



The Femme Forum



NOVEMBER, 1971

VOLUME ONE - NUMBER THIRTY-TWO

SOME REASONS WHY I AM AN FP - by Fran 49 C-1

Women are the beautiful sex. Who can doubt that? Among the birds the male may have the beautiful plumage, but among human beings it is women who wear the peacock feathers. Whatever else is denied women, no one denies that they are better looking than men. When the first baby born in the New Year is a girl, the newspaper predicts that she will grow up to be Miss America in twenty years; yet when the first baby born in the New Year is a boy, no one predicts anything so nice for him. When a little boy sees his baby sister unwrapped for the first time, he hears the others exclaim "My, isn't she pretty!" Certain little boys may think that it is quite nice to be pretty but no one predicts that they will grow up to be "pretty" and it can be a bit confusing at times.

As a little boy grows he sees models of feminine beauty everywhere. As he sits in front of the television, every nice product is in the hands of a fair lady. The actresses on TV and in the movies are always beautiful, or at least the young ones who win in the end are. When a little boy travels on an airplane, the stewardess who gave him his dinner and a soda is lovely and when he peeks into magazines, he sees the beautiful ladies in the ads. When he walks beside his mother in the supermarket his eyes are level with all the covers of the magazines which are mostly pretty women posing in the prettiest clothes possible. When he rides in the family car, he sees all of the billboards with gigantic beautiful girls papered on them. Back home on his TV set he has the opportunity to see dozens of Beauty Contests every year and can easily see that to become Miss Something is an unique and highly praised honor. So, little boys not only look at beautiful women all around them, they hear and read about them too. In the newspapers women are usually referred to as the lovely Miss So and So or the pretty coed or the attractive Mrs. and, of course, all of the brides on the society page are beautiful girls too. As he looks in the mirror at himself he doesn't see anything very pretty, but if he looks long enough some seeds of loveliness may be planted in his mind that will never grow away.

Dear Transisters:

By now, I'm so well-integrated into my boy-self that all we do is work! I admit to being something of a perfectionist, so I keep suggesting ways to make what we're saying clearer or more succinct and the report grows and grows and grows . . . He sent out copies of the rough draft to be reviewed and only one copy has come back so far - I think he "snowed" the others. Ah well, some day the final, final draft will get handed in and then we can throw a party to celebrate.

Ellen from England had supper with us just before she was to go home and regaled us with her adventures. She really covered a lot of territory and got a lot of mileage out of her unlimited Greyhound ticket, including a round-trip back across the country to go to an Alpha party.

We had a week's vacation in California at the end of a business trip. We managed to hit the 100 degree week, but had a nice time. We stayed two nights with Lucienne, talked to Inez and Jeannette, and even had an hour with Virginia the day after she got home from her trip.

And now for the news from FP Land:

Sigma - Denver girls met on September 24th to welcome their newest member, Joy. Tentative plans were made for Virginia's visit October 14th for the Seminar at the University of Colorado School of Psychiatry. In August, Elaura and Maureen drove to Fort Collins to welcome Janice and her family who had just moved there from the State of Washington. Sheryl, also from Washington, was there too, having come along with Janice for a brief vacation. Janice has invited the Sigma girls and their GG's for a dinner meeting at her home on November 12th.

Delta - Faithful correspondent Maryann reports that she appeared with Virginia on the Alan Douglas Show on WKYC Radio. Plans are underway for a joint meeting of the Midwest groups.

Alpha - Their meetings are always the last Saturday of the month. If you will be visiting in Los Angeles at that time, get in touch and they will tell you where. At their August meeting they had "Lady Java", a working professional impersonator, who talked about her work and answered questions.

Omega - Activities were anything but slow in Tulsa this Summer! Joy Suzanne's report was delightful as always and very hard to condense. I feel by now that I know them all well. In July, Sally 43 S-5 and GG stopped off for a fun-filled weekend on their way home to Texas. Myrtle Ann (that girl really gets around) visited them in August and then at the end of August, Joy Suzanne and GG had a 12-day Gulf Coast vacation, ending in Houston and a brief visit at Sally's resort. Back home, the Tulsa girls met to plan for Virginia's visit in October. Virginia came the weekend of October 9-13, so they



"I Always wanted a daughter!"



"RULE- Blend into the crowd when going out!"

had time for two dinner parties and lots of visiting. Arrangements were made to supply books to local bookstores and an interview was taped before Virginia left October 13th for Kansas City, Denver and home the night of the 14th. It is a friendly, busy group with understanding GG's, so they have a lot of fun.

Rho - As luck would have it, we were in Washington the weekend of Rho's September meeting, so we were able to join them in their "House-warming" for Jeannette and GG's new home. In spite of the rain and flooding, everyone found the house and a pleasant time was had by all, with about 14 present.

Beaumont - From Virginia we learned that the London dinner was a smashing success. There were over 100 present, the food was good, there were printed menus, toasts, good fellowship, the works. There were nearly twice as many there as there were last year, so they will need to plan for a larger hall next year!

