

NUMBER 17
NOVEMBER, 1968

There's a chill in the air again.....Hurray!!.....it's cool at last! Of course, it's also football time and millions of people turn out every weekend to see the boys knock their heads together, hit each other and try to see how many players they can disable and carry off the field. Both men and women yell their heads off during each game and come away afterwards with elation or dejection depending on whether their team won or lost. Now, football is definitely a "man's game" and yet many women seem to enjoy watching it with as much enthusiasm as the men. This seems a bit strange since I don't know of a woman who ever played football, other than a bit of touch ball, and yet they seem to know what is going on and almost feel like they were on the field themselves. Now having played a lot of football myself, I too can get very excited about it, but I also can explain why I nearly "get carried away". If I hadn't played the game I don't think I could really appreciate it as much as I do. I know many men who never actually played football, but in their case I believe that they try to identify with the "rough-ians" in some way. So this leaves us with the women and no real explainable reason why they should feel so strongly about a game they can't play themselves. But many women do love football and that's a fact. So.....let's look at a similar situation only reversed. What sort of thing do women do exclusively that men cannot participate in, yet seem to be crazy about? I can't think of anything that is very widely accepted for the GG's that men would admit loving to watch (other than the ladies themselves) for a very long time. What have you been watching lately that a group of women were doing in public that you found yourself yelling and screaming and jumping up and down about? Well, I guess the point is made. It seems that the old story of "lady latitude" for the RG's(real gals) is a part of life and the men as usual, will continue to play it straight. I guess our little pleasures of Femme-personation aren't too difficult to explain when one considers it a form of participation in the femme game of "looking pretty". Yet, my dear little GG doesn't have to put on a football uniform in order to enjoy the game. Oh well, on to other less deep subjects.

BEAUMONT SOCIETY

Since FPE was originated, we have had good participation from England and Ireland. This group, called the Beaumont Society, has given excellent support to FPE and has continued to grow. Thus it comes time when our British and Irish friends have their own identity in order to continue to progress. So, the Beaumont Society has now become an International Affiliate of Phi Pi Epsilon rather than



"You GG's have got to get with it!"

We can do very little for them in their own land. So we now have international affiliated groups in Sweden and England and look forward to many others in the future.

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN

Would you believe that with this issue of the Femme Forum it is time for the first dues billing for the 1969 year? Personally, I don't look forward to it at all, because the collecting of FPE dues takes about half of my time and several months to complete. But...we are the type of organization that needs money to operate on and continue our work and help. So as we initiated last year, the first dues billing goes out with the November Newsletter and the second and last billing goes out to those who have not paid by January with that newsletter. This procedure enables us to save a great deal of expense and effort in billing early rather than carrying many of the members until May or June as we did in the past. So girls, if you can pay your annual dues early, we appreciate it; otherwise please remember that 1969 dues must be paid by January or your name will be withdrawn from the mailing list on January 30th. New membership cards will be sent with the January issue of the Forum to those who have paid by then.

MONEY \$\$\$\$\$\$ AND DUES

You will note that your 1969 dues have gone up \$1.00! This action was taken by the Executive Committee because of the increase in postal rates this past year and higher costs of printing the Femme Forum. For you members that have been around a bit longer you will recall that FPE dues were originally \$6.00 and in 1965 when we decentralized the FPE office and Fran took over as Executive Secretary, we had to raise the dues to \$11.00 because of the cost of adding the newsletter. This added \$5.00 to the dues which doesn't quite cover the cost of the Femme Forum and Annual Report. So an adjustment must be made and \$1.00 shouldn't

an FPE Region as such. Our good friends in Sweden have made great progress since becoming an affiliate of FPE International and we hope that the gals in the British Isles will enjoy the same degree of success. With Alga FE A-1 and Sylvia FE B-3 as proven leaders, the Beaumont Beauties are off and running. Good luck, ladies and we will look forward to working with you as always. Perhaps a word about international affiliation for the newer members would be timely.

