

Phoenix

MONTHLY / INTERNATIONAL

GGA



46

Friendship is born at that moment when one person says to another,
"What! You, too? I thought I was the only one."-C.S. Lewis

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Items must be recieved not later than the first Monday of the month preceeding the issue date in which they are to appear.

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The editorial staff reserves the right to reject, edit and/or serialize items submitted for publication in the Phoenix Monthly-International.

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----- NOW HEAR THIS -----

Here's the party you've been looking for.

The San Francisco Chapter will hold a Post Independence Day Party open to all GGA members and guests at the Hotel Utah and Bistro at 500 4th Street, San Francisco on Sunday July 12th.

The Hotel Utah (it's not really a hotel), one of the better night spots in the city and is generally closed on Sunday. The management has graciously agreed to allow us to meet there and classify the meeting as a "Private Party" which means the bar will be open for those wish to tipple.

Snacks will be available as prepared and supplied by the GGA. Here is the chance for those of you wishing to be waitresses/waiters to live out your fantasy--we can use serving help.

There are no special events scheduled for this first meeting at the Hotel, but future plans include a Fashion Show sponsored, with clothes supplied, by Second Hand Rose and Diahanna Taylor; possibly a Talent Show, instruction from a professional in "following" rather than leading.

Those of you having "entertainment talent" and wishing to provide entertainment need only contact the GGA business number (498) 734-3773 to make arrangements to do your act at the Hotel, either in July of any future time.

Admittance and/or attendance is not limited to either SF Chapter members or GGA Members. Anyone purchasing a ticket may attend and all the Bay Area GGA Members at invited to come out and have a good time. To help defray expenses tickets at \$5.00 each will be required. One ticket insures entry of the ticket holder and his/her spouse, bed-partner, lover, etc.

Tickets may be obtained by writing to PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088. Be sure and make your check/money order payable to GGA. For those wishing to purchase tickets directly may do so at any meeting or from Kathy at the Pacific Center.

Get your way by understanding all the ramifications. When you do, you'll more clearly see the way to get there.

A VIEW FROM THE OTHER SIDE

(Lucille--wife of NY-23)

I do not know if my feelings are correct, but it seems to me that only for a short time are men permitted to experience the full range of human emotions.

While they are toddlers, they may cry if they want to, feel pain, seek security, revel in the warmth, softness and comfort of the teddy bear and blankets they tote around with them, get bored with what they are doing and are not considered inadequate if they have not yet put together their game plan for a successful life. Very soon, however, they are taken in tow. They are taught the practices and virtues of men. For the most part these are admirable and probably the qualities most envied by women. Men must be brave, courageous, strong, the protectors of women, war machines, the decision makers, the movers and shakers of the world. They are to be aggressive, loyal, true, daring--never weak--and always successful. At the same time they are being robbed of their emotions. Depressions, tears, fear, sentimentality, giving in to pain, doubtfulness, a love of beauty and softness are taught to be feminine faults and are to be avoided at all costs if one is to be truly masculine.

Men's sensuality can be expressed in only two ways. First, he can engage in sexual intercourse with whomever is available and willing; or, second, he is allowed the sensuality of enjoying fine food and spirits. There is no outlets for his sensuality, other than these.

Men's clothing is an outward expression of what men are supposed to be. It is rugged, practical, sturdy and without an ounce of sentimentality. The idea of being able to find anything sensual in a grey flannel suit, cotton underwear, wool socks and wing-tip shoes is downright ridiculous. Clothing is not the only area where men are prohibited from expressing their sensuality. If a man collects things that are beautiful and pleasing to the eye such as fine art, porcelians, antiques, etc. it is perfectly fine for him to do so, as long as he's doing it to be a shrewd businessman, knowing the value of his investments.

It is quite a different story to be a collector because one likes these things for their beauty rather than their value. Guns and coins and stamps, etc. are

fine--they're very masculine , but flowers, china, art--"better watch out for this guy--he's probably a little funny" is the prevailing attitude.

Women, on the other hand, may be purely sensual creatures if they choose to be. We can be as practical as we wish but, if the mood strikes and we want to wear silks and satins and deck ourselves out in flowers and butterflies, be sentimental, collect pretty things and exude sexuality we can at a moment's notice and no one gives a damn.

I think that transvestites are, perhaps, more complete men than most of the macho types we have out there today. They are men who do possess the qualities women admire. They are our husbands and fathers, our protectors, the defenders of our country,. They are loyal, loving, decent, honest and upright human beings. They have maintained all of their masculine qualities, but at the same time have rejected, even from the time they were little boys, the notion that they must surrender their sensuality and emotions in order to be men. They are moral people because they do not seek to satisfy their sensuality by running from woman to woman (at least this is true of my husband, and I'm sure many other TVs), but seek to love one woman and their children. They choose to wear female clothing and behave as women when dressed because at this time the sensuality that is inherent in all human beings, and perhaps more so in these men, can be recognized, let loose, enjoyed, satisfied and not repressed.

