

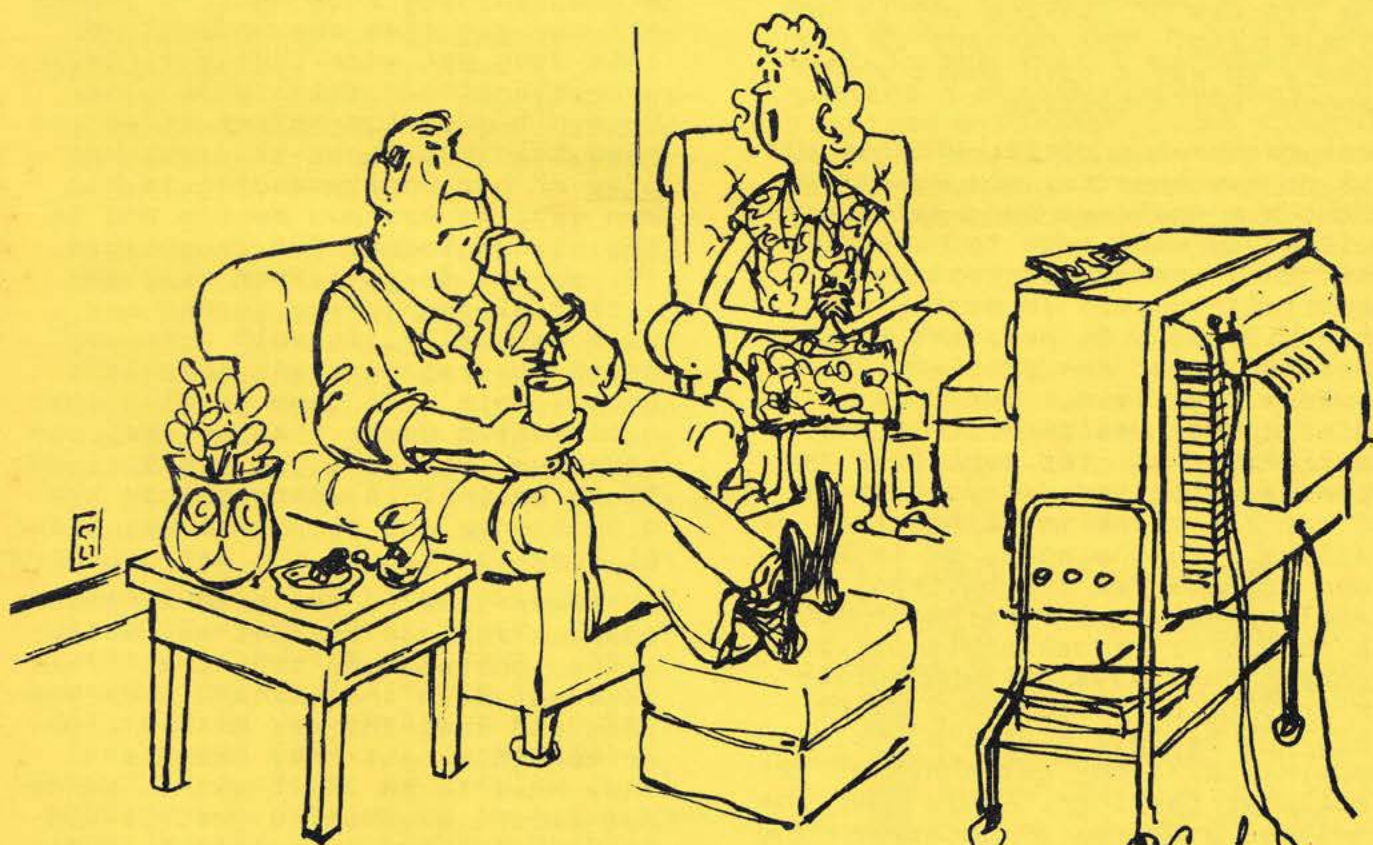
Femme Mirror

Reflecting the Feminine



VOLUME 3 Number 1 February 1978

Carol Beecroft Editor



"If you were a transvestite, Frank, would you be 'Fran,' 'Fanny,' 'Francesca,' 'Frannie,' 'Francine,' or the obvious 'Frances'?"

The FEMME MIRROR is published by the SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF. Correspondence and articles should be sent to Carol Beecroft 256 S. Robertson, Beverly Hills, California 90211

Don't Expect Too Much



Virginia Prince

Virginia tells us that Women are by nature giving and loving people but we can't expect them to just up and accept Tvism - It takes time to get used to the "idea".

"Haste makes waste" does not apply only to material things. It also applies to psychology. In Transvestia and past Femme Mirror Editorial the matter of telling wives and girl friends about our interest has been discussed frequently. I wrote the booklet, THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIFE in order to help in the process of telling and in understanding. Now perhaps it is timely to say a word about what happens AFTER telling.

