

the  
**Femme Mirror**

**Winter**

**1989**



*Reflecting the Feminine.....*

**A Worm's Lament  
(with Response)**

by  
**Kathryn Joy** ██████████  
(NJ-2388-P)

**POET'S  
CORNER**



"My chrysalis is petrified, Lord".  
"My butterfly-ness is stuck  
Tight in this worm shaped frame,  
And I'm tired of waiting for my change.

I dream of beauty, soaring free.  
Of fragile wings, and nectar sweet.  
Unexperienced worm born dreams  
Of butterfly shaped hopes.

I want to trade this many footed  
Plodding shape for something graceful  
Be done with hairiness and flab,  
Let velvety sveltness emerge.

What's that you say, Lord?  
You know my struggle in this cage.  
You see me hiding in the dark.  
And love my wormy, butterfly-ness.

That can't be Lord, It just can't.  
I guess you can love worms. I guess.  
I know you must love butterflies. I hope.  
But no enigma, wrapped in pain. You can't.

How's that again, Lord?  
What makes my wormy reality,  
Different from my butterfly dreams?  
Is drab chrysalis to blame?

I'll not answer, Lord. No way!  
I'm suffering here and your  
Questions prick me as a thorn.  
I need no more hurt, Lord!

I'm crying, Lord. Enough!  
I know the answer in my pain.  
I'm me. Both worm and butterfly  
Infused by you. Transformed.

I am not bound by outward  
Chrysalis shaped prison,  
But by the dungeons of the soul  
Forbidding growth in fear.

I see it now, Lord. I see!  
Your grace has set me free.  
My shape or hope's not the key,  
But your image, alive in me.

What happened, Lord?  
The light's so strong,  
And I feel changed,  
But somehow much the same.

My chrysalis! It's burst!  
I'm butterfly! I'm free.  
But wait, this cannot be.  
I taste worminess in me.

Celebrate it! Why, Lord?  
I want to bury wormhood.  
You mean you made me  
Both worm and butterfly?

I hear you, Lord.  
Your image in both.  
My nature graced by both.  
One in the other, evermore

Give thanks, you say.  
Both earth and sky are mine.  
And I am yours always  
Renewed in love Divine.

# A Few Words From the EDITOR

Jeanette [REDACTED]

## Confessions of the World's Worst Crossdresser.....



Well, I almost made it! It had been over four months since I took the time to dress. Plans had been made. Clothes had been chosen. My vehicle contained my hair and face. I was looking forward to seeing Tri Ess friends. However....

Work has been all consuming since early Spring. My favorite leisure activity beckoned me to participate, but I work for a real S.O.B. I am self employed! I had a tremendous desire to adorn my frame with my favorite clothes (perhaps something in a powder blue with complementary white shoes) and join those with whom I share the most in common.

NO! WAIT! I don't think you understand. The great love I have forsaken is a leisurely 36 holes of golf. Oh my!, how I do miss that marvelous game and my drunken, worthless buddies.

Last month I missed a chapter meeting. I was afraid if I went I could not pass. At that moment passing was extremely important. I live in a small town where the entire police force would be after me if I didn't pass.

NO! WAIT! I don't think you understand. I had procrastinated until the last possible weekend to attend a defensive driving course to eliminate a traffic violation I had received some 90 days earlier. If I didn't pass my course, a warrant for my arrest would have been issued on the following Monday for failure to meet my obligation to the court.

The preceding month, I knew nothing could keep me away. I went in to work early each morning preceding the weekend. I made sure my crews had implicit instructions of exactly what to do. My foremen were given extra cash to buy any materials they might need for the weekend (after all, I would have a tough time explaining the way I would be dressed, should my presence be required).

My pulse would quicken every time I would think of the weekend. I seemed to slip off early every afternoon, just so I could check to make sure all was in order. My Goodness! How long had it been? Even though the gathering would be something I had lived and dreamed since I was in my teens, I was worried I would forget everything I knew to be so natural and so much a part of me. Like riding a bike, right? Once you know how you won't forget. Yet, I was so nervous. Could I pull it off without getting caught?

NO! WAIT! I don't think you understand. I was lusting to play in a golf tournament. I owed it to myself and my partner to get ready. A single purpose, a single goal... VICTORY!

And so it goes. My life has been so full, dressing has been placed on a back shelf. I know it is there. It is a part of me--it just has not been as important a part lately as at other times. The truth is: family, vocation, other obligations and forms of pleasure have been more important to me than dressing.

I am not belittling the desire and need to dress. I was enjoying dressing for years before I was told I was doing it to develop the feminine side of my personality. In my ignorance, I just considered it fun. I was not concerned about meeting needs of any sort. I was just having fun, at the time.

I see dressing much like a banana split...not much of meal in itself, but when needed nothing else can take its place. Dressing is not necessary in my life most of the time...it just adds the sweetness.

One of my favorite definitions is: "maturity": the ability to postpone pleasure. I suppose other areas of my life have just needed more of my attention lately!

## From The Executive Director

by  
**Carol Beecroft**

I just returned from the Holiday En Femme in San Francisco. I wish you gals who were not able to attend could have been there. I believe the emotional experience each person received was well worth the money. Several sisters who attended say they are having trouble coming down from the "high" they experienced in beautiful San Francisco. I understand the planning committee has already started on next years Holiday to be held in **HOUSTON, TEXAS**. Why not plan for a few days in **Houston in November 1990?**

It is extremely important to mention a number of Tri-Ess sisters who put together the Holiday we enjoyed so much. We need to express great appreciation to Diane (AZ-1567-B) and Jane (Tx-1757-M) who worked their little behinds off to make sure the Holiday was successful. They did beautiful work. I know I speak for all sisters in thanking them for the hundreds of hours they expended in the interest of all of us.

Speaking of those who work in the interest of others, I get letters from Tri-Ess sisters who want to know how they can start chapters, or who simply want to volunteer their labor in any way we can use them. I just got a letter from Kim (IN-1836-S) who said she and her wife would like to help design a cover for the Couples Auxiliary newsletter. Ten years ago, I could get almost no help. Now it seems offers are coming in from all over the place. We do not have a chapter in the San Francisco area. During the Holiday there several Tri-Ess sisters said they wanted a chapter there. All the work done by sisters is free. No one gets paid! Yet, I can tell you we receive thousands of hours of free service from sisters all across the land, each year. No wonder Tri-Ess is doing so well!

Our sisters are still placing library index cards in libraries. I recently received a request for information from someone in Trenton, N. J. Thanks go to the sister who was so thoughtful and took time to place the card.

One of our sisters, Michelle, in St. Petersburg, Fl., sent a newspaper clipping from Pinellas Park. It appears a male, wearing a pink dress was arrested after raping and beating a clerk during a robbery. This guy apparently passed fairly well. Michelle says to be careful when you go out because you never know what will happen. You could be picked up, if you don't look too good, and be accused of some crime, even though you are innocent.

Debbie, evidently not a member at the time she

wrote, said she wrote to several magazines dealing with crossdressing, asking for companionship but received letters requesting her to meet certain people, insinuating a sexual encounter was desired. Debbie was pleased with Tri-Ess' philosophy and wanted more information. I believe this is one reason why Tri-Ess is growing. I believe our heterosexual-only stand is desired by many people. Most of those who receive letters suggesting sexual encounters are married with families and do not want such encounters.

It happened to me! I was driving to Fresno about six weeks ago. I was to speak to some classes at Fresno State. I hit a piece of metal in the roadway. I experienced tire destruction. Here I was, dressed and in three inch heels. I reluctantly got out of the car, opened the trunk, and started to get the tire out. I found it was tightly wedged into place. I practically had to climb into the trunk, fancy outfit, tight skirt, and all. Somehow I managed finally to get the tire out...and the jack too. I positioned the jack under the car. Then along came a truck with two rather masculine men in the cab. I said to myself: "Oh my!" and waited for a storm. The guys got out of the truck, came up to me, and said they would change the tire. I very daintily and helplessly said it would be very appreciated...in a very quiet voice. They immediately went to work. I "disappeared" around the corner, pretending to look for something in the trunk. They changed the tire in about three minutes. I thanked them in as feminine a way as I could. I don't know if they "read" me or not. At least I didn't have a problem. But, I was really nervous and insecure about the whole thing. So, gals, be aware. Your tire could blow out, too. Be sure you do a good job of dressing so you won't have problems. I really have to admit, my pretty pink outfit with a straight skirt definitely was not what a person should wear when she needs to change a tire. As it was, my hands were dirty from just getting the tire and jack out of the trunk. I apologized to the class at Fresno State for being late, telling them of my predicament. The girls in the class laughed when I told them I played "the helpless girl" routine. They expressed, through many smiles, their knowledge of how to be helpless when it is necessary. Boy! Those guys must have felt very macho.... helping a poor little helpless lady with a tire! Sweat! Sweat!

I received a letter from a lady in Northern Ireland. She wants a crossdresser pen-pal. Her husband is a crossdresser. She says she's very happy. She also expressed an interest in corresponding with wives of crossdressers, too. If you are interested, please contact me.

Well, this is it for this time. I appreciate all of you and hope that 1990 will be a successful year for each of you. Perhaps I'll get see more of you in the year to come....  
Carol

# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Sisters,

I had a truly wonderful experience last night. I would like to share some it with you.

My wife decided she would enjoy making me up completely and having a full evening of companionship with me as my feminine self. We even had a photo session with me wearing two different outfits. I was amazed at how good I could look with her doing my makeup and hair. She even suggested the right perfume.

Although she is a little uncomfortable when I dress just partially (a skirt and blouse only) she is very happy to see and be with me when I am totally en femme.

We plan on doing this at least once a month, complete with photographs. I have enclosed one I hope you will publish in the next Mirror along with this letter. ((Ed: *Kathy.... your wish is our pleasure!*))

I wish all my sisters could enjoy this experience. Thank you for all your help and support.

Your Sister:

Kathy Ann  
NH 2687 M



Kathy Ann

Dear Editor,

Here is my literary work for this year. I hope you find it interesting enough to publish in the Mirror.

I've read many stories regarding encounters with Law Enforcement Officers, (The key word is "enforcement".) while dressed. Most seem to fear they will be hauled off to jail or in some way humiliated in public. For the most part this is pure hogwash!

Police Officers do a thankless job, one most of us would not want. If you, a crossdresser, feel you are in danger of being molested, consider yourself lucky. Police Officers' lives are in danger all the time. It is part of the job. In fact, just to let you know, there are Police Officers who are or were members of Tri Ess who will support this statement.

Not one time, in my many encounters with the law have I been threatened or exposed to public ridicule. To dress in the garments society dictates as being for the other sex is not a crime. In some places it may still be "against the law" technically, but it is not a crime. In those backward thinking locales it is only a misdemeanor from which they collect a "sin tax"... a fine. This reflects the double standard with which we are all familiar... You know-the double standard which allows females to wear men's clothes with impunity and punishes males who dress in women's clothes. This is a long standing double standard coming down through the years. It is slowly changing, and in most places, no longer exists.

Most times, Police Officers have far more important things to do than bother with a guy wearing a dress. Usually, unless you are acting in a suspicious manner, doing something obviously illegal, or endangering someone else, most Police Officers won't bother a CD dressed out in public.

I don't believe any of us are ever stopped because we are dressed, but because we have done something else.... say-lead footing it or zipping through a red light or something of that sort.

My experience has been being stopped because I have a lead foot. Each time, I've found the Officer to be a professional and in no way concerned about the clothes I was wearing. The last time I was stopped, the Officer did ask me why I was dressed as a female. He'd noticed the "M" on my driving liscence. I told him simply: "I'm a transvestite. I don't particularly like it. There's nothing I can do about it." He seemed

to understand, handed my license back to me with the ticket to sign and I drove on down the road. I did not think the side of the road was an appropriate place in which to engage in a discussion related to gender identity issues.

Recently, I've heard some groups or parties insist prospective members submit photos of themselves along with a short profile.... both of which to be filed with the local Police on the theory if the local Police know about you, they will leave you alone. Bunk! Being a crossdresser does not fall into any category of interest to the police, other than perhaps "Sexual Deviates" who are a threat to other citizens. Since our crossdressing is not plainly a sexual thing, I maintain this is a totally inappropriate classification and that the Police are not interested in us unless we threaten harm to someone else or are otherwise doing something illegal.