It is truly said that men, all men, are prohibited by the structure of our society to feel and express the full range of human emotions. Perhaps if men were allowed to express publicly their emotions, if they were allowed to cry, to seek security, to not always be strong, to feel the softness and beauty in the world around them and revel in it, and not have to throw up this facade of machoism they would not seek female clothing to express the emotions and sensuality which are the birthright of every human being and which is denied them.

Certainly then, we women, would not have to feel threatened that our men are robbing us of our sensuality, or competing with us for it and we would never have to lament "Why can't men show us their true feelings?"

EDITOR'S NOTE: Thank you Lucille for your thoughtfulness in this contribution. It is our hope that other wives reading it will grasp what you have stated so well. In fact, we like the title so much we would like to use it as the title of a regular feature for wife's views. Come on, ladies--meaning the genetic ones, let's hear from you.

DIRECTORY OF INFO AND SERVICES

The bigger and better 1981 edition of the Directory of Information and Services containing 63 pages of information for 36 States as well as appendices for Mail Order Houses, Medical Support, Gender Clinics and TV/TS Organizations is ready for distribution.

Because the demand was so great last year with 500 being sent out free of charge we find that we are going to have to charge \$4.00 per copy this year for members and \$6.00 per copy for others to recoup printing and mailing costs. Please make your check/money order payable to GGA and send it and your request to PO Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA 94088. We would appreciate it if you would cut the label from the envelope in which the Phoenix was sent to you, and affix it to your Directory request.

Those of you who registered your copy with us last year have already received a letter announcing the Directory's availability. For those of you who received a copy but have not yet received your notification of availability you need only send us a request and the per copy fee to receive one.

Please allow 3-4 weeks for processing and mailing time.

As supplements are published throughout the year we will send them to all Directory owners.

NEW CLOTHING CATALOG

For those of you seeking stylish wardrobe additions in larger sizes will find just what you are looking for in the Great Impressions catalog. The sizes range from 14 1/2 thru 54 in most things and larger in a few. Shoes, while not many are displayed, range from 6 thru 11 in most styles presented.

Those desiring a catalog from this company may obtain one by writing Great Impressions, 720 Anderson Road, St. Cloud, MN 56395.

TRINIDAD BOUND?

So, at long last you've got your letter of acceptance from Dr. B with a surgery date. Since Trinidad seems to be one of those places you can't get to from here the last major hurdle you have to overcome is: How the heck do I get to Trinidad?

Probably the best thing get to Denver first. From there take a Greyhound or Trailways bus to Trinidad. The other alternative is get to Pueblo and bus it from there.

Individuals scheduled to arrive on Tuesday have surgery, barring any untoward delays, on Wednesday and are on their way back home, again barring any unexpected complications, a week from the Friday after surgery. All in all about a 10 day post-operative hospital stay. Add one day to the surgical and departure day if you are scheduled to arrive on Wednesday.

Since Trinidad is a VERY small town, everyone will know why you are there as soon as you ask the cab driver to take you to the hospital. But don't be dismayed. The townspeople are great and the hospital staff is marvelous in their treatment of the TS.

While some of the ladies like to stay a couple of extra days at one of the local motels, there is no medical reason to stay beyond your discharge time. The Wiz isn't going to let you out if you aren't absolutely ready.

The Sisters (nuns) operating the hospital will arrange transportation to the bus station when you leave. Busses leave for Denver at 12:10 and 3:30 each afternoon so plan your return transportation accordingly. Ideally, have a travel agent make the transportation arrangements from where you depart from to where you wish to return to. Since TAs are on commission from the airline/train/bus companies the service is free to you. With so few things free why take advantage of this service?

----- ADVISE WANTED -----

Anyone having experienced breaking the decision of reassignment surgery to very religious parents and family, please write me and advise on how it can be done with minimum pain and what pitfalls one should avoid. I am fearful and would very much appreciate this insight.

Scott

Sunnyvale, CA 94086

The following poem, written by Aaron, a FTM was send to us by Tomye Kelley of the Denver Gender Center with a little note saying in part "This poem was written in the last three years or so and it expresses so much of what I hear people saying." Thanks Tomye, keep 'em comming.

