Graham Flander dresses as a woman and becomes a waitress. The Joeys theatre/rock group are all male but their act takes the mickeyout of macho. Between them, Flander and the Joeys, as these reports show, share the unusual experience of men meeting entrenched male attitudes head on.

A night out with the boys

ON A busy night Graham Flander has his bottom slapped 30 times. Men pinch him as he walks by and say, "Hello, darling, what are you doing afterwards?" Or they wonder what a nice girl like him is doing in a place like this. These are everyday aggressions for many women but they are not the sort of remarks that men are used to receiving. But then, not many men earn their living as Graham Flander does. This 20-year-old son of a Portsmouth security man works as a waitress at The Hippodrome, London's latest megadiscotheque.

The job has given him a unique insight into female experience. Nightclub waitresses are hired for their looks. They must smile prettily, serve drinks and ingrati­ate themselves to the men who pay the bills and leave them handsome tips. A more perfect scenario it would be hard to imagine.

"I've got a lot more sympathy for women since I started working here," says Graham. "Feminists hate the patronising way that men treat them. I think some of them are extremists but a lot of it is true. I don't blame girls for not liking being harassed like they do." He says he chases girls sometimes for the things they do.

You have to be more modest if you want to know that Graham is a fellow man they tip him less well than they do the girls. After all, there's nothing in it for them to be nice to a girl they think that she might say 'Yes' and go home with them. If they flirt with me they know that's all they're going to get.

And he knows that the other girls in the club dream of escape from the vicious world of sex for rich husband - are closed to him. He pays the respects they do, but without hope of a past. "As soon as I can't carry this off I'll stop," he says. "At 31 I'll be wearing classic male clothes and I'll have short hair. I don't want to look like a man dressed as lamb."

Females he is happy, but he must sense that he is trapped in a sort of limbo. Two squaddies came in one night and one of them took a shine to me. He was really nice and I didn't want him to be nasty to me."

They came back a couple of times, and on the third night they told him. He cut me dead but I'm glad he told him because he's had to talk to his wife and his dad. That's the only time I've heard the word 'girl'."

Every night before the club opened at work, I get his picture on his favourite song on the jukebox..." When Marilyn Monroe was singing 'I Just Want To Be Loved By You', I had a conversation with the Joeys."

"I'm just like Jack Lemmon in that film: 'I tell you,' he says to Tony Curtis as a real woman walks past the two stars, who are in drag. "It's a whole different sex."

Some time later Lemmon is singing to himself. "I'm a girl," he says. "I'm a girl. I'm a girl."

David Thomas