

# Femme Mirror

*Reflecting the Feminine*



VOLUME 2 Number 6 November 1977 Carol Beecroft Editor



Cheri, I just couldn't resist congratulating you "girls" in the Sigma Chapter. You have contributed enormously to the variety of our culture.

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

# Two's A Crowd

Virginia reminds us that what might pass unnoticed in "one of a couple" attracts attention in a pair.

## Virginia Prince



When you are out walking down the street and you pass two women walking together on the sidewalk, don't you generally look at one first and then the other? If one is unusually tall in relation to the other or much fatter or different in any respect sufficient for you to take note of, don't you shift your gaze to the other for comparison? I think most people do.

Now with most people that you see as single individuals, one or two rather inconsistent aspects of their appearance may just be accepted as part of that person. In the case of a woman, if her hair is messy, and her dress not too neat you just put it down as the characteristics of a careless, sloppy person. Who you see another who is rather taller than usual and has big feet, you see these two aspects but, they don't ring any particular bell because the variations in height and foot size are considerable among the female population. But wouldn't you look twice at two sloppy females and think, "why do people let themselves get that way?" And wouldn't you be inclined to look with a little extra interest at two extra tall girls walking together and perhaps say something to yourself like, "wow, there's a pair of amazons for you".

The point I want to make is that what might pass unnoticed in one of a couple attracts attention in a pair. Moreover, just as one person can have one or two rather odd aspects about themselves such as size of hands, height, adam's apple, a not just so haitdo, large calf muscles, a slightly masculine set to the face, too much makeup, too heavy eyebrows, not quite a dainty walk or the wrong way of carrying

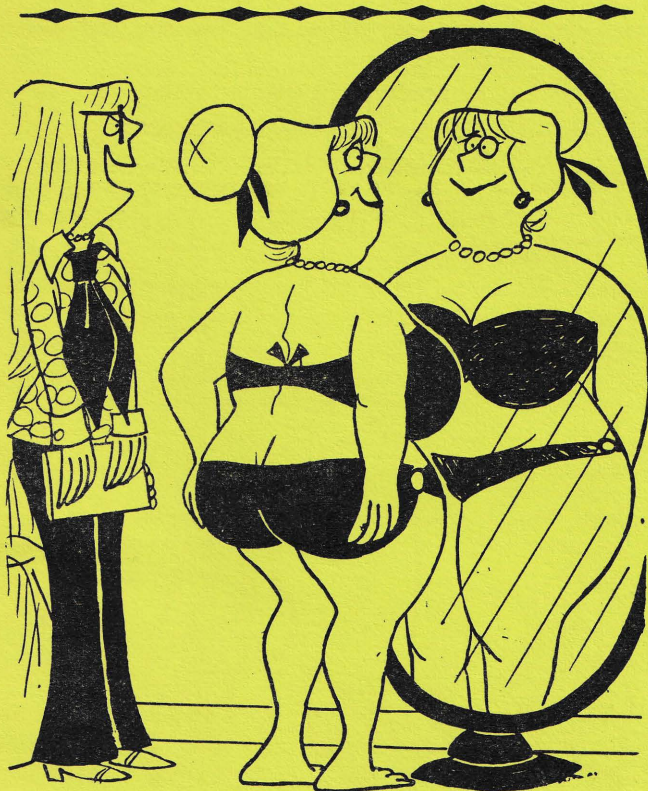
their arms, three or four of the above items in the same person begins to draw attention. All of us when out in public should remember the motto, "strive for perfection to avoid detection". Those things such as height or foot size, which nature has imposed upon us, we can do nothing about, but we should try not to multiply attention getting factors by carelessness with hair, makeup, dress length or style or other things over which we do have some control. While one or two little oddities and inconsistencies in appearance will not give the observer anything to focus his attention on, a half dozen most certainly will.

But this is only half of the point. The other half is that if TWO Tvs walk down the street together en femme, we have a new problem to contend with. As a couple they WILL attract a second glance that the single probably wouldn't get. If they are both tall or both rather masculinely built or both have large hands or are overmade up or overdressed, this attention will be multiplied. Moreover - and this is the meat of my argument - oddities that one has managed to overcome the other may not even have, so in effect BOTH members are being checked visually for the little inconsistencies in the OTHER partner's appearance. Just as two tall girls together attract more attention than either one alone (because the two 'tallnesses' add up as it were) so TWO Tvs are very likely to attract

more attention than either one by herself. That is why I say "two's a crowd".

I know how much fun it is if you go out at all, to go out with another Tv, but I think that the risk involved in this should be borne in mind. Going out with a real girl is different because her natural femininity acts like a visual antidote to any slight masculinity that might show up in the Tv.

