our Special JOY

Tri-Ess Sorority

Metropolitan

********** CHI DELTA MU **********

Vol. IV, No. 5 — CHAPTER — May, 1984

April Meeting
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All had a very enjoyable time at the April 14th meeting in New Jersey. A total of 19 members and 6 wives/girlfriends attended. We welcome first-timers Suzie and wife Joyce, and also Faith wife of Eileen (NJ).

We did not have a program for the evening, but it was very enjoyable just to sit around and talk with others who were just like yourself. Being with others adds a whole, new and enjoyable dimension to crossdressing. It should be experienced by all.

(continued on Page 2)

Editorial
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Over half of our chapter membership can not attend our meeting. There are a number of reasons for this, and one of them is a wife or girlfriend who is either hostile or just does not "know".

Those of us who have an understanding wife or girlfriend greatly appreciate our good fortune. At the meeting there is developing a group of wives and girlfriends who are concerned about other wives and girlfriends. They appreciate the loneliness, confusion, and all other bad feelings which may exist in a relationship when the wife or girlfriend finds out about her mate's "hobby". These wives/girlfriends want to help others.

This help will take the form of answering questions, having someone to talk with, sharing feelings and concerns, plus any other form of assistance that is needed. We are talking about having a non-dressed affair this summer to serve as sort of an "ice-breaker" for new members and their wives/girlfriends. Past experience has been that informal, non-threatening get-togethers at someone's home often change a hostile attitude into one which is netral if not supportive in time. We will promote these activities for our membership who need them. As we have often said, when you are alone in this there is not much hope, but together our boundries are limitless.

Bev wife of Dorothy, and Marilyn wife of Lynda are to be acknowledged and thanked greatly for taking the lead in this effort. You can contact them at the addresses provided in the newsletter. If you need this type of support, please use it! It is one of the main reasons why we exist as a TRI-ESS chapter.

MAY 12TH (Westchester) & **JUNE 9TH** (New Jersey)

Our President, Patricia, will be asking each member to help hostess at a meeting. The more members who have this experience, the easier it will be to conduct the meeting. It is no big thing to do, just a little time on your part...Lynda reports that the new code numbers are "in the mail". We are waiting for them to produce an updated listing of members in the newsletter.

Bev, wife of Dorothy, has a wig store which is interested in having an "after hours" shopping opportunity for us. The store's owner is very understanding and cooperative; it is located near Eatontown, NJ. A Thursday night would be best. If interested, contact Bev as follows: D. Graham, P. O. Box 467, Oakhurst, NJ 07755.

Renata's suggested I.D. Card for us has been reproduced in the newsletter for your comments/suggestions. As Carol B. receives the newsletter, we would like to hear from her if she would let us put her signature on the card. Jana is to check with the A.C.L.U. if they would also sign it.

Karen asked the membership to acknowledge the work of Doreen in finding a new, New Jersey location for us for the June meeting. A round of applause for Doreen's efforts was readily given by those in attendance. We still are not sure if the potential site is available, so see "Last Minute Items" on the last page of the newsletter for the latest information.

Renata said that two members of another organization came to our March meeting at 10:30 PM and were charged the $10 meeting fee. She also felt that they were ignored by the members. She believed that they should not have been charged any fee, and that the chapter should apologize to them. Her sentiments were put in the form of a motion, and seconded by Camile. Much discussion followed on the matter. Some felt that these folks came without screening, and really should not have come. Renata said that we should invite other organizations to the meeting, and that we should go to others' meetings. Lynda disagreed, saying that we are a "closed" group, with limits on attendance. Your Editor felt that the motion contained too many issues: establishing a visitor policy, what time is one too "late" for a meeting and not charged the meeting fee, and why is an apology due, in that other members did not feel that these visitors were ignored. Renata stood by her motion. Karen asked that Renata put her motion on hold till the Executive Committee could address the matter, but Renata declined. The question was called, and the motion was defeated by a vote of 6 in favor, 8 against. (This will be an item for discussion at the May 19th Executive Meeting.)

Doreen suggested that it would be nice to have some background music at the meeting. This had been

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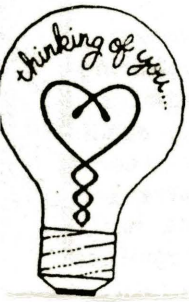


Attending the April 14th meeting in New Jersey were: (seated, left to right) Camile, Mary Jane, Karen, Lynda, Suzie, Doreen, and Nora Helene; (standing, left to right) Renata, Marlene, Jane, Robin Ann, Fran (NY), Dorothy, Eileen (NY), JoAnne (NY upstate), Edie, Eileen (NJ), and Patricia. (Photo: Patricia)

brought up before by Victoria, GG friend of Yvonne. Robin Ann and GG friend Linda have offered to bring their music "box" to the meeting. It takes 8-Track and Cassettes, so if you have some favorites, bring them along (how's about the score from LA CAGE?). Thanks, all, for making the meeting more enjoyable.

