to put on nylons. I was scared and it showed!

Fortunately, she was able to determine my proper size without stockings. I decided upon a style which most appealed to me and was soon on the way home. I still cannot believe how easy it was! As a result of this experience I have decided at long last to apply for membership in the Society For The Second Self. JOCELYN (Davis, California)

Dear Carol: You mention

that there is a lot of talk about organizing chapters but relatively little organizing. This confirms my feelings about many cross-dressers. We seem to be so afraid of exposure - even to each other - that we waste our lives living in the closet, dreaming of that lovely day when we will plant our pretty high heels on the street and bravely walk into the beauty parlor for a facial.

As I earlier mentioned, my wife is very good about helping me. She has worked for hours late into the early hours of the morning in order to create a gown for me. She plucks my brows - even though I have to ask her. And she does go out with me at times. JOAN FCBC-201-L)

Dear Carol: Several weeks ago, I went into a shop where they advertised Pennyrich Bras and Mastectomy fittings. The lady in the store asked if she

could help me (I was not dressed in my feminine clothes) and I said, "Perhaps, Do you have Pennyrich Bras?" I could see her sort of just gulp almost out loud. She replied, "Oh, you want to see Mary Tyree - she'll be in on Wednesday or Friday." I thanked her and said that Wednesday would be better.

Wednesday evening, I found myself back at the shop. There were several people inside the small shop so I went outside for about five minutes. When I returned, a middle-aged, attractive lady sort of looked at me, as if to say, 'can I help you.' I said to her, "Are you Mrs Tyree?" "Yes," she replied. I said that I would like to talk to her. She replied that it would be just a few minutes. She had been waxing some ladie's eye-

brows, so I was invited a seat. Soon she finished her patron and then approached me, asking if I would like to her there or in the... Naturally, I said in the... did have to finish several customers but finally she... to me and we went back to office in the rear.

She closed the door... me to have a seat and... down in front of me. I... to the point of my bus... said that I was a crossdres... told her about my separ... my marriage after 25 y... marriage. All this time... saying, "Yes, yes...yes... she said, "And you won... a mastectomy insert?" "Well, yes. Would you f... She agreed but asked me... until she had waited on... other customers.

About half an hour... we went back in the rear... She told me to take off m... Underneath I was wea... camisole and bra, which... off She told me to sit... chair and began to sea... the proper size bra wh... put on me and then... the mastectomy inserts... They looked like mo... but she insisted that th... the right size for my... She was so loving about... never once made me f... barrased. Would you... that I now wear a 38-D... With a blouse or dress... everything looks so nice... do not feel conspicuous... coming Wednesday she... to give me a makeup... I can hardly wait. BE... (VA-207-S)

Dear Carol: I seem... little difficulty in obtain... clothing that I need. The... is simple - I use the... Catalog with all the size

I determined my size in ladie's garments and off I went shopping. For dresses that fit snugly, I add a full size. For things that are cut to fit loosely and with a blousey effect, I use the size from the chart. Rarely, have I been disappointed in my selection. In doing it this way, it is essential that you are honest with yourself. Few of us are the mere whisp of a girl we'd like to be, so buy things big enough and in correct style for YOUR size and what is appropriate for your age.

After arming myself with the correct data, I've had no problem in shopping anywhere I choose. I offer no explanations, engage in idle chatter with the clerks, if appropriate, and always save my sales slips in the event I wish to exchange anything.

Houston has an old anti-crossdress ordinance on the records. It is rarely enforced and generally it is used as a method of convenience to harass people for the benefit of some officers who have an ego problem. If you dress in public in Houston it is a good idea to keep away from the parts of the city generally frequented by the homosexual drag-queen-prostitute corps. This is generally known as the "Montrose" area, an area of approximately five square miles with the intersection of Montrose Ave and Westheimer near the Southeast quarter of the area and extending primarily westward along Westheimer and Alabama Avenues. This area has most of the "nite life" and other attractions you may wish to visit if you want to take a tour, but doing so while dressed presents an extra hazard. By the way, I just spoke to Wanda at the Bay Area Beauty School and she said that she would be delighted to

serve any of our Tri-Ess sisters.

Lastly, there are some interesting notes in the newest edition of the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual (DSM-3) of the American Psycgiatric Association. An absolutely clear distinction is made between cross-dressing (Tvism) and all forms of homosexuality. Transvestism is linked with sexual problems since in the APA view, a Transvestite is a male heterosexual variety who wears feminine ing and experiences an associated sexual excitement for having done so. Those of us who cross-dress WITHOUT sexual involvement don't qualify as transvestites. WE are relegated to what is called: "Atypical Gender Identity," which seems to be a slight recognition of the separation of gender and sex principle long preached by Virginia Prince. JAYE (TX-202-R)

Dear Carol: I recently retired and have lived almost all the time "en femme" since that time. I promised myself a vacation and I am getting it.

Although I may not be the best dresser I do go out shopping to several shops that I know and feel comfortable with. I find that most people do not care, anyway. The shops which I do shop in are wonderful to me. They simply cannot do enough to please me.

There is also a cosmetic shop that is a big help to me. Carol, to put it briefly, I enjoy being a girl. I do all the housework each day, being dressed 100% and I try to do a nice job with the makeup even though I am just at home. I also have a lady friend who enjoys our visits.

I have not made many contacts with my Tri-Ess sisters, but hopefully they will come. SYLVIA (MA-8-C)

Dear Carol: There is an idea that I would like to throw out to the sisters. Like myself, there are no doubt numerous sisters who have in the past year purchased dresses, shoes and so forth, that are either too large, small or the incorrect style. I know that for myself, I have new clothing which has never been returned but fits into that description.

Why not have a section in the Femme Mirror for sisters who have clothing or shoes or wigs which are only slightly used or possibly new, and have them advertised. I usually throw my clothing away when I make a size mistake or dislike the color or style. I've spent hundreds of dollars on my wardrobe but would welcome an opportunity to purchase the above items for a fraction of the original cost.

The proposed section dealing with basically used clothing might be quite helpful to many of our sisters. Those who have things either to sell or give away, could make mention of this, perhaps mentioning just what they do have, and you could mention this in the Here And There section of the Femme Mirror. We could use our femme names and code numbers and interested parties could drop us a line via the forwarding service. KATHY (CA-215-J)

Dear Carol: I have a male friend - just found out that he has this interest. Because I care about him, I'd like to help

Is it a form of mental illness? Why does a male, who is a perfect specimen of a man, and a perfect lover for me, want to dress like a woman? He wants me to participate but I am afraid. However, I will try. Are women jealous of men friends dressing as women?

Harriet (San Jose, Ca)