While on the subject of "going out" I might also suggest that you think a bit about the places you attend and the time of day. For instance, a nice woman is not waiting on a street corner for a bus at 1 A.M. And a Tv who goes into a bar is looking for trouble and in all likelihood will find it. That's where men go to find women and if they find YOU, you may find it hard to lose them. So use your head to save your neck!!



Life's Little Disappointments, or, How To Blow Away A Tv's Self Image In Just A Few Words:

"Somehow, Tom, you remind me of a truck-tire inner-tube".

## Charlene Tells Us To "Walk The Dog"

Charlene (CA-27-D), a staunch member of ALPHA CHAPTER gives our members some very good advice pertaining to those who are unsure of themselves when going out in public:

Charlene suggests that those girls who have a dog try taking it for a walk. She even suggests that you borrow a friend's dog if you do not have one. She feels that the advantage of having a dog along with you is that it helps overcome your nervousness. The dog will usually take away the attention that would normally come your way. However, she adds, if you're a 'real doll', well, you'll get plenty of looks.

But, back to us plain people, Charlene says that people who pass you will most usually look at the dog and therefore will be less likely to notice any slight imperfections that you might have. And if you're a bit nervous, the dog will really take their attention away from you.

Charlene wisely adds that if you are walking at night (remember all the nights you bravely walked around the block), the dog will provide protection and also provide a logical reason for you to be walking alone.

## APRIL EVENT

NANCY (CA-116-W) asks that the sisters remember a "shin-dig" planned for April 28th thru May 1st at the Fairmont Motel in Gulfport, Miss. There will be scheduled events and lots of time to swim, shop, attend nightclubs, etc. The town IS receptive to Tvs. Nancy says that she has 15 reservations already. She tells us that there is a nucleus of Tvs in that area who she feels might come into our sorority.

# Poet's Corner

It appears that dresses are becoming increasingly popular in London.



Darling, when we talk of garments, this may come as quite a shock,  
When you see a man cavorting in the latest Paris frock.  
What will suit my stately figure?  
What will give me poise and flair?  
Should I choose a skinny mini and reveal a thigh that's bare?

Any dress will count as legal with the hemline up or down.  
Should I strike a pose that's regal, sweeping past you in my gown?  
Mannish clothes could be infernal.  
Suits would ravage any fund.  
Do I need a style maternal for a figure that's rotund?

Bangles, bodice in the boardroom, belts and bustles at the club?  
Who will crack a can with Bazza, caftan-kitted at the pub.  
Lads in skirts may shyly shuffle with a sudden sense of guilt.  
With your bonnie lace and ruffles, have ye not heard of the kilt?

Here I come, my gown a-swishing with a bit of lace that trails.  
Tell the boys I can't go fishing.  
I must hurry to the sales.  
Glares will come from clothing wowers as I make the fashion scene.  
Darling, you can wear the trousers.  
That's the way it's always been.

ADELAIDE ADVERTISER (Austr)

## COVER GIRL

A Cover Girl to be, that's me!  
With bra and heels and finery.  
My hair so long and makeup neat  
For all to see - a rare treat.  
Now, don't laugh, girls. It's not so bad to be picked to appear on the cover of MAD.

(old FPE group-Phyllis)

## ALL YEAR TV GUIDE FOR 1978

January makes me think  
I'll sell my car and buy a mink.  
February's Mardi Gras -  
Magnet for well-padded bras.  
Next the mad March is due;  
my hair acts the same way, too.  
April has tears mixed with rain;  
The Femme Mirror is late again.  
Why should the TV wait for May?  
Every day is Decoration Day.  
In June, relax from winters stresses,  
even the cops have new silk dresses.  
July needs patriotic clothes,  
white shoes, blue dress an sunburnt nose.  
August at some vacation spot,  
In a bikini? Better not!  
To be a good "Society" member  
Should I take charm school in Sept?  
One is her, One's him, one's me.  
October brings out witches three.  
November we can give Thanksgiving  
for our sorority and better living.  
Two sets of presents in December,  
my friends and his, both to remember.

(slightly altered from a poem by Sheila of the old FPE group)



I'm sorry but I thought that you were my husband.

# A COLUMN FOR WIVES

## "Wives Talk Back"



Your Editor is introducing to our wives - Bernadine! She is a genetic female who understands the need for OUR crossdressing.

She is a highly educated woman and attends our ALPHA Chapter meeting with Norma Jean. Bernadine attends almost all of our meetings and has been a splendid example of a female who empathizes with Tvs all over. She helps Norma Jean with clothing and makeup and is a true friend of your Editor. You will note, as you read her column that she can articulate most clearly the feelings of wives concerning Tvism. Your Editor is most pleased that she has accepted the responsibility for the column and asks that our members see that their wives not only read the column but that they also contribute to the column in the form of letters.

Dear Friends - I believe that this has been the wonder of it all to me. You see, each of us women knows intuitively why our own man is trapped into dressing - but it is quite a revelation to find out that the problem is no respecter of station in life or intelligence or even of temperament.

