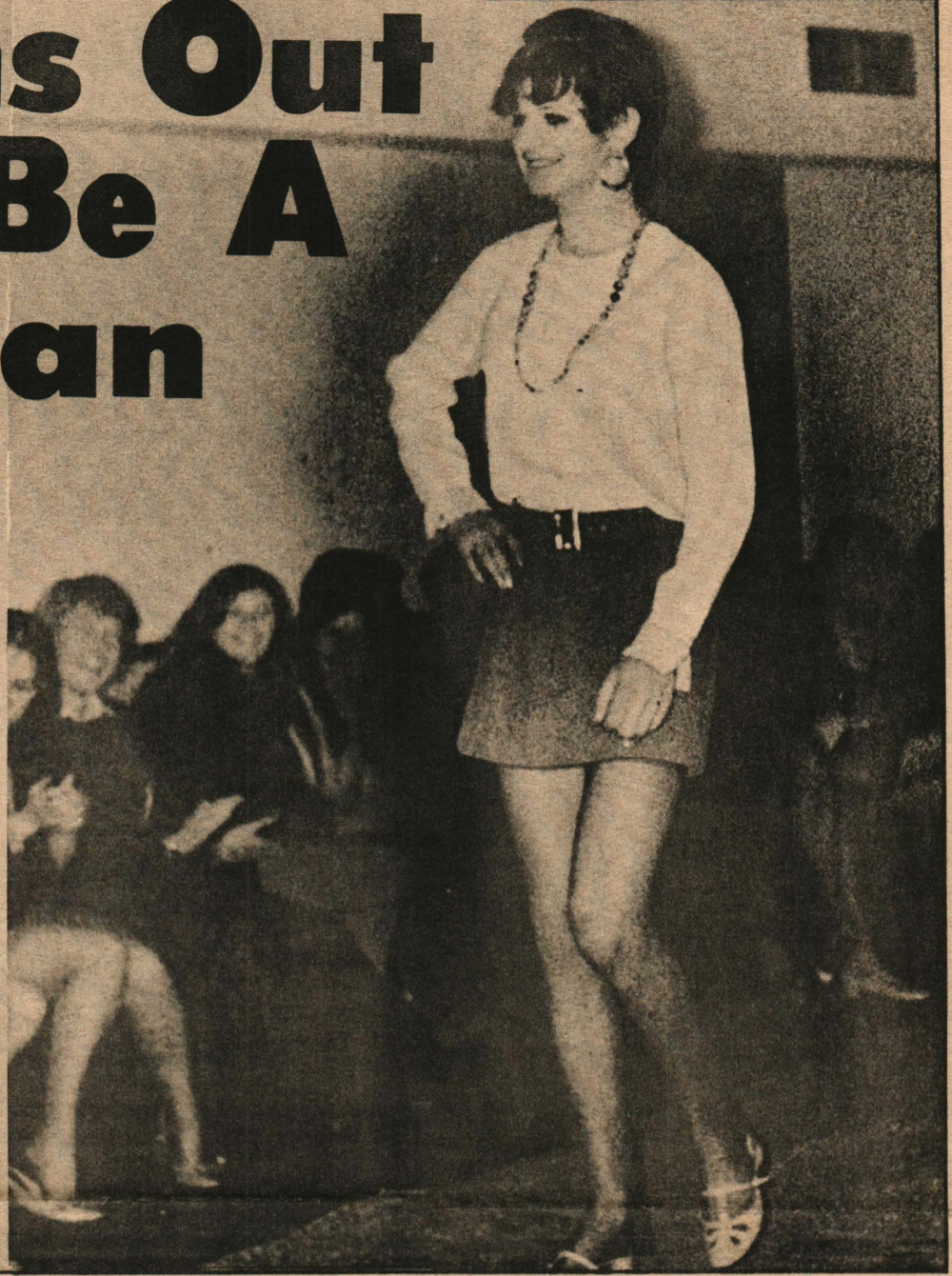


Beauty Contest Winner

Turns Out To Be A Man



TRANSITION FROM MALE TO FEMALE was made by John French using some make-up and padding in the right places. But his disguise was so convincing, he was able to win the beauty contest he entered. He was eventually disqualified

by **NATHAN KATZ**

In the eyes of the beauty contest judges, 18-year-old Virginia Bone was a sure winner.

The mini-skirted contestant had the style, grace and looks that would make any man's heart flip over.

By unanimous vote, Virginia won the contest — only her name wasn't Virginia. It was John.

The hoax was revealed when the judges announced the winner and Professor Geoffrey Hawthorne crowned "Virginia" Essex University's Charity Queen.

After placing the crown on the victor's head, he stooped to give her a kiss. When his lips came in contact with bristly whiskers, Hawthorne jumped back, accidentally hitting Virginia in the breast.

One of her breasts fell down to her waist.

"This girl is a boy," Professor Hawthorne declared.

He was right. Virginia came clean and admitted her name was John French, an 18-year-old math student at Essex University in Chelmsford, England.

He had togged himself out as a girl and entered the beauty contest on a dare from the other contestants.

"The other girls felt I'd have a good chance of winning. They thought it would be a fine joke if I did," John experience, though I hope I

"I must say, I'm flattered about all this. I think it's absolutely marvelous to be a beauty queen."

Following the expose, John was relieved of his crown and it went to the girl who ran second, Gaye Bradley.

"They took my crown, but we all know who's the winner," John told this MIDNIGHT reporter later. "And I got that kiss from Mr. Hawthorne who is a very dear man.

"It was a thrilling experience, though I hope I don't find myself looking down my nose at the other girls because the judges chose me.

"It would be dreadful if I let it go to my head."

Was he nervous during the contest this reporter asked him.

"Frightfully. I had a hard time putting on my make-up, I had such butterflies. But once I was on the stage, I regained my composure.

"I think I'm an actress at heart. Just being on a stage does wonders for me. I knew

just how to walk, and I gave the judges one of my coy, sexy smiles. And I batted my eyes at exactly the right moment.

"They simply couldn't help choosing me, I suppose."

The other girls, though defeated by John, congratulated him after. There were no catty remarks.

"We asked for it," said Gaye Bradley, the runner-up. "John likes to go in drag whenever he can get the chance.

"He showed up at a party some of us were at one night, dressed very sexily. He looked quite convincing.

"When the beauty contest was announced, we thought it would be a good laugh if he entered. I don't think we really thought he would win, however.

"It just goes to show how dependable beauty contests are, when a man can come out on top.

"Of course, from a distance John does bear certain resemblances to a girl, but up close you can tell he's not.

"The only way you can have a fair beauty contest is to have all the girls come out naked. Then there'll be no mistake."



VIRGINIA BONE was the name John used to be crowned Essex University Charity Queen