Most reasonable girls, whether wives or sweethearts, who are told about our feelings in a calm, non-guilty way will come to perceive that they are deeply rooted and important to us. In most cases they will want to help and be understanding of the problems of someone they love. But this is an intellectual desire - it is not an emotional one. Yet emotional responses color and determine more of our reactions to things than we realize. Furthermore, it is a long process for the rational and intellectual part of a human being to change or remove emotional responses that have gotten "built-in" during our growth. I point this out because a girl's rational understanding may get ahead of her emotional feelings. This when she evinces a degree of understanding and even helps a bit, the Tv is only too likely in his hunger for understanding and acceptance to say, "ah, at last and finally, this is it" and assumes that the problem is solved and that he can

do as he wants and when he wants. This attitude has resulted in killing the very thing his heart desires in more than a few cases.

There is a difference between giving and taking. Let the whole problem find its level of acceptance and toleration in her mind after you have told her. Although she may say that she understands, this does not mean that she feels understanding - this takes time. So don't push the matter after you have told her about it. Let her give of her understanding in her own way, to her own degree and as the circumstances are propitious. If you try to take from her, she will feel pushed and forced and will naturally, in self defense, begin to drag her feet and fight back. This will then develop into a situation worse than before, because now she will now and actively fight against it where before she didn't know and ignorance was bliss at least as far as she was concerned.

It takes time to get used to this idea as it goes against all established customs and training. This does not mean that established customs and training are either right or sensible, but they exist and they have to be dealt with. We can not expect a woman to just up and welcome this new phenomenon in her life with open arms. True, there are advantages to be gained from Tvism - advantages even for her, but they come later.

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In the beginning it calls for a good bit of readjustment. Think back to how long it took you to come to some understanding of yourself! Quite awhile - in fact - many years, wasn't it? Is it fair, then, to expect your wife or girl friend to come to the same position relatively overnight? Of course it isn't. So if you want to reap what benefits may be had from telling her all about it, let it sink in and be digested for awhile. Let her get to the point where out of love and interest in your happiness she will want to let you express or want to help you in the process. Don't demand this of her. Women are by nature giving and loving creatures. If you can let her get to the point of giving for loves sake, you may find rewards beyond expectations.

Then, two last questions about this business of "telling". If the woman in question is an unstable type who is within herself insecure and nursing a bunch of emotional problems, you don't have much chance for success. Piling your problems on top of hers may, and in some cases, has, just caused an explosion which may take many forms from a nervous breakdown through an armed truce to a divorce.

So, consider the subject first. Secondly, after telling, it behooves you to exercise restraint and not overdo it. Let her get used to the idea both in degree and frequency. And don't forget to supply her with an adequate degree of masculinity in terms of love, understanding and help. THAT is why she married you and that is what she needs. Give and you'll probably get - take and you'll lose what you have!

Notice!

For those who have already paid their 1978 Sorority dues I am enclosing a membership card. For those who have NOT paid their dues, this will be the last issue of the Femme Mirror and you will not remain as a member of our sorority. May I plead with you to get your dues in quickly if you wish to remain as a member of the Sorority. We are growing rapidly and the girls have a wonderful spirit about them. The larger organization that we become the more we can accomplish. Carol Beecroft, Editor

NANCY'S VISIT TO THE GOLD COAST

Have you ever dreamed of putting your male-self away and escaping en femme for a long weekend to a special kind of Shangri-la? Well, Nancy (CA-116-W), our Southern California Regional Coordinator, did just that last April.

Packing my suitcases with only Nancy's clothes, I boarded National Airlines at Los Angeles just after midnight and flew the "red-eye special" to New Orleans. There I rented a car, drove into town and entered the Salon de la Belle Dame where the hairdresser, Buddy, applied permanent eye-lashes and did some touchup work on my wigs. I felt wonderful in my floral pink dress with a blue scarf around the neck.

Golly, it felt good when a swirling breeze brushed my legs as I shopped and mixed with the crowd along Royal Street. Later I drove the 80 miles to Gulfport, Mississippi. What a lovely place to be! Gulfport and Biloxi, nearby, are two very special cities where Tvs are most welcome to wear their femme clothes. And the people there were most gracious and hospitable.

After checking into the Fairmount Motel, which is on the beach - I met several other Tvs and their spouses who were also there for the Shangri-la weekend. After changing clothes to something more appropriate for evening wear, we all went to a steak and fish restaurant in Biloxi. As we were getting out of our cars I accidentally stepped into a deep hole filled with mud and water. How embarrassing! Now I know how real girls feel when they get into these kind of situations. Fortunately I managed to get it all cleaned off in time to join the others for a delicious dinner. The tables were placed end to end so we



NANCY

(CA-116-W)

could all be together. Everyone in the restaurant accepted us and we had a marvelous time. Afterwards, we stopped at one of the local nite clubs for dancing and conversation. Some of the Tvs could dance very well and it was fun watching them move in their femme clothes.

The next morning I donned an orange and white dress with matching scarf and white sandals. A group of us went to a local pancake house where the manager welcomed us with a real Southern hospitality. During the day we usually spun off in small groups but we also had a few planned activities for all the girls. A small group of us visited a local dress shop called SHAMIS which was close to the motel. It was thrilling to see their motto on the outdoor sign which read -

"Apparel for Women with a Man in Mind". When I walked in the sales-girl said, "What would you like to drink?" I was certainly surprised to hear this kind of a greeting but replied, "What do you have?" "Anything you wish, my dear," she said. With a cocktail in hand, she invited me to try on some clothes and personally took me around and showed me several stunning outfits in my size. They were so pretty that I could have spent my entire trip funds right there and then. I was able to try each outfit on and everyone gave approving nods as I modeled each one of them.