It must be totally psychological, because it happens to the bold and the shy, to the happy-go-lucky and the morbid, to the bossy and the meek, to the tolerant and the narrow, to the flexible and the rigid, to the talented and the dull, to the wise and the foolish. And where this problem attacks, the man stands defenseless and mute in the face of criticism.

Since yours is a SOCIETY of heterosexual men, it stands to reason that each and every member is intimately involved with a genetic

### with Bernadine

girl. Most of the members are married, or have been, whereas some of them have girlfriends that more-or-less understand their transvestism. I fall into the girlfriend category with Norma Jean as my TV friend. We have had a steady relationship for over four years and have attended practically every meeting Carol has sponsored during that time. I am hoping that we women will be able to communicate with each other and with the men we love through the exchange of thoughts and ideas.

Carol is hoping that we will "lay it on the line" - tell each other exactly what our fears and problems are, so our husbands will be able to see our side. Some of us complain about our husbands "dressing too much", but what do we mean when we say that? For me, it means spoiling an outing that I had hoped would be devoted to the two of us, only to discover that Norma-Jean's ulterior motive for asking me to go along was so he could dress for the evening and this put me in an unwanted tension.

Some wives complain that our Tv is self-centered and all wrapped up in himself. What do we mean by that? For me it means that Norma-Jean forgets that I am a living, breathing woman with a need to be looked at and complimented, too. It is almost infuriating to have an entire evening devoted to a one-sided conversation about how beautiful "her" get-up is, how dreadful that "she" broke a finger-nail, how thrilling it was to have the passing truck driver admire "her", and, wasn't it wonderful how the man in the elevator didn't even suspect the truth. And what is friend wife or sweetheart doing while all of this "loveliness" is going on? She is trudging along, trying to act very dignified and casual, KNOWING THE TRUTH

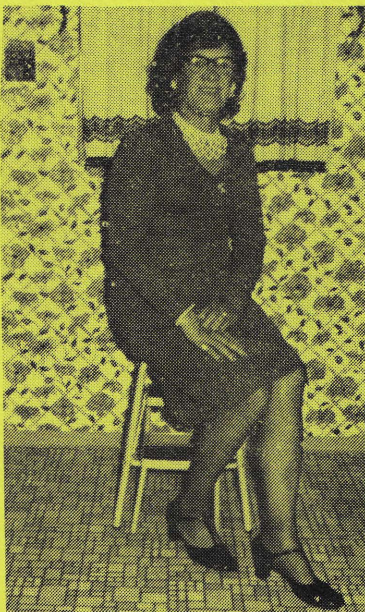
# NATIONAL ORGANIZATION

and hoping that nothing unforeseen happens to mar the "seething tranquility." You Tvs think that you are masters of the art of acting! Take a look at the lady beside you, because she must love you with a huge devotion, or else she couldn't hold up through so much covert tension. Actually, SHE is the one who has made it so easy for you to "pass".

For us women, the meetings are very good therapy. We have an opportunity to attend in the presence of many Tvs and we are able to talk frankly with other women who are in the same boat as you. As you see the Tvs in congenial surroundings, you feel more tolerant of being able to mingle with others people who are somewhat like yourself, and you grow richer in understanding and love and respect for the human being that has captured your heart.

PLEASE write to me so that I can write another column about your specific problem. No names will be mentioned. I'm sure that many women would like to know how YOU handle your particular problem where your children and friends are concerned. Just HOW do YOU handle the problem of old friends and relatives?

I can be reached by writing to me as follows: Bernadine Bordeaux, Box 114, San Pedro, Calif 90733. I'll be waiting to hear from YOU!!



WENDY  
PA-22-B

## Co-Directors:

Virginia Prince CA-17-P  
Carol Beecroft CA-3-B

## Executive Secretary:

Charlene Parker CA-64-P

## Secretaries:

Ellen Summers OR-8-S  
Isobel Watts AR-2-W

## Great Lakes Regional Coordinator:

Donna Martin IL-11-S

## Southern Calif. Regional Coord:

Nancy Watson CA-116-W

## Southern Belles Regional Coord:

Linda Thomas TX-21-B

## ALPHA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

(To be elected)

## CHI CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Deanna IL-35-G

## NU PHI CHAPTER

Franny NY-19-F

## SIGMA CHAPTER PRESIDENT:

Barbara CO-1-B

## DELTA CHI PRESIDENT:

Rita MD-10-Mc

Charlene (CA-27-D) asks:

What do you call a trans-vestite bandit?

A Dressperado!!!!

# Library Card Translated Into FRENCH

TRAVESTISME - le désir à s'habiller avec les vêtements de l'autre sexe.

Pour obtenir des renseignements, aussi que des livