

Femme Mirror

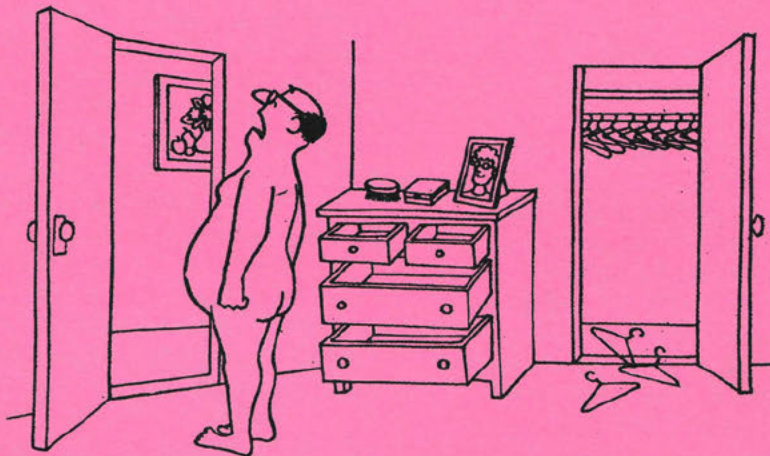
Reflecting the Feminine



VOLUME 2 Number 4

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Carol Beecroft, Editor



Mabel, I see that you've slipped a bit
in your "understanding" and "acceptance"
of my transvestism!

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When Is A Woman

Virginia Prince

Virginia asks some logical, thought-provoking questions about our emulation of women. She leads us into a greater insight into why Tvs dress and suggests that Tvism is an escape from an expression of masculinity and not from maleness.

This may seem to be a very peculiar title, both for an editorial and as a question, but it is asked to stir the reader to answer some questions for himself rather than for answers to be provided by me. Tvs admire women and like to emulate them but it is worth asking one's self a question such as the title of this editorial in order to get some insight into one's own feelings. So-- "when is a woman?"

Is a woman worth emulation under the age of twelve? Does she become a woman at puberty, as she begins menstruation - as her breasts begin to develop? Would you emulate her then or between the ages of 18 and 35? Or what about this person after the age of 60, let us say? No longer young or as attractive as she used to be physically, is she something to emulate? When you get to be sixty would you emulate a woman of 60? Or would you go back and try to be like somebody, say, in her twenties? And what about the matter not just of time but of work? Do you feel a woman worth emulating during her menstrual cramps, or during childbirth? Do you like to imitate her when she is cleaning house, doing the laundry, the dishes and beds and even dusting? Is she a woman for you at this time? Or is it true for you as it is for so many Tvs that they tend to think only of those aspects of womanhood which are attractive, beautiful and glamorous?

This is all well and good. I am not being critical, only I think it would be very enlightening to most of us

to stop and ask ourselves just what it is in a woman that we are emulating? I suspect that we would discover that we are, that is, our femme selfs are, women only to the extent that some particular aspects of womanhood appeals to us as men. Now, as men, we are obviously attracted by glamorous, pretty females, from the point of view of clothing, make-up, appearance, behavior. These things we enjoy - these become that aspect of womanhood that we feel is desirable, worth emulating and THIS is what we strive to achieve. We don't spend much time or energy trying to copy or seeking to experience the harder, more exhausting, discouraging, difficult or painful aspects of womanhood.

Now if this is a valid conclusion it should lead to further insights into the causation of Tvism because it is not as though we were females trapped in a male body, as so many contend. If this were the case, we would be as interested in the LESS desirable aspects of womanhood as the more desirable. It is, therefore, our masculinity which provides the stimulus for our femininity. I am talking here about Tvs and not about transsexuals. The true transsexual is involved much more on the sex level than on the GENDER level. I believe that becoming aware of the nature of our attraction fortifies further my GENDER theory as the motivating force in true Tvism rather than the sex approach which professional psychiatrists tend to prefer and which they tie in with both. In other words, the appeal of Tvism is as a contrast to, escape from, our masculinity rather than our maleness.



Shirley Finds

Trouble At The

Fire Dept

Shirley's (OR-7-B) ambition was to be a fire-fighter, but her ambitions were cut short when she was pressured to resign because she was a Tv. Her interesting experience with the ACLU. The lessons learned might help YOU.

"You know how it is Herb,- all dressed up and no place to go."

I would not spend the time on writing about what happened if I did not feel that the information could help others. Not only do all of us need help in understanding, we also need to be prepared if someone learns of our tvism because it could affect our jobs, social standing and families. I hope that the experience that I went through, and my mistakes, will help others to know what to do and what legal action is available to them.

So on with my story, which started around the time of my divorce. We had moved to a nice town in Oregon and had rented a house. I acquired a nice job and met a man there who was also a Fireman. Since I had always wanted to become a Firefighter we had a lot in common and I visited the Fire Department. I was allowed to join the department in time and found the work most interesting and challenging.