That's all the news to now. If you want to read about yourself, let us know.

Sheila

NEW MEMBERS ENROLLED

We are pleased to welcome new members again this time and also several former members who have been reinstated.

<u>Region</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Code</u>	<u>Local Area</u>	<u>DECEASED MEMBER</u>
60	Claudine	21 B-4	020	We regret to announce the tragic death of Jane 13 K-2 who was killed in a plane crash in September. Jane was a member of the Chi Chapter and was very active in FPE affairs. She had been an FPE member for 18 months and made many friends through her youthful and uncluttered approach to enjoying all phases of FP.
190	Gladys	38 M-10	163	
460	Lucille	14 B-2	469	
460	Margatet	14 C-1	479	
600	Jody	13 A-3	604	
<u>Reinstated</u>				
480	Loretta	5 H-16	480	*****
900	Judy	5 B-34	916	
900	Page	5 S-27	928	
940	Beverly	5 H-19	952	

IT'S DUES TIME AGAIN!

I can't believe it, but it's true, here we are still collecting last year's dues and it's already time to bill you for 1972. As you all know, this issue of the Forum is the last mailing we will have in 1971, so it is our only chance to bill you for your 1972 dues. So you will find enclosed in your envelope with this issue a statement of dues, either partial for newer members or the full

\$12.00 for older members. This year we are not going to mail out a Femme Forum to those who have not paid their dues by January of 1972. Thus you have two months to get your dues in and if you don't, you will be removed from the mailing list in January. So, you should take care of this dues matter as soon as possible and please use the dues statement (completed) and return envelope when you send in your money. Thank you for your attention to this matter Ladies!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

LETTERS TO FRAN

Dear Fran,

You do not know me; my name is Virginia Sue, however, my friends call me Sue, (which I strongly hope that you will be). I am writing in regard to your article in the Sept. Femme Forum.

First, a little of my background. I have been a TV for at least 40 years and until about 2 years ago I thought that there was something wrong with me, and then I discovered Virginia and your group. Thanks to you wonderful people I now know or understand better what I am. I have been married for 23 years and my wife knew nothing of this until 2 years ago. After many discussions with her, she still does not understand, and is very up-tight about the whole subject. She does tolerate my femme self and I am sure that she must love me very much. She knows of my femme self and on occasion has bought me some lovely gifts, such as clothes and jewelry. I have never been out in public but I feel that if and when she does understand better, that she may give me some help in becoming a little more authentic.

That is a very brief history of my past. Now the reason that I am writing you. I feel that you are doing a terrific job for us all, and I would like to help but I just do not know how to go about it. I am not a leader, I am not a writer, I also am very fearful of approaching people on the subject. I cannot even help too much financially right now. Hoping to hear from you soon.

Virginia Sue



"Hi....I'm your host!"

Dear Virginia Sue,

There are quite a few things that you can do to help. Perhaps the easiest is to get some of the leaflets "Introduction to TVism" and distribute them in your area. Of course you can check the local libraries and make sure that they have the book "The TV and His Wife" on the shelf. But perhaps most important would be to see what could be done in your area to get a group going. Our chapters are the most effective means that we have of helping others and until one is operating in a specific area, only scattered attempts of help can be accomplished. There are eight members in your general area and certainly at least half of them will be interested in exploring the possibilities of a chapter. It takes someone to start things; perhaps that could be you.

Fran

Dear Fran
FP

Dear Fran,

I thought that you did a wonderful evaluation in your article, "The Average FP". When I read the article, it looked almost like a copy of my background! No, we all have much in common. The main thing that is missing from the study is the somewhat selfish and hung-up nature of the "Average FP". In these areas I am not "average". I still have a few hang-ups, but have been able to gain peace of mind. This has taken me a very short time to accomplish...only one year. Last year I was all alone and today I have many FP friends and a much better outlook on life.

I want to help others achieve the same peace of mind, and I know that FPE is the only effective way to accomplish it. Your editorial disturbs me. It sounds so negative! As you said...."some radical adjustments will have to be made...." The work load must be very tough, and all of those negative comments don't help. You and Virginia are the backbone of the organization, and without both of you we would all still be lock-ins.

We must all work together or the organization cannot continue to help our less fortunate sisters. What do you want me to do? No job is too small or too large. I have the background and education to be very useful. Many chapters are only concerned with their own area and in my opinion, don't give a damn about anything else. Without local support of the national organization, everything will fall apart. No one seems to understand this!!

Carol Ann 15 B-3

Dear Carol Ann,

You are right about the selfish nature of FPs. Most FPs are so worried about themselves that there is little time left for others. This selfishness can only be explained by the many years of fear and guilt experienced by most FPs to the point that when release is found and means of expression given, they don't want to ever limit their "femme joy" but utilize every possible opportunity to do their thing. The only problem that results is a sort of self-centered approach which in marriages can and does turn a probable helpmate in the form of the GG into a semi-antagonistic partner. I believe that if the truth were known, the most serious complaint of a GG (wife) is that her FP husband becomes too

demanding once his femme freedom is found, not only in time spent in femme dressing, but in time spent thinking about himself. We certainly know that when one is thinking about himself he doesn't have much time to think of others.