The owners of the beauty shop and Fran's Shoe Store were equally complimentary and hospitable and welcome us with open arms. Fran, the owner of the Shoe store, carries large sizes and can help any Tv who might enter her store. You can contact her and receive some literature on shoes as well as prices. Write: Fran's Shoes, On the Beach at Teagarden, Gulfport, Miss. Or you can call her at 896-6678. I purchased a lovely pair of high-heeled black patent leather shoes.

Back at the Motel I slipped into my pretty swimsuit and strolled over to the beach for some fun in the water. Later we met in the room of one of the girls and enjoyed cocktails after which we drove to the Sheraton Hotel in Biloxi for a banquet complete with name tags and pre-arranged seating. Renne stood up and gave an emotional and moving testimonial and farewell to Jodi who I had met at the Mardi Gras in New Orleans. She had been shot while crossdressed in a parking lot of a local club.

One of the girls with us, a Tv named Dusty, became a contestant for Miss Gulf Port of 1977. Naturally we all went over to the club which was staging the event so that we could cheer her on. She really was great and went through her various numbers and routines with perfection. She actually won on total points but, because of

local politics, they had the judges change the scoring. While this already seemed like a full day, a couple of us went to the Room At The Top of the Sheraton Hotel where the band and waitresses were all waiting for us. Again, we were surprised at the friendliness and hospitality of everyone there. They appeared a bit disappointed that more of us did not arrive.

The evening was still far from over because when we returned to the motel we found a pajama party in progress. I changed into a long, pink nightgown which was covered with lace. It was a fun session.

The next morning we went out for breakfast and then everyone started to depart for the trip home. Trina, a real girl from San Antonio, didn't have a ride to the airport so I drove her to New Orleans for her flight - enjoying the opportunity



"Walter, come look! That Jones boy is at it again!"

for a chance to chat on the way. Later I checked into the Vieux Carre Motor Lodge while "dressed" for one final day in New Orleans. I am glad to say that everyone there made me feel welcome. The Matre De remembered me from previous stays and so did the rest of the office staff and I was surprised but very pleased to have so many of them personally come and greet me. I was served freshly caught crayfish and shrimp without charge. I was quite pleased with myself.

Afterward I put on a knit suit with a beautiful turquoise color and did the whole town. I strolled along famous Bourbon Street and listened to the Dixieland Jazz. It was fun being able to mingle with the crowds that seemed almost as large as those I encountered at the Mardi Gras. A young chap tried to pick me up but I explained Tvism to him while giving him a lift to the street he wanted. Later I was able to stroll along the banks of the Mississippi and observed a couple of paddle-wheeled boats. Soon I came



Pete, I think it's going to take a little more than a wig and some make-up to bring out your Second Self!!

Boardwalk and had the opportunity to walk on it as the breeze lazily lifted my skirts. The unfortunate thing was that my newly purchased spiked heels kept getting caught in the spaces between the planks. It certainly messed up the tips of the heels, too and they had to be repaired.

Back at the hotel I met a group of high school seniors from North Carolina and their psychology teacher. I explained Tvism to them and also mentioned that I, too, was a teacher of psychology on the west coast. It was flattering that they wanted to take pictures of me and, as the hours flew by, we discussed Tvism into the small hours of the morning. They were so fascinated but also so understanding.

It was so very difficult to to finally call this perfect weekend to an end and to have to put my Second Self away. If you would like to have a real Shangri-la weekend where you can go dressed en femme anywhere in public and be totally accepted and welcomed, may I suggest Gulfport and Biloxi, Mississippi on the Gold Coast.

Here's Help!

We have located an understanding female in Colorado who will assist our sisters in fashion, make-up, wig styles and also accompany our sisters on shopping trips and in dining out. She is an ex-wife to a psychologist and is VERY understanding. She is available most evenings, most afternoons and one entire day a week. She is also a beautician and can help you with manicures, eye-brow shaping, etc. She is willing to do these things for our Colorado sisters and any out-of-state sisters who are visiting Colorado or passing through. She was located through the efforts of a Colorado sister who wishes to remain nameless. The female in question is also considering recruiting some of her female friends to help out. So you can see that our 'dating' program is very much alive. This service is for members only.

A COLUMN FOR WIVES

"Wives Talk Back"



Hello out there to all wives & girlfriends. I hope that you will like what I have to say today.

with Bernadine

In the last issue of the *Femme Mirror* there appeared a letter from a young lady who was looking for some answers concerning her boyfriend's Tvism. My advice to her would be:

Dear Warm-hearted: Since your boyfriend is only 30 he may not be aware that such feminine fantasies are quite common to many men. I have met many such people who were grandfathers, as well as some who are bachelors.