EMPTY
by Aaron

I write poems
Just to convey my thoughts
Only when the pain
Deep within my tormented soul
Becomes too obvious to hide.
Hide I must;
But my feelings I can't deny expression
Pent up feelings distort.
Distortions of expressions bend reality.
My world and it's reality
Express...
Express my feelings differently than
The collective society can tolerate.
So when I think...
I have my life so well controlled
It just slips by
And my days
Like teardrops fall away...
Only to be washed down
The river of helplessness and sorrow
To the Sea of Nothingness
Lost forever...
In the years of yesterday
And what might have been-----
My burning eyes
Stare...
Out into the lonely night.
I'm loosing touch,
I know that much.

ACCEPTANCE

by C.R. [REDACTED]

Oh, to know acceptance
In a feeling sort of way.
To be known for what I am
Not for what I say.
It's nice to loved and wanted
For the person I seem to be,
But my heart cries out to loved
For the person who is really me.

To be able to drop all the fronts
And share with another my fears,
Would bring such relief to my soul
Though accompanied by many tears.
When I find this can be done
Without pain of rejection
Then my joy will be complete
And feelings toward self-know correction.

YEAR BOOK
AS A
FUND RAISER

The last time you went through the old high school or college year book weren't you touched with a bit of nostalgia? Remember all the good times you had and how looking back at the pictures recalls those good time? Well, a new Basic issue of the Correspondance Directory is due to be published in August so we thought it would be a good time to publish a Year Book filled with pictures of the members. We have been refining the procedures for publishing pictures and have the method down pretty pat now. Diane is doing a great job as you will see by the photos appearing with this article and in Supplement #4.

What we thought we'd do is assemble all the photos in a single book, publish it and offer it to the membership at cost, plus mailing and a slight fee for the Treasury--which can always use help.

Now, to have a photo or photos in the Year Book, simply go through your collection and select out the one(s) you'd like others to see and send them in. By the way, be sure and write OK to print on the back and sign them. We'll take it from there. Diane will either reduce or enlarge them as necessary. If you send color shots try and send in light ones, since they seem to reproduce better. Of course if you have black and white ones, even better.

Please restrict the size of the photos sent to about 3"x3". This size gives us more flexibility in making copies. Head shots would be best, but we can mask the picture to get the best out of it. If yours are larger than 3"x3" we will mat the best part and end up with a picture the size we need.

If you want to take or have pictures taken for the Year Book we suggest you re-read Carol's article on page 6, Vol I, Number 5 of the Phoenix.

If we aren't flooded with photos we will presume the idea doesn't interest you, but those photos sent in will be included in the new Basic.

Now, about the listing changes being submitted. Unless there is a meaningful change we will hold all those submitted until August and include them in the new Basic. We will, of course, continue to publish supplements to include new listings so you will be able to contact new people and they will be able to contact you.

GGA FRIENDSHIP
(by Rose CA-124)

GGA Friendship is a footbridge joining isolated bodies together allowing free and confident passage, sharing what each has and adding to the sum total of each.

To be a friend one must be as tolerant to the other as to themself, thus the self is made larger and stronger. A good friend is one who will lend as though giving and repay more than is lent. Cherish your friends--they make up a person's wealth more surely than gold for a person without a friend is like a cork without a bottle. It is not necessary to a friend you like them, they know. But, tell them anyway.

Friendship, like plants, blooms greater when nourished. Defend your friends, elevate your friends and you will find even your enemies will want to be your friend.

Ed's Note: Very thought provoking. The PPG Chapter aspirants might think about this.

FEEDBACK

Thank you for the great article "Tips on Photographing Women (That Area Really Men)" in the May Phoenix (Vol 1, No.5). Many points, e.g., composition, film, lighting and shadows and composition, pose and attitude, flash, exposure, technique, etc. are helpful for anyone. But the points on make-up, clothing, fashion and how (where) to process the film are directly applicable to the TV/TS and not likely to be found anywhere. Thanks again for the very practical help.

Crystal-Joy (CA-53)

A HANDBOOK FOR TRANSSEXUALS,
by Paula Grossman. 70 pp., published
privately. This book is the blueprint!
Eight years in the making. Tells what
to do, how, why, where, and even
whom! An absolute must for all who
contemplate a sex-reassignment.
\$5.95 ppd., Grossman, [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Plainfield, N.J. 07060.

HELP--I'M TWIX 'N 'TWEEN!

FTM in the Twilight Time of transition needs a job IMMEDIATELY! Hard worker with Master's Degree, East Bay Area: J.J., [REDACTED] Resume on request.

Professionally made homemade greeting cards with your private message, poem, whatever, colorfully decorated, personalized. Order from J.J. thru GGA or call [REDACTED] Will provide price quotes per job.

CHAPTER CHATTER

SAN FRANCISCO GGA CHAPTER

The June 10th meeting will be our Wine and Cheese Night. The Chapter will furnish drinking glasses, knives and slicers for the cheese and small paper plates. If you wish to bring something other than wine or cheese please do so.

Please remember to bring your \$2.00 attendance fee and put it in the collection container.

See you on the 10th.

SAN JOSE GGA CHAPTER

The June 19th meeting will be our first Clothing Swap Night. If this one goes well others will follow on a scheduled basis. So, bring your serviceable but outgrown clothing and swap what you have for what you need. The swap items can be anything to wear, which includes jewelery, wigs, gloves, and all that good stuff.

Be sure and bring your \$2.00 attendance fee and give it to Georgia.

BERKELEY/OAKLAND GGA CHAPTER

The attendance is growing at the Berkeley meetings. These meetings are quite informal and the subjects discussed range the spectrum of subject matter--not always related to crossdressing or transsexualism. Kathy and Arden are doing good work in the refreshment area and it would be nice if others would bring something occasionally.

Here again, please remember your \$2.00 attendance fee.



SUCCESS CHAPTER (Florida)

The first meeting of the Success Chapter of GGA was held at the Holiday Inn at New Port Richie, FL on March 28th. A corsage was presented each of the 16 attendees by Susan (FL-1). (A little political intrigue Susan?) Additionally, 2 wives and 1 daughter of members attended. After a nice meal, served by a waitress unfamiliar with the TV/TS community, guest speakers gave well received talks on electrolysis and make-up.

Chapter business in the form of officer elections were taken up after the talks. Susan (FL-1) was formally elected President while Elaine (FL-12) was elected Secretary/Treasurer. (Congratulations ladies.)

Susan and Elaine were also elected to take charge of the Daytona Week-end for the first two years of its existence. By the way, Susan has extended an open invitation to all GGA members to attend the Daytona Week-end. (The Daytona Week-end was mentioned in the March Phoenix and more will be presented as it becomes available.--Ed.)

Drawings were made at random times during the evening with Shirley (Susan's spouse), Marilyn, one of the guests, Bea and Julia winning prizes. Julia was doubly lucky in that she also won the door prize. (How are you going to take a door back to Ohio with you Julia?).

The next meeting was scheduled for May 30th.

As an aside, Susan tells us that the waitress serving them was "a little shakey at first" since she had never delt (knowingly) with members of the TV/TS community before but after the dinner came to Julia and Elaine and told them "I hope I'll be able to serve you at the next meeting here. You are all very nice and I learned something tonight."

This is precisely the type public relations work we need. Good going Success Chapter.

Susan also advises that she will be fulfilling a life-long ambition starting the 20th of March when she begins a 2 year part-time attendance Cosmotology Course.

We will be expecting some great articles on make-up from you Susan.



BANNER OF SUCCESS

Susan, the President of the GGA Success Chapter in Florida had made the above banner which is displayed at each Chapter meeting. Right on, Susan.

OUT OF THE CLOSET AND BACK IN IN 2 DAYS Susan (FL-1)

Most of you have read or heard the story or seen the movie, possibly on television, Around the World in 80 Days but I doubt any of you have heard the story Out of the Closet and Back In, All in 2 Days. It's about Charlotte T. who came out of the closet after 40+ years only to end up back in one after 2 days.

The circumstances are unique and the tale is fraught with suspense and humor so let me spin it for you.

New Year's Eve of 1980/81 Susan (FL-1) was having a New Year's Week-end Party for some of her special fem friends visiting the sunny State of Florida from the colder northern climes. Julia (OH-1), Jo Anne and her lovely wife Julie from PA were there as well as some of the Florida ladies, Nadine, Elaine, Susan (another Susan) and Charlotte T.

After a lovely, filling buffet meal prepared by your reporter's wife Shirley and Julia, the evening, until the witching hour of midnight, was spent in catching up on girl-talk, reminiscing about missing friends, picture taking (don't we always keep Kodak in the profit column?), dancing and of course, as W. C. Fields was prone to say, "partaking of the grape". At the magic hour we wished each other and the world in general a "Happy New Year" and then the hours seemed to fly by until it was time to retire. Of course the visitors brought only their finest nightwear to don and show-off when it was time to retire.

As luck would have it, Elaine and Charlotte T. shared the same bedroom. Charlotte T. lives on a boat and it was the first time in months she had slept on dry land, but apparently the lack of rolling boat motion didn't keep her from falling right to sleep. Sometime in the small hours of the morning Elaine was awakened by strange groaning, clawing and scratching sounds. She immediately thought Charlotte might be having a heart attack or some other serious medical problem. She bounded out of bed, turned on the lights and lo and behold, there was Charlotte in the closet fighting to get untangled from the clothing, shoes and hangers attacking her.