The 1984-1985 Proposed Chapter Budget was brought up by your Editor, but no one had any comment on it. It is repeated elsewhere in the newsletter, so if you would like to say something about how we will raise money next year, AND spend it, let us know. Edie thanked all who worked on the special finance committee and their efforts to insure that the chapter will be financially stable in the future...We hope to have some 200-300 chapter brochures printed shortly, thanks to Renata. They will come in handy when the Susskind program is aired, and if the JOURNAL-NEWS article ever gets published...Program Coordinator Jana hopes that Cindy (Ct), will provide a cosmetic show at the May Westchester meeting, and that our June meeting in New Jersey will feature a feminist speaker from Mayor Koch's office...Not too many returns on the publicity effort from you girls (see last month's newsletter). A poll was taken at the April meeting as to chapter/national initial contact source, but we'd like to see more. The cut-off date has been pushed to May 15th, and a second poll will be taken at the May meeting. Please, let us know how you first came in contact with us! this information will aid in planning our future publicity efforts.

The membership wants to express our love and very best wishes to Frances (NJ), and new bride Bernice. They were wed on March 31st. We regret that we did not have time enough to have a shower for both Bernice and Frances. If any of you gals are planning on getting married, let us know! I'm sure that there are plenty of sisters who would just love to attend a shower.

We are still looking for ideas about summer activities. Please contact Jana...I think that I can express the feelings of all members in that we are very glad to see our wives and girlfriends taking a more active role in chapter matters and activities. We hope to see more, new members and long-term members who have not come to our meeting AND their wives/girlfriends, come and share our BEAUTIFUL experience.

OPS!!!! Forgot to add others who attended our April meeting! Marilyn wife of Lynda, Faith wife of Eileen (NJ), Millie wife of Jane, Bev wife of Dorothy, Linda girlfriend of Robin Ann, Joyce wife of Suzie, and Frances (NJ).

Thanks to all who participated in our annual Library Card effort. Depositing these cards in the local library does work! Often the library is the first source used in someone's search for information on crossdressing, and it is ALWAYS best if the seeker finds the RIGHT kind of information.

Femme Photo

The person described on this Identification Card is a Heterosexual Cross-dresser or Transvestite; a phenomenon which is recognized in the professional psychiatric community as one in which a person dresses in the clothing of the opposite sex. The pracitce is not considered to be an illness nor is she dressed for fraudulent purposes, but rather is giving full expression to her femeninity, which is done for her personal happiness and sence of well-being.

Masculine Photo

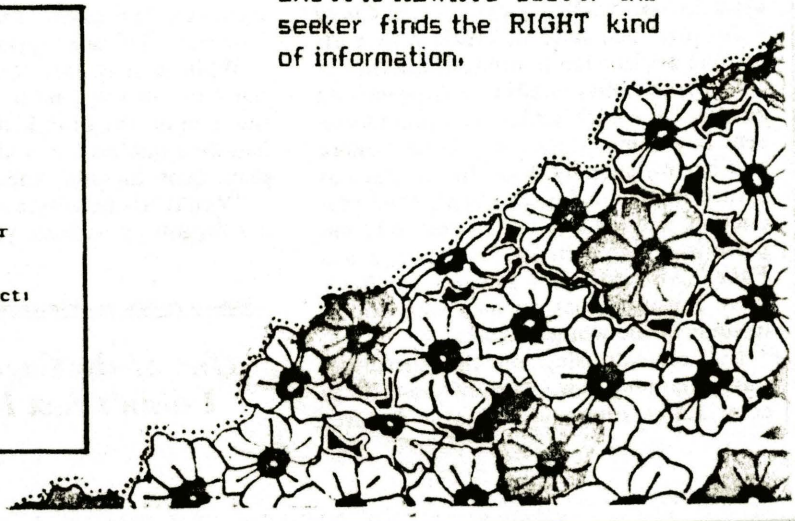
Date of Birth_____ Ht._____ Wt._____ Eyes_____ Hair_____
Femenine Signature_____
Masculine Signature_____

THE SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF
Chi Delta Mu Chapter

Femenine Name_____
Membership Code Number_____
Masculine Name_____
Street or Box_____
City_____ State_____ Zip_____

The person described on this card is a member in good standing of The Society for the Second Self and its Chi Delta Mu Metro Chapter..
For further varification, authorities may contact:

LOGO



In Case You Missed It
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Thanks, Joyce, NJ 206M

ACTING LIKE A LADY

PLAYBILL

March, 1984

While today's playgoers find drag roles easy to enjoy, actors don't necessarily find them easy to play.

by Robin Reif

MARTHA SWOPE

George Hearn in La Cage aux Folles

Most young actors love to strut their boyish spirits playing soldiers or cowboys or kings. But ten men at the Palace Theatre adore playing queens — They're nightly slipping into heels, hose, and corsets trimmed in marabou to form the best line of legs on Broadway: the transvestite chorus of *La Cage aux Folles*.

And they're not the only ones shedding the husk of gender to don the guise of the opposite sex. Off-Broadway's recent *Cloud 9* featured one man in bustle and curls playing a Victorian housewife, another in a pink frock and pigtails as a five-year-old girl, and a woman acting as a pre-adolescent boy named Edward. Diane Venora had her melancholy hour on the stage as Prince Hamlet in Joseph Papp's 1982 production, and George Hearn currently impersonates *two* females in *La Cage aux Folles*. Also in the new musical *The Rink*, there is a chorus of six men who double in some of the women's roles.