As to how to handle the fantasy of his wanting to be your little girl, my Tv friends suggest that you ASK him what he means. My answer is that I think that most Tvs fantasize themselves as little girls or very young women. It is most likelt a secret desire harbored in their hearts ever since, in most cases, childhood. It is only a fantasy. Usually they are very happy that they are males and they enjoy the companionship with real women.

I believe that your friend needs the companioship of others like him self - perhaps he might join a chapter of our sorority where he can dress as a woman and be relaxed among those with similar interests. Such people seem to keep the problem under control when they have this outlet. Your friend will like himself better when he knows a number of respectable people who also crossdress. It takes a very loving and understanding woman to cope with Tvism. There is little danger in losing him as long as you love him. Best wishes; BERNADINE.

And to all you wives and girlfriends out there - Probably most of us do know that we are GRADED A, B, C, D, etc by our husbands and boyfriends. The grading given is symbolic of the degree of tolerance or cooperation that we exhibit with regard to their "dressing up". It gives me a belly-laugh every time I think of it - but such a grading is very serious to the guy who we love. I feel that I have been greatly over-rated with the "A" rating that Norma-Jean has assigned to me. Yes, I do try to be tolerant and cooperative (grudgingly) because I know that this problem is much harder for Norma-Jean to cope with than it is for me. I also am understanding because Norma-Jean is very kind and considerate and long-suffering in HIS patience with my faults. I have been endowed with more than a fair share of difficult traits but perhaps most women who live long enough to be mothers and grandmothers acquire a certain degree of stubbornness, argumentativeness self-righteousness and downright meanness along the way. And now that I've reached my present age it is a wonder that anyone puts up with me anymore.

Yes, we women have to take a look at ourselves in order to get a better perspective of the whole situation. Most of our men lean towards the gentle side and they can speak softly (even demurely) when crossdressed; they can smell good (only the Best perfume will satisfy them); they sound good (were those MY bracelets I heard jingling?); they look good (sometimes like my aunt when she dressed for the Ladies Aid meetings) with wig, handbag, gloves and all. It doesn't take too much effort for me to sympathize with my guy and

his problem as long as it is a secret and kept under wraps.

One young lady asked me "If I am willing to go out on the street with my TV friend, what does that make me?" I reply that as far as I am concerned, when I go along to a SOCIETY meeting with Norma Jean, I know that I am a gentle and good woman; more affectionate, more maternal, more feminine than the average, and I am deeply concerned about the happiness of my TV friend. Actually I have never wondered what anyone thought about me. If by chance Norman Jean were to have been "read" in public, I am sure that others would think of me as a nice woman who was trying to help her friend with his problem.

It is important for us to know that our own pride, personality, self-respect and ego are not involved with crossdressing. We are only accountable for ourself. I am looking for letters from wives and girlfriends - I AM INTERESTED in your problems relating to Tvism. Please write to Bernadine Bordeaux P.O. Box 114, San Pedro, Cal 90733.

Handwritten flourish



DOROTHY

FCA-8-G

Ann Helps Out

The following, taken from a local newspaper shows just how much Ann Landers has changed in her attitude towards transvestism.

Dear Ann Landers: I was married four years ago to a man I thought I knew very well. We went together for three years. He is 32 and I am 28.

Rob never showed any signs of not being normal. He is a terrific lover, adores tennis, sailing and is a champion bowler. Our life together was great until last week when I discovered a suitcase filled with women's clothing - wigs, high heels, makeup - the works. When I questioned Rob, he said they were costumes and junk left over from his college drama days. Then one night I returned from Toledo unexpectedly on an earlier plane. I caught him dressed up in a sequin gown, platform heels, a blonde wig looking just beautiful.

He confessed he had been dressing up for some time - but swore that he had never gone out in public that way. He says he gets a big kick out of it and hopes that I will understand. Well - I don't understand. We have two lovely children. Rob is a wonderful father and husband. Our sex life is fine. He is an attorney and does very well. Is he a closet homosexual? What should I do? ZONKED

Dear Z.: Your husband is a transvestite. I have read a great deal about transvestism these last few months and have come to the conclusion, belatedly, I'm sorry to say, that very few are homosexuals. These men get their jollies dressing up. They are very much aware of their maleness and have no wish to be females, nor do they want to experience sex with other men. Most transvestites are married and have families. Their wives say that they are wonderful husbands and fathers. I suggest that you get some counseling so you can adjust to and cope with the situation.

HERE & THERE

ADVERTISING - We will be advertising in HUMAN BEHAVIOR, a Magazine of the Social Sciences - check the issues for both April & May - in their classified section. We are going to advertise again in PSYCHOLOGY TODAY and you will be advised on the date.

"SCREENING" - Your Editor wishes to thank Genevieve (TX-4-W) for her assistance in helping prepare the photographs for the Femme Mirror. Each one has to be "screened" and she is able to save us a lot of money as a result. Thanks Genevieve!!

OPTICIAN NEEDED - Jennifer (OH-4-0) needs an optician in the Cleveland area who can assist her in choosing pretty femme glasses.