Affiliate status was designed for various groups outside of the U.S. who have at least three dues-paying members in FPE who are in good standing. Because of currency exchange problems, language and distance problems, these groups need to set up their own rules for membership and security. In other words, we can't expect a group in a country outside the U.S. to conform with all of our rules and pay their dues to us when

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to

hurt too much! One other reason for the new amount of \$12.00 is to be able to pro-rate the dues of a new member more easily. Up to this time we have tried to divide 12 into \$11.00 and it isn't easy. Thus when a new member is enrolled into FPE, we will collect the full first years' annual dues and initiation fee and then send a pro-rata dues billing the next year giving a credit at that time. Consequently, a new member who comes in during the month of July, for example, will pay \$16.00(dues and initiation fee) and then be billed for \$5.00(pro-rata dues for 5 months) the next time that annual dues are to be paid. This procedure should help clarify the problem and also help keep us solvent. Thank you for your understanding!!!!!!

NEW MEMBERS

There are many new ladies to be welcomed into FPE this time and we wish them all the very best in femme living! Perhaps we should find a less confusing way of announcing our new gals, so let's see how this arrangement works!

<u>Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Region</u>
Barbara	54 D-1	980	Jane	10 B-1	300
Lorraine	5 C-11	940	Kathleen	33 W-2	270
Janet	5 L-16	940	Jane	33 S-2	270
Sharon	5 W-19	940	Carol	51 G-1	210
Debbie	13 K-2	900	Susan	38 H-7	190
Harriet	5 H-22	900	Jean	32 R-11	100
Marcia	12 P-1	835	Alisson	32 M-12	100
Louise	36 P-1	770	Linda	30 C-3	70
Yolanda	FM-C-1	770(Mexico)	Priscilla	21 Z-3	60
Cathy	17 A-1	630	Dolores	21 G-4	60
Nancy	23 J-1	550	Gabrielle	55 P-3	Ontario

NEW INTERVIEWERS ANNOUNCED

As reported last time, we are still working(and will continue to do so) on finding sufficient Interviewers to cover all areas where we have members or expect growth. This is not an easy task. However, we do have some announcements to make regarding some new appointments. Region #270(No. Carolina) finally came to life with the appointment of Beatrice 33 B-2 as Interviewer. With numerous new members in #270 we should have some good development there. Another problem area has been #190, which is So. Eastern Pennsylvania and Philadelphia. Gail 38 L-1 has agreed to help us with interviewing in this area so perhaps things

will start happening. We also have a new reion, #890, which is the Las Vegas, Nevada area. Diana 28 C-1 will be the Interviewer for this region. Gisele 13 J-2 recently paid #890 a visit to help get things started.

Any present members in good standing who wish to get in touch with either of these two ladies can do so by writing via "Contact". New members will, of course, contact them direct. We are also working on some other regions and hope to have results very soon. These are namely, Central Pennsylvania, Oklahoma, Toronto, Canada and Tennessee.



"I want a dress!"

NEW CHAPTERS FORMED

We are very pleased to announce that two new FPE chapters have been formed. The first has been meeting informally in Denver and has recently been chartered as SIGMA. We will expect to hear more from the Sigma girls as time goes by. The other new chapter is located in the Eastern-Central part of Michigan with headquarters in Detroit, Michigan. Kay 22 K-1, one of our National Vice-Presidents and Interviewer for Michigan, sent in a letter of petition for chapter status containing eight signatures. So BETA has a nice start and we all join in wishing these two chapters great success. Perhaps we will be hearing from some other groups before long and have some more chapters to announce. I know that plans are underway in Albany, New York and Northern Wisconsin as well as other areas.

LITERARY NOTES - By Jeri 49 K-3



"I see you in a party dress, high heels, and..."

Some old business first: the name of the spy novel I mentioned several columns back that involves the hero ending up marrying (or about to marry) a double agent-- who happens to be a man ("Do you mind terribly, darling?") is "The Gay Deceivers by Peter Leslie. While the ending very obviously suggests homosexuality-- the only explicit HOism is between a couple of other characters. In this case, it's treated in a very humorous way and I recommend it if you like spy novels, satires against British society, etc. (and against the Americans as well.)

The advent of the new television series, "The Ugliest Girl In Town", has created an instant supply of TV literature--so to speak--and now there is a paperback on the newsstands entitled The Ugliest Girl. Like the television series, however, it is a farce (the literary form rather than an evaluation), and from what I've seen, the show is not going to be as popular as flying nuns and wealthy hillbillies (which you may recall had a series of episodes with "Jethrine" on them--Max Baer in drag). **Editor's note: See review of the television series in this issue!