Go get 'em girls!! Don't tuck your tail between your legs and hide. Accept yourself and others like yourself.... including transsexuals... They too, have a hard road to travel to get the acceptance they desire and deserve as human beings. Once this acceptance has been achieved, you will slowly find acceptance by society. I'm not saying one should stand out in the street and proclaim to the world you are a transvestite. But do not fear the unknown.

Where would we be without Columbus?  
Barbara Renee [REDACTED] MO 1734 J

*Ed Note: See "Communication" article on this subject elsewhere.....*

Donna Martin  
West Covina, CA.

Thank you for your letter. You asked if I have benefited from Tri Ess membership. God Bless Tri Ess.... I surely have benefited.

I've met many wonderful people who in turn led me to more wonderful people. Quite a lot has happened to me in my two years as a Tri Ess member (also the length of time I've been free from the closet.)

Here's the short of it: I have been a member of **CROSSROADS**, a support group in the Detroit area, also I've become a member of IME, a support group in Western Michigan, headquartered in Grand Rapids. (I helped start this group and feel wonderful for having done so.)

IME has a membership of over fifty and was a year old last February.

The long of my story is: I just retired from my shop of 16 years, received a ladies' gold watch with my femme name engraved on the back, and enjoyed knowing the whole shop knew I crossdress.... They know I am woman without an "operation" and have been living full time as a lady (Nedra) for a month and a half since calling it quits at the shop. I am revelling in it....., incidentally.

You can print this in the Mirror if you think it has merit. I would be honored if you do.

Thank you for listening to me. I remain faithfully yours in this, beautiful of all life styles.

Your sister,  
Nedra [REDACTED] (signed)  
MI 2265 M

Dear Editor,

I have long been concerned with what appears to me to be a lax attitude about security within Tri-Ess. The contents of the Directory concern me. Many of us are easily recognizable. The information given is revealing. This is a problem if Directories get into the wrong hands. I request you print, in its entirety, the accompanying front page article from the August 30, 1989 New Orleans Times-Picayune detailing blackmail schemes by inmates in Angola Penitentiary. I saw in the directory of members in prison in the last Mirror, an inmate in Angola looking for friends.

A few years ago someone I knew got arrested when exposed because of a picture getting into the hands of a porno ring. There was nothing pornographic about the picture and it had been passed to them by a third party. After this truth came out, he was released, but the damage had been done. Victims of such events clam up. I'd like to hear from others who have also been victimized, so we can all better arm ourselves.

A prison is no place for confidential mail, no place for a Directory. Even in the hands of a "sister" who can be trusted.... it can easily pass into the wrong hands in a prison. We must warn our members of this hazard. I believe it appropriate to ban inmate members. It is in the best interest of our members to monitor distribution of our publications more carefully.

Sincerely, Leslie, (LA-1739-B)

*Ed Note: Insufient space prevents us running the article requested by Leslie. However, your Editors think Leslie makes some really valid points. There is no privacy in a prison setting and no matter how much an inmate might desire to control access to materials we*

*might send to her in the prison, there is no way she can guarantee security of those items. Each member should concern herself with using good judgement and be extremely aware of the security needs of our members in the actions she takes.*

Dear Editor,

To begin with, I would like to congratulate all the girls who contributed to the production of the Femme Mirror. I'm convinced the Tau Chi has everything in control. The August issue was great. It just proves you girls deserve a pat on the back.

In the August issue, Delta Chapter in Denver was omitted on page 32 and 33. Please get us in this time.

Delta Chapter is located in Denver. We serve northern Colorado and southern Wyoming. Our president is: Ann (CO-2152-B), Secretary is: Patricia (CO-2777-K) and Treasurer is: Julie (CO-2335-M). Our address is: Delta Chapter  
P. O. Box [REDACTED]  
Littleton, CO. 80162  
(Attn: Patricia)

Sincerely,

Patricia (CO-2777-K)



Diane [REDACTED], Holiday En Femme Coordinator,  
Receiving the "Working 9 to 5" Award  
at the Holiday En Femme Awards Banquet

## SUBMISSIONS INVITED

Articles, letters, poems, stories.... all are invited. Tri-Ess members are a talented and informed lot. Submitting material for publication in "our" magazine, the Femme Mirror, is a wonderful way those talents and information resources can be shared among us. Below are the Style Parameters we use in case you want to submit camera ready copy.

We use a Desk Top Publishing set up to generate our camera ready copy. At the core of our work is a Macintosh II computer. If you have, or have access to a Macintosh computer, you can submit via DSDD disks. We use MacWrite II as our word processor program. However, we can read any Macintosh word processor output as well as Page Maker, Illustrator 88, Freehand, and all the other major Mac software. (Jaye, our Copy Editor, is a Macintosh consultant and can offer computers, software, peripheral equipment, and training at very competitive prices to members considering purchase of a personal computer.)

Camera ready copy must meet the following criteria: Text Font: Times Roman, 12 point, plain. Headers: Times Roman, 14 point, **Bold**. By lines: Times Roman 7 and 9 point, plain. Use 8.5"X11" white 20lb Bond paper. Margins: .5" top, .5" bottom, .5" left, .5" right. Set two columns per page with .25" space between columns. Final print: Laser at 300 dpi. Mail it protected and NEVER folded, please.

For those who use IBM and clone equipment, the only way you can meet these parameters is to output your work to a Post Script capable Laser printer in which the Times Roman font family by Adobe Systems is installed.

No matter what sort of equipment you have.... even a pencil and plain paper is fine..... we don't mind entering all the materials.... we just want submissions. This is a great way to participate, so you gals out there..... **SUBMIT**.

You may submit by mailing directly to Jaye at JR Consulting, [REDACTED] Hildred Street, Conroe, Tx. 77301 or via the Tau Chi Chapter mail drop at PO Box [REDACTED], Alief, Tx. 77411.

Any way you can.... just send us material to share with the membership.....

Jeanette, Jaye, Jane Ellen, and Mary.... your MIRROR staff.....

Dear Jeanette,

You might be surprised to receive mail from another country, outside the US, where there really is no chapter of Tri Ess. But some of us belonging to this interesting group are not citizens of your country, and have the same experiences of TV-lives. Thus my best wishes for the new task you have accepted and the wish you might be considering -- once in a while-- our needs as the "overseas - sisters".

Since you invited, so kindly, in the May Mirror, to send in contributions, here are two to begin with: For all practical purposes we can't participate in any of the regular events we hear about in the States. But we understand English enough to have a strong interest in TV publications, especially if they come in the form of books published by well-known publishing houses. Thus, may I suggest you try to keep some space regularly dedicated to publications about TV's or related to them? Since most of the movies launched in the USA sooner or later come to other countries around the world, this section should also include reviews or previews of new films that might be interesting to us. A big success like "Tootsie" is of course well known even before it comes out in dubbed versions, but there are sometimes other movies, less successful, we would like to hear and know about.

Secondly, a concern that increases with the growing number of "ordinary TVs" that travel abroad. A friend of mine recently spent several weeks on holiday in the US. Being an "old sister", she dearly wanted to get in touch during the trip, with someone from Tri Ess or even to visit a chapter meeting. But before we went through exchange/letters/answers, the time had run out. The same might be true with some of you coming over to Europe. Is there a way we could set up a faster system, to benefit from our TV presence on both sides of the big water? How, what could be done???

Enough for this time. I'm willing to help from Germany, in your editorial efforts.

This is yours, Rita

*Ed response:*

*We get a number of letters with great ideas such as Rita proposes. How about someone out there coming up with a procedure to enable Tri-Ess to meet these needs?*

Dear Editor:

I have a complaint. When a new sister joins Tri-Ess, she is ultimately sent only the latest directory supplement, not the main directory or any of the pervious supplments. My picture and listing is in the '87 main Directory, over two years old. I don't know how long that old directory was continued in

distribution. I know one sister, with whom I correspond, never saw it... she's new. I discovered her in the new supplement.

I hate to think how many sisters have joined in the past two years and have no way to know I exist. I've not gotten any letters from sisters, now I know why. The new sister I mentioned tells me she gets letters for others in my area who know nothing of me. Those sisters might contact me, if they knew of me.

I realize it is hard for Tri-Ess to know how many main Directories to print. Still an estimate could be made and spares printed. A Directory could be reprinted when supplies are exhausted, too. I suggest the directory be printed in an inexpensive form, say loose leaf form, so supplemental sheets can be sent to members periodically to update the main Directory. Main Directories need to be printed more frequently, too.

I think it is the obligation of Tri Ess to ensure every member has a complete listing of all sisters who want to be listed. Our annual dues should cover such service.

Sincerely, Donna GA-1878-K

*Ed Note: Here's another good idea. Let's have a volunteer to maintain the database and publish regular directories and supplements, the way Mirror is being done.....*

Dear Editor:

The work you and the staff put into the new issue of the Femme Mirror is very evident. There is a cohesiveness visible in the contents that made it extremely readable. The stories and first hand experiences printed are so much more enjoyable for me, than the clinical dissertations of the experts. "The Outing" poem by Louise Catherine [redacted] was very moving; more please.

I'll submit a bit of verse and a little story which is only part fantasy. You may find them worthy of print.

Our little group in Omaha is getting on a good roll. Regular meetings are every other month, with guest speakers. Membership has come from every contact imaginable.

Thank you, Joanna K. NE-2009-K

*Joanna, look closely elsewhere.... you might find your Shadow Self.....*

Dear Ladies,

I obtained your address from a fellow TV in Bismarck. I knew Carol has had an accident and have been hoping she would be able to resume publication of the Mirror. Now I understand you folks have taken over.

I did have an active subscription going. I am wondering if you will pick up on that subscription, or

if I need to renew membership. Believe me, I have missed getting the Mirror.

I understand Carol Beecroft now is working on setting up local chapters. Would it be possible to obtain her address?

Thank you for your attention to this letter.  
Sincerely, Lynn [redacted] ND-1996-C

*Lynn's letter has been answered personally in an effort to meet her needs..... Ed.....*

Dear Editor,

I've included my story: "Coming Out". Please feel free to edit as required. Sometimes I get carried away.

I use a Brother Word Processor. I don't know if the disk format is compatible with a Mac. If so, I can ship you a disk full of material for Mirror. Perhaps, also, I could take some of the workload off whomever does all your typing.

Until next time...

Bobbie Lee

*Bobbie Lee's letter was answered personally to respond to her special needs. Sorry.... dedicated word processor machines use proprietary electronic formats not compatible with Macintosh..... Not to worry, we don't mind typing..... Ed.....*

Dear Editor:

About the August Femme Mirror... Fantastic Job! You and your staff are to be congratulated. I've read it cover to cover several times.

I've attached a copy of a letter I sent out in September to seven sisters in my area. As of now (4 October 89..Ed.) I've not received any replies, but am still hoping. I am sure there are others living near me I may have overlooked. I know there are others, as I am, starving for the opportunity to meet and socialize with other people who share our interests. I have not had the pleasure of meeting another Tri Ess sister. I am looking forward to it. Holiday En Femme next month..... I can't contain myself planning for it.

Please print the attached letter so any sister in the area of Sonoma County, (60 mi. north of San Francisco, CA) who might be interested in organizing a local chapter can contact me.

Again, thank you for a great Femme Mirror.  
Fondly, Janette, CA-2880-C

*Janette: Here's your letter! Ed.*

Dear Sister,

Are you tired of not being able to socialize, talk, and do other activities with people who share your interests?

Let me introduce myself. My name is Janette. I live in Sonoma County, very near you. I'm 47 years old and have been crossdressing many years. Only last year have I begun to understand I cannot keep Janette hidden. The girl within needs to live. Does this sound familiar? If so, read on!

I would like to get a Chapter of Tri-Ess going here in Sonoma County. I believe we (this letter is being mailed to seven sisters in our area) can have many good times together, doing what we all love to do: being our feminine selves. I know we will all grow with the mutual support, help, knowledge, and understanding each of us can bring to the group.

What are your thoughts? Are you interested in starting a Chapter in our area? Would you attend meetings? Would you be willing to help organize a local chapter? What about being an officer in a local chapter? I am very interested in your comments, suggestions, or anything else you may have to say.