POST OFFICE SLOWNESS - The last issue of the Femme Mirror was mailed in late January and took about a month to get to the girls on the east coast. We'll probably try 1st class this time - the heck to the cost.

CARTOONS - Your Editor wishes to thank all those sisters who have sent in cartoons for the Mirror. They are a great help in preparing each issue.

PROFESSIONAL ADVERTISING - We wonder if there is a sister out there who is engaged in advertising work and who might be able to give us some tips on advertising our sorority in various magazines. Please contact your Editor .

ASSISTANCE WITH POSTAGE COSTS - Your Editor wants to thank those who make occasional contributions to help defray the costs of postage. You'd be surprised how much postage runs us on a weekly basis.

LOS ANGELES' NEW LAW - This county's Board of Supervisors has just voted in a law prohibiting persons using public bathroom facilities designated for the opposite sex. Prior to this time, it was not unlawful for a man to enter a women's restroom.

It appears the reason behind this is that many women have been complaining of men entering their restrooms for illicit reasons. This new law affects only unincorporated sections of L.A. county. So the word from headquarters here is that our sisters should be especially careful when out in public from now on.

NEW BOOK - A new publication entitled "Androgyny: Toward a New Theory of Sexuality" by June Singer, suggests that a healthy person is a bit of both man and woman. She says that sexuality can also be a drive within the individual arising from the mutual attraction of the masculine and feminine parts of the psyche itself. Ms Singer is a Jungian analyst whose concepts appear to agree with her leader's concept that "the strongest sexual attractions arise when a man projects onto a woman the image of his feminine side or when a woman projects her inner masculine self onto a man".



"Admit it, Miss . . . it's a beautiful bra!"

Poet's Corner



I have a friend, a rough
tough marine.
There's little he's not
done and hasn't seen.
"A man of the world," do
I hear you say?
That he is, he's a Sargent
out Pendleton way.
To the boys in his company
he's known as 'old Sarge'.
But at night, with hisown, we all
call him 'Marge'.

Phyliss (old FPE)

Here is a little poem to Suzzie
When she's dressed, she's a little
woozy.

Now that Suzzie is quite a gal, she
would like to be your pen pal.

She looks quite sweet with a flower
in her hair and once in awhile a
shoulder to bare.

Suzzie is glad for all her feminine
little things, for she knows all the
happiness such things bring.

She loves to color her lips a little
red and even wear a pretty nightgown
to bed.

Wherever she goes she makes a pretty
girl and she even can make a few
heads twirl.

Suzzie loves to feel the folds of
her dress - she looks in the mirror
and she's not a mess.

And now I end my poem to Suzzie,
for when she's dressed she doesn't
look like a floozy.

Now some would say that Suzzie is a
dream, but to me she's real and the
top of the cream.

SUZZIE (CA-41-B)

NYLON HOSE

What could be sweeter, do you suppose
than donning a pair of nylon hose.

Drawing them carefully up your bare
and powered legs, all shaven of
hair.

Of course they must reach up very hi
over the knee, far up the thigh.

To reach the garters waiting there
stretching from tight black under
wear.

From thigh to toe must be just right
or else your heels will fit too
tight.

No sag at all from ankle to knee -
are they stretched as taut as they
can be?

They're on! Now wasn't that more than
fun? Oops! Start over, you've got
a run!

Donna (old FPE)

Transvestite Beauty

Our loved ones often are confused,
but surely they must be excused,
For them our love of 'Fem' is fright
ful altho to us it's quite delightful.
They wish that it were non-existent,
This thing which lives in us persis-
tant.

The splendor that is in our hearts
Cannot, they say, because of closed
hearts, Be seen in dark or light of
day, But still it's there, "won't go
away," we answer them, with hope shown
clear, but, still they turn a stoney
ear.

We must, surely, it's our duty, to
prove to them 'Transvestite Beauty'.
Jerichos' wall now stands before us,
and we must play in mighty chorus.
With heads held high and flag un-
fured, fight for our place within
their world.

Unknown (old FPE)

SUSIE'S PAGE

Question: What do you do to get your wig styled? Does your wife do it or do you leave it at a Beauty Shop, and, if so, what do you say when you leave it?

Isobel (AX-2-W) says "I have 5 wigs and am on a very limited income. I am not married at this time and do not have a girlfriend to help. So I am forced to take my wigs to a local shop for styling. I have found that honesty is best. I take my wig in, talk to them about it, & get the job done. When I return for the wig I am able to try it on and am assured that it is as I want it. I was uncomfortable at first but now it is no problem. I find that wig shops are there to do business and they gladly accept my money and it even gives them a chance to sell me another wig. It is worth your time to find a discrete, understanding stylist at a wig shop. Most stylists are open minded about styling your wig. I should indicate that I take my wig to a wig shop rather than to a beauty shop. Most wig shops now will style your wigs also."