About this time my wife and I separated and the Fire Dept. Chief indicated that I could be a "sleeper" there. Such a person lives at the Firehouse and for that privilege he has to work certain days as "duty" days. At this time I had been a volunteer Firefighter and the ad-

ditional time there fit in with my goal of becoming a paid employee.

I think that you can imagine what it was like living at the station. The atmosphere is very "macho". I also welcome the opportunity to live at the Firehouse because I wanted to try to get rid of my "dressing." So I was truly closet bound. But it didn't really help much and I had the need to dress and since it was impossible to dress at the Firehouse, I did so at a nearby motel.

My work at the Firehouse was uneventful and three years went by. I was highly thought of and was considered a good Firefighter. I even obtained the position of Engineer which is a person who drives a truck and pumps water at the fire scene. I did all of this without pay because it was something I enjoyed and I hoped that I could make a career out of it.

I also had a full time job which, between the two "jobs" left little opportunity for anything else.

I eventually learned about DREAM and started to want more time for "Shirley." I attended DREAM and it was worth every minute I spent there. It was while there that I learned to

be understanding of my cross-dressing. I was pretty much able to get rid of the guilty feelings that I had previously.

It was just previous to going to the annual DREAM event that the boom was lowered. One week before my departure I was asked by the Fire Dept Chief to come to his office for a talk. I had a feeling that it was about my dressing. I guess that you can't live three years in that type of situation without it being apparent that you are interested in girl's clothing.

Talk about a mixture of good things and bad things happening to you at the same time! The result of the meeting was that I was asked to resign my position and move out. I agreed to do that because I could not stop dressing and actually needed more freedom to be Shirley. After I returned from DREAM I found a nice place to live and moved into it the following week.

I received information early this year that I might have a case against the Fire Department and decided to go ahead and contact the American Civil Liberties Union. I will relate what I learned from the ACLU and a bit on how they operate. This might help another sister later on.

When you contact the ACLU you do not have to state the reason for your contact. I just said that I thought that I had a case that they could handle and that I wished to talk to one of their attorneys. They arranged for me to contact an attorney where I told him about my dismissal. He set up a time for me to come in and talk about the matter and I was prompt in keeping the appointment.

However, I was slightly disappointed in the way I was treated as I felt that I was being given the cold shoulder. The attorney admitted that he was not up to date on a situation like mine but that he would contact someone in Portland who handled such cases on a regular basis. Then I could check back, which I did.

The result was that the ACLU decided

to further investigate my case. I probably had given them the impression that I wanted to move back into the Firehouse, which was not correct. Anyway, it was decided that I indeed did have a case although it might not be a winner. I was referred to still another attorney and I will relate here what I told him.

I told this new attorney that when I was led to believe that I could be dismissed from the Fire Department for being a Tv, I did not fight it then because the Chief said that he had talked to the City Attorney and City Manager about the case and they were told that he could legally dismiss me. It was felt that I should resign and move out. The Chief mentioned that a homosexual had been dismissed and he apparently associated crossdressing with homosexuality. I felt that I did not have a choice with what information had been presented to me by the Chief. He also mentioned that others in the Department also knew of my Tvism and had indicated that they would not take orders from me.

The attorney said that this is the area where I made my mistake. I had complied with what the Chief asked me to do and there was no written record of the incident. The attorney said that I had been buffaloed



"Now, tell me, Joe, do you REALLY enjoy looking like a woman?"

into moving out. So the important point to remember is, if you are found out, make the other party prove that you can be dismissed. And get it in writing.

I was told that it would be necessary to reapply to the Fire Department and state that I was a Tv. Then their reason for not being able to consider me would be because I was a Tv and then I would be able to pursue the case.

One of my concerns was about the incidents that lead the department to the conclusion that I was a Tv. The attorney had asked me what had happened and I related the incidents to him. However, I did not like the idea of this information coming out in a court case.

But the attorney told me that unless I was willing to admit that I was a Tv in court, I could not be successful.

I also learned that whatever reasons are given to you, and no matter how valid they appear, this does not mean that people can dismiss you for crossdressing. They do not have a right to discriminate and the reasons they give are only evidence that they ARE discriminating.

I made it clear at this time that I was not interested in moving back to the Firehouse and the attorney said that if I had done so I would have lost any chance of winning the case. That's because I would be on my employer's premises and they have a right to control what happens there.

On such matters as mine you have no assurance that you will get a favorable decision from the Judge. Others who have been dismissed in cases of discrimination have won THEIR jobs back. The attorney that a person sees will check on how similar cases have been decided in the state or area where you live, so as to get an idea of the type of decisions that have been handed down.

I was also told that even though I had legal rights the Fire Dept could

consider me a trouble-maker. I could win the case and actually lose the battle. If I lost the case, that fact would stick with me and could affect my future career in whatever I did.