I ran into one of those adult TV stories the other day, entitled The Fake, which resembles those potpourri dirty books that have a little something for everyone. Normally, I wouldn't particularly recommend this type of book--(I don't condemn them either...you pays your price, you gets your choice....)--but this one is interesting in that it features a couple of rather interesting devices: A TV whose wife divorces him over his TVism, confides in her best friend--who thinks it's the greatest thing since sliced pistachios, and she moves in to "develop" the TV. There are several TVs in the book, the one mentioned here is a TS basically, and he "recruits" the hero, who would rather fight than switch, and so he eases the TS out of the relation with the girlfriend, and moves in himself. The rather explicit physical descriptions and rather improbable physical details are among the milder defects. However, gustibus non est disputandum.....

TV REVIEW - By Laura 35 S-2

In respect to the TV show "The Ugliest Girl In Town", the four of the series that I've seen have been a great disappointment from an FP standpoint as well as just entertainment. I had such great hopes that the show would show TV/FP in a more sober light and that the 'star' would have a few serious moments. That hasn't happened yet. In fact, it's becoming offensively kookie. It is said that the star, Peter Kastner, refused to take the part if he were ever required to wear skirts, or sport a 'bosom'. So far that hasn't happened--only culottes and those horrid, ugly boots (Gahhh!): Between Twiggy, pant-suits, kooks with long hair (and beards), the boots, and the squirrely fashion designers, they've very nearly destroyed the cherished feminine image....and in some quarters are assiduously destroying femme character as well. Soon TVs will become an anachronism.... searching for an identity that does not exist.

SOCIAL NEWS - By Laura 35 S-2

In the land of everlasting sunshine, the ALPHA'S aren't about to let any moss grow under their feet because they have a year-round program of fun and constructive activities. For instance, in August they held a 'constitutional convention' and created a model for all chapters to copy. And as is quite the custom in Alpha, they had non-FP visitors in the person of the publisher-printer team who composes Transvestia. It was quite an experience for them to meet their readers in person. Adding spice to the evening was a lively question and answer period on the subject of "passing". HMMMMM, now there's a sticky topic.

Virginia hostessed the Alpha September meeting in her new home with so large an attendance it threatened to burst the walls! The piece de resistance was Ginny's account of her experiences on her Alaskan trip and the reactions she obtained on the many TV and radio shows she appeared on....all most heartening, too. The meeting was semi-formal and off the girls had a perfectly delightful time in their party dresses.

The Alpha October meeting, held on the 26th at their meeting hall, has not yet been reported on. We understand that the principal activity of the evening was to finalize plans for the Alpha Open House which is being set for November 23rd. Once again their members have the opportunity to invite guests and you all know how tremendously effective it is when others can see us as we really are. It is understood that this year's Open House will be in a party atmosphere with cocktail dresses the order of the day. Best of luck, girls!

The newly formed Beta Chapter in the Detroit area is getting into full swing. The guiding light has been Kay Spenser, aided and abetted by Joyce and Maryann(GG). A fashion party was held at Joyce's home Oct. 26th, at which time the girls had the opportunity to examine the latest styles in an atmosphere somewhat different from our usual shopping ventures. The party gave the Detroiters a splendid chance to get acquainted too. Let's wish them all of the success they deserve.



"If you're not a girl, what are you?"

The THETA TAU's in the Twin Cities opened their Fall social season with a meeting on the 26th with Sally officiating. Their enthusiasm is unflagging and everyone is striving to make this year the best ever. This meeting featured a welcome for a number of new members and reports were given on the progress of the U of Minnesota research as well as the taped Alan Burke show which had Virginia as guest. Created a great deal of interest throughout the Land O Lakes. If we know our gal Sal, Theta Tau is busily planning some outstanding projects and socials for the coming season.