Eileen (N.J.-9-M) says that "when I take my wig to a wig shop and when the girl asks if she can help me, I say, 'I have a wig I'm to leave for styling.' She'll probably ask if I have an idea of the style and that is when I bring out a picture that I have cut out of a magazine. I say to her 'This will give you an idea.' I also mention that I would like the wig cleaned. She will tell when it will be ready and I leave. When I return and pay for the service she usually says that she hopes it will be liked. And she often says that 'we'll be looking for you to come back.' I found that the direct approach is the best. They have a service to sell that I want to buy. Our sorority has built up my confidence so that I can approach these wig shops without being afraid. I also note that the lady always remembers me."

Charlene (CA-27-D) adds that "I have found no problem in just taking the wig in and asking for it to be reset or restyled with NO explanation offered and generally no questions asked. Sometimes it is necessary to explain the style you want and in that case you can either show a picture from a magazine or point out another wig in the store that has the style you want. Most girls in such shops think the service is for your wife. When I get a chance to get acquainted with a salesgirl I often explain that I am an amateur impersonator and will show her a picture of myself. You have to sort of follow your instincts and do things according to how the girl reacts to things. The same advice applies to purchasing a wig - you may see one in the window that you like, so go on in and buy it. In a few cases I have even asked if



"Sorry, Harry, but your wife paid me good money to find you. Your weekend, livin' en femme, is officially over."

if they had a place where I could try it on and found, not surprisingly, that they were happy to show me a room or nook where I could try it on. After all, a sale is a sale

And Georgia (CA-13-S) has had some experience along this line when she says, "I have tried having my wig styled in Beauty Shops and have not been satisfied so now I use wig shops exclusive;y. I'm a licensed barber, but never the less, when I take a wig in to be done I preface my comments with "I" want it shampooed, styled, conditioned, etc. The shop where it is done now sold me a wig which I tried on there and it was styled at the same time, so it is obvious that they knew that the wigs I bring in are mine. Even when I had only one wig to bring in I still used the 'I want' approach. An interesting experience was when I was living in Alabama. A shop, where I had taken a wig for styling did such a good job that when I got it home, my wife insisted that I take her out to buy one for her. When you say 'I want', it won't shock them. A sale is a sale."

And so I hope that these letters from sisters who go into shops to have their wigs styled, etc., will help all of you. I know that this is a problem most of you have been having. Right?

Another item I have been saving to tell you about is, are you ready?, ear piercing!! Two of our girls have had this done and I am going to allow them to tell you about their ear piercing experiences in their own words. I have a feeling that we'll have a lot more girls wears earrings for pierced ears after they read the following:

Jenifer (CA-54-H) has this most interesting experience. "I have had my ears pierced. This was done at a store which sold earrings. It seems that many young boys have one ear pierced and my request was quite normal. The woman that waited on me offered to sell me just one post and there was some confusion about my wanting BOTH ears pierced. But all went well. For those who have



"Our next speaker will talk on the subject of 'The Pitfalls of going downtown dressed in women's clothing when you DON'T pass'"

never had their ears pierced I will describe the process which, I hope, will make ot easier for others because they will know what to expect.

First, the operator will seat you and make a mark on each earlobe to ensure that the earrings are evenly spaced. Then she will put one post (you have to buy a pair of 14K gold posts - the posts do the piercing and the gold will help prevent infection) into a device that looks like a large pair of pliers. One side holds the post and the other goes behind the lobe to support it as the post goes through it. She will then put a cream pain deadener on the post to keep your ears from hurting.

Next she will position the post on the proper spot and with a quick squeeze she inserts the posts in the ear, wipes it with alcohol and puts the back onto the post. She will do the other ear in the same fashion.

I felt only a 'pop' in my ear and a small pinch like a shot. No pain!

You have to keep the posts in for six weks and clean and rotate the post twice a day for the first few weeks if you want the holes to be



"I'll let you try on my clothes if you'll help me with my 'rithmetic."

permanent. The holes only become noticable if you wear hearvy, dang-ling earrings all day. Mine are hardly noticable and I don't do any-thing to hide them. They closed up once and I opened them with the o-riginal posts and a rubber eraser behind the ear. If I don't wear earrings for a couple of months, skin will start growing over the holes but that is easily cleared by inserting an earring. I now try to wear earrings at least once a week to keep the holes clear."

And then we have a slightly dif-ferent experience by Laurette (FCO -4-K). She explains that she had gone with a girl by the name of Caroline and one time she mentioned to her that she had wanted to have her ears pierced but was very ner-vous about it. "So Caroline ups and says 'let's do it now!' So there was a wig T-pin there and before I knew it - zap - it went through and I didn't feel a thing. The other ear was a bit more trouble but soon it was done - as I always wanted. Now I do not recommend using a T-pin as it did leave a little bigger hole. I can cover it up with a little dab of chapstick in a neutral shade. I put some on the end of a toothpick and just dab it over the hole. It

does a good job in covering the hole. Only two people noticed it - my daughter while in the car and when she was close to me there and a la-dy in a store. As to what I did when my daughter noticed the holes, I passed it off as saying that I had something wrong with my ear. And, as regards to the lady in the store, it appears that she was a bit tipsy and she leaned over close to me and asked 'Do you have your ears pierced?' and I merely said 'yes' and nothing else and that was that. To keep the holes open I either put a little nylon plug (made out of a bristle of a nylon brush) or sleeper rings, as they are called, covered with vaseline.