I know that you are wondering why I did not decide to pursue the case. After further discussions with the attorney and because of some other personal reasons, I decided to drop the court case. What happened was that I had learned that my eyesight was below standard for some fire departments and this fact could make it difficult to progress in the line of work generally. Some small Fire Departments might hire me because their standards were not high, but larger departments in larger cities were stricter regarding eye standards and I felt that I would be restricted in where I could work. But I hope that what I have said might help others who have a discrimination problem due to Tvism.



JOYCE CA-50-Mc
Joyce is one of Alpha Chapter's newest members and we are so pleased that she is so active.

Poet's Corner

OPIUM DREAMS
IN A SATIN ROOM
TWO FEMININE HEARTS
IN SOFT EMBRACE
PERFUME OF PASSION
SENSUOUS CRIES
LANGUOROUS MUSIC
LANGUISHING NIGHTS. Lisa (FCA-7-V)



Tv's do not live in sin,
Because we love "things feminine."
We like to dress up to the hilt,
and yet our souls are full of guilt.

Surely it was not God's aim
That we should live our lives in shame.
His love for us is ever near,
Our hearts should not be clothed in fear.

Our life upon the earth is brief
Why hide in shadows like a thief.
Stand in stead out in the sun,
Face life proudly, 'till its done.

From old FPE 'Mirror'

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

Co-Directors of Tri-Sigma Sorority
Virginia Prince CA-17-P
Carol Beecroft CA-3-B

Executive Secretary
Charlene [redacted] CA-64-P

Secretary
Ellen Summers OR-8-S

Great Lakes Regional Coordinator
Donna Martin IL-11-S

South Calif Regional Coordinator
Dianna [redacted]s CA-48-D

Southern Belles Regional Coordinator
Linda [redacted] TX-21-B

Alpha Chapter
Bunny CA-108-F President

Chi Chapter
Jeanette IL-3-Z President

Nu Pi Chapter
Franny NY-19-F President

Sigma Chapter
Karen President

Our Tv Doctor

Writes Again

"Dee" writes again from New Mexico and tell us that she is NOT an integrated person but that she is TWO personalities "devoted and in love with each other" within one body. Everything depends on Opposites, she says, and it is conflict which makes things happen.

TVISM and CONFLICT

It is obvious that the TV is constantly confronted with the crucial question: "What makes you so different from the norm of society?" I think that Ayn Rand makes a good statement in that she said, "The greatest evil perpetrated upon man is by the simple word 'we'." Collectivism is in the final analysis destructive. So how can we be disturbed that we Tvs are different from society?

I used to labor under so many guilt feelings which were usually enhanced by my immediate family who considered me sick. Well, if you hear THAT long enough then you start to believe it. Now I am in the healing profession and if I AM sick, then I should not be trying to heal other people but heal myself first.

But then I got divorced - and the woman within was allowed to live. Strangely it felt very right most of the time but still there was this guilt which crept up occasionally. Finally I went to a psychiatrist who I thought was pretty good. But then I found myself manipulating HIM. I gave him insights and he reacted on them. He told me that the ultimate goal of every man is to find himself in the middle, to INTEGRATE both the male and female. That sounded pretty good, but is it a valid thing? Is it workable?

Everything on this planet depends on opposites - hot/cold, dark/light, good/evil, male/female, etc. It is CONFLICT which makes things happen. If anything reaches equilibrium it

becomes inactive, or even annihilated. So it is with our male and female conflict. When I am acting out my female role, it is the male who admires me, my maleness, that is. At the same time, the female within me admires my male self. How cruel it would be to alter by biological system to become only one part, in our case the female. In that case the conflict will be rekindled and one is then compelled to look for an outside counterpart. So you are back where you started but with additional handicaps.

After I had quit the psychiatrist I happened to listen to a tape by Dr. Kublet-Ross, the MD who wrote on death and dying. She said, "There is no revengeful God who will punish you for your transgressions. It is YOU who is given the opportunity to punish yourself and you are your own worst critic and enemy. Your salvation lies in the possibility to forgive yourself. Once you forgive yourself you are free."

This thought made a profound change within me. I am now in love with myself. Like all Tvs I cherish a mirror and I have one facing my bed. On occasion I put on a slight bit of makeup and a wig when I retire. When I wake up in the morning and sit up in bed I see my reflection in the mirror and I say "Good morning, I love you." This is a profound method because the female also says, "I love you." The day gets off to a beautiful start and it never fails that I meet a great deal of loving people during the day. So you see, I am NOT one integrated person but rather two personalities devoted and in love with each other within one body.

New Appointment

It is a pleasure to announce the appointment of LINDA (TX-21-B) to the position of REGIONAL COORDINATOR of the SOUTHERN BELLES region.

Linda is an extremely hard-working gal who normally directs over 150 churches in the Texas area. She will be working in the states of Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana and Arkansas. She mentions that she suspects that of the four states involved there are 2 other individuals who hold the priesthood. "That would make quite a start in the church world to discover three holders of Holy Orders and recipients of apostolic succession two priests and a Bishop in such a close proximity were Tvs." She says that she would like to hear from those sisters who are ministers. She says that possibly they could work out some of the common problems of being both Tvs and ministers as well as compile a nice theological answer for tvism as it affects the various denominations. Such sisters with ministerial connections should write to LINDA [redacted], Box [redacted], Irving, Texas 75060. We at headquarters look for great things from the Southern Belles Region.