The CHI's in Chicago have been very busy. In an election of officers, Irene 13 W-4 was named President, Cheryl 13 S-7 veep, and Betty Lou 13 R-3 rewon the post of Secretary-Treasurer. On October 19th, the Chi's held a Halloween party-- a masquerade at that, featuring some highly effective costumes, such as gypsy, shiek, bunny girl, 5-year old girl, a square-dance girl, dentist, nurse, and no less than two harem girl dancers, for example. Needless to say, the wives joined in the fun and everyone had a wonderful time. Downstate, Julie Mahlany and Darlene hosted a party in honor of Jo Ann and Marion who came from Tennessee to meet the Chi's who live in the region. Your reporter was devastated that she couldn't join them, but it was a most successful party and was a splendid example of how inter-regional meetings can help new chapters get started. Oh yes, Jo Ann is forming a new chapter in the West Tennessee area and invites unaffiliated girls in that area to join.

The girls in the Denver area have been busy with three meetings so far this Fall. They have their gatherings in a private home and mix a little business with a lot of pleasure for all. One project is to find a private lodge in the mountains where a bit more freedom can be found. Really girls--bear or deer hunting in a mini-skirt can be chilly. They have four members now and expectations for more soon, as well as numerous visits from others such as Annette 12 F-1.

SHEILA IN TV-LAND

First, a sweet letter from Eloise 21 F-3 answering one of the questions I raised in the last FF: "On August 17, MY THREE SONS started off with Uncle Charley being Chairman of the entertainment committee of the lodge. He planned a big show to outdo any previous effort, and had all kinds of promises of talent, One by one, they begged off until he was left with himself and three others. Fred McMurray was drafted to fiddle. What with all the planning and arranging, Charley(Bill Demarest) was exhausted. They had the dress rehearsal in the afternoon, and while waiting for another act to finish he wandered outside to a patio. He sat in an easy chair and fell asleep, still in full chorus-girl guise. When he woke, everyone was gone and the door locked. He had no choice except to walk home - no money either. On the way, he sat in a park to rest. An old gent sat down too, and started to get chummy. When he asked for a date, our hero got mad and punched him. A cop just happened to be there, and hauled him in. He was hopping mad(as usual) but managed to get the sergeant to call McMurray, who came down, identified him and after a lot of sour jokes, took him home in time to get ready for the show that night. The last scene showed the chorus cavorting, a not very distinguished sight. The audience enjoyed it, though, and the show turned out to be good entertainment after all." Thank you, dear; it's nice to have some help on this job!

Also from Eloise, in Gamma's marvelous newsletter, and answer to another of my questions:

"Do we pass, or is it just the desire of people to avoid getting involved? If it was this, then people would look and then turn away. I can honestly say

meeting
everyone
for

that I went through a crowd last Sunday and no one even looked. No one paid any attention to me at all. To pass you should be neat and clean and out of style. A woman who looks dowdy attracts little attention. Everyone is too busy observing the young woman sporting the latest word in fashion to notice some big old dame who looks like a million others."

Enterprising Eloise has lost her girl friend who on October 5th became her wife. Doll, of course, offered to be a bridesmaid, but the idea was not too enthusiastically received. They are off to New York for their honeymoon which will take in getting together with New York sisters, and a visit to Eloise's favorite heels shop.

"In September, Lisa played a delightful hostess for Gamma girls(Donna, Eloise, Francene, Dorothy, Betsy, Barbara, Joanne), three GG's and Frank(our newly-discovered hair stylist) and his very charming wife. Barbara's inimitable humor kept the party at hightide and Lisa and Dorothy tackled the barbecuing. We talked of wigs, a few funny things that have happened to us in public, and how to act like ladies." My congratulations to Eloise and to her lovely new wife Mary - a lady who passes the true test of understanding us and liking us anyhow!

Speaking of passing, I did quite a good job - the easy way. Since I got on a mailing list, probably from the NY Academy of Sciences story in TVia, my P.O. box has been filling up with mail(mostly ads) quite befitting to a distinguished lady chemist. BUT I never dreamed I'd get an offer of a Fellowship in the American Institute of Chemists! Nor that it would be based on "selection and recommendation by the Fellowship Nominations Committee and in recognition of your professional contributions and service." Gee, I didn't think TVia had THAT big an audience, and that's the only place the Niles name has appeared on the professional level! Of course, MODERN TECHNOLOGY did print my letter of protest over their change to that name.....All I said was that I felt I was being demoted from "that blonde who reads MISSILES AND ROCKETS" since the new name was so unglamorous, I might as well be seen reading GOOD HOUSEKEEPING. I'm tempted to accept that Fellowship, but Avis has promised to put me down the Disposal a piece at a time if I do.....