But cross-dressing on the Broadway stage is nothing new. Turn-of-the-century actor Julian Eltinge was a tour-de-force as *The Fascinating Widow*, and Bert Savoy, in 20's revues, played a Mae West prototype who chatted nonstop, flourished silk handkerchiefs, and tossed off lines like, "You *mussst* come over."

In the 50's, a sweet-faced actor named T.C. Jones warmed his bald head with splendid wigs to impersonate Marilyn Monroe as Ophelia, Tallulah Bankhead as Cleopatra, and Mae West as Kate, the shrew, in a Broadway revue called *Mask and Gown*.

Despite these vivid displays, actors in drag have always been rare birds on Broadway. Only recently are men showing up in padded bras and women in padded shoulders on stages all over town. And while today's playgoers find drag roles easy to enjoy, actors don't necessarily find them easy to play.

"Playing a woman is hazardous," says George Hearn, "even though it's an old theatre tradition and should mean nothing. But we are all uneasy about our gender."

This became clear to him after accepting the role of Albin, a Côte d'Azur transvestite in *La Cage aux Folles*. Hearn began waking up in the middle of the night, bolting upright, and thinking with horror, "I'm gonna do *what*?" As he told one reporter, "I couldn't believe that I was going to do that in front of God and everyone—in Times Square, no less."

One of the "everyone" would be his own mother who winced at the thought of her boy in a skirt. Although she'd seen him on Broadway as the murderous villain, Sweeney Todd, she found it easier to accept "my son, the homicide" than "my son, the sissy."

The fact that Fredericks of Hollywood catalogs came pouring in from Hearn's prankster friends did nothing to salve his anxieties. "I thought, 'I'm a hard-drinking Irishman. I'm not supposed to *do* that.'"

While he may have worried about being out front in wigs, boas, and rhinestones, the men on the drag kickline behind him had their qualms too, and their choreographer, Scott Salmon, knew it.

"You're not here because you're screaming faggots or because you look or move like women," he told them on the first day of rehearsal, or so Frank DiPasquale, one of the glamorous "Cagelles" recalls. "You're here because you have the special talent to pull this off."

DiPasquale, who plays the leggy Dermah, had other more immediate concerns. "My particular stumbling block was feeling that I didn't look as beautiful as the other guys," he says, blushing a bit at his own revelation. "I heard this voice in my head saying, 'I'm not pretty. I don't have a chin. My skin's not good,' and so on. I'd finally gotten over that as a man, and now I had to deal with it as a woman!"

Aside from such psychic irritations, there are physical aches and pains that come with the strange territory of cross-dressed roles. James Lecesne, who played the little girl in *Cloud 9* found it tough to skip, jump, and leap from the stage like a hyperactive five-year-old in a pair of Mary Janes. At least he could work in flats—the boys in *La Cage* spend six nights a week in three-to-five inch spikes.

While Diane Venora had little trouble walking like a man, the problem was fighting like one. When it came time to wield a sword in the last act of *Hamlet*, she'd suddenly wish herself a woman cheering on the Prince from the other side of the pillar. To counteract her bent to duel with her butt stuck out, the fight director, B.H. Barry, kept urging her to keep her "buns under." "Women naturally tip back their pelvises to pull away from danger," Diane says. "It's a need to protect the womb—a very primitive impulse." It was one that she had to work hard to overcome.

While cross-dressed roles can be murder on the feet or hips, they may, however, be good for the heart. Elaine Bromka of *Cloud 9* found that playing a boy stoked her compassion for those of the other sex. When her character, Edward, cries after being smacked, he is bluntly told, "A boy has no business having feelings."

"That line really moved me night after

One of the Cagelles confessed, "my stumbling block was I didn't feel I looked as beautiful as the other guys."

"It seems like a psychological step backward in the chain of authority for men to play women."—George Hearn

James Lecesne in the role of a five-year-old girl, which he played in Cloud Nine

night," Elaine says. "It always felt like an appalling afront. What a ridiculous thing to be taught, and yet many boys are still taught just that."

"It's an empathetic feeling," says George Hearn, "to perfect a feminine gesture—a certain walk, or pose, or something so small as making a fist without tucking in my fingertips. Each time I did this in rehearsal, I'd think, 'that's how my mother or sister or wife must have felt when she made that gesture.' There is in me a feminine side, and exposing it in this role is an adventure."

Like many adventures, this one had its eerie moments. "The most bizarre thing was seeing myself in makeup," Hearn says. "Suddenly I was a woman—a *painted* woman—but still, a woman. That was disturbing."

Simulating this gender switch alerted Hearn to something that he'd never given much thought: that a man in a skirt puts his dignity at risk. When he auditioned for *La Cage* in a red dress and wig, singing "My Heart Belongs to Daddy," it was all he could do to uphold the stature which his costume placed under siege.

"It *does* seem like a psychological step backward in the chain of authority for men to play women," Hearn says. "I guess it reveals an assumption of male superiority in people's minds."