This is also true in an organization such as ours. We know that many members will come and go, taking everything they can get or need and leaving nothing. We could almost call this a basic rule or truth of our work. Your offer to help is much appreciated, because



there is a lot to do. However, as mentioned before, you can be most effective on the local level because the national work must be confined to as few people as possible for security reasons.

Your comments about Virginia and myself are most gracious. I can only speak for myself here and say that I have become very tired and a bit weary from my work in FPE. My family is growing up and needs more of my attention and my business life has changed so dramatically that it demands twice as much time as before. Thus, some RADICAL CHANGES will have to be made because I can no longer carry on with all of the work of my office. So I don't mean to sound negative, but our organization needs leadership badly and I need a rest.

As always,

Fran

Dear Fran,

I hope I am not out of order and that this letter does not take too long. I would like to ask you a few questions? I live by myself. I do not know how to buy make-up. In other words I do not know about skin color. I have asked a few members about skin color and they said to go to the store and buy a few different kinds of make-up, but I get too embarrassed. I also bought a new sewing machine which I do not know how to work. I want to make myself a lot of dresses. I Hope that you can send somebody to help. I was asked two times to go to chapter parties, but once I couldn't and the other time I got lost. I try to get dressed up but I get so disgusted. Please help me. Thanking you,

Linda 32 K-13

Dear Linda,

The first thing you must do is send for Virginia's new book "How To Be A Woman Though Male". This much needed book will answer all of your questions and some that you haven't thought of yet. Your friends were correct in telling you to go to a store and buy lots of make-up. You can get inexpensive make-up in any variety store or go to several and get a few jars or tubes of each one. The next thing you must work on is not to be embarrassed about shopping. Get the courage to go back to where you bought the sewing machine and ask for a few lessons. They usually provide these lessons at no cost. You could also enroll in a sewing course at some vocational school or even through correspondence. (Note: In our local newspaper today, there was an article and pictures of a father who had made his daughter's wedding dress and four attendants' dresses and who has been sewing the family's clothes for years.) Lastly, make sure you do get to the meeting the next time you are invited. You can learn a great deal from other members and pick up many ideas from them. You must learn to help yourself and you will find that your femme progress will be rapid.



".... and a slip, and panties for my Daddy!"

SEASONS GREETINGS

It's a good time of the year to extend our very special good wishes to you all. With Thanksgiving Day only a few days away and Christmas and the New Year only weeks away, it is a time for joy and giving. It is also a good time to spend a few moments reflecting on our blessings and good fortune.

First let us, the officers, say Thank You to each one of you, our loyal members. Your support and belief that Phi Pi Epsilon could be a worthy organization has made it so. FPE has played an important part in all of our lives to make us more total and effective human beings. Through the help of many we have been able to help many, which was our primary goal since the very first days of FPE. We have gathered knowledge together and dispersed it wherever it was received. Through this knowledge, we have learned a great deal about ourselves which in turn has precipitated truth and peace of mind.

As individuals, we have asked for the means of expressing what we have felt in our hearts since early childhood. For most of us this wish has been granted at least to some degree. Our struggles have been long and difficult, but at long last we know that we are not alone and through others of like dreams we can now have friends who do understand and accept.

For those of us who have loved ones who have extended their hands in understanding, we give our deepest love in return. We promise to be worthy of this understanding, returning it with empathy through the maturity that we have achieved. For the wives and loved ones who have yet to accept our full personalities because they cannot see us as human beings but rather as masculine beings, we will display the patience necessary to win their favor and acceptance. We are stronger now that we are not alone and through this strength we can overcome not being "ourselves" when we want to in order to build lasting relationships and wait our turn.

In truth, we have all come a long way these past years though we have a distance to go in order to reach our individual goals. So, in this season of joy, let us be joyful and truly express our appreciation for the blessings we now know to the others around us. To our members throughout the world we extend our heartfelt appreciation for all that you have done. May happiness always be yours in every day and every way of your lives.

Femininely,

Fran 49 C-1 FPE
Executive Secretary



"Of course I think you're a girl."

...the time of the year to spend our very special good wishes to you all. ...the New Year only ...a good time to spend ...and good fortune.

First let me say to you, our loyal members ... Thank you so much for ... our loyal membership ... could be a worthy organization ... all of our lives to ... through the help of many ... have ... it was received. Through ... we have learned a great deal about ourselves which is ... and peace of mind.

... we have asked for the name of ... we have ... early childhood. For ... have ... and ... how that we are not alone and through ... and ...

... we have loved each other ... we give our deepest love to ... through the ... who have yet to ... we will ... to ... through this strength we can overcome ... in order to ...

... we have a long way ... to go in order to reach our ... be joyful and ... others around us ... they are ...

Executive Secretary



Of course I think you're a girl.