

Behind suburban curtains... a problem our society hides



Rosemary, the senior officer. He says: Dressing as a woman gives me a feeling of tranquillity.

ROGER is a man's man—a senior officer in the armed forces, with a distinguished record on active service.

ROSEMARY is a slim blonde who attracts admiring glances in her long, evening dress.

Roger and Rosemary share one thing in common... **THEY ARE THE SAME PERSON.**

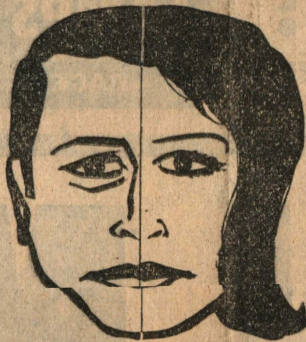
With thousands of others, Roger leads a secret double life.

He is possessed by a compulsive urge to dress as a woman—because a woman is what he sincerely feels he is.

Tormented

This widespread man-woman problem is about to be highlighted by a notable case. The former James Morris, newspaperman who covered the Everest climb, has had a sex-change operation, and his book about it is expected to be a best-seller.

But our nationwide



survey reveals that there are thousands of tormented men for whom the operation is not possible, because of one reason or another.

They have to make do by dressing the part.

They are not homosexuals. And their problems go far deeper than the transvestites who dress up merely for a sexual thrill. Trans-sexual is the term for people who believe they are the opposite sex.

As the Rev. Michael Butler, head of counselling with the Albany Trust, which deals with sex problems, said:

"In my opinion this gender dilemma—liter-

ally whether they are man or woman—represents probably the biggest hidden problem in society today."

There is now even an organisation for such men—the Beaumont Society, which has 300 members.

No problem has remained so long in darkness.

Now we have talked to men in all walks of life—a headmaster, a scientist, a university lecturer—who have been happy at last to unburden themselves

Who knows?

We use the names they call themselves in their "other identity." The male name of Roger, the officer, is fictitious to save him embarrassment.

One remarkable fact emerges: Thousands of people reading this newspaper today may never know that this secret torments their own husband, their boy-friend, their own father. . . .



Sylvia, the university lecturer.

THE CASE OF SYLVIA

"SYLVIA" is the secret "other half" of a 52-year-old university lecturer, one of the men who yearns to live as a woman. Quote:

Like so many of us I had this stupid idea that marriage would cure me. I know better now. In fact I often tell people with this problem that trying to get over it by marrying is like attempting to cure an alcoholic by locking him in a brewery.

Suddenly you have a wardrobe of clothes, a dressing table full of cosmetics. The temptation to bring to life this other person you feel inside you is just too much.

When my wife went into hospital I couldn't resist it. I went through a period in which the obsession seemed to take me over completely. . . .

Then I became a widower. If I had been able to afford it I would have had a sex-change operation. Now I am glad I didn't. People who

Double life of the college don

have had the operation find that it doesn't solve their problems.

Now Sylvia has her own life. She has her own notepad, her own way of doing things about the house.

I bought a house near the station to cut down the risk of Sylvia running into my students on the way to the train to go shopping.

Even so, I have now begun to wonder if it is possible to go to the university as a woman. It would take a lot of courage.

People have still no idea how widespread this problem really is. But there is already more tolerance.

When the time is right I could go openly, for all to see as the woman I feel is my real self.