Our social life has been brightened by a few special events: Kathey 30 S-6 gave a lovely party for Susanna, complete with a charm and beauty contest - with seven awards for various attributes. Avis won the cup for "Elegance", and rightly I think - but she sort of cheated by being BORN a girl! Not that she dresses ALL the time; out in the garden, she could pass for a boy, or a girl, or a rather over-active dogwood.

Next, a quite impromptu party for Marge 24 H-1, who turned up from her lonely outpost as the only FPE-Miss in Mississippi. That brought Gail 38 L- over for our first meeting with this



"Dad, this is Jack.....Guess where I am."

delightful representative of the youngest generation of FPEs and her lovely wife. They are transfers from the Delta Chapter, and a very welcome addition to the East, though I must admit a twinge of jealousy at not being 30 years younger myself! Also, by a miracle, Theresa 30 M-2 (who was in port for only 72 hours) called up just to say hello and was swept up into the affair. She had glowing reports on her visit to the Great Lakes area groups. However, she was not so lucky next trip; she did manage a visit with Sally 43 S-5, but was just one day too early for the big party at Houston.

Third, Dorothy Ann put on a Halloween party, at which Wendy made her first appearance - another good addition to our group. Deanna and Jeannette brought their wives up from Baltimore, making it an interstate affair.

Next weekend, the RHO Chapter put on their own party, but we couldn't return the visit. Deanna 20 Q-1 writes:

Our hostess, Jeanette, was a perfect angel and those attending the Rho Chapter Halloween Party were "treated" to a delightful evening. Beverly Jean entertained us with a party game for which prizes were awarded to the winners, Irene and Mary. Also an attendance prize which was won by Pat. Roast turkey, punch, a special halloween cake and other goodies were served, all prepared by Shirley. We were especially pleased to have the company of Mary, one of our new members, who journeyed quite a distance to be with us. Of course, the evening would not have been complete without some "girl talk" and an exchange of ideas for the next event. But gossip? Certainly not! (Just for the record, Pat and Shirley are GGs)

Other news items: The sex-education teacher in a New Jersey high school told the newspaper "The young people were interested in a whole range of sex topics, from transvestism to homosexuality." LOVE that range; how nice it wasn't "TV and HS. Perhaps our message IS getting through....Here's one that comes up every year; this time it was from Cornell, where Leona (alias Leo) Lipitsky won the Miss Campus Chest title in a land-slide victory. The 6'2" front-runner based her campaign largely on leaflets bearing her photograph (and you know how many she must have thrown away to get that one). One of the losers said bitterly, "It just proves how bad Cornell men's taste really is." Meow, Meow! But the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission sees things in a different light; after Dec. 1 it will be illegal to publish want-ads segregated on a male/female basis, at least around here. "The burden of proof that sex is a bona fide qualification for the job rests on the advertiser," says the NJ Administrator. Now is the time; get your plans ready for that big day. Though personally, I LIKE my brother's job; I don't want to BE a movie actress, I just want to live like one...

On another front, the Lovable Co. is offering prizes for the best new bra designs. Students are asked to apply complex engineering principles of stress and load to improve performance. Latest achievement: a jogging bra, made of gray flannel, for fitness enthusiasts. Isn't it time we put some of the well-known FPE engineering talent on the line?

Sylvia writes that things were quiet this Summer in England; a big expedition to the park with Sheila H's brother as photographer was the main event. She sent some clippings: "Nothing brightens up your garden like primrose pants!" says one; his or hers? Another finds that "Only 2% of female shoppers wear men's clothing ALL the time."

FPE-NE sent us a lovely visitor, Gerda DM-102, in mid-September. After one night here where she met some of the NJ girls, she spent the rest of the week at Katheys.