Linda TX-21-B

Letters From Our Wives

Hi, Girls! It's Meg again. I'm waiting eagerly to hear from all of you. You can write to me: Meg [redacted], Downer's Grove, Ill 60515.

Now that the organizational "business" is completed I'd like to ask YOU for some suggestions. Last PM when I invited 'Cheryl' (my husband) to visit I was faced with the age-old problem of what we were going to do together during her visit. Unfortunately, I saw a blank. We ended up having a long talk about Cheryl's long-range goals and short term anxieties. Productive though the conversation was, I felt that I had neglected Cheryl's need for fun. My question to YOU is "What do you do to make a visit from your 'girlfriend' fun for both of you?"

I know that some couples go out to movies or shopping but we're not ready for this, yet. I'm certain that all of you do not spend time in the outside world, so what do you do at home?

We've tried sewing lessons in the hope that we could spend some time together but I found that I'm a silent instructor and that Cheryl is capable of following pattern directions without me hovering at her shoulder. The actual sewing project was a great success, with Cheryl proudly wearing her new jacket-dress to the next chapter meeting, but as a function, full of girlish conversation, the experiment fell short of the mark. We have also tried games like cribbage and rummy but somehow the masculine competitiveness came through and destroys her fun (and sometimes mine, too - I've been slaughtered at Scrabble by that sweet, shy young lady.) And, so girls, I need some suggestions on how to entertain a femme self. I know that many of you successful wives have tips you could pass along, so please help those of us who haven't quite found our grooves. Variety is the spice of life, they say. Please help us add some salt to the soup. *Meg.*

HERE & THERE

Renee (AZ-8-L) tells us that she has given her femme name and address to the owner of an Adult Book store. She has spent a lot of time talking with him regarding Tvism and though he does not understand why a man would dress in woman's clothing, he is interested in helping contact potential Tvs who might come into his shop to look at Tv magazines. He has always wanted to be able to help these people and so he will do his best to help Renee.

Your Editor Needs help: Your editor hopes that you like the articles that appear in each FEMME MIRROR. The material for these stories and articles comes from our readers so this is an invitation to all of you to send in those experiences, stories, and what-have-you so that our magazine will continue to be interesting each time it comes out.

Miss your MIRROR? On occasion one of our readers misses receiving her FEMME MIRROR, either because of the Post Office or some other mixup. Thus, any sister who does not have all the MIRRORS for THIS year should contact your editor for back issues.

Dee, our "single" doctor from New Mexico tells us that she has a girl friend who does not mind Dee making love to her while Dee is dressed as a woman. "Since we started our affair, I noticed that her mode of dress became more relaxed and extravagant. Her perfume and makeup is now very pleasing and her hair exciting. She wears shoes which are always at least 3 inches high. So, you see, I make her 'woman' also live again. Many single woman play at being a male without them realizing it."

Terri (Nv-1-D) says that a careful investigation reveals that there must be at least 20 Tvs in her area, this information coming from electrologists and shop keepers. She says that she is trying to get some

some of the closet type of Tvs to "come out" but it takes a lot of work. She is working on a local television interviewer in Los Vegas with a view of getting either your Editor or Virginia on the show. She has hopes of contacting all the wig shops and electrologists and providing them with Tri-Sigma literature. Terri is a great worker.

PINS: The response to the suggestion of having special Tri-Sigma pins made has met with only fair response. But Roberta (PA-16-J) thinks that it is a great idea and further suggests that we consider cuff links and a neckless/pendant, with a chain. What do YOU think?

Pat (NJ-2-J), who is rather new tells us that she is in contact with Jan (NY-18-B), a loyal Tri-Sig leader, in an effort to start things in the New York City area.

The work in Texas seems to be moving along rapidly. Our red-hot worker Linda (TX-21-B) says that they have 5 members now so we can expect a new chapter of Tri-Sig very soon. She says that they "stole" Connie, in Austin, away from another organization which is allowing just about anybody in.

A further thought in regards to Bulletin Boards: Jan, of Sacramento, suggests a short message on 3 x 5 cards to be put on bulletin boards in laundromats, schools, etc. Simply, in large letters, - TV's. PLEASE WRITE. I NEED YOUR HELP!, with a name and address. Why not try it - soon! It worked.

Talk about advertising. Rona, (VA-1-G) has embarked on a one-girl campaign to attract more members. She said that the local paper initially rejected her ad but after 5 phone calls and some adjusting, the copy was accepted to run for 28 days in the Roanoke Times and World News. She is paying for the ad herself. Our hats are off to RONA!!