Though a man in drag may lose authority, a woman seems to gain it—or so Diane Venora discovered when she played Hamlet. "When I first got the role, I thought, 'Now I have the opportunity, the right to act as strong as I really am and be accepted, rather than be called a bitch."

As a man, she says, she could get away with expressing strong tones like vengeance, hatred, and rage. "For a woman, those tones are not really acceptable. For example," she says, "in one scene I hurl old letters at Ophelia and call her all sorts of profanities because my heart is broken. Her response is, 'O! What a noble mind is here o'erthrown.' Now, had I been a woman in that scene throwing letters and shouting profanities, I'd never be called a 'noble mind'; I'd be called an hysterical bitch."

This shift in stature is but one of the discoveries actors may make by such extreme masquerading. Another is the oddly liberating feeling of total self-effacement. "When I put on that dress and that wig, I suddenly was someone that I never was before and never will be again," says 21-year-old Steven Flynn who played a shy Victorian housewife in *Cloud 9*. "Such a thick mask freed me to be very uninhibited."

James Lecesne concurs. "You can simply have more fun in someone else's clothes. It's very liberating when those clothes are those of a five-year-old girl. It frees me from the narrow, gender-defined pocket of the 28-year-old man in which I normally live." □

Publicity
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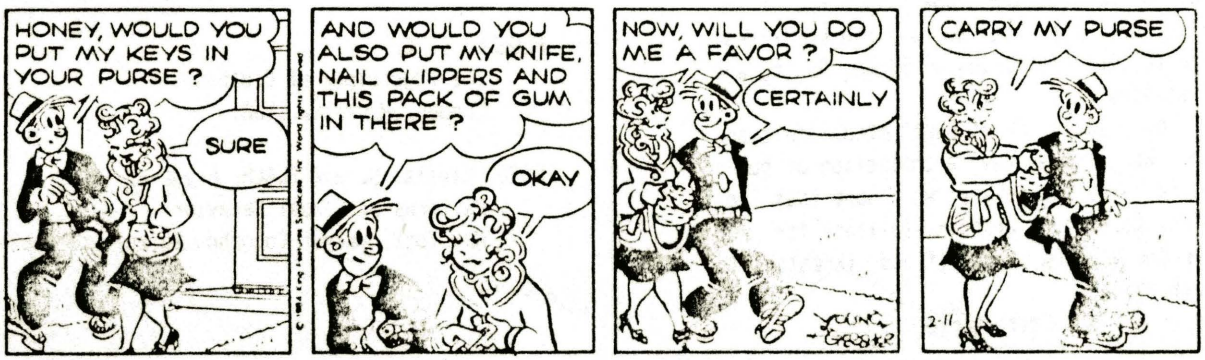
Eileen related a very interesting tale which happened at the taping of the Susskind program on March 24th.

Mr. Susskind informed the participants before the taping began that he has "been around the world", and "seen everything". After the taping session, he told everyone that he was "flabbergasted"; he never knew what crossdressing was really all about. Even the taping crew could not get enough information about our favorite subject. Eileen must have "blew his mind", when she told Mr. Susskind that she and Priscilla had been shopping in Bloomies, dressed, just prior to the show.

Through the GAL network or if time permits the newsletter, we will let you know when the show will be aired. It will be on some 40 stations throughout the country. Again, we thank Diane (NY R), for advising us of the Susskind program.

again, thank you Edith M.

BLONDIE



LIBRARY REPORT
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After a few months of very little activity in the borrowing department since the holidays, the Library is in active use again. The Library List has been updated and copies are available. If there is space for it in this issue of "Our Special Joy", Mary Jane will publish it. Otherwise, you can write to Don Williams, Drawer R, Valley Cottage, NY 10989 for a copy.

There are now 62 items in our Library. Added since the last issue of the list are:

1) "Transvestism" by British author Harry Brierly. It is an objective look at heterosexual transvestism although, in your Librarian's opinion, the three case histories presented are not typical.

2) "Touch of Silk" by Peter Barry. This is essentially a picture book with exotic and some erotic beautiful full-color photographs of georgeous models in exquisite lingerie. Your wife might even enjoy this book.

3) "And All Was Revealed" by Doreen Caldwell. Here is a delightful little picture book of drawings in color showing women's fashions in both outer and underwear from 1907 to 1980. This, too, is a book your wife might enjoy reading and it would be a valuable source of information for anyone who might want to create an authentic period costume.

Since taking on the job of Librarian I have placed Tri-Ess library cards in 28 public libraries in Rockland, Dutchess and Bergen Counties. In one particular Rockland County library I have had to replace the card three or four times and the last time I visited there, the card was missing again. It sounds like censorship of information that could be very valuable to the public. Does anyone have any suggestions as to how we can solve this problem?

Virginia Prince has announced to all Tri-Ess members that back issues of Transvestia magazine are still available. In fact, she would like to "move them all out". I hope that many of our chapter members respond to Virginia's offer and then, eventually, donate the magazines to our Library.

We thank Andrea M of New Jersey for donating the book by Harry Brierly. We first saw that book in the library of Ramapo College and immediately put it on our "Want List". By the way, we have placed Tri-Ess cards in three college libraries in Bergen County and the cards are staying there.