Please answer one way or the other, interested or not, willing or not.

I fully realize the problems some of us have, and that extreme security is a must. I will in all cases, keep any letters, addresses, phone numbers.. in extreme confidence. If you would feel more comfortable using the forwarding service, do so. Local addresses and phone numbers would be appreciated, but are not necessary at this time.

I plan to get a PO box and will advise..(long waiting list at the PO).

Janette CA-2880-C

Box [redacted]  
Sebastapol, CA. 95473

*So... there... you Sonoma (and surrounding counties) gals..... get with it. Janette is for real! Let's have more gals around the country do things this way and get more chapters going.... it's a great way to serve and a great way to grow! Ed..*

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I CAN FIT  
BRA SIZES  
32A - 46D

Dear Editor,

Communication has a vital role in helping educate the general public in regard to the HETEROSEXUAL FEMMOPHILE LIFE. The last two issues of FEMME MIRROR are an excellent example of the type of communication which should be shared with not only our society but with the public as well. I want to thank the staff and all those involved for the efforts on a truly fine publication.

As a fellow femmophile, my desire to help educate the public about who crossdressers are has increased to the point I had to do something. After recently reading the book by Virginia Prince entitled: "HANDBOOK FOR SPEAKERS ON CROSSDRESSING", I have made myself available to speak to individuals or groups on this subject. My first encounter involved three Western Australia Government Counsellors who knew a lot about transsexuals, but almost nothing at all about the HETEROSEXUAL FEMMOPHILE. At the conclusion of a two hour meeting, our ranks have now increased with three new sympathetic counsellors who are in a vital position to really help our cause. Recently, another door has opened. I have been invited to speak at a university sexuality class on this subject of HETEROSEXUAL CROSSDRESSING. Only time will tell where all of this will lead. In the meantime, I will do my part to educate the public

concerning our cause.

Lots of Love from Australia,

April (FAUS-1753-Y)

Editor:

A comment on the Holiday En Femme. A great experience everyone should have! I felt proud to socialize with sisters from all over. I have one regret: I did not, or was not able to express adequately the Sunday morning we all said goodbye. I had changed back to my "boyself" for the trip home, so I choked my feelings back and did not express them.

During the drive home, I really realized there is no difference between my "boyself" and my "girlself". Both are really one. Being out of the closet for six months has not helped much, but the learning process is a daily help.

When I walked out of the door of the hotel, there was a big lump in my throat and tears were running down my cheeks.... even as they are as I write this. I want all the ladies who were there to know I really care for each of you, and I really miss all the hugs that should have been.

Your Sister,

Janette (CA-2880-C)

## Your Femme Mirror Staff

Jeanette [REDACTED], Editor in Chief

Jane Ellen Fairfax, Copy Proofer

Jaye Reviere, Copy Editor

Mary [REDACTED], Production and Circulation Editor

## A Holiday of History

by  
Jane Ellen Fairfax

The 1989 Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme was not the largest in history - the 1988 event in Chicago boasted twice as many registrants. The signal accomplishments, however, of this Holiday marked it as an event for the ages; a Holiday of History.

As a social event, this year's Holiday was a resounding success. Over fifty attended, including several wives, making this the second largest Holiday ever. The makeup (no pun intended!) of the group was striking. So confident, so intent on having fun were we that we usually forgot to notice the reactions of the public to our attire. On several occasions, Tri-Ess sisters were seen explaining to the lay public the nature of our sorority. The wives were positive, creative, and vitally interested in Tri-Ess business. Diane [redacted], Holiday Coordinator, cannot be too highly praised for assembling a diversified and exciting program.

One of Diane's most successful innovations was a series of afternoon Teas featuring subjects of vital interest to crossdressers. On Wednesday afternoon Terri hosted a Tea on "Travelling". Covering her subject thoroughly, she gave valuable pointers on feminine deportment and dressing to blend in with the female population. The following day's Tea featured Diane discussing the use of public speaking techniques to get our message across to the public. In her Tea "Coming Out" Melissa related the experiences of sisters she has known, and suggested groups known to facilitate the daunting process of emerging. Donna Mobley, to the delight of those attending Saturday's Tea, previewed her videos of the Holiday. All the Teas played to packed houses - a sure sign Diane's theme was a hit.

While the Teas were in progress Jim Bridges, an image consultant from Hollywood, taught us make up techniques and made us over for the gala evening events. How we appreciated the individual attention! His sessions, scheduled to last two to three hours, sometimes ran four to five instead. When he finished, most of us could hardly recognize the girl looking back at us from the mirror.

Thursday we enjoyed an educational Wine Country tour. At such wineries as Charles Krug, Sattui, and Mont St. John, we learned about the processes of fermentation, aging, and bottling. Budding wine connoisseurs, we discovered how to distinguish the type of wine by the shape of the bottle or wineglass, and how to taste so as to really experience the wine. Trivia point of the Holiday - the shape of the champagne glass was determined by Marie

Antoinette's left breast. As we returned over the Golden Gate Bridge, we were left to ponder the social impact had Dolly Parton been the model.

Thursday evening's Female Impersonator Show at La Cage was a real spectacular. Hosted by Kenny [redacted], the event featured top rated performances by "Marilyn Monroe", "Ann-Margret", and "Julie Andrews". Afterwards, the performers introduced themselves and visited with our group.

Friday's adventure included a trip to Alcatraz, the fortress-like island prison which once housed Al Capone, Mickey Cohen, and Robert (The Bird Man) Stroud. As a special treat, "Whitey" Thompson, an inmate from 1958 to 1962, was on hand to autograph copies of his book: "Last Train to Alcatraz". Spotted in the chain gang headed to "The Rock" were such notables as Patricia, Linda, Christy, Ann, Marian, and Lynda. This writer understood they were sentenced to 90 days in boxer shorts. Surely Alcatraz is a rough joint, but really now.....!

The Saturday morning program on Chapter Development proved quite a lively forum. Innovative ideas including a "Big Sister" program for new members and spouses together with visits between leaders of different chapters. Entering into the creative spirit of the session, Virginia Prince stressed the need for liaisons with community organizations and for community service projects by the chapters. Julie presented a very thorough information pamphlet her Sigma Epsilon Chapter sends to prospective members



Marlene [redacted], Terri [redacted], and Donna Freeman  
at the Chapter Development Seminar



Jane Ellen Fairfax presents the Tri-Ess Solidarity Award to ETVC, represented by Secretary/Treasurer Donna and wife Julie

and spouses. Sheryl Ann provided the most profound idea: "A successful local organization must be female-centered." By the end of the forum, Marlene, Director of Chapter Development, had several new projects to consider.

Two years ago, ETVC of San Francisco and Tri-Ess jointly inaugurated a spirit of cooperation by cosponsoring a banquet and fashion show. Those warm feelings ripened this year. After the entertaining theater program "Greater Tuna" Friday night, the two groups celebrated their friendship with an after-hours party. Then Saturday night, after the Tri-Ess Awards Banquet, ETVC and Tri-Ess cosponsored a "Viva Las Vegas Night". Female Impersonators "Stephanie" and "Renee" of Star Empire Court gave a rousing performance. Kudos also to Toodie and Wanda, who ran the bar; to Donna Mobley, who served as Mistress of Ceremonies; and to the ladies of ETVC, who laid the groundwork and handled the tickets. ETVC and Tri-Ess raised \$950.00, to be donated to the Make-A-Wish Foundation. Some dying child will be able to fulfill a last wish, thanks to the efforts of two crossgender organizations. Would that there were some way to bottle this vintage of cooperation for the whole community!

Saturday night's Annual Tri-Ess Awards Banquet was held in the charming Dudley's Restaurant at the Hotel Californian. After a delicious dinner topped off with chocolate cheese cake (our chocoholics finally met their match!), Jane introduced the members of the Board of Directors and presented each with a

long-stemmed red rose. Several humorous awards were then presented. Donna Mobley, whose witty videotapes are enjoyed by many Tri-Ess sisters, received an award for Outstanding Achievement in Broadcast Media. The award for Outstanding Achievement in Print Media was given in absentia to Dr. Peggy Rudd, whose book My Husband Wears My Clothes has endeared her to crossdressers everywhere. Already in its second printing, this book has been an inspiration to many crossdressers and their wives. In recognition of the mutual regard between Tri-Ess and ETVC, Jane presented the Solidarity Award to Donna and Julie Freeman of ETVC. As the climax of the program, Carol Beecroft was presented a lovely plaque, the Lifetime Service Award, in grateful recognition of her longtime dedication, energetic work, and inspirational leadership in developing Tri-Ess into the vital organization it is today.

Had it accomplished nothing else, the 1989 Holiday En Femme would have been a landmark event. The Board of Directors meeting, however, brought forth fruits Tri-Ess will enjoy for years to come. Most important, the Board wrote and ratified a new Constitution for Tri-Ess. On this foundation, a specially appointed committee will review the Bylaws. A set of Policy Proposals was approved as amended. Boldly defining its commitment to the needs of wives, Tri-Ess admitted them to full membership, including Directory listing privileges. Two Tri-Ess wives now sit on the Board of Directors. Associate Membership was also created for those not eligible for full membership, but having a genuine empathy for Tri-Ess goals. Finally, Life Membership was created, which will provide capital for Tri-Ess while saving money for some members. Certainly these changes will clarify Tri-Ess' image within the crossgender community and mark our sorority as an organization on the move.

At last came Sunday, with its bittersweet hugs and tears of parting. But long will Tri-Ess sisters remember this Holiday of Fun, this Holiday of Solidarity, this Holiday of History.

An Ad this size costs  
Tri Ess members only  
\$20

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# THE CONSTITUTION OF THE SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF

## ARTICLE I: NAME

The name of this organization shall be The Society for the Second Self, also known as the Tri-Ess Sorority.

## ARTICLE II: PURPOSE

The purpose of the Tri-Ess Sorority is to act as a non-sexual support group for heterosexual transvestites, i.e., crossdressers, assisting its members in developing, understanding, accepting, and attaining confidence in the expression of the feminine side of their personalities, and to assist in the dissemination of information about transvestism and/or crossdressing to the public in order to increase general awareness of this subject.

## ARTICLE III: DEFINITIONS

The terms specified below shall have the following definitions as indicated:

1. Transvestism: i.e., crossdressing, is the practice of adopting the dress and manner or behavior of the opposite gender in order to express an affinity and identification with that gender.
2. Sorority shall mean the Society for the Second Self, also known as the Tri-Ess Sorority.
3. Crossdressing: Herein this term shall be understood to be interchangeable with this term "transvestism".

## ARTICLE IV: MEMBERSHIP

Membership in Tri-Ess shall consist of persons who agree, adhere to and pledge their support to the following:

1. To assist in passing on knowledge and understanding of crossdressing to others in the crossgender community and to the public.
2. To assist other sorority members in handling their crossdressing related problems, to provide support, and to devote energy to helping solve such problems when requested.
3. To take part in programs, when possible, and actively to contribute talents toward making Tri-Ess Sorority a successful organization - psychologically, socially, educationally, and spiritually.
4. To recognize that information about Tri-Ess Sorority members, including real names, addresses and telephone numbers, is theirs to give voluntarily. If such information is given to any member, it shall be kept confidential. Membership shall be revoked if a member is found by the Executive Committee to be in violation of confidentiality or security, or other activities against the best interests of Tri-Ess Sorority. The member may appeal to the Board of Directors.
5. To acknowledge that confidential information provided in order to gain membership in Tri-Ess Sorority will not be revealed to any other than the officers of the organization, and only when needed for Sorority business.