The Editor's Mail



Dear Carol:I started dressing about age 10 and used my mother's clothes until I was old enough to enlist in the service. Later, I married and had a nice family, but I never could suppress my secret desire to dress in female items of clothing and finally there was a divorce because of my tvism. I had always felt that I was one of a kind, a freak, dirty, no good, maybe even insane! Then I heard of Tri-Sigma Sorority. Now I have received help from Virginia's books as well as from the FEMME MIRROR. A great help has come from my letters from Lucille (OR-6-A). I now have a complete wardrobe and can dress at home. I hope to do all I can to help further the work here in Southern Florida. Edna Marie, (Fl-?-H)

Dear Carol: I think that your library card idea is a tremendous idea so I have placed one each in the public library and in the University of Southern Colorado here in Pueblo. Shirley (CO-25-W)

Dear Charlene: I suppose that you must have received hundreds of letters like my own, beginning..... 'while I was doing research', but, of course, we have all done it for much of our lives. Allow me to say that I was delighted to hear of the progress of Tri-Sig - I used to belong to the old FPE where I was a charter member of THETA chapter in Wisconsin. I want to get out of my self-imposed shell and help get something going in this area. I have a house that can be used for meetings, etc. I hope to join Tri-Sigma soon. Jerry (Madison, Wisc)

Dear Carol: ...My landlord, knowing that I am a TV, painted my bathroom and bedroom a "hoy pink". Now that is what you call 'understanding.' I just finished reading an autobiography of an ex-cowboy who was employed in that business around the turn of the century. Although

he was a real "he-man" he related an experience when he was young. It seems that he was invited to a masquerade party at school and he was dressed as a girl - rather successfully - and he had this to say about that experience..."After all these years I still wish I could have kept my incognito because I was having a swell time." Just goes to show that tvism can be found in all walks of life. Isobel (AR-2-W)

Dear Carol: The party that I had in this area was well attended by our sisters around here. We are getting close to a chapter. Lucille (OR-6-A) has put Tri-Sig cards in many local libraries and I have spent some time in talking up Tvism to shop-keepers including a wig stylist. I find a lot of people who will accept me as Shirley so I talk to them about my Tvism and thus spread the word. Shirley (OR-7-B)

Dear Carol: ...It is my intention to do what I can to spread the news about Tri-Sigma here in Australia. Recently I went to a local shop in North Adelaide to see about some artificial "breasts" and I informed the saleslady that I was a Tv. She is helping me locate other Tvs and just the other lady I heard from a Tv, through her, and we had a successful meeting. I loaned him some Tri-Sig literature and showed him my picture album. Later on after our conversation, I drove him home and met his wife and we all sat down and had a nice chat. I believe that he will become a Tri-Sig girl before long. Now there are three girls here. My next objective is to get some books in the local library. Catherine (FAU-1-P)

Dear Virginia: ...there is much to be learned about your book. It will be a family project for a while to come, reading, digesting, accepting etc. One section of your book did help me. It had to do about helping about the house while dressed. I'm sure that never occurred to me or to many others. Although I always help around the house as a man but when I get dressed I've always wanted to go out shopping or other things. I can now see what that has meant. Jan (CA-54-H)

Dear Carol: I'm making progress in Youngstown and have just donated my "Understanding" book to the local library. I am also working on shops and stores and my next step is to talk to an editor of a local newspaper concerning an ad for Tri-Sig. I finally told my mother about the whole thing and the end result is that she is a "B" mother. I would like to hear from my sisters from all over. Christine (OH-24-P)

Dear Carol: I have been talking to Lynn who told me that she had been in contact with you. She has also talked to Rita on the phone. Lynn and her lovely wife were the first TV couple I met outside of Phyliss. When they visited Phyliss last year I was invited to come over and meet them - and to dress. Lynn will be having surgery soon and I hope she will feel better after that. I am enclosing a copy of an ad that I expect to have published in a local paper. I will forward any replies that I receive. I will pay for the ad and expect to sell an outboard motor to pay for it so that I can help get my sisters out of the closet. I want them to know that I am aware of their loneliness. I am also going to contact the Women's section editor to see if she will do a story on heterosexual Tvs. Sally Ann (MD-7-K)

Dear Carol: We have just reached the magic number of 5. Janet is Houston will be joining soon as well as Connie. We are finalizing arrangements

for our first chapter to float its meetings. They will be located in Austin (3 meetings), Dallas (3 meetings), and Houston (3 meetings), so that everyone will have a chance to participate. Everyone is excited and anxious to start. Please hold the chapter name "TAU" for our chapter. Linda (TX-21-B)

Dear Carol: I am sending you a small check just to show my appreciation for the wonderful work that you do. I gather that there must be a number of wives and girlfriends of Tvs who read the FEMME MIRROR. ...I would like to help develop your program to assist lonely, single Tvs who need female companionship. In my own case I lost a lovely "A" wife fro cancer last year and really miss the companionship of an understanding woman. There must be many of your readers who know lonely females who might go out with Tvs. I propose that a listing of single females (who would go out with us) be made in the form of a Directory or something in that order. I personally feel that Tri-Sigma could perform no greater service for the lonely Tv. Joanne (PA-20-N)



"I Know we're friends George, but this happens to be the last pair of 10's in the store."