Copies of our latest "Want List" of 35 items are also available. We already have a collection of books and tapes that is quite extensive, so I hope that I do not sound greedy. Collecting appropriate items for our Library has become a hobby in itself and threatens to become an obsession.

Edith Marie

LIBRARY WANT LIST

ANDERSON, Sherwood.
The Man Who Became a Woman.

BAKER, Roger.
Drag: a History of Female Impersonation on the Stage.
London, 1968.

BATES, H.E.
The Triple Echo.

BROWN, Geoff.
I Want What I Want.
1966.

COSTA, Mario.
Reverse Sex: the Life of Jaqueline Charlotte Dufesnoy.
London, 1961.

COWELL, R. E.
Roberta Cowell's Story.
New York, Lion Library, 1955.
London, W. Heinemann, British Book Centre.

COX, Cynthia.
The Enigma of the Age: the Strange Case of the Chevalier d'Eon.
London, 1966.

DeChoisy.
The Story of the Marquise-Marquis de Banneville.

EWING, Elizabeth.
Dress and Undress.

FARRELL, James.
Just Boys.

FEINBLOOM, Deborah Heller.
Transvestites and Transsexuals: Mixed Views.

FLUGEL, J. C.
The Psychology of Clothes.
London, Hogarth, 1930.

FORD, Clellan S. and BEACH, Frank A.
Patterns of Sexual Behavior.
New York, Harper Colophon Books, Ace Books, 1951.

FREEMAN, Gillian.
The Undergrowth of Literature.
London, 1967.

GAUTIER.
Mademoiselle de Maupin.
1835.

GILBERT, O. P.
Men in Women's Guise.
London, John Lane, 1926.

GILBERT, O. P.
Women in Men's Guise.
London, 1932.

HENRY, George W.
Masculinity and Femininity.
New York, Collier Books, 1966.

HENRY, George W.
Society and the Sex Variant.
New York, Collier Books, 1965.

HOYER, N.
Man Into Woman.
New York, Dutton, 1933.

JORGENSEN, Christine.
A Personal Autobiography.
New York, Bantam Books, 1968.

KAY, Barry.
The Other Women.
London, 1976.

LANGNER, Lawrence.
The Importance of Wearing Clothes.
London, 1960.

NIXON, Edna.
Royal Spy: the Strange Case of the Chevalier d'Eon.
New York, 1965.

OAKLEY, Ann.
Sex, Gender and Society.
New York, Harper Colophon Books, 1972.

POWELL, Anthony.
From a View to a Death.
1939.

RAYNOR, Darryl.
A Year Among the Girls.
New York, Lancer Books, 1966.

RECHY, John.
City of Night.

Rhoides, E. D.
Pope Joan.

ROSENBERG, B. G. and SUTTON-SMITH, Brian.
Sex and Identity.
New York, Holt Rinehart and Winston, 1972.

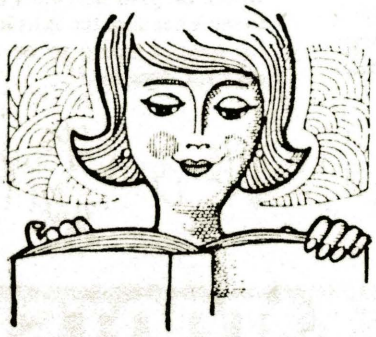
RUBENS, Bernice.
Sunday Best.
New York, Summit Books, Simon & Schuster, 1980.
1230 Avenue of the Americas, New York, NY 10020.

SAVICH, Evgeny.
Homosexuality, Transvestism and Change of Sex.
London, 1958.

STOLLER, Robert J.
Sex & Gender.
New York, J. Aronson, Science House, 1968.

TABORI, Paul.
Dress and Undress: the Sexology of Fashion.
London, 1969.

WOOLF, Virginia.
Orlando.



We thank Edith Marie for her efforts as CHI DELTA MU Chapter Librarian. If you can donate some of these items to the chapter's library, please do. They not only help you help another, but add to our growing knowledge. You can contact Edith Marie as follows:

Don Williams
Draw R
Valley Cottage, New York 10989

Cost of borrowing an item is about $1.00, YOUR return postage. The chapter library is yet one other benefit of being a member, and like all benefits entitled to you as a member, you should use it.

Looking Forward
****

Men & women will dress the same within ten years — in skirts

thanks, Nora Helene-

MEN AND WOMEN will both be dressing alike by 1994 — and the men of the house won't be wearing the pants but skirts, earrings and sophisticated hair fashions.

The way to these effeminate unisex fashion trends will led by none other than the likes of ladylike Boy George, the new British rock star, Boy Marilyn, and other weird music stars, according to a psychological consultant to some of Paris' top designer firms.

"The trend toward lavish, women's styles for men is being taken very seriously in the world's fashion industry, Mario Russo, the consultant, said in a recent New York interview.

"And the fashion designers will be laughing all the way to the bank. The impact will be very much like The Beatles had in hair fashions

by JOHN AITKINS

for men in the early 1960s. Pretty soon, the older set, including doctors and judges, were wearing their hair just as long as the kids — with gold chains draped around their necks."