That included lunch with Conny 32 V-2; then up to Susanna's for the weekend. Next stop was to see Diana Joyce, where she had only a brief brother-visit due to other commitments. Not, I fear, as spectacular a visit as when we met in Stockholm last year, but a good sample of the action here. Erna writes that an article, by the Hegelers (a married couple, both psychologists, featured a $\frac{1}{4}$ page picture of Virginia, the Wives Book and address. She also mentions studies (covered in some US magazines later) on men with DOUBLE masculinity, or XYY chromosomes. They seem to be like bulls, all sex drive and aggression, and tend to spend most of their time in jails as a result. There are quite a few around, but who wants them? Erna also reports that there are now almost 50 members in FPE-NE; they were looking forward to visits from Evelyn and Alga this Fall.

Barbara Anne, FM-S-1, reports she is working on getting a group together, but finds it slow going. Problem number one is how to break the news to her wife. She plans to ease into the subject by wearing a kilt around the house, as she is part of a Scottish organization in Mexico. Avis' reaction: "Nyah! What's feminine about a KILT?!"

And now, after all that sugar, comes the quinine part of the pill: Some of you kittens are still playing the "correspondence club" game, in the hope of finding new members for your group by a "short-cut". Well, it's NOT short, and the "cut" may be deeper than you expect! After all these years, I know of only one FPE member who was located by this dubious route; all the other TVs contacted were far-out types who had no more use for us than we had for them. (I do know of a number of FPEs who located each other, after spending many times what a simple letter through Virginia's CONTACT service would have cost, simply because their "fishing-lines" got tangled. I also know a few who contacted the cops this way - and it wasn't much fun, except maybe for the cops.) You might even contact Micheal Leigh, who makes his living as a "fink" for MacFadden Books. His specialty is to advertise as a wife-swapper, homosexual, transvestite or masochist -- all the same to him -- and collect scandalous material from the letter trustful people send him. This is then published, with thinly disguised identities, as "The Velvet Underground", "Velvet Underground Revisited", etc.



So far, we have gotten off lightly. The latest volume merely says "These perverts and deviates openly communicate and get together.....One of these magazines is TRANSVESTIA....." He then quotes from the Chevalier ad sheet, and somehow makes even the innocent words "a feeling for the feminine" sound like an indictment.

At least there is one less to worry about now. Eva [redacted] got busted last month, ending her MONTHLY sheet. It took three sets of cops as she was spread out over Newark, East Orange and West Orange, N.J. TV was NOT the prime target; that was her "Coast-to-Coast Sales", from which they confiscated \$15,000 worth of obscene literature. Today it has to be pretty strong stuff to rate THAT label! "They also seized records containing names, dates, addresses and material purchased,

"Isn't this better than bowling, George?"

and uncovered a personal diary which they said revealed her garage/office was also used for purposes of lewdness and assignation," according to the Newark paper.

In England, similar channels brought us a "psychologist" (self-taught) who proved to be a TV with a yearning for REAL names, addresses and occupations. Recently "he started writing letters asking for money. They reached the point of threatening to show us unfavorably in his forthcoming book unless we came to his financial aid. Fortunately, I knew he was a patient of Dr. Randell, who was a helpful adviser in our hour of need," writes my still shaking friend in London. So, happy fishing, girls, but keep your attorney's phone number handy.

***Editor's Note: Let this be another warning ladies!!! At least WE are worried about YOUR security!!

Lastly, and on a less gloomy note, I wrote this open letter to Joy [redacted] who subs for Hal [redacted] when he's away: "Dear Mrs. [redacted] y:

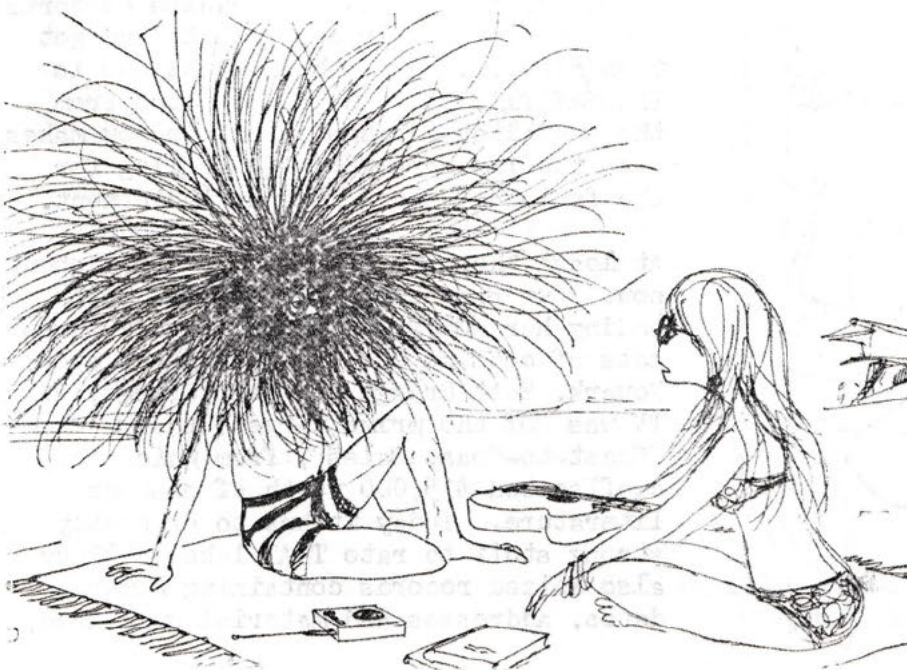
In your column of October 24, you were worried about the increasing difficulty of telling the boys from the girls. I do agree that it IS difficult, but seriously question your "need to know", as the Security people phrase it. Can't you just treat each one as a PERSON, without knowing the details of their anatomy? These days, it just might be prosthetic from the neck down, you realize. Your example of "an embarrassing social problem. Introduced to an individual named Pat or Sandy, who is attired in slacks and sporting a hairdo just this side of a crew-cut, should you talk about housekeeping or football?" leaves me stone cold, as those are two things I just couldn't care less about. Couldn't we talk about column writing, which we DO have in common? Or, if you hate shop-talk, how about world peace, chemistry, dress styles, the space program, trouble with our teeth, the recent election, or many other subjects of a non-erotic nature on which I'm sure you have some thoughts at least as interesting as mine? As a matter of fact, I hardly ever get very nosy, at least with new acquaintances, and wouldn't ask even if I suspected you were old Hal in a dress! (Thought I might drop a few hints.) In short, please regard me as a human being (even my spouse admits that much) worthy of being met on THAT level, and leave the details to my doctor, Social Security (to whom it matters quite a lot in a few years) and me.

Frustratingly yours,

S. [redacted]"

Dollars to doughnuts
she doesn't answer!
So, that's 30 for now...

Sheila 30 B-2



"You're so masculine, Bert!"

This comes from Kathy 33 W-2 FPE: "I found this review of the film The Queen in the October issue of Glamour Magazine. I thought I would pass it along to you without comment for your disposal."

GLAMOUR, Volume 60, No.2

"Some people may find The Queen difficult to take. I didn't. It's a documentary about transvestites, or to be more accurate, about the holding of a national drag-queen beauty contest in New York in 1967. I liked it. I won't argue the morality of men getting themselves up as women (each to his own morality, and mine extends to drag-queens), but it is a harmless pursuit compared to burning people to death in napalm like so many Fritos.

Frank Simon's color documentary is marvelous--he manages to show the drag-queens as they are, without making them seem ridiculous, without sentimentalizing them, without making fun of them. Sometimes they are funny, but they can see that they're funny, which is more than can be said for a lot of 'straight' people one knows. The film is full of perfectly entrancing details--Miss Harlowe (a beautiful boy who made an even more beautiful girl) crying in bed because his platinum fall has been lost; Miss Boston, a balding three-hundred pound gentleman, who winsomely refused to enter the bathing suit contest; an MC of ferocious bitchiness who looked exactly like Barbara Streisand except for a slight suggestion of a five o'clock shadow..... I can't really say why I liked a film that could so easily have been merely a macabre document, but the fact is that it made me happy. For all the neurosis behind these men's compulsion to dress up as women, there is a kind of spontaneity and gaiety (no pun intended) to their efforts and, above all, a total devotion and commitment to an abstract idea. In one sense the drag-queen seemed very American. They are working hard to succeed at something that is by definition impossible. I couldn't help thinking that if I could summon up a tenth of their energy, I could Zen John Wayne to the outermost circle of the Wheel of Life."

Thanks again Kathey. Guess that's about all for this one ladies. Remember to do your own thing and think pink while doing it.

Femininely,

Fran 49 C-1 FPE
Executive Secretary