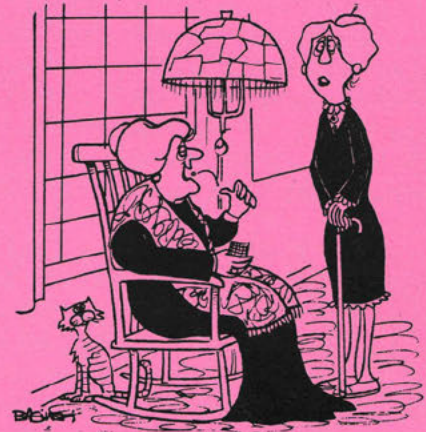
Dear Carol:... It's been less than six months since I joined Tri-Sigma yet it already has meant an enormous amount to me, especially for my self confidence as Ruthann, for my sanity and for my mind (provoking me to think more about what crossdressing does for me and how to square it with my views of the world). I just attended my third meeting of CHI chapter where one of the members, Renee, has taken me under her wing and taught me a lot. Renee is very experienced, having come out many years ago and is transferring lots of her make-up skills to me. She has taken me around to be made up by some professional friends. I have learned a lot in terms of skills and in seeing me in a new "look." She has shown me some of the crossdressing sub-culture's night life in Chicago and I have now experienced some of the pressures that Tvs must go through when they go out. I am getting to know the members and like all of them - especially Lois, my very first Tv contact. I've had invitations to visit with a couple of the sisters on non-meeting weekends and plan on doing just that...I've now pretty well blanketed the city of Madison with library cards and will be placing some ads in the local papers. Ruthann (WI-14-L)

Dear Carol: ...My mother lives with me and over the July holiday I had plenty of time to be dressed. Mom finally had to stop and look at the job I had done and she asked ME to make up some of the areas which she doesn't bother with. With the Store Directory in mind, I have been visiting a store nearby and confided to the clerk that I was a Tv. She explained that while there was no objection to my buying clothes there she did have reservations about advertising that fact at this time. However, for local Tvs, I would be glad to make arrangements to take them to see the store on a personal basis. The Tri-Sig pin sounds the best for my vote. Sheila (WA-13-M)

Dear Carol: I do enjoy a marvelous Tv life. I am engaged in some engineering consultation work which I can handle at home and on trips, which gives me much opportunity to live as Maxine almost 100% of the

time. In the morning, when I get up with my wife, I dress as she does, we eat breakfast and then she leaves for her secretarial position. Then I clean up the dishes and following that I work on my assignment. But around mid-morning I stop and put on make-up and go shopping as Maxine. I go to the markets, banks and other places. When I go on a trip, it is Maxine who goes to the airport, gets the tickets and flies to her destination. I am very happy that I can express myself to my fullest potential and am so glad that I can be granted the wisdom and self-acceptance to be what I want to be. Maxine (CA-124-D)

I wish I hadn't said it:



"Now John, you mustn't take any of my estrogen pills because they'll make you look feminine, younger, more shapely and.....opps."

Dear Charlene: How lovely it was to receive such a nice letter welcoming me into Tri-Sigma. I certainly did not expect such a pleasant surprise. Your heading "Dear Dorothy" made me feel so happy because now I can share the same common interest as all sisters in Tri-Sigma. Thanks for the library cards - I will see that they are placed in Calgary and Edmonton. That is sure a wonderful idea. I am also going to donate a copy of Virginia's book to the local library. It would be simply wonderful to be able to correspond and visit other sisters. Of course I am not forgetting the other requirements of a good Tri-

Sig sister, either - to help those in need and to help enlighten people who know little about Tvism. I hope that we can start a chapter in Alberta. Dorothy (FCA-8-G)

Dear Virginia: After reading the pamphlet published by Tri-Sigma I feel that I'd like to join. I am the classic hetero male who loves to express his feminine self by wearing attire usually considered the exclusive property of females. Since so many females seem to be occupied in wearing rough denims, poorly styled and fashioned, terrible looking shoes and bulky jackets, and the like, I want us to be free to claim the lovely fabrics and feminine styling that they have cast away. I am married and have a family. My wife does not fall into the "A" classification since she really cannot understand my deep need and desire to dress in feminine attire. Yet, from time to time, she has presented me with some of the loveliest items I own, both from her own wardrobe and of items that she has purchased just for me. Teddie (Chicago)

Dear Carol: In answer to the complaint from a Tv wife about her husband who was very thoughtless, she is very right. Putting on feminine clothing doesn't make one a woman. In order for a Tv to be successful he must be able to feel like a woman. How do we acquire this feeling? It is by doing feminine things in a feminine manner while dressed as a woman. To put it plainly, we must cook, wash dishes, wash clothes, iron, mend clothing, etc. I feel so happy that my spouse has progressed from a "C" to an "A" wife. Hello to all. Lucille (OR-6-A)

SUSIE SUGGESTS

It seems that a lot of you girls are missing out on a lot of fun by not participating in this column, so when you feel that you have an "answer" to one of our questions, please drop your editor a line. The question was "If your wife knows about your crossdressing, how did she come to know about it?"