• BELIEVE IT or not these are three guys who are female impersonators

• TOOTSIE HOFFMAN

Wild

The transition can already be seen in much brighter clothes, more men's jewelery and flared design in male fashions, he says.

Russo said that instead of women shifting to pants, a startling new trend will take place for men to actually wear skirts and even dress gowns.

"There's always a precedent for wild new fashions and the skirt look will first be disguised by the tunic and toga styles which were popular for men more than 2,000 years ago in the Greek and Roman empires.

• BOY GEORGE

"Even more shocking, men will use cosmetics and makeup heavily within the next decade — along the lines that the British and American rock stars are using it today."

Macho

Businessman color away gray hair. One tough biker was even seen covering a bald spot with a tight perm. Some men have had discreet facelifts and TV newscasters do wear makeup on camera.

The macho looks of Burt Reynolds, Clint Eastwood and Paul Newman will yield to the delicate looks of Michael Jackson and David Bowie —and women will find it difficult to stand out in a crowd of mixed company, he said.

"As men emerge out of their colorless cocoons, they will go hog wild in all areas including hair and shoes, just like the gals.

"Believe me, John Wayne would be glad he didn't live to see it because the skirt look for men is going to be the rage for decades."

We're doing it now. We can't wait!

BLAME IT ON BOY GEORGE & TOOTSIE

Food For Thought
****

"Do You Believe In Ghosts?"

by Diana NJ-500-R

"Let us start by saying that ghosts are a: spirits whom for any reason at all could not yet reach the eternal rest; b: products of a fertile imagination; c: products of parapsychological powers all of us are supposed to have, but only some can use, and the power some hve to control them.

Now, do all ghosts manifest themselves physically, I mean: visually or audibly? No, not at all. And now we'll call spirits all the ghosts. Those of you who have read 'Zeth Speaks', a book written by a master spirit through the mind and speed writing skills of a normal couple, know that spiritualists believe that they were helped by these 'master spirits'.

Anyway, it came in account because the Zeth explained that other kinds of spirits or souls are unable to reach their eternal rest because they couldn't finish the work assigned to them; some others because they have ties that hold them in between until those ties die liberating them. These two classes of spirits usually stay around and most of the time try to gain possession of somebody's soul in order to guide that chosen one to finish their due, and then let them alone or make them crazy or provide them with evil powers.

I'm not providing any referal now, just giving out a brief part of my memory as preface to share with you. Last week I was introduced to a Dominican Mentalist. He stared at me with immutable expression. After 2 to 3 minutes (embarassing for me), he said: 'You have problems...a lot of them (true), some one owes you and is taking advantage of you (true). I see a woman with you (?). She's been with you since you were very young (I started crossdressing at age 9). She's trying to get over you but something you are unconscious of is rejecting her (?). She is Hispanic, tall and very ellegant (?). She died a long time ago, let's say by the time your grand, grand, grand, grand parents died (?). Do you have any roots in Spain? (yes I do, my last name came from the border between Spain and France, and means 'the border'; I also have aunts and cousins over there). I'm not sure she is a relative of yours. You are ill and you'll need surgery in about 4 months. If you want me to I can 'clean you up' and then I'll let you talk to this woman so you can chose what your life will be like from here on'.

That experience and the Zeth readings plus some others, have made me think that it is perfectly possible that those of us male and female, who feel this urgency, are probably being invaded by a spirit of the past. Maybe that as all of us age, some get their own gender spirit, some the opposite, and according to the intensity of our uncontrolable and unconscious rejection of them, we are what we seem to be: 100% male or female, 100% gay, 100% transsexual, etc., and of course all range of intensity and variety. Right now I'm under the health treatment, which once finished, the talking with my inner woman spirit may be started. If this has caused any interest, I'll keep you informed".

(Thanks, Diana, for a very interesting article. After all, we often talk about the "woman within" us. Ed.)

PROPOSED 1984-1985 BUDGET OF CHI DELTA MU CHAPTER
for the year July 1, 1984 through June 30, 1985
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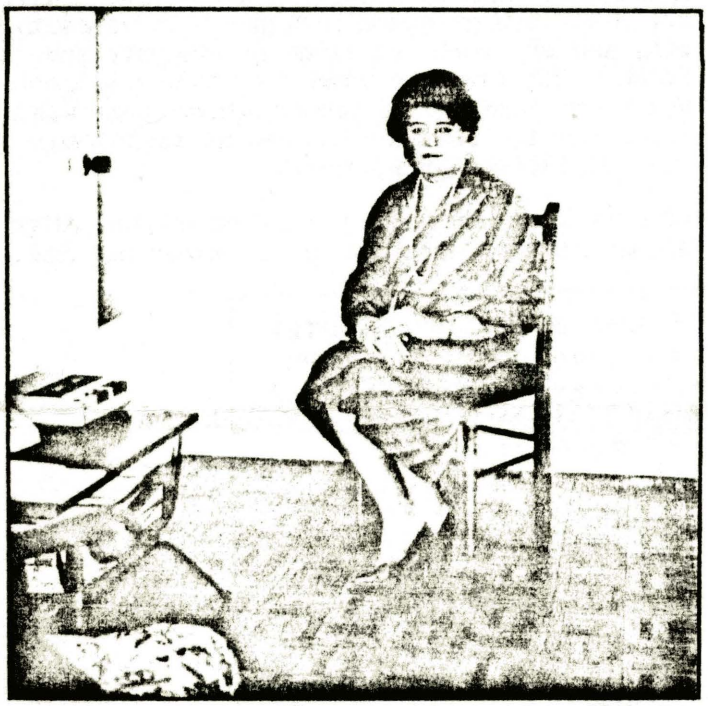
REVENUES		EXPENDITURES	
Dues renewal	$870	Postage	$600
Dues new	675	Newsletter	200
Donations	250	Refreshments	600
Meeting fees	2100	Motel	1300
Book auction	30	Advertising	300
Interest	10	Hostess gift	20
Special events	1250	Special events	1250
50/50	100	Book purchase	150
Meeting no-show	60	Office supplies	50
Pink elephant	75	Printing	200
		Programs	150
		Transfer res	400
		Contingency	200
TOTAL	$5420	TOTAL	$5420