It seems that aboard her boat there is only one side of the bed/bunk from which to get up, and from force of habit she had gotten out of that side of the guest room bed and instead of walking into the john (joan?) she walked into the closet. So there she was, after 40 years in the closet, and two marvelous days and nights out, right back in the closet.

Her only comment was "It's easier to out this time than it ever was before."



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SKIN CARE

Skin care can be broken down into three basic procedures on a daily routine: (1) cleanse; (2) tone; and (3) lubricate.

CLEANSING: Use specially formulated preparations for the cleansing of the skin. Never use soap of any kind. On the occasions when you are wearing eye make-up, remove same with preparations specifically made for this purpose. (The most efficient and thorough is Revlon's "30 second Eye make-Up Remover"). It is a good practice to follow this step with a liquid "soap" (as opposed to regular bar soap).

TONING: This step is meant to stimulate the circulation of the blood vessels, firm the skin's pores and create a bacteriostatic condition, as well as remove any remaining oil lingering on the skin's surface. Never use around eyes. It is important to understand that "fresheners" are used on normal or dry skin while "astringents" are used on oily complexions. Also, the use of a freshener or astringent for an after-shave lotion is far more gentle than any after-shave preparation, when shaving.

LUBRICATING: The purpose of this step is to condition the skin, and by this step, moisture as well as necessary oils are replenished. Moisturizer is used to conserve or replenish water content in the skin's cells. Many oily complexions suffer from surface dryness because of cell dehydration--although there may be an underlying excessiveness of oils; therefore, oily skins need moisturizing like any other complexion would.

At bedtime a fine-textured and light night cream should be used. Night creams function as restoratives--for while the body repairs itself during the night, the skin is repaired too. Night cream is a vital part of your skin care program and is as necessary to the oily skin as to the dry. Night creams also are made to augment the skin's natural oils and should be used very sparingly, with special attention to the area around the eyes and the throat.

Once a week your skin care program should include a deep-cleansing and conditioning. The various types of treatment products for the skin fundamentally are made to slough off dead cells clinging to the skin's surface and absorb the imbedded debris, and finally to firm up the skin's structure. The steps to take must occur in their proper sequence: (1)

cleanse; (2) steam; (3) exfoliate; (4) re-surface; (5) tone; and (6) lubricate.

STEAMING: This is a very simple procedure which is done by allowing hot steam to bathe the face from a running tap or pan of hot water. When the face is heavily perspiring, the pores are open as widely as they can be, allowing all the impurities to be unlocked from deep within the pores. A wonderful way to enhance the activity of the steaming/sauna is to use Gaylord Hauser's "Swiss Kriss", following the simple directions. This is an herbal mixture which is very stimulating and therapeutic.

EXFOLIATING: This is generally done with a gritty or grainy product. Never use around the eyes and be absolutely certain to work it around very gently. Pay particular attention to the creases around the nose and the general T-zone (across the forehead and down the center of the face and around the chin).

RE-SURFACE: Note: both of these headings are interchangeable because the sophistication of today's treatment preparations is such that most of the available products--a huge array--tend to overlap in these two functions. To make your new skin treatment program easier, just think of re-surfacing and exfoliating as ONE step utilizing two separate products.

Masks will "re-surface" the skin (as the sloughing products do, also) better than any other preparation. They are available in various forms--peel-off types, clay, lotions, foams, etc. As a general rule-of-thumb peeling types are the most effective in removing completely dead cells, while the clay types are more efficient in absorbing the deep-down grime and impurities. Lotions, creams and foams are more stimulating to the circulation. All are intended to make the walls of the pores more firm, therefore causing a tighter appearance to the skin and giving a smoother, firmer and softer surface and brighter, clearer translucence to the natural glow of the complexion.

Send your questions on Image Improvement to The Phoenix, attn: Dianna.

Consider all the directions from which you may approach your goal, and intelligently appraise your relationship to each.

ADVICE NEEDED!
(Danielle, OR-10)

I have been living in the same studio apartment in a lovely building for the past 10 years. The apartment has a terrace where I can spend time sunning myself or just sitting looking at the wonderful view I have from the building's top floor of the mountains and the city.

The tenants of the building, young women and couples, are very nice and there is never any disturbance or trouble in the building. Because everyone, including the manager, is so friendly they all know the male me and would probably be quite suprised to know about the fem me.