## ARTICLE V: OFFICERS

The officers of the Society for the Second Self, the Tri-Ess Sorority, shall be the Board of Directors, Executive Director, Comptroller, Membership Director, Chapter Director, and the Chairman of the Board, as follows:

1. Board of Directors - The Board of Directors shall consist of Carol Beecroft and Virginia Prince as permanent members, plus no less than nine and no more than twenty-one additional members, to be chosen in a manner specified in the Bylaws.
2. Executive Committee - The Executive Committee shall consist of the Executive Director, Comptroller, Membership Director, Chapter Director and Chairman of the Board of Directors.
3. Executive Director - The Executive Director shall serve as manager and chief administrative officer of the Sorority. She may be removed from her position by a two-thirds majority vote of the Board of Directors. The Executive Director shall conduct the day-to-day activities of the Sorority, including all business, correspondence and other responsibilities as required. She shall also oversee all Sorority publications and the Mail Forwarding Service. The Executive Director shall appoint the Membership Director, Chapter Director, and the administrator of the Holiday En Femme.
4. Comptroller - The Comptroller shall be the financial officer for the Sorority and shall maintain all financial records, bank accounts and investments in the best interests of the Sorority.
5. Membership Director - The Membership Director shall administer all new and ongoing memberships in terms of billing, membership communication and other duties as outlined by the Executive Director.
6. Chapter Director - The Chapter Director shall keep all records and assist in the development of local chapters. She shall provide support and information to local chapters as needed. The Chapter Director shall maintain a continuing communication on chapter well being, organization, and assistance.
7. Chairman of the Board - The Chairman of the Board is responsible for conducting the meetings of the Board of

Directors.

#### ARTICLE VI: ANNUAL MEETING

The Sorority shall hold an annual meeting open to all Tri-Ess members and guests. The meeting shall be called: The Holiday En Femme.

#### ARTICLE VII: CHARTER FOR LOCAL CHAPTERS

Each local chapter of the Tri-Ess Sorority shall maintain charter status according to the following:

1. All members of local chapters shall be members in good standing of the Tri-Ess National Sorority
2. Charters for local chapters shall be granted by the Executive Director.
3. A charter may be revoked by a majority action of the Board of Directors if a chapter is found to be in violation of this Constitution.
4. All local chapters shall adopt and submit their chapter bylaws, which shall be in conformity with the Constitution.
5. All local chapters shall uphold the articles in this Constitution and promote and conduct activities in the best interests of the Tri-Ess Sorority to maintain their charters.

#### ARTICLE VIII: DISSOLUTION

In the event of dissolution of the Society for the Second Self, its Board of Directors shall liquidate and distribute its assets.

#### ARTICLE IX: AMENDMENTS

This Constitution may be amended at any time by a two-thirds vote of the Board of Directors.

## Some Other Opportunities

### THE EMERALD CITY'S "90 in 90" WEEKEND APRIL 26-29, 1990

FRIDAY: Ferry over to Victoria, BC for high tea at the famous Empress Hotel. There will be sight-seeing and shopping in this historic city.

SATURDAY: See a breathtaking view of the Olympic Mountains from Hurricane Ridge.

THE \$90.00 REGISTRATION WILL INCLUDE A WINE TASTING ON THURSDAY EVENING, FRIDAY AND SATURDAY NIGHT BANQUETS AND A BRUNCH ON SUNDAY.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION AND A REGISTRATION PACKET CONTACT MICHELLE OR JANICE [REDACTED] AT:

THE EMERALD CITY  
P O BOX [REDACTED]  
SEATTLE, WA. 98103

*Registration deadline: March 16, 1990*

### TEXAS "T" PARTY FEB. 23-25, 1990 SAN ANTONIO

THE BOULTON AND PARK SOCIETY is planning its second TEXAS "T" PARTY following their first party in which 128 girls enjoyed the Texas sun and warm hospitality.

ACTIVITIES ARE FAR TOO NUMEROUS TO LIST BUT HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

Dr. Richard Docter  
Talent Show  
50's SOCK HOP (prizes for best costume)  
Seminars, boutiques, and more

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT:

BOULTON & PARK SOCIETY  
P O BOX [REDACTED]  
SAN ANTONIO, TX. 78280  
Hotline: (512) [REDACTED] 0

# CHAPTER NEWS

A new leading lady, Pat (Patti Ann) [REDACTED], took over at the September '89 Sigma Epsilon meeting in Chattanooga. What brought her there? About the same thing as all the rest of us. After decades of frustrating secretive crossdressing, punctuated by multiple purges, she came to see herself as a worthwhile person. "Why", she asks now, "be ashamed of the feminine part of one's personality?"

The Donahue show put her in touch with Tri Ess. Residing in northern Alabama, she soon met Joan and Donna [REDACTED]. Then came shopping for new wardrobe items and a "coming out" at a Fall chapter meeting in Chattanooga. Delighted by being so well received, she found herself a model for Beionca's (Cathrine's Shop) in a style show at the October meeting in '88.

Her frequent mall excursions shopping with a consuming passion attest to her feminine demeanor and the skill with which she presents herself. Her significant other: Debbie, she credits as her favorite and principal supporter.

"Without Debbie's special support I wouldn't have managed half the things I've done," she says. "Our July enfemme brunch at a crowded Atlanta restaurant is an example." Continuing, she relates: "Just getting there was an adventure. Just off the freeway, we encountered a seven police car blockade. It appeared they were halting every vehicle, searching both cars and occupants. Fortunately, our carload of ladies was inexplicably waved right through the roadblock." "Ladies do still retain some special privileges" she smilingly recalls.



September 16th featured a joint meeting of the FIESTA Chapter of Tri-Ess and the Third Tuesday Group (TTG) in Albuquerque, NM, at the end of a five day visit by Virginia Prince, founder of an earlier group which has now become Tri-Ess. Virginia spoke to groups at the University of New Mexico and was a guest on a radio program on KUNM.

A total of 28 members and spouses attended the Saturday meeting, although all were not there for the accompanying photo.

(back row, left to right) Dana (TTG), Christy, Carol (TTG), Kay (Fiesta), Sally, Fredia (Fiesta), Glenda, CC (Fiesta)

(front row, left to right) Agatha (Fiesta) Darlene (TTG), Donna (Fiesta President), Virginia (Tri-Ess, Alpha) Gordene (TTG), Janet and Jessa (Fiesta)

## COMING OUT

BY  
BOBBIE ■■■

"Let's turn on the television, honey, and see what the 'guy' looks like" my wife said. All day, the radio had been talking about some clown walking around the city the night before, dressed up like a woman and making a nuisance of himself. The police were looking for him now. That clown was me. My heart was pounding as she flipped the channels for the 6PM news.

My heart was lower than the floor beneath my feet. I heard myself inside vowing never again to go out the door while dressed. I was hoping fervently my wife would not recognize me in the "artist's sketch" they were sure to show!

She watched in silence. She was certain. "It is him. That "clown" in the dress making a fool of himself is my husband" she thought. "How could he do all those things?" her mind raced.

It was true. I'd gone out walking. It felt so good to be dressed and out of doors for a change. There, I'd passed a few folks strolling down the street and not been noticed. My confidence had spilled all over me.

I had decided I was hungry. I'd walked further than I'd planned. I was in town. So I'd decided to go into the McDonald's and get something to eat. I'd ordered in the best feminine voice I could muster, so blasted nervous I almost choked. I must have sounded like a croaking frog. I choked down my Big Mac, fries, and gulped my shake as fast as I could. Panic was rising.

I realized I'd sat down with my legs all sprawled out, my knees a full yard apart. My undies must have made interesting viewing for the other patrons. I decided, covering my anxiety, as I pulled my knees together: "There's more to this being a woman than just dressing like one!"

"Oh my God!" I thought. Looking in my compact mirror, I saw eating had smeared my lipstick and I looked not unlike Bozo the Clown! Red was all over my face! I had to fix it. Where? How? In the potty, that's where....

"Can't go in the men's room" I reasoned as the real 'potty' urge came on strong. Too many people around, I couldn't go in the ladies' room either. I had to get out of there.

Inspiration struck. Next door to MacDonald's was a shiny new EXXON station. "They'll have clean rest rooms", I remember thinking. "Fantastic idea" I

thought as I picked up my tray to leave the restaurant. "I'll just walk over to the station and use the potty there!" I thought.

I was on a roll for sure.... I threw not only the trash into the hopper, but the tray as well. Deciding to let it stay there, ("no use creating more of a spectacle" I thought), I gathered up what remaining dignity I had and walked out.....straight across the lot toward the EXXON.

I recall, once I was outside, I felt the enclosing comfort of the night.... a lot less conspicuous! Quickly now my steps clicked across the tarmac. The urge was becoming insistent. Into the restroom I went, lifted my skirt and dropped my unmentionables to sit down and let nature take its course..... ah, relief!

It was then I looked to my left and realized I'd made a horrible error..... another mistake on top of all the previous ones.....There were urinals along the wall! I knew I had to hurry before someone else came in... Hurry I did. I didn't make it, however.

As I bolted through the door, a big burly truck driver was coming in, already zipping down his fly. I dashed right by him, but he got a good grip on my back side as I passed....PANIC CITY.... he let go, I went!

"Jeez", I'd said to myself, "I'd better get home and out of these clothes before I get arrested, raped, or something worse..... maybe both!"

Home I'd hurried as fast as I could walk. Inside the security of my home, I'd undressed fast, hidden everything away as usual, and taken a shower to remove the last traces of makeup, perfume, etc. I was surely hoping my wife wouldn't guess anything and I really had vowed to learn a lot more about acting like a lady before I ventured out dressed as a lady.

The next night about the same time Laurie, my wife, came home from work as usual. I remember greeting her with a kiss and asking how her day went. It was then she told me about the talk on the radio all day, about the clown walking around dressed like a woman and making a nuisance of himself. One of the girls at work had told her about it. She'd also heard it on the way home. They'd said a full report would be on the 6PM television news.

Laurie sat holding back tears.... she was right. It was him.... it was her husband in that police sketch. How dreadful! She remembered a lot of signs now, thinking back. She remembered her underwear being missing for weeks on end. She remembered some of her dresses were stretched and torn at the seams..... It all fit.... that was Bobbie in that sketch. She was certain.

"Bobbie!" she said, with a commanding voice, a voice of absolute authority! It was a voice she seldom used, but one she'd found handy in the past unmistakably. Now it rang out! She knew it would have the desired effect. "Go down to the basement. Get me a large box. Do it NOW!" she commanded.

Bobbie went swiftly downstairs, got the box, and returned. Along the way his mind raced in panic: "God, she knows! She knows!". Bobbie didn't know why she'd ordered the box, but he got it promptly.

Laurie had Bobbie take the box into their bedroom. There she ordered him to put all of his clothes into the box.... underwear, sox.... everything.... that represented his "man" self.

"But, honey, " he whined, "Why everything? How am I going to go to work with no clothes to wear?"

She said: "Your work will be right here in this house from now on!"

Bobbie wondered, really wondered what she meant. If she took away all his "man" clothes, he'd have to remain nude all the time.... or wear her clothes...If he wore her clothes, he'd have to stay indoors all the time... the police were looking for him dressed that way.... He'd heard the APB himself on the scanner, as he'd gone down to the basement. She would be effectively confining him to the house in her clothes....

She had him now! She took his clothes and locked them in the trunk of her car... along with his wallet, his keys... identification, credit cards.... everything. His identity as a "man" no longer existed outside the trunk of her car. "That's", she said, "just how I want it!"

Turning to her nude husband, for the first time in what to him seemed to be hours, Laurie said: "OK, Bobbie, you want to be a woman! You want to look like a woman. You want to act like a woman. Well, you are going to find out what it is like to work like a woman! I want you in a dress from the time you get up in the morning, to the time you go to bed at night.... and then only in frilly nightgowns! I want the beds made while I'm having breakfast, which you will prepare for me. I want the dishes done after I leave, and all the housework done while I'm at work. I want supper on the table by the time I walk in the door, and I will tolerate no complaints! Do you hear me?"

"Yes, dear," Bobbie said in complete submission.

"And", she continued, "I don't want ever to see even a hint of masculinity creeping in. No four

o'clock shadow of a beard, no hair on arms, no hair on legs either. When you go to the bathroom you SIT. I don't ever want to see that awful thing of yours sticking out! You wear a girdle from now on! Got it?"

"Yes, dear", Bobbie repeated.

"From now on if I want pleasure from you, you will serve me. You will bathe me and brush my hair 100 strokes every night. You will shave my legs and underarms.... in short you will serve as my handmaiden. You are never to go out of the house again. If you do, I'll call the police myself to turn you in. You'll go to jail dressed in your maid's outfit! Do you understand?" she said sternly.

"Yes, dear, I understand you. I will obey you. I will try my very best to please you in whatever way I can." Bobbie humbly said, face toward the floor.