So now all of your girls can go out and buy those beautiful earrings that you have always wanted but couldn't use because they were of the pierced earring type. I should imagine that all of us will be in Tv heaven from now on.

I would like to hear from you girls in regards to WHY YOU CHOSE YOUR FEMME NAME??? Please write so that we will have some interesting things to tell our readers. OK?

New Responsibilities

Because of increased growth in two areas it is necessary that we ap-point additional leaders to cover these states. Thus it is a plea-sure to announce that LINDA (TX-21 -8) will be the Division Leader for the four states she supervises, and that DONNA (IL-11-S) will be the Division leader for the 5 states, one Canadian province and two par-tial states she oversees. Thus, as a result of these promotions, we will be appointing new Regional Coordinators to work under the supervision of these two new Di- vision leaders. Both new leaders have demonstrated a considerable amount of ability and interest in their previous positions and both Virginia and your Editor know that they will continue with the splen-did service to their sisters that they have rendered up to now.

The Editor's Mailbag



Dear Carol: It has been over 15 days that I have not been able to be my own feminine self in my adorable dresses, and it is getting to me, as any woman loves to doll herself up on special occasions and since I am a girl in more ways than one, my urge to doll myself up and enjoy a lovely gown and pretty dress is very deep and intimate. Last night we were at a restaurant and a woman at another table was wearing a long, gray full circle skirt and when she got up I couldn't help but notice the pretty white lace on her slip. I felt this inner pang of inner feminine desire to be in my own long, plaid, full-skirted outfit which snugs my tummy so nice and flairs over my hips and from my small waist makes me look so darling and cute. In silver open-toed heels I become alive again as the girl I am. At a recent Tv gathering I was talking to a real girl who is going with a Tv friend who looks quite nice as a girl. The girlfriend, has now given up all her pants and gone back to dresses and skirts. This real girl feels that we Tvs have the best of both worlds and that she likes her boyfriend as a girl, also indicating that there is nothing missing of the man under the pretty clothes. Sally Ann (MD-7-K)

Dear Charlene: Thanks so much for the card welcoming me into the sorority. It made me very happy and I'm really looking forward to the Directory to see if there is anyone nearby with whom I can correspond. You are right - it is a second birth certificate! Charlene, you've made me very happy. Becky (MO-6-S)

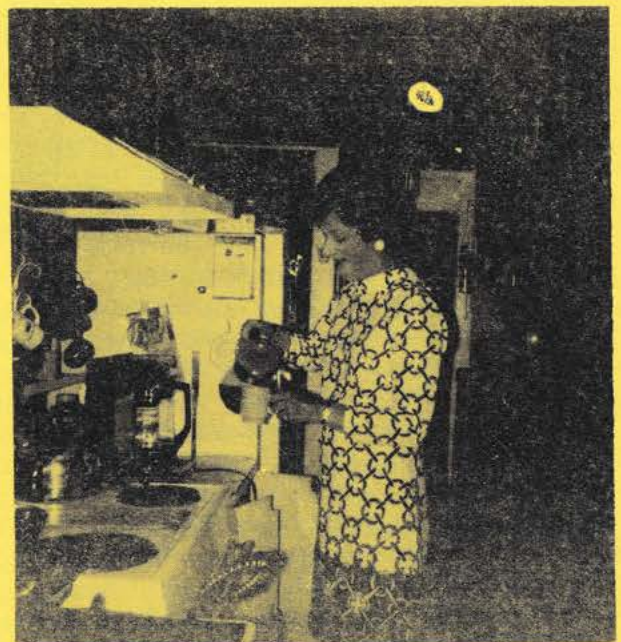
Dear Charlene: Received your letter and past issues of the Femme Mirror today. If only words could describe my feelings of appreciation! My wife and I have completed all copies from cover to cover - I wouldn't part with them for the world. The interest and concern you have shown me is unbelievable. I am waiting

for the Understanding book. After many years in darkness and despair I am anxious to learn and grow within the sorority. My wife has progressed to a very understanding level and we are both interested in helping others in coming to grip with their total self! Cathy (Minneapolis)

Dear Carol: Thanks to you and Virginia for a great 1977. I've met several members of our sorority and all are wonderful people; the organization has helped me more than I can tell you. Karen (SC-1-A)

Dear Carol & Virginia: I would like to take this time to wish you and the sorority a joyous new year and I would like to thank, nationally, my chapter members for electing me their president. Please continue your good work. DEANNA (IL-35-G)
President of CHI chapter

Dear Carol: I just received my copies of the Femme Mirror and thoroughly enjoyed reading through them.