Recently I have been dressing and going out on occassion, but the fact that I have to take the elevator down 10 floors, cross the lobby to a street exit or the more or down another floor to the garage and cross the more or less open space of the garage to my car makes me feel very vulnerable. There have been instances where, while in the elevator, one of the other tenants, usually a young woman, will try to engage me in conversation, but because of my accent, which everyone in the building knows about, I have to be rude and decline to respond to her questions/comments. The manager's wife once, on seeing me cross-dressed in the lobby, asked if she "could help me", thinking I was a stranger in the building. The mailman even commented to me once that "you must be new in the building". These encounters with people who know, or may know, the male me terrify the fem me.

I enjoy being out of the apartment crossdressed but can't find a way to get out and back in unseen by others in the building. I once used the firestairs to go down to the garage (have you ever walked down 11 floors in a stairway?) and encountered a young woman walking up, sandals in hand

while I was walking down, sandals in hand. Another time I was about to use the elevator and when it stopped on my floor there were several people in it so I walked down the firestairs only this time I was in a hurry and lost a sandal. The next day there was a notice in the lobby that someone had found the sandal and the owner could claim it from the manager. Needless to say, it is still in the manager's office. I certainly couldn't bring myself to claim it.

Since I love to be out I sometimes call a woman friend to come over and act as an escort out of the building. Once I'm out of the building I am alright, it is just that I am terrified of what my neighbors will think and say if they see and recognize me while I'm crossdressed.

Do any of you readers have a possible solution for my problem? Please send your suggestions to the Phoenix so the Staff can send them on to me.



"Good grief! I'm a hippo!"

HELPFUL TIPS
(Georgia)

Now that spring is here and the short-sleeved dresses and tops are in bloom let me pass this on to those of you having excessive hair growth on the arms.

Here is the product for you.

Andrea Creme Bleach, available in the better cosmetic shops and beauty supply houses, can be used to bleach the hair on your arms. Bleaching will not actually reduce the hair or its growth but it will make the hair appear to be less in quantity.

Simply follow the easy directions of wetting the arm in COLD water first, applying the creme, removing the creme and viola, less hairy appearing arms.

The treatment lasts 4-6 weeks before a repeat is required.

Before deciding whether to bleach or shave the arm hair ask yourself how many "bald armed" women you have seen.

Give it a try. It may not work the same for everyone, but it sure works great for me.

----- QUESTION OF THE MONTH (#2)-----

Should a crossdresser tell his/her children about the crossdressing? If so, what age should the children be? (If possible please base your answer on personal experience-either your own or that of someone you know.)

--- BOOK SALE ---

We have been fortunate to secure 5 copies of Mirror Image, The Odyssey of a Male-to-Female Transsexual, by Nancy Hunt, printed in 1978 by Holt, Rinehart and Winston, at less than the book store price of \$8.95 and thus can provide you a saving on the purchase of the interesting autobiography.

Our price, which includes postage, is \$7.00 per copy. Drop us a note with your check or money order and we'll get one off to you. Remember there are only 5 and they won't last long so get your order in early.

SPEAKER'S BUREAU

Need someone to speak at a function on the subjects of Transvestism or Transsexualism?

The Gateway Gender Alliance can provide personally involved individuals and professional presentations on the subjects of Transvestism and Transsexualism.

Write Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, Ca 94088 or call (408) 734-3773 or (415) 527-8450.



ME & "IT"

By Shirley

PART TWO

The title of the article is "Me & 'It'." The "It" is our femininity, our concept of what femininity is.

I think all of us can recall to some extent our first experience with "it." For some of us it was a desire to wear women's clothes. Others of us may have been forced to wear women's clothes (a boy dressed as a girl).

To me, when I first started dressing, I didn't know why I wanted to wear women's clothes. All I knew was that I enjoyed the clothes. I hope that all of us are recalling our first experience with wearing girl's clothes.

My first experience took place some time before Junior High School. One night I decided I wanted to wear a dress. So when everybody was sleeping, I snuck to a closet and found a dress I knew was in a box in the closet. I then quietly snuck back to my bed, and under the blankets put on the dress.

It was a very peaceful experience. Except, that I fell asleep in the dress, and in the morning my mother found me wearing the dress!! Needless to say, I was embarrassed and humiliated by the experience of being found in the dress. My mother wanted to know why I had put on the dress. Of course, I didn't know, or couldn't explain why I had.

Many of us have faced some difficult times with our dressing. I know of a person whose mother said to them that they were crazy because they wanted to wear girl's clothes. I can imagine the torment that was felt by that person. I can hear the person's thoughts: "Mom, I'm not crazy!" "You aren't crazy? Then why do you want to wear girls clothes? Only a crazy person would want to wear girl's clothes!!!"