Leslie (MA-19-R) says that she told her wife about four years ago. She adds that at that time she brought her things that she had hid in the cellar, up to her bedroom and put them in her dresser drawer. She says that since that time she has been able to increase her wardrobe considerably.

Several of the sisters mentioned that they had finally told their wife that they crossdressed and were surprised to find that the wife did not mind and are now kicking themselves for not "telling all" a long time ago. You can't win, gals! The wives who found out often found out by discovering articles of female apparel in places where the Tv husband had hidden them.

Our next question is "Would men's underclothing made of nylon, silk, etc. satisfy your desire to wear pretty things under your normal clothes or must you have items of feminine cut and design?" Now, come on, gals, and jot down your thoughts to Susie and mail them to your editor.

New Help

We, at headquarters, have been feeling the need for some time for another position to be filled - that of Secretary. This position will be for a sister to help your Editor when acting in her other capacity of Co-Leader of Tri-Sigma. We are pleased that Ellen (OR-8-S) has accepted that position and she is already at work, assisting your Co-leader. Thanks, Ellen!

OBJECTIVE: LOCATE "Dates"

CAROL BEECROFT (CA-3-B) has been trying for some time to develop a "dating" program. Little success up to now. Joanne (PA-20-N) lends a hand. Future looks good.

One of the most difficult programs to get established, and yet, one of the most needed is that program designed to locate "understanding" female companions for our unattached members.

Most of us recognize the need for a Tv to have an "understanding" female around who can assist him with the choosing of suitable clothing as well as teach him cosmetic technique. In addition, for those Tvs who have a desire to go out in public and be accepted as women, the locating of a suitable female who could accompany him on shopping trips, dinner engagements, etc., is of utmost importance. Because most Tvs are very nervous and unsure of themselves when alone in public, there is a certain calmness and security in having a nicely dressed female at his side. She helps him to pass. If he has certain features or other problems that might give him away, HER natural feminine appearance will often tilt the balance in his direction and make it easier for him to be accepted as a woman, even in the powder room!

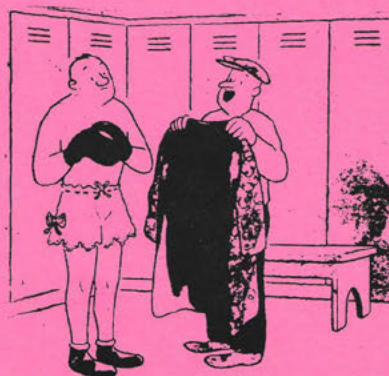
But it's been tough for us to get this program started, what with so many other problems and objectives to accomplish. But now that Joanne (PA-20-N) has offered to assist Carol, things are looking up for our dating program.

Carol and Joanne are pointing the search in the direction of advertising in certain periodicals for females. Still another way to finding "understanding" women is to ask our readers to help. Perhaps some of our sisters might know of such individuals, who are not so rare as one might think. In addition, the

members might have close female relatives or friends who would be glad to help out a few of our sisters in their vicinity. Carol does know at least three such girls who are "understanding" and has brought two of them to the Alpha Chapter meetings. Although these girls do not live near most of you, on the other hand they might not mind corresponding with a few of our unattached sisters. Who knows what could occur beyond that point.

Carol has even suggested advertising in Lonely Hearts Clubs. You never know where you will locate an "understanding" woman. There are many avenues to explore and Carol and Joanne intend to do their best to help locate the many potential "understanding" females out there.

This "service" is needed by at least 20% of our membership but we wonder if those who need the service are willing to help develop it. There is another such "service" organized to help locate females for Tvs, for a fee, but Joanne has said that it is not very successful since there are so few females listed as desiring to go out with Tvs. But we CAN be successful if a lot of you girls pitch in. If you have some good ideas, please send them to us. We hope that the mail will be full of ideas for this worthy project.



Now your opponent will be sure to be overconfident!

Isobel Knows The Law

Our sorority has a very sincere and active sister in Arizona who is trying so very hard to build up a chapter of Tri-Sig in her state. She recently investigated the laws pertaining crossdressing in Arizona and tells us that Tucson's newly amended Human Relations Ordinance equally protects hetero Tvs. In addition, Isobel (AR-2-W) attends meetings of various types to carry the banner forward for Tri-Sigma. She adds that there is no state law in Arizona which is against Tvism but, yet in Flagstaff they do have an ordinance diametrically opposite. In that city the law states that no one can wear the clothes of the opposite sex. Isobel contacted the city attorney of that city and was told that they would prosecute any Tv found in women's clothing. Isobel says that the Flagstaff police must be blind, otherwise, they would have to have ten jails to hold all the females wearing pants and shirts. She says in summary that it is not against the law to crossdress in Arizona with the exception of the city of Flagstaff. She wants any sisters who drive across Arizona to know that they can wear a dress while enjoying the scenery. And this would apply to the national parks there, too.