"You will do better than that!" Laurie said, with venom in her voice. "If you don't please me in every way, I'll throw you out in your dress and let the cops deal with you!" She was livid, having really worked up her anger to cover the hurt she still felt.

Bobbie fell to his knees and said: "Oh no, Mistress, please, don't ever throw me out into the street in a dress.... please!"

From that point, Bobbie was never let out of the house. He was there all the time. Laurie brought in everything they needed. Bobbie waited on her hand and foot, a servant in every respect. He wore frilly French Maid outfits with skyscraper heels. He had to stand at the entrance to the kitchen and living room to await her beck and call. The shoes were excruciating. There were times when she was not looking Bobbie just had to lean on the wall for support, his feet hurt so terribly. He was her slave. He could do nothing about it. He wondered how long it would continue. He really had no choice in the matter. Her revenge was thorough. She had him over a barrel. He might as well accept it, even if it were for the rest of his life. At least it was better than the prison he imagined for a guy wearing dresses.

So what's the moral of this fantasy? Simple: Never assume dressing like a woman is enough. Looking like a woman isn't enough either. You have to look, walk, talk, think, and ACT the way a female woman looks, walks, talks, thinks and ACTS in order to make it in the real world! If you forget for even a moment.... you will be read....and maybe worse!

Bobbie

## Woman's Place Is in Tri-Ess

Kay of Fiesta Chapter, New Mexico

First, let's clear up one thing: I'm not one of those "RADICAL FEMINISTS FROM HELL". I'm the spouse of a crossdresser. I'm an active member of Fiesta Chapter of Tri-Ess and I love my crossdresser with all my heart.

I'm committed to the notion of spouses and significant others being **FULL MEMBERS** of Tri Ess. I feel by our being full and equal members, Tri Ess will be a stronger and more vital organization.

I realize the value Tri Ess members place on having an understanding and accepting spouse. Regrettably not all members are so fortunate. This makes those spouses and significant others of us who are understanding, and encouraging into something of a rare bunch. Usually something rare is of exceptional value. I believe this is the case with us. There has never been a time, locally, when we have not been fully accepted and treated as equals by Fiesta. Because of this and since I know there is apprehension out there concerning our being full members, I felt it necessary to get some outside feedback from other chapters where spouses are not so directly involved.

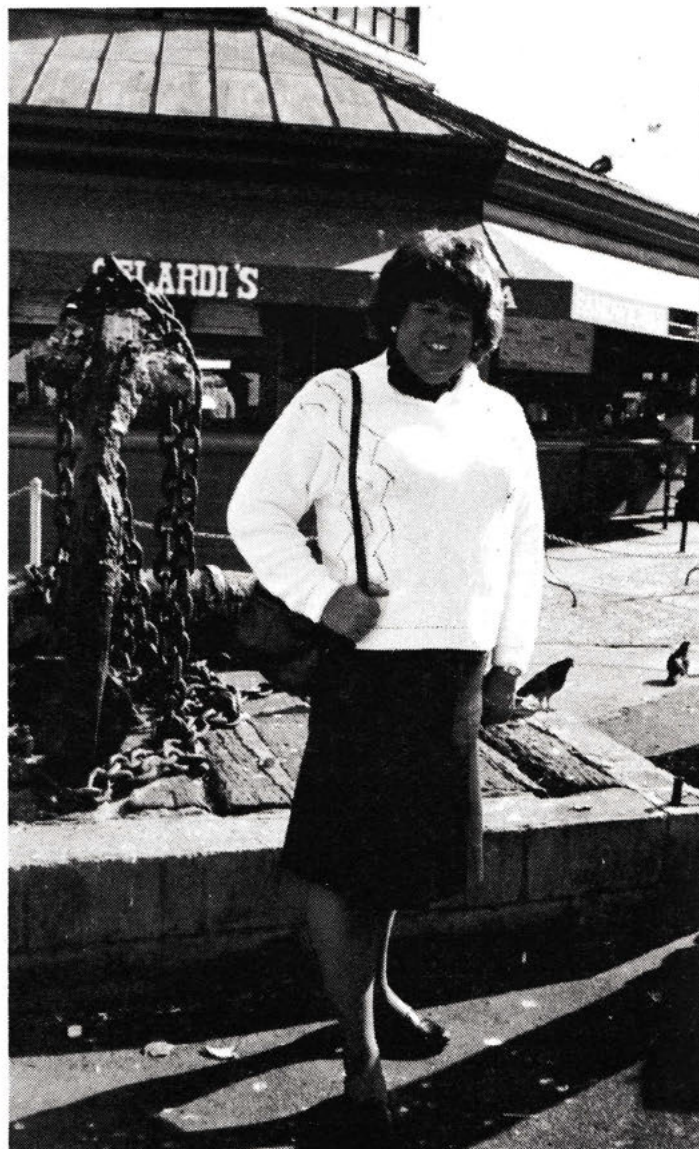
I learned some interesting things. The heart of the issue seemed to revolve around what role spouses and significant others are to be expected to play. This seemed to be begging for a 'role definition' to be handed down, by which spouses and significant others were to be constrained. Second, the question "Why is Tri Ess the appropriate vehicle for these goals among spouses and significant others?" was being asked. Implicitly this seemed to ask: "Why can't THEY have their own organization?"

To address these questions, let me say first: I think females involved in Tri Ess want to accomplish a lot more than acting as cooks and hostesses at chapter meetings, more than being resident make up and fashion consultants. Don't get me wrong! I'm very pleased when I can be of help to male members concerning make up, clothing, or shopping, especially when I know them to be single or perhaps have a negative spouse. I am complimented when they ask my assistance. This sort of "helping" is important. BUT I also feel our help can go much deeper than that.

More than helping other female members cope with the problems we face concerning our spouses' crossdressing, I believe we can be of help to those males who do not have accepting and supportive spouses. By giving females the opportunity to be full members you give us the opportunity to come out of the shadows and be more than nameless volunteers.

By allowing us full participation we can let others see, in spite of our personal crises and hurdles, it is possible to lead a normal life and not be afraid or (more importantly) ashamed of what goes on in our households.

Seeing couples interacting in a meaningful way for the betterment of Tri Ess will give a member with a reluctant wife some positive feedback to bring home. It will benefit him by allowing him to see how there is hope for turning even the most hesitant wife into a supportive one. If he is allowed to go home to a wife who perhaps accepts minimally, and is afraid of what she will encounter at meetings, and is able to relate the positive events seen at the meetings and let her know there are spouses participating who once were as she is, I think she has a better chance of learning how happy she can be with a crossdresser active in Tri Ess.



Karen (Washington State) at Fisherman's Wharf

I believe she can get curious enough to give us a chance to show her how much help and support we can give her.... as well as her crossdresser husband. Even if such a spouse comes but once and decides we are not for her, I think we still do something of value by opening up the communication between the two people involved in their relationship.

Personally, I've seen what such a positive experience can produce.... right here in Fiesta. One of the spouses, while trying to be understanding toward her husband's crossdressing, was at first reluctant to join us. After reassurance from her husband, she came. It wasn't easy for her at first. I sensed, in her, a lot of apprehension. Things changed. I don't recall her exact words, but a few months ago she said she came the first time to see what the rest of us were like and to see other crossdressers.... hopefully to find out what her husband's feminine side was all about. She said coming had helped her overcome fears and prejudices she had inside. The meetings and the association with others in like circumstance helped her understand things more clearly. She comes regularly now. She's grown. She's a very different person than she was in those early days.....Now she's active in the functioning of Fiesta and a warm and rich addition to the overall chapter.

Some members without understanding and cooperative spouses or SO's claim letting females into Tri Ess will push them out.... they say they'll feel left out. They claim the chapters will become exclusively couple-oriented.

Did you, who think in this way, ever consider how we might be able to help you in your relationships rather than looking at us as a threat? Did you give any thought to the contact we can have with you, the support we can give you, the insights into how spouses and SO's feel? We can share how we feel, how we felt, and what we had to do to grow to the point of understanding we now enjoy. We can offer suggestions to help you share your "secret" with the person you love. I don't mean to imply it is an easy thing to do. For most, it is not. But with the support of spouses and SOs who have gone through it and come out smiling on the other side, maybe it can be accomplished easier. And we can be a support to the newly "informed" spouse or SO.... the sort of support you need her to have.... not the negative commiseration she is likely to get outside Tri Ess.

Yet another concern: giving spouses and SO's full membership will weight decision making in behalf of the members with involved spouses and SO's. This says, chauvinistically, males whose spouses or SO's are involved will have two votes on all issues. It also infers we will attempt to manipulate our spouses (by threat of withholding acceptance) in order somehow to control them. Do you really think chapters which have

spouses and SO's active as full members would have gained such membership numbers as they have if this sort of nonsense were practiced? The male members will always outnumber female members. By definition, if every male member had a spouse or SO active, there would be a 1 to 1 ratio. This is patently not going to happen. Such fears are groundless. The fact is: the female members who care enough to take the time to concern themselves with Tri Ess issues are the ones who already accept, who already are supportive and are not going to waste their votes on petty things such as revenge, even if they don't agree with their husbands' point of view.

Finally, I think full participation on the part of females will enhance the overall image of Tri Ess in the eyes of the general public. Perhaps also, it will help with educating the general public about crossdressers and their lives as good solid citizens of the community. Tri Ess won't just be dismissed at first glance as a bunch of crazy men wearing dresses. Having spouses and SO's involved and VISIBLY SO, can arouse curiosity and get people to pay closer attention to our message.... not just jump to the same old unfounded conclusions. Maybe once we get people's attention we can show them we are just as "normal" as they think they are. We can show them we are responsible, respectable citizens, we hold jobs, pay taxes, raise families and do all the sorts of socially approved things so called "normal" people do. Our only difference is that our male members choose to express a side of themselves the majority of males either don't recognize or are afraid to express due to social pressure against them. Is not even such a step toward social acceptance worth encouraging spouses and SO's to be full members? I think it is.

I'm not sure Tri Ess is THE proper vehicle for the spouse and SO goals. It is however, the only



Ann [redacted] and Patricia Kennedy of Colorado at Jim Bridges Makeover session

## THOUGHTS

Joan (FL 2283 M)

viable one at the moment. With the Tri Ess orientation toward HETEROSEXUAL crossdressers it is a natural for the heterosexual married crossdresser. Most all of Tri Ess membership presently is or has been married or is enroute to taking the "plunge". Tri Ess is also the largest single organization made up of heterosexually inclined crossdressers. It has the largest coordinated network of chapters nationwide. Therefore, the infrastructure for meeting the needs of spouses and SO's is already in being in Tri Ess. This is to say the infrastructure for availing members of the benefits of having spouses and SO's as full members is already in place. So it makes sense for Tri Ess to be the vehicle for spouses and SO's to be involved fully as members.

Tri Ess has long been known as a safe and secure place for crossdressers to come, to learn, to enjoy companionship, without being confused with and painted with the same undesirable images as some other identifiable groups within the sub-culture. Because of this unique standing I believe Tri Ess is the best available vehicle for the integration of spouses and SO's into the overall crossdressing world. It offers them support and the same security benefits it offers their husbands. Because Tri Ess is such a "safe haven" it is therefore the best place for females in relationships with crossdressers.... both to help and to be helped. It can be a comfortable place from which we can start, just as it has been for our husbands and loves. Once we get our bearings we too can go on to bigger things as we all seek to grow together. We too need a friendly and secure environment (very important to us as it is to you..... maybe even more so). Perhaps, as we grow we can identify further goals not reachable within Tri Ess.

I am convinced if the only thing we accomplish in being on an equal footing with male members is seeing established a place where family members can get adequate and reliable information.... even if they don't attend a single meeting, it will have been wonderfully rewarding for our having been included fully into Tri Ess. At least, it will so be for me.

There are a lot of spouses and SO's about, not just this verbally forceful one, who have benefited by association with Tri Ess. Tri Ess has been a light in the dark for us. WE want to stand fully, freely, and INVOLVED in that light. We don't wish to diminish or in any way undercut Tri Ess as it has been and as it is. We just want to belong. We just want to be a fully integral part of it. Is this too much to ask? Growth takes nurturance. Who better is fundamentally equipped to nurture than biological females whom nature has endowed with instinctive qualities of great aid in nurturing..... nurturing is natural for us. We want to be fully integrated into Tri Ess. We believe we need Tri Ess AND Tri Ess needs us.