My personal experience with my mother was a little different. I couldn't explain why I wanted to dress--or why I wanted to do something not normal. I was raised as a Jehovah's Witness and it was definitely wrong for me to dress. So if I loved God and was going to do his will, I should stop dressing. My mother also would say that if I loved her I should stop dressing. So, since I didn't stop dressing, I apparently didn't love God or my mother!

Many of us faced similar experiences with our wearing women's clothes. We have felt embarrassment, humiliation, shame, and feelings of guilt. And most of all we felt very alone--no one else was like us. There is a term that describes the effect of those feelings.

Those feelings and experiences can be described as cold pricklies. Have you ever had goose bumps on your body? That sensation is very similar to cold pricklies.

When one experiences these feelings, often it is hard to accept themselves. To illustrate: Our behavior is often controlled by the approval or disapproval we discern from others. And it is probably true that we receive approval from others or are seen as "good," to that extent we behave in a "typical masculine way." All of us have been faced with experiences where our behavior does not fit the typical masculine way. Thus, we have found it hard to accept our "feminine" behavior or ourselves because of strong disapproval we have discerned and experienced from others.

When do we come to the point of accepting ourselves? For many of us this is when we find out there are others who also have the desire to wear women's clothes. For many the experience of finding out that they are not alone is a joyful and euphoric experience. I like to think of the experience of finding out one is not alone as a warm fuzzy. Something that makes one feel secure, warm, cozy, loved, and understood. After all those years of being alone and feeling guilty -- isn't it wonderful to know there are others?!!

To me the experience of finding out I wasn't the only one, marked the day when I accepted myself. I accepted the femininity in me. I have taken this warm fuzzy feeling and covered over the many experiences that were cold pricklies. No longer is there reason for me to feel crazy. No longer is there reason for me to feel I don't love. I don't have to feel guilty anymore. In other words, it's all right to be feminine!!

In all honesty, I feel sadness for those who told me it wasn't right to dress. Actually those who didn't understand me were afraid themselves. They were afraid of their own "masculinity" or "femininity" in themselves. Think of the trouble we have had accepting our own femininity. So I feel compassion for those who have not understood my desire, for they also are afraid to accept their own masculinity of femininity.

So the day I found out there were others and actually made contacts with others marked the day I started accepting myself. It marked the time when there was no longer "Me & 'It'"--but just me a person who has accepted the masculinity and femininity of myself. A person which requires both masculinity and femininity to exist.

I hope all of us have taken the step of accepting ourselves.

The Phoenix Monthly-International

CALENDAR PAGE

In this regular feature we list the meetings of various support groups and special functions known to be scheduled. If your group wishes to have a FREE announcement in the PM-I, send it to: GGA, Post Office Box 62283, Sunnyvale, CA, 94088. Copy deadline is the 1st Monday of the month preceeding the issue of the PM-I in which the announcement is to appear.

Please note that membership in Tri-Sigma is open ONLY to heterosexual, male-to-female crossdressers. NO TSs are allowed in that organization.

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

Meeting time at each location: 8 PM.

SAN FRANCISCO: 2nd Wednesday.

BERKELEY: 4th Wednesday.

SAN JOSE: 1st & 3rd Friday.

PACIFIC CENTER, 2712 Telegraph, Berkeley.
1st & 3rd Wednesday rap sessions. Last Friday, special topic or guest speaker.

Meeting time: 7:30 til 10:00

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA AREA

TS RAP GROUP: Thursdays, 6 pm. Contact Carol Katz, (213) 257-0500.

SALMACIS: Unstructured social get-together on the second saturday of each month. 7:30 pm. Contact Lynn or Ann [REDACTED]

SHANGRI-LA: (Scyros Chapter). First Saturday each month, 5-11 pm. Contact Nancy [REDACTED] for information.

OXNARD/VENTUARA AREA: TS Rap Group. Contact Jean [REDACTED] PO Box 532, Port Hueneme, CA, 93401 or [REDACTED] for information.

MISSION VIEJO AREA: Gender Dysphoria Program for Orange County. Informational brochure "For the Record" - \$2.00. Contact Joanna M. Clark, PO Box 2476, Mission Viejo, CA, 92690. Group counseling: Dana Point facility 2nd & 4th Mondays; San Jaun Capistrano facility 1st & 3rd Mondays.

BOSTON AREA

TIFFANY CLUB: Tuesdays & Saturdays, 7-11 pm. Usually a \$5.00 fee for non-members. Call (617) 891-8022 for information.

KAY-MAYFLOWER SOCIETY: Every Wednesday, 7-11 pm. Call (617) 254-7389 for information.