Talk about being brave - Isobel has her checks printed with her male name and the next line says "AKA (also known as) Isobel Warner." How many of you dare have THAT done on your checks.

Linda Uses The Phone

Linda (CA-88-T)

Once when I was away on a trip to a large city I decided to buy a girdle. I picked out a store from the Yellow Pages and called. I said, "I am Mr. Jones and one of my hobbies is dressing in women's clothes.

I need a new girdle and wonder if you could fit me." The reply was, "We don't fit gentlemen but you are welcome to come in and try on what you like."

I did go into the store and purchased the girdle but at that time I did not have enough nerve to try it on. I have also tried the same phone tactic in my home city, that is, I called and identified myself with any name and asked if they had what I wanted. I always said that Tvism was my hobby and I have found that this kind of approach helped eliminate much embarrassment.

Just yesterday I purchased a new bra at a department store. I simply went into the store and asked for a 38B bra with stretch straps and sides. I said to the saleslady, "I need a new bra." She was very helpful and showed me several and we discussed the fit. As I left the store, she said, "If it doesn't fit, please bring it back." I was so impressed with the straight-forwardness type of treatment that I received that I phoned her today and told her how much I appreciated her service and manner. I told her, over the phone, "The bra fits me very well and was just what I wanted." I also told her that there might be other gentlemen who would like to be her patrons. She said, "Please come in for whatever you need. I am glad to be helpful."

It seems to me that the phone can be very helpful in providing a degree of security along with honesty and I think that it pays to let salesladies know that you like an approach like that of the saleslady I worked with.

PLEASE DO NOT FORGET THE LIBRARY
CARDS. WE GET LETTERS EVERY WEEK
FROM PEOPLE WHO FIND OUR CARDS!!
NEED MORE? WRITE CAROL!!

What's Happening Out There

ALPHA CHAPTER

The sisters of Alpha Chapter recently had a catered dinner and the girls had an opportunity to get dressed up for a nice occasion. In addition, a Regional Executive Bd has been started to help with the development of Southern Calif. The girls are looking forward to a Halloween party on October and the annual Christmas dinner in December. Future events include a weekend in the mountains. Recent visitors included several psychologists and special events included a demonstration of Merle Norman cosmetics. Most of the girls received personal consultation and many free samples were handed out.

CHI CHAPTER

Recent events included a visit to Mitzi's home where the gals got a chance to get in on the ground floor of a planned garage sale - and the gals came away with all sorts of goodies. Planned are advertisements in the Chicago-metropolitan newspapers to locate new members. Also proposed for the future is a Regional weekend for the girls. The girls are looking forward to the visit of Tri-Sigma's co-leader, Carol Beecroft on the 17th of Sept. A showing of the DREAM set of slides was very interesting. Betty Ann (IL-17-A) had surgery recently but is better, although not able to drive a car for awhile.

NU PI CHAPTER:

The girls are few in number but do make an impression with their hard work. Our chapter, which has both U.S. and Canadian Visitors, has a cottage where the girls are meeting. It is large enough to have parties and seems to be an ideal place to have meetings. This chapter is full of girls who work hard.

SIGMA CHAPTER:

The girls decided to not have any meetings during the summer and will receive activity in the fall, since so many girls are not available in the summer months.

OTHER PLACES:

It appears that the girls in Northern California are once again stirring and it is felt that something more concrete in terms of an organized chapter will be accomplished this fall. There are plenty of gals there but complications hindered the development of a chapter until very recently. Carol is working with the members in that region.

It should not be long until there is an official chapter in the Washington, D.C. area. The girls are now meeting unofficially and an official chapter should be organized soon. Carol Beecroft will be meeting with the girls on the 16th of September. There are at least 6 girls who are interested in organizing a chapter. Sally Ann (MD-7-K) and Rita (MD-10-Mc) are both hard at it. Good luck to the girls!

Dacyl (NV-5-W) is plugging for a chapter in Northern Nevada and it looks like a chapter might be organized soon. And Terri (NV-1-D) is also working hard to organize a chapter in Southern Nevada.

Our Regional Coordinator for the Southern Belles Region reports that A NEW CHAPTER IN JUST AROUND THE corner. Those gals in Texas always do things in a BIG way.

There are efforts going on right now in the state of Washington, in Oregon (very soon now), in the Western Pa and Eastern Ohio areas, in the New England area, and in the Southern Florida area. New members are coming in each week and time will see more chapters organized under the Tri-Sigma banner!

And LASTLY, please forgive your editor for getting behind with the FEMME MIRROR. Between other Tri-Sig work and my own business it has been a rat-race, but I'll catch up yet.