Kay

Oh! Existence is wonderful. My inhibitions and restraints of my youth, my prejudices are lifted from me.

Can anyone imagine the torment I had to endure trying to find exactly who I am? Did I, as a child, know where in this fantastic existence what aspects of my life would unfold?

My life on this planet is a status brought about by the diversity of input I gleaned from many facets of my youthful environment.

Who I am presently, is a mixture of my heritage, my biology, and my experience.

I am both. I am many. Should anyone consider the facets?

I am a romantic in love with my beautiful existence.

Let me discard all prejudice and become one with the melody and love of my existence. Let me not judge, be hateful and condemn. Let me not be greedy. Let me give of myself to the needs of others. Let me respect the person of others. Let me lift myself above the mundane nature of life, and look to the beauty my intellect has to offer. Let me look to the cosmos and marvel at the wonder of this beautiful universe. Let me have consciousness that transcends the ordinary.

My existence as a product of countless atoms strewn about space to coalesce into my being, is a magnificent manifestation of a reality wonderful in itself.

I have the ability to become an altruistic person. I will rise to that stature and lift myself to cosmic awareness....

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**Headlines seen:** (*Chrissie (CA 2331 W) sent the actual clippings.... too big for us to use.... so we'll extract...*)

From the "**Daily Report**", 22 Oct. 89: "Supervisors will examine ban on crossdressing".... and others.... The story: It seems some years ago, in a more unenlightened time, county supervisors in San Bernadino County, CA passed an unenforceable law banning wearing clothing traditionally "for" the opposite sex. Some folks spotted this and filed a Federal Civil Rights case demanding the law be repealed. After much chagrin and bumbling by the "powers" that be.... it was repealed.... and reported...

## SKIN CARE First Things First

by  
JoAnn [REDACTED]h

Skin care is perhaps the most essential part of the total beauty regimen.

Skin provides the "canvas" for any makeup you apply. If the skin is healthy, glowing, and finely textured, any makeup over it will be picture perfect too.

If the complexion is coarsely textured, filled with impurities, or is overly dry, all makeup will look like poorly applied paint looks when trying to cover an ugly surface. No matter how skillful a makeup artist may be, if your skin is not good, your makeup will just not look good.

The different types of skin are: dry, normal, and oily. These various types require different approaches in makeup. Personal preference also plays an important part. Different types of cleansers, toners, fresheners, astringents, moisturizers and masques all have to be selected on the basis of skin type as well as personal preference.

Cleanser must be able to remove dead surface cells, impurities in the pores, and surface contaminants such as old makeup, soil, and perspiration.

Toners and astringents are the second step. They remove traces of the cleanser and make sure the skin is totally clean.

Moisturizers help to build water levels in the skin. They give added moisture to the complexion surface.

Masques can absorb extra oil, and remove dead cells and imbedded impurities. There also are freshening masques..

Dry skin generally feels tight. It chaps easily and often flakes, making it look parched and dull. Air conditioning and heating make dry skin worse. It is essential to use a rich cleanser, not soap and water. Your toner should be light and free of alcohol. Always use a moisturizer regularly if your skin is dry.

Apply them day and night, after cleansing and under makeup. Night creame and eye cremes are a must for you dry skin girls. Once a week moisturizing on a regular basis will give your skin added moisture.

Oily skin tends to have a coarse texture. It always has a shine. It is susceptible to blemishes, blackheads, and enlarged pores. Use a cleanser



JoAnn [REDACTED]

formulated for oily skin. Try to cleanse three times a day. Oily skin will need an astringent containing more alcohol. Your moisturizer should be light and water based.

Normal skin is actually a combination pattern. Some of it is dry. Some areas are oily. The forehead, and around the nose and mouth generally are the oiliest areas. These should be treated the same as oily skin above. The cheeks are normally somewhat dry. These differences have to be noted and attention paid in your beauty regimen. Adjust the cosmetics you use in cleaning and caring for your skin according to the oiliness or dryness of the area involved. This may sound difficult, but it is not really hard. The benefit is finer textured healthy skin.

Establishing and following a proper routine for your particular skin will make your skin healthy and make it glow. With healthy, glowing skin, you can't help but look better.... I know you'll feel better.

*Ed Note: JoAnn [REDACTED] is a color and beauty consultant in private practice in Houston, Texas. She is a regular friend of Tau Chi and The Mirror.....*

## The Chemist

by  
April (FAUS-1753-Y)

This is a big day for me. I gathered up my courage, all of it! Why, I'll tell you a little later.

Really, what I did today is no big deal, except for the fact, I am a 38 year old American Male with a family and a responsible professional position.

It should be noted, as wonderful and feminine as she is, my mother (back in the States) has never done this, but a lot of people haven't, I suppose. Yet it is something I've wanted to do for a long time.

I went to a local Chemist. Here, as in other parts of the former British Empire, a pharmacist is called a "Chemist". Off and on for the six or so months I've lived in Western Australia, I've had occasions to visit this Chemist. Even here, one occasionally has to have a prescription filled.

Stateside I'd not have had to go to a "Chemist". What I wanted is available in many outlets and there is no government regulation imposed. Here the Aussie government regulates strictly on the basis of public health. Therefore the "Chemist", a professional locally.

I waited a long time.... fear, apprehension, and insecurity. Finally, after discussing this with my wife (she'd done it a long time ago and thought it no big deal) I was to do it. What a wonderful lady she is!

When I lived in Houston (it's terribly hot there most of the time) my hair was short. Here I've let it grow, down to the collar. I knew long hair would make my wife feel better about what I wanted to do. It does. Also, I wanted to find out if local customs are the same here as back "home". They are not. Aussies are far less "hung up" about such matters than are "Yanks" back "home". This encouraged me. Still I was afraid, apprehensive, and had to screw up my courage tightly. Finally I walked in the Chemist's shop. Of course, this was after seeking and getting an "OK" from my wife.

It took three times in the Chemist's shop.... the first two, I "chickened out" and left, my desires unfulfilled. The third was "do or die".... I did.

Each time I'd left, scared and frustrated... I'd walked about the district... kicking myself for my lack of intestinal fortitude. The third time, however, was the charm. When the Chemist asked me if he could help me. I asked a stupid question. I knew the answer before I asked it. A big sign out front proclaimed the answer.



*April*

I watched him prepare the equipment. He was quick. He was clean. He was unflapped by my request. He was just out to make an Aussie Dollar.

I selected what he called a "starter set".... gold. He came over to where he'd seated me, equipment in hand. It looked like a gun.... it was loaded with one of the "starters". I anticipated the worst. It wasn't bad, just a pinch and a push.

The two "starters" snapped home by the "gun" held by the Chemist, I watched him clean and secure the equipment. I could feel the "starters", but not anything as I'd anticipated. Not bad at all.

I looked in the mirror, kindly held by the Chemist, so I could admire the results of his work. The positioning was just fine. The slight pinch and push I'd felt was lost in the joy of having finally succeeded in doing what I wanted to have done. I was in dreamland.

Regaining my composure (some effort was indeed required) I inquired about the care details I needed to follow. The Chemist kindly obliged. I walked over to the cash register and paid up.... (\$8.00 Aussie, service and golden "starters"). Not bad at all!

I did it. Am I glad too! Today, I got my ears pierced!

## Book Review

by  
Mikki [REDACTED]

**"Transvestites and Transsexuals; Tooward a Theory of Cross-Gender Behavior"** by **Richard F. Doctor: Plenum Press, New York, 1988.**

No doubt, Dr. Doctor's book will be a long standing reference work on the topic. Future studies in the field will reflect his work. While Transsexuals are included, Doctor's work focuses mainly on theoretical understanding of heterosexual crossdressers. Transgenderism and homosexual crossdressing are addressed to a lesser degree.

Plan to read and reread this book. It is that rich. You can't get it all in one journey through its 234 pages. It is laden with statistical evidence supporting its conclusions... in a truly "scientific" manner. This, for a non-academic makes for heavy going. But it is penetrable. For example: Doctor supports, with the "numbers", a conclusion that 90% of all crossdressers are NOT GAY.

If you are of a "scientific" bent, you will find Dr. Doctor's work very clear, cogent, and to the point. If you are not particularly "scientific" or "scholarly", it is still a rich source of information you can use in learning about yourself and others. More importantly, it is a book with the potential to provide you with the basis of a clearer more fundamental understanding of yourself.... whether you are "scholarly minded" or not.

A professional in one of the "hard sciences", I had a lot of questions about "me" before reading Doctor's work. I have far fewer now. I had some obviously wrong conclusions about "me" before, now I'm certain I have fewer of these too. For example, I recognized five essential facts, as a result of reading Doctor's work:

- 1: I am not some sort of mental case.
- 2: I am not a "latent" homosexual.
- 3: I am no less a "man", father, husband because I am a crossdresser.
- 4: My being as I am, feelings and all, can be integrated into my everyday life. Crossdressing is not some sort of an island unto itself.
- 5: I am not alone in having these feelings and desires.

Acceptance of yourself as a crossdresser is a hollow victory, if you lose your marriage in the process. A separate chapter deals with the wives of crossdressers and their feelings. The contents of this one chapter are worth the price of the book. This chapter represents one of the very few times in print

we are presented with the wives' side of the issue.

Recognizing and accepting myself as I am has been made far easier by reading Dr. Doctor's work. It may well do the same for you. I recommend it without reservation.

Mikki [REDACTED]

## TRI-ESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

### POLICY STATEMENT

1: Tri-Ess shall acknowledge itself as an organization for heterosexual crossdressers. Wives and significant others shall also be accorded full membership in Tri-Ess. All members shall be entitled to Directory listing privileges if desired. Unless there is a request to the contrary, one Femme Mirror and one Membership Directory will be provided to each family.

2: Associate Membership status may be accorded to those individuals who have a genuine and legitimate interest in the organization and its goals, but who may not be eligible for full membership. Associate Membership shall include subscription to the Femme Mirror but not to the Membership Directory. Limited participation by Associate Members in local chapter activities shall be at the discretion of the local chapter and may be decided on a case-by-case basis. For obvious reasons of security, those in prison may not receive the Femme Mirror or the Directory.

3. Any member of Tri-Ess National in good standing shall be considered eligible for membership in any local chapter, unless good cause can be shown why such chapter membership should not be granted. Acceptance by a chapter shall be at the discretion of that chapter, but such acceptance shall not be unreasonably or capriciously withheld.

4. Membership dues shall be as follows:

Single:	\$35.00 per year
Couple:	\$50.00 per year
Associate	\$35.00 per year
Life Member (single)	\$500.00 one time fee
Life Member (couple)	\$700.00 one time fee

In the event of financial hardship, membership dues may be waived at the discretion of the Executive Director. Life Memberships may be paid in installments by arrangement with the Membership Director.

# Why Communication and Healing Are So Important

by

IRENE

"Wife of A Crossdresser"

My husband and I have been married/lived together for six years. This is not our first marriage. Two teenagers live with us, part time. By mutual decision on our part, they have not been told he crossdresses. I only learned of it a little over a year ago.....in the most horrible of all possible ways.

Four detectives came to our office. My husband and I worked jointly in a business of our own. I was there alone. Before the afternoon was over, I had been "bullied", but always within the "letter of the law". I'd allowed them to search a company vehicle (without a warrant), because (I was told) "someone in our business had committed a crime."

In my naivete, I had never had so-called "negative" interactions with the law. I answered the questions they asked. I took a great deal of pride in knowing our company was a responsible one, with a lot of integrity. The thought of our business being involved in a crime never occurred to me. The officers never let me guess they were looking for my husband.

When they discovered a box of women's clothing in the company vehicle, were going to tow the vehicle away as "evidence", and wanted to question everyone in our office, I called our business attorney. He came immediately. He allowed pictures to be taken (the vehicle was not towed away), and then he accompanied my husband and me for private interviews (videotaped, no less) at police headquarters. He allowed my husband to sign away his Miranda rights as well. One of our employees (my brother) was also questioned, and only weeks later did I found out the "gory details" of that grilling. Only later did we analyze the damage which ensued as a result of our business attorney's actions and my husband's embarrassed inability to communicate with him about crossdressing.