CAPE CODE AREA

TS SUPPORT GROUP: Contact Rachia Heyelman, PO Box 25, S. Orleans, MA, 02662 for information.

FANTASIA FAIR: A week's social, education session in PTown in the Fall. Contact Fantasia Fair, Ltd., Box 368, Kenmore Station, Boston, MA, 02215 for details.

COLORADO

TV/TS GROUP: Meeting every Monday, 8 pm. Contact Sonia [REDACTED] PO Box 1374, Denver, CO, 80201 or call [REDACTED] for specific information.

CONNECTICUT

HARTFORD-TVIC: Every second Saturday. Contact [REDACTED] PO Box 180, Hartford, CT, 06107 for information.

XX-CLUB. Primarily a TS Support Group. Contact Rev. Clinton Jones, 45 Church St, Hartford, CT, 09103 for information.

BALTIMORE/WASHINGTON

GGA-BALTIMORE: Meetings every second Saturday thru June. Write Lisa Rouse, PO Box 218, Burtonville, MD, 20730 for information.

RHO-FPE: Contact Helen Root, PO Box 5985, Washington, DC 20014, for information.

DELTA CHI CHAPTER (Tri-Sigma): Betty Ann Lind, Post Office Box 11254 Alexandria, VA 22312.

ACADEMY AWARDS (Drag-gay). Contact: Betty Ann Lind Post Office Box 11254, Alexandria, VA 22312.

NEW YORK AREA

TV PARTIES: Contact Joyce Dewhurst, [REDACTED] Jackson Heights, NY, 11372 or call [REDACTED]

TV PARTIES:(Long Island). Contact Casey, PO Box 708, N. Bellmore, NY, 11710 or call [REDACTED]

ALBANY-TVIC: Meeting every 3rd Saturday. Contact Wm. Thordsen, [REDACTED] 12200 for specific information.

OHIO

PARADISE CLUB, (Akron Area). Contact H.J. [REDACTED] Akron, OH 44313. Meetings June 27, August 22, October 24 and December 12, 1981.

PENNSYLVANIA

GATEWAY GENDER ALLIANCE-PITTSBURGH. Contact Post Office Box 16080, Pittsburgh, PA 15242.

PI CHAPTER (Tri-Sigma), Pittsburgh Area. Contact Patricia [REDACTED] PO Box 576, Export, PA 15632.

PHI CHAPTER (Tri-Sigma), Philadelphia Area. Contact Michelle [REDACTED] PO Box [REDACTED] NJ 08108.

VIRGINIA

BETA-RHO CHAPTER (Tri-Sigma). Roanoke Area. Contact Betty Ann Lind, Post Office Box 11254 Alexandria, VA 22312.

WISCONSIN

WISCONSIN TV NETWORK. Contact Post Office Box 813, Madison, WI 53701. (TV Only).

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**SHIRLEY FINDS TROUBLE
AT THE FIRE DEPT.**

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

So on with my story, which started around the time of my divorce. We had moved to a nice town in Oregon and had rented a house. I acquired a nice job and met a man there who was also a fireman. Since I had always wanted to become a firefighter, we had a lot in common; and I visited the fire department. I was allowed to join the department in time and

found the work most interesting and challenging.

About this time my wife and I separated and the fire department chief indicated that I could be a "sleeper" there. Such a person lives at the firehouse, and for that privilege, he has to work certain days as "duty" days. At this time, I had been a volunteer firefighter and the additional time there fit in with my goal of becoming a paid employee.

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

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

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

I eventually learned about DREAM and started to want more time for "Shirley." I attended DREAM and it was worth every minute I spent there. It was while there that I learned to be understanding of my crossdressing. I was pretty much able to get rid of the guilty feelings that I had previously.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The attorney said that this is the area where I made my mistake. I had complied with what the chief asked me to do and there was no written record of the incident. The attorney said that I had been buffaloed into moving out. So the important point to remember is, if you are found out, make the other party prove that you can be dismissed. And get it in writing.

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

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

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

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

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

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

I was also told that even though I had legal rights the fire department could consider me a troublemaker. I could win the case and actually lose the battle. If I lost the case, that fact would stick with me and could affect my future career in whatever I did.

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



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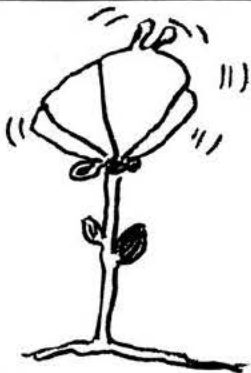
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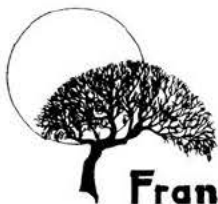
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