Muriel (NY-26-W)

Most of the articles were very enlightening as well as interesting reading. I think that there are a number of common things which can be shared but I doubt that there is a possibility, at this time, of forming a chapter in this area - the attitudes in this part of the country are still pretty much old fashioned. I truly look forward to corresponding with my sorority sisters since I have never talked about my feminine side with anyone. I am now divorced from a woman who rejected the majority of all feminine things and now I feel better and am completely free to express myself as a very feminine being. I believe that many women today are afraid of their femininity and that is why we see so much of the ill-kept, sloppily dressed women. As a note to my sisters requiring large sizes, I strongly suggest that they contact the Lane Bryant Stores. I have ordered a number of things from them and feel that they offer a great number of complete lines of clothing, shoes and lingerie. They have a good money-back guarantee and good quality merchandise. I look forward to hearing from many of my sisters. Celeste (SC-2-MC)

Dear Carol: I have just finished writing to Charlene whom I have been corresponding with since last August. She is responsible for my joining our sorority. She has been a constant source of encouragement and has been a great help in helping me to discover more and more of my second self. I want to thank you for the past issues of the Femme Mirror. I read each issue voraciously and have certainly learned a lot about Tvism. I also have enjoyed the cartoons. You have a delightful sense of humor. As long as we can laugh at ourself all is not lost. I am enclosing several pictures of myself. Last Thursday I dressed up in a fur coat and journeyed to a nearby shopping center. I walked around and did some window-shopping for awhile. It was most exciting and thrilling as it was the first time I have ever gone outside of the house. In

the future I plan to start shopping but want to perfect my makeup a bit more plus expand my wardrobe. I am able to wear my spouse's clothes but would prefer to have my own. I look forward to more issues of the Femme Mirror; you do an excellent job and to someone new to Tvism like me it is certainly helpful and informative plus being an inspiration. I noted the article on Plucking and might add that if you use wet, hot towels on your face PRIOR to plucking, it is easier. Monice (PA-7-P)

Dear Carol: Thanks for the 1977 issues of the Femme Mirror. I must compliment you on them - they alone are worth the annual dues. You can quote me on that. Keep up the good work in future issues. A few weeks ago I sent some letters to all the girls in my area of Florida as I am very interested in getting a chapter going. Gypsy (FL-1-L)

Dear Carol: As a crossdresser of long standing, but a member of the sorority member for just a short time, I want to say that I am interested in getting a chapter going here. I just received a beautiful and thoughtful letter from Charlene - so impressive. It gave me such a warm feeling. If this represents our sorority I'm all for it. Dorothy (NJ-7-S)



"And to think that I once played football with him"

What's Happening Out There

There is so much activity out there that your Editor has worked hard to get it all in on one page. We can start with Alpha chapter which recently had a guest, a Hollywood make-up artist, who demonstrated many aspects of make-up, especially concentrating on beard cover. The attendance was almost 30 including female guests. During the month of March the chapter will sponsor a catered dinner at a nice hotel where the girls can attend in long dresses-it's a real dressup time.

Carole (MA-5-A) is starting a chapter in the Boston area. Seven of the girls met in January and they came as far away as Maine - that was Frances who came all dolled up in her fur coat, and Pat, who drove 250 miles each way for the occasion. Carole led a discussion on how to make the sorority meetings more meaningful. Experiences were exchanged regarding family reactions and public feelings in general. Carole reported on her contacts with 5 local police departments. The girls also discussed the location of Tv services and places that will cater to Tvs. She says that the seven hours passed very quickly.

And Nancy (MI-22-H) our Ass. Reg. Coordinator reports that a new chapter has been organized in Michigan. Eight girls attended with Elaine (MI-16-W) and Nancy being asked to handle the details of chapter formation. Officers will be elected in March. They were pleased that our area leader DONNA (IL-14-S) was able to be there.

And Betty (CA-125-T) was able to hold a meeting in the San Francisco area in which 12 girls attended, including your editor. They have high hopes for an organized chapter soon.

CHI chapter appears to be making progress and at the February meeting a tape of Virginia's 1974 television interview with Tom Snyder (Tomorrow Show) was played. Discussion about the Tv films produced the result that Chi chapter

will either rent them for showing to the chapter or will purchase them with assistance from other chapters. New members are being brought into the group and the morale is high there.

Gypsy (FL-1-L) and Vickey (FL-4-G) are working hard in southern Florida. They have located a house for chapter meetings and the girls appear interested. A chapter is soon to be formed.

Julia Ann (NY-3-C) is trying her best to get something going in upper eastern New York state. It's a bit spread out there but she has high expectations.

And Rita (MD-10-Mc) reports from DELTA CHI chapter that attendance is 'phenomenal' and new members are joining. Several wives helped out by teaching basic makeup points and the results were most pleasing.

And Linda (TX-21-B) reports from Texas that they have had a well attended first meeting and heard from others who couldn't come because of the weather. It appears that there will be TWO chapters in Texas and the girls are working hard to set them up. Most of the girls are not members yet but are working on their requirements to join. They were given copies of the Femme Mirror and our recruiting brochure. She said that the party was a blast and everyone was really decked out.

Dorothy (NJ-7-S) is working hard to establish a chapter in northern N.J. and the New York area, including the extreme southern part of N.Y.

And it appears that Michael, who is associated with April Adams Fashions is joining our sorority and is inviting her many contacts in the Philadelphia area to attend a meeting in that area. Our regular members will give the proposed chapter a great boost.

It also appears that a former chapter of the old FPE organization in Washington (state) will be joining with us soon. So you can see that we have many workers Are you one?