I made emergency child care arrangements for my children that evening. That evening when I arrived home, I found a box, addressed to my husband, which he later opened. It contained a pair of red high heeled shoes for him. I needed answers. I believe he was so traumatized by what had happened, it was 24 hours later before he could talk to me about what was really

going on and tell me he was a crossdresser.

What my husband had done was go out in the community "dressed". There he was seen by two women who "read" him. They screamed, began throwing things at him, and calling the law, pressed charges against him. In addition, unbeknownst to us, the officers "interviewed" some of our business contacts about his whereabouts at the time of the "crime". This added further embarrassment and humiliation to the event.

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**The legal hassles with this mess took nine months out of our lives.**

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The next day we hired a criminal lawyer with the help of our business attorney. We also sought out "top of the line" psychiatric help. We have spent \$15,000.00 on legal fees, have spent \$6,000.00 on psychiatric and family counseling, and have taken a financial beating in our business, but the money is the least of our problems.

The legal hassles with this mess took nine months out of our lives. The prosecuting attorney threatened to put this in the major local papers... which would have done horrible damage to us, our business, our business relationships, and our loved ones as well.

The legal ramifications came nine months later when my husband received a 5th class felony conviction (not for the crossdressing, which is not illegal in our state) but for the "interpretation" on the part of the legal system, as to what my husband was "going to do". He received a thirty day work release sentence in the county jail. I helped facilitate the business while he was there. Fortunately, the jail supervisor kept the crossdressing confidential. He also received five years probation and court ordered "continuing mental health therapy".

As you know, few if any people understand this phenomenon. My husband and I have researched everything there is to research, written to Dr. Peo, attended different support and spousal support meetings. We are still working through all this mess. The TriEss group in our state is inactive, and I feel very

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My husband is a member of Tri-Ess and gets your journal. This is submitted for publication in "The Femme Mirror" in the hope it will benefit other crossdressers, their wives, their significant others, spare them needless pain, encourage open and frank discussion, and provide some movement toward healing.....

threatened and am ill at ease when I attend a mixed group of crossdressers and transsexuals.

This last year was a living nightmare. All the legal problems, the resulting relationship discord, and the continuation of relationship problems.... these all have made life very hard.

Fourteen months later now, my parents know about my husband's crossdressing. Some of our friends also know. My husband and I talk openly about his crossdressing. We are trying to set "boundaries" concerning his needs, my needs, the needs of our relationship, the needs of our business.... and so forth.

I see and have experienced my husband going through several stages of crossdressing, from escalation and relief now that it's out in the open, to feeling like he has to lock it up again because of "our stuff". He has been so hurt, has been so terrorized, is so sad, and at times is so very angry. He has experienced so much pain at the hands of the legal industry, and as a result of his embarrassment and inability to discuss his crossdressing until now, is still hurting. At times, he has blamed me... I admit to having moments of total non-acceptance!

I have been and am going through the "stages" the wives/spouses of crossdressers endure. They are described eloquently by Tommye Kelley in the most recent issue of "TAPESTRY". I have also felt all the things Dr. Peo has correctly stated as what crossdressers' wives feel.

This spring I helped my husband shop for clothes, and even bought him some ladies underwear as presents. But now, I find I can't seem to deal with it at all. I even find myself dreaming of my husband, but I can see him only when he is dressed. If he is not dressed, then I can hear him, but not see him at all...

I've felt scared, mad, vindictive, hurt, sad, and sexually threatened. I have blamed my husband. I have blamed myself. I have tried "heavy handed" negotiations, which don't work because of the implied threats (also true of the stages). At one point, I felt like a wife whose husband has a mistress: HIM. I have also felt like my husband is already married (to himself) and I am the "mistress", as opposed to the other way around. I have also blamed myself for my naivete regarding the "legal beagles". What a horrendously painful set of lessons I have experienced in this regard!



Wine Country tour group at the Charles Krug Winery

Overall, I am less than impressed with the so-called "helping professionals". I have several advanced degrees (including pieces towards one in the "helping professions", and often feel condescended to by those helpers who are not "living my life".

I am interested in acquiring a copy of Dr. Peggy's book about herself and her crossdressing husband. I don't feel the behaviorist approaches between husbands and wives work in solving issues arising from crossdressing. In such cases, one spouse is always "parenting" the other.

I don't feel therapeutic approaches to crossdressing talking about "co-dependents" (which I have been called) are correct either. Because if this were the case, crossdressing would be an "illness" to be "cured".... like alcoholism, drug abuse, or eating disorders... which is simply not the case at all. According to everything I have read, according to all the legitimate expert research I can find, crossdressing is not something one "cures". In addition, while I have caretaking qualities the way "co-dependents" do, I am also very aware of my own needs and the importance of meeting them.... as well as the commitment I have to make this happen. I don't believe this notion fits crossdressing either.

I feel crossdressers and their wives/significant others need a lot of nurturing. They need a lot of support in a world in which only about 10% of the people have any understanding at all of their situation. I think also, crossdressers' situations are aggravated because so many people immediately think of homosexuality in connection to crossdressing. This is "way off track". I attribute this to their own personal fears about homosexuality.

I try to compare the crossdressing population to other poorly understood human populations, such as those very gifted/talented or elderly/disabled. I don't believe members of society try to "beat up" on groups unless they fear them, yet, the crossdressing population keeps getting "beaten up" regularly. Considering the number of male entertainers who crossdress in the roles they perform, I wonder how many of them are really members of the crossdressing population, in their real lives.

In a contemplative way (meditation) deep inside myself, I feel I can find the answers for my part of our continuing marital struggles. During our last conversation, my husband stated the same thing seemed to be true for him as well.

Currently, we no longer work together, although I am still on the board of our business, and help out on weekends. I am pursuing my own career,

teaching and consulting. My husband is giving a lot of time to the business. This helps his sense of well being, I know. We are still researching, learning, and exploring his crossdressing.

We also live apart, part of the time, to encourage some personal growth and clarity about our individual needs, and to heal somewhat the traumas of this past year. We are choosing not to tell my children about this situation... operating on a "need to know" basis. We have discovered important gaps in our communication and are working with a professional, jointly and individually, to solve them.

I maintain there needs to be more respected professional counselors, such as Dr. Peo, to help crossdressers and their wives/significant others. Then too, maybe some of these respected counselors need to be the wives/significant others who in turn, can provide some assistance to others in the same situation. Maybe, just maybe, besides working on my marriage and adjusting to my husband's crossdressing, this might be something for me to consider doing.....



Dr. Melanie Rudd

## Why I'm A Member Of Tri-Ess

by  
Phyllis

*Note: Phyllis is wife of member Glenda Jones (NM-2719-C)*

I've been a member of the "paraculture" for 13 years, as long as I've been married to Glenda. At that time, it was explained to me: A TV is not necessarily a television set. Also, Glenda and I ran the "Alliance", a crossgender organization on the east coast, for two years.

Why? First, Glenda is a happier person because of being able to dress at home... and with other crossdressers. The fellowship provided by other crossdressers is important to our lives. We have met many of our friends through crossdressing organizations. It is a social outlet for Glenda to be able to be with others who share the same interests. Crossdressing is Glenda's way of being. I can participate by helping Glenda look her best. I enjoy finding garments I think she will like.

Glenda's crossdressing is something we can enjoy together. If she were "into" hunting, collecting stamps, skydiving, or sports... I would be left out. These activities do not interest me. Crossdressing and our shared activities when Glenda dresses are things we can do together. I feel participating in activities together makes our marriage strong. A happy Glenda and a happy Phyllis make for a more meaningful relationship.

I realize there are some crossdressers who resent having females at meetings. I suppose they want to dress up in pretty clothes and then sit around to swap war stories, or what ever "man talk" is. On the other hand, there are males who are happy to see there are "accepting" females who support their significant other's crossdressing. I think the females who come to our meetings are a positive influence on the other "girls". Our group is unique because of the females who participate. We are role models for other females who don't yet accept crossdressing in their spouses. We also are role models for the crossdressers, someone from whom to learn... someone to emulate. All in all, Glenda and I enjoy crossdressing. We are so grateful Tri-Ess has provided an opportunity for us to meet other crossdressers... and especially for the fellowship and the friends we have made.

**TAKE NOTE:** Nu Phi Chi, lead by Joan (NY-2354-C) is located at [redacted] Ontario Ave, Niagara Falls, NY. 14305..... Happy Happy Happy.... Wonderful.

## OUR COVER GIRL

Michelle [redacted] is this issue's cover girl. She has been a member of Tri Ess since May 1988 although she is currently most involved with Emerald City since there is no local Tri Ess chapter near her home in the Great Northwest. Michelle [redacted] was voted "MOST DRAMATIC TRANSITION" at the 1989 Holiday En Femme. Her makeup and hair were done by Jim Bridges with the aid of his assistant, Michelle.

## CD UTOPIA

by  
Joan Ann (FL-2520-B)

"How's Married Life The Second Time Around???  
GREAT!!!!"

After a simple church wedding and a restaurant meal with a few family and friends from each side, we reveled in some aloneness at home. The next day we checked into a lovely room with a river view in the French Quarter in New Orleans.

Our wardrobes were traditional, since there'd be meetings with many of my True Love's relatives and friends during our long weekend stay. There were few worries about future restraint in choice of attire, though. During our short engagement, we'd weekendend with a CD couple in a nearby town, entertained others at home, been to a major museum and a busy restaurant as women-friends. We'd been, also, to a long weekend of Tri-Ess activities, including CD shopping, with the sisters of Sigma Epsilon. Our amazing compatibility extends to clothing sizes, so my GG took a silk fuchsia slack suit and the coordinated flowered skirt/top, in which we both look good. (It's my turn at the Atlanta Tri-Ess meeting in a few weeks).

Of course we shopped along the New Orleans Riverwalk, but did no CD try-ons, or buying; just held up some fashions for color coordination purposes, so my spouse could sometimes shop without me. We asked about Halloween costumes in a specialty shop, but neglected to explain the CD angle. We kept getting shown increasingly macho masks, etc. As usual, the French Maid outfits weren't stocked in size XL.

Now it's the day after our return. My lovely and loving spouse just headed across town for a busy day of household goods packing. I needed to devote almost a full day to newsletter editing. By prior agreement, I was up first and into enfemme form to get breakfast. My embroidery patterned skirt and the way I'd combed out my Eva Gabor wig drew admiring compliments before we kissed goodbye. I volunteered to do our mountain of laundry during periodic breaks in newsletter editing efforts....

# A TRIBUTE TO SOME DESERVING MOTHER HENS

BY

DIANE [REDACTED]

Now that the 1989 Holiday En Femme in San Francisco is a fond memory, I would like to acknowledge a few of those who donated their time and efforts to make this the most productive and exciting Holiday we've ever had. At the risk of sounding too maternal, I have to admit that I thought of the Holiday Committee this year as our coop of mother hens! Each was assigned to watch over one program or another, making sure everything went smoothly and watch over all the chicks. This article is really my way of thanking my sister mother hens from this year's Holiday En Femme.

First, I would like to mention Melissa [REDACTED] from Los Angeles, who was the coordinator of the Las Vegas Night Charity and the tea on "Coming Out" She was the catalyst that introduced me to Jim Bridges who was our makeup and hair artist at the meeting. Melissa coordinated the group photos and assisted with planning the activities. Most important, Melissa was my mother hen at the Holiday, keeping an eye on me.

Next, I would like to mention Terri [REDACTED] from Alpha Zeta Chapter in Phoenix, a well-versed mother hen. Terri was responsible for coordinating the wine country tour and for keeping Lyle [REDACTED], the guide, in a "superior" frame of mind! Terri led the discussion at the first tea, which was on the subject of traveling and going out in public en femme. Terri also ran the registration/welcome table for the meeting.

Donna Mobley from Fiesta Chapter in New Mexico coordinated videotaping and was the mistress of ceremonies at the Las Vegas night. Donna's efforts have paid off and her chronicle of the Holiday is scheduled to be released in January. Donna was also a hostess for one of the teas and was instrumental in the Board of Directors meeting.