Our Readers Write
****

..."One year ago I spent my last visit in the USA and I had the opportunity to meet you in the occasion of the chapter meeting. I am still living in Spain, enjoying my second self and getting more experiences. Actually, I am living alone; my family is not with me, so I dress at home always when I come back from work. I have a large amount of dresses and shoes and I have also improved my makeup. I go out dressed and love to drive the car.

I walk but I do not find in this city a place where to go. I am trying to contact other sisters in Europe in order to have a meeting all together and on this I have already spoken to Carol.

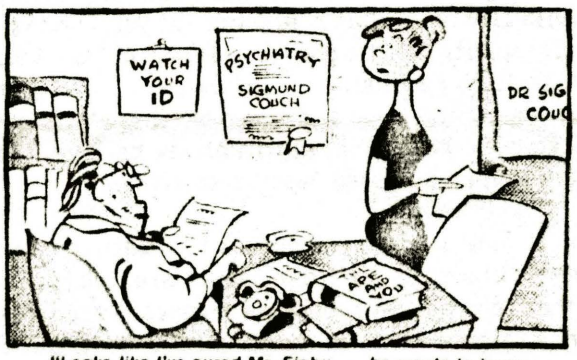
I am attaching a recent photo I took last week and I would kike you to publicize it in OUR SPECIAL JOY as you did last year in order for me to say hello to all the girls that know me". Josephine, FSPA-1540-C. (Good to hear from you again Josephine, and as requested your photo is reproduced, below. If anyone wants to contact Josephine, I have her address. Hope to see you at a meeting when you return to the States. Ed.)



YOUR LETTERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOMED. YOUR EXPERIENCES, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS, ETC., COULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO ANOTHER AND THE CHAPTER AS A WHOLE. LET'S HEAR FROM YOU!

Dressing up

Thanks, Edith Marie!

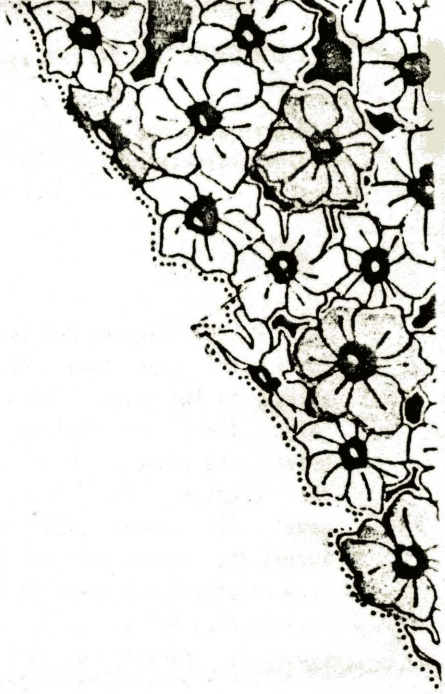


"Looks like I've cured Mr. Figby . . . he wants to know if you can use some size 14 dresses."

..."Dresses for men? (March issue). No, no, no, a thousand times ten to the thirtieth power. NO! Nobody looks more ridiculous than a man in a dress. His shape is not right and who wants to look at hairy, scruffy legs? I cannot believe that a sane man could feel at ease in such a costume. For a dress to look 'right' on the average man, he would have to make quite a few changes.

First, he would have to pad his hips and chest. Then he would have to shave his legs and put on women's stockings or pantyhose. With this much (or little) transformation, he would still look silly without long hair, makeup and feminine shoes. There's then the question of where to carry all his 'pocket junk' so he would find it necessary to carry a handbag of some sort. So much for the looks, but then there are the masculine mannerisms that would have to be modified to fit the appearance. The result, if done correctly, would be the appearance of a normal woman.

I predict that dresses for men will not 'catch on'. The Nehru suit was a fashion flop, as it deserved to be. Let us hope that the idea of dresses for men is just some kooky, kinky brainstorm of the lunatic fringe of the fashion world and is destined to the same fate as the Nehru suit. God help us if it should become a success! What would happen to legitimate transvestism?" Edith Marie, NY-319-W.



WESTCHESTER SELF-HELP CLEARINGHOUSE

Westchester Community College
Academic/Arts Building
75 Grasslands Road
Valhalla, New York 10595

Leslie Borck, Ph.D., *Director*

To: Members of Society for the Second Self
From: Leslie Borck, Ph.D., Director Leslie Borck
Westchester Self-Help Clearinghouse
Date: March 13, 1984

'...Please excuse my response in memo format, but I have received many letters from members of the Society for the Second Self across the country requesting similar information.

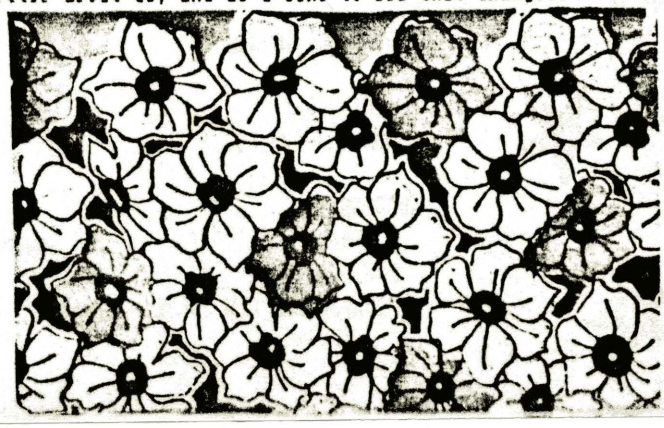
Thank you for writing. I think it might be helpful for me to start with an explanation of the Westchester Self Help Clearinghouse and how I might be able to help you. The Clearinghouse was initiated in the Fall of 1979 by the Westchester County Department of Community Mental Health with the goals of decreasing isolation and increasing social support for people coping with stressful life situations through the availability of self help/mutual support groups. A self-help group is an organization of people who are affected by a problem of health (i.e., cancer, alcoholism, heart), mental health (i.e., caring for a mentally ill or mentally retarded family member), or everyday living (i.e., parenting a teenager, bereavement). Membership to the group tends to be restricted to those, either presently or in the past, who have experienced the distressing situation.

The Clearinghouse is a central resource for information and referral to the more than 220 self-help groups in Westchester County. Groups cover a wide range of concerns relating to problems of health, mental health and everyday living. Our other services include: information and referral to self-help groups; assistance in the formation of new mutual support groups; technical assistance to existing groups; training for self-help group leaders in helping and group leadership skills; the publication and dissemination of a Directory of self help groups; an annual Conference for Self-Help Groups to encourage both networking among the self-help groups and easy access and visibility to these groups for the public; and various specialized workshops and conferences related to self-help for interested professionals and/or consumers.

...In response to your questions about starting new chapters, I am sending you all a copy of HELPING YOU HELPS ME: A Guide Book for Self-Help Groups published by the Canadian Council on Social Development. It is one of the better manuals on starting a self-help group. You have an order form in the beginning of the book should you want more copies.

The key ingredient for us in starting a new group is finding members. Once people come together, groups tend to have a momentum of their own. We use our local newspapers extensively in the quest for group members of any new self help groups. Most local newspapers have announcements of upcoming events or new community activities and if properly worded will help new self-help groups publicize their intentions. I understand the central office of the Society for the Second Self may also have names of persons in your respective areas interested in participation in Tri-Ess.

I hope you find the enclosed helpful and encourage you to contact your nearest self-help clearinghouse. Good luck in your endeavor." (Ed. note: thank you Dr. Borck for your effort on our behalf. Through your organization we are now listed as an organized group throughout the country. The many members who have found out about us through self-help clearinghouse continue to grow. Especially on their behalf I'd like to pass on their sincere thanks for your help. The material enclosed will be very helpful for us as a chapter and for the entire organization. As always, you and your staff, and other professionals are always welcomed at our meetings. Quite frankly there are a number of professionals who know very little about us, and we'd like to see that change!)



Treasurer's Report

Thank you Claire, Andria, Sharon and Suzie for your dues renewal, and welcome to the chapter JoAnn and Diana. Also, thank you Tiffany Club, Nora Helene, and Diana for your donations to the chapter. Our Treasurer, Lynda, says: "It looks like we may have turned the corner with our finances. As long as attendance keeps up like it has been we will be in good shape". As a reminder, please do NOT send your Editor any dues or donations, as I am no longer the chapter's treasurer. Send to Lynda (address below).

Opening Cash Balance (4/1).....$685.01

Receipts

Meeting Fee	190.00	
Dues New	20.00	
Dues Renewal	40.00	
Contributions	50.00	
50/50	13.50	
Total		313.50

Expenses

Postage	54.50	
Motel	100.00	
Food	46.12	
Total		200.62

Ending Cash Balance (4/30).....$797.89

Last Minute Items

(4/24) No word on the Susskind program...May 19th Executive Committee meeting to be re-scheduled...June New Jersey meeting very doubtful. Westchester has been booked as a back-up. Follow the June newsletter and make sure that you are in contact with your GAL on this.

Best Regards,
Your Sister,
Mary Jane.

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KAREN (NJ-309-K)

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(MARY JANE, EDITOR).