Jane Ellen and Mary [REDACTED] coordinated the Seminar on Chapter Development and the Saturday business meeting. It was during these events that decisions were made that will shape the future of Tri Ess, including the expansion of membership to our wives and the adoption of the Constitution. It was their effort that helped facilitate a smooth and well run schedule of business events on Saturday.

I would like to acknowledge two persons who are not members of Tri Ess. First my thanks and gratitude go out to Jim Bridges for putting together a makeup and self-improvement program that magically transformed many of us into the woman we have always wanted to

look like. The Las Vegas charity was also Jim's idea and he was very much a part of the committee.

I would also like to acknowledge Sandra [REDACTED] of ETVC. Sandra's efforts to coordinate the Las Vegas Night paid off in a successful venture that benefited the Make A Wish Foundation. It was Sandra who reassured me following the earthquake, that no plans for the Holiday need be altered. She also helped bring Tri Ess and ETVC closer together in a spirit of sisterhood.

I know I have not mentioned everyone that helped, but let it suffice to say that my love and that of all those who attended this year's Holiday, is with you.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge all those who attended the 1989 Tri Ess Holiday En Femme. For without their embrace with open arms and open hearts, this event could never have been such a worthwhile and loving effort.

## SHADOW SELF

by  
Joanna K (NE 2009 K)

She doesn't cast a shadow  
because she is mostly shadow herself.

My friends may never meet her,  
and sometimes it's hard to find her myself.

But she has been there when I need her most,  
Her world is calm while mine is stormy,

And she'll warm me when my world is cold.  
Sometimes we'll argue over the little things,

Sometimes over the big ones too.  
I used to be ashamed she was here,

Now I'm glad she'll never leave.

## EXPOSURE

by  
Joanna [REDACTED]  
NE 2009 K

Have you ever fantasized about walking around your hometown while dressed? Since my ego has become so inflated with all the excursions of the past three years, it seemed this Halloween night was the perfect time to do it, for real.

Like a lot of crossdressers, my femme side bears little resemblance to the male. For this I am truly grateful. As usual, I'd gotten an invitation to a party at this terrific bar. En route, I'd decided to stop and perk up the evening for the owner of a little video store. I'm in the place five or so times a week. The owner and I go through considerable BS each time, with my "man" side condemning his inventory and him scolding my pick of movies.

So here I was dressed to the nines in a low cut black silk dress, side slit showing my best assets, all covered by clinging blue black hose. A full dark brunette shag wig came almost to my shoulders. I was wearing as much liner and mascara this one time as I usually wear in a year.

Leaving my car safely around the corner, I sauntered into the video place, which was deserted except for the owner. I stayed on the non-carpeted aisles until the click of my heels made him swing away from the movie on the big screen. Confidence taking over, I walked right up to the counter. "Been busy tonight, Terry?" I asked.

His eyes traveled from my taped cleavage to the ankle straps of my pumps, "few kids in earlier...don't I know you?" he asked.

"Maybe, maybe not," I replied. Continuing, "Terry, how do you define frustration?" I asked him.

Grinning widely, he shook his head.

"Frustration," said I heading for the front door, "is not ever figuring out who I am!"

Ignoring his urging me to remain, I left leaving him guessing. I felt safe knowing, even with heels on, I could beat Terry and his 300+ pounds back to my car. The party was great, greater possibly because I was already warmed up with my little stop at Terry's place.

A week later, needing a movie for the night, I stopped in at Terry's store. Confident in my after-work mufti of dusty jeans, boots, and a five-o'clock shadow, I pulled my cap down and went up to the counter with my selection.

"Anything going on in town?" I asked.

"Naw... not since Halloween. Something kinda interesting happened in here that night, though," he replied.

Turning to a VCR, Terry inserted a tape and pointed to the big screen TV. There was my femme self in all her glory approaching the counter in her Halloween finery!

"It's been driving me nuts!" he grumbled. "I think I know this person; I'm even sure it's a guy I know."

"Can't be," I countered, "look at that figure, those boobs"....

"Well," said he, "she was tall, it's hard to tell from this tape, but there was just something not quite right about her...."

We watched the tape two or three more times. Terry was shaking his head, repeating again and again: "She seemed to know me real well...."

I was looking at his camera perched up on the shelf, making a note to be more observant in the future. At least, I got on TV. I just wonder how many people are going to see that tape while Terry is trying to figure out his frustration!

### Editorial Policy Statement

Being a membership dependant publication and not a commercial venture, we have chosen to establish constraints on material in an attempt to put forth absolutely the best possible image of heterosexual crossdressing. Even such terms as "sissy" may seem innocuous. Unfortunately, they carry a burden of implicit dross owing to the pejorative nature in which they are commonly used. People use such terms as "put downs", usually in an effort to extinguish or bring about suppression of socially disapproved (feminine) behavior in males. Such terms, therefore, are laden with negative feeling and often with the pain of rejection. We cannot in good conscience use any such terminology which may bring hurt to any sister in the association. A few of us may be oriented psychologically to enjoy being "put down" or "rejected". Most of us are not sufficiently secure within ourselves, as perhaps we should be to handle social rejection, even that which comes innocently as an implication with a word. We may laugh. We may pretend, or we may even convince ourselves we enjoy the implicit barbs we hear or see, but few of us are really unaffected by barbs, intended or not.

So it makes no sense at all, when we can avoid doing something which potentially can hurt, to proceed without sensitivity to those who trust us with their feelings, the way Tri-Ess sisters trust those of us who publish the periodical which represents the Sorority as a whole. We have no choice but to be as discreet and as sensitive as we can be. It is in this vein we set our editorial standards and we judge the suitability of material submitted to us.

# SHAME

by  
Jaye

We chose the letter shape above to spell out Shame because of the distorted shape of the letters. Shame, in the same manner, distorts a person. It distorts a person's values. It distorts a person's feelings. It distorts a person's mind. It distorts everything about a person.

There are several reasons I believe crossdressers often are, as John Bradshaw calls it "Shame Based".

According to Bradshaw, because a person gets the "you are no damn good" message constantly from early childhood on, the person wrongly assumes self to be shameful and unworthy. In my own life, now recalling so many many instances, I heard: "You ought to be ashamed of yourself". I was not disciplined (discipline really means: to train) by being told what I did was wrong. Rather I was told I ought to be ASHAMED OF MYSELF. Rather than identify the deed as "bad", I was trained to identify myself as "bad".

This is a common mistake people make raising children. This error is handed on generation after ignorant generation. The distinction between the deed and the doer is blanked out. The person who makes a mistake, does something in error, or simply goofs, is loaded with GUILT and SHAME. Tell a person he or she is "no good" enough times, insistently enough and the person will eventually believe it. The person's self image will be crushed. The person will grow to hate self and all for which self stands. Such a person is, according to Bradshaw, "Shame Based".

I believe crossdressers have "picked up" the clues from the culture which tell them, because they want to dress in clothes of the "opposite sex", they are "no damn good", they are evil, they are bad, and they deserve to be punished. I believe this is the basis of the "guilt" so many crossdressers experience. This is why crossdressers hide. This is why crossdressers tend (at least early on in their crossdressing experience) to over compensate by macho behaviour when they are in their "other" role. I believe this is why crossdressers are so fearful of being rejected. Rejection reinforces the "you are no damn good" messages they have long "heard" in respect to their crossdressing. Rejection hurts. Rejection hurts because it triggers guilt and shame which are lurking just under the surface waiting in most of us to jump up and bite us in the gut.

Being conditioned to be "ashamed" of ourselves for our crossdressing urges, to be "ashamed" of ourselves for our feminine feelings, we are all vulnerable to the darts and manipulations of whomever we encounter

who might want to control us or prevent our being as nature made us. Being caught up in "shame" every time we are motivated to express ourselves makes for a miserable existence. We easily become depressed, we easily become tense, we easily become hostile, we easily become angry with anyone and everyone we even think opposes our fulfilling our desires to experience the femininity naturally within us. Literally we are conditioned to reject and be "ashamed" of our nature, so we are AT WAR with ourselves and everyone else.

To be caught up in this self defeating struggle is painful, confusing, and above all a terrible waste of the precious life we are given. To seek and make use of "help" in working through this maze of confusing emotions and conflicting "information" (mostly bias based opinion) is to seek to grow and find the measure of happiness which is rightfully ours.

Together, working in a purposeful direction, I believe we can, in our group, break this "CYCLE OF SHAME" and afford ourselves and others a lot of happiness in so doing.



Diane Ingram, Holiday Coordinator, discovered how to facilitate the daunting process of emerging from Alcatraz, just in time.....!

# Not All People Are Alike

Cynthia Howard

(CA-2033-H)

I am going to die some day, so why must I live my life this way?

Once I enter Heaven's gate, St. Peter might say: "It's too late."

If I enter the gates of hell, Satan might say "Do tell!"

I run and jump. I fake and hide, for fear of what they'll find inside.

I know I'm not so very bad, why must I feel so very sad?

Why must I hide my femininity? I cannot feign tranquility!

Why should I hide my finer side, just to maintain another's tide?

The rules I must follow, they insist, so they can tell me I am "well".

But "normal" is not for me, what it is for society.

"Normal" is what "they" have agreed. Other views they will not heed.

I know someday my bell will toll. I will not hide in a dark and hidden hole.

The bonds which hold me oh so tight, are the bonds I accepted but now must fight.

Now I know, I can be free! I can live and love...

And still be Me!

## THE GIRL IN THE GLASS

When you get what you want in your struggle for self  
And the world makes you queen for a day.  
Just go to a mirror and look at your self  
And see what THAT girl has to say.

For it isn't your spouse, your family or friend  
Whose judgment upon you must pass;  
The girl whose verdict counts most in the end  
Is the one staring back from the glass

Some people may think you a straight-shooting chum  
And call you a person of place  
But the girl in the glass says you're only a bum  
If you can't look her in the face.

She's the girl to please, never mind all the rest  
For she's with you clear up to the end,  
And you've passed your most dangerous, difficult test  
If the girl in the glass, calls you a "friend".

You may fool the whole world down the pathway of years  
And get pats on the back as you pass.  
But your final reward will be heartaches and tears  
If you've cheated the girl in the glass.

# PM PUBLISHERS

■ Crutchfield  
Katy, Texas 77449  
(713) 347-6563

January 21, 1990

Dear Friend,

Allow me to introduce myself. I am Dr. Peggy Rudd, author of **MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES**. Due to requests from many of you, I have begun research on my next book, **CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY**.

I believe that the time is right to move ahead toward the crossdresser's dream of social acceptance. The ultimate goal will be a social situation in which the crossdressing population can lift their heads in dignity. Your participation in this survey could help to make this goal a reality.

**PLEASE COMPLETE THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONNAIRE AND MAIL TO:**

**PM PUBLISHERS**  
■ **CRUTCHFIELD**  
**KATY, TX 77449**

(1) How can a crossdresser move beyond the stigmas imposed by society toward crossdressing with dignity?

(2) What obstacles must a crossdresser overcome before he reaches this goal?

(3) Fear has been considered a major stumbling block as many crossdressers attempt to gain acceptance. What are your fears and how are you overcoming them?

(4) A guilt-ridden person does not feel dignified. Guilt must be overcome. What things make you feel guilty, and how have you dealt with these issues?

(5) How has crossdressing effected your relationships?

(6) How have you come to self-understanding as related to your crossdressing?

(7) Describe feelings of loneliness that you have experienced. How have you overcome the loneliness?

(8) Have you ever felt a progressive self-improvement as a crossdresser? If so describe the steps utilized to improve your self image and feelings of self-worth.

(9) How did you "break out" of the bondage and become free of the restraints that many crossdressers feel?

(10) What is your formula for being the best person you can be?

(11) What, in your opinion, is involved in crossdressing with dignity?

Please use additional space to write other ideas, special interest or concerns. Feel free to include antidotes or stories that could be included in the book. Indicate if you prefer to not use your femme name. It is understood that your masculine name will not be used. Your input is vital to the success of this book and is greatly appreciated.

With my gratitude,

  
Dr. Peggy Rudd

PERSONAL DATA (VOLUNTARY)

Age \_\_\_\_\_

Marital status \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation \_\_\_\_\_

Education \_\_\_\_\_

Femme name \_\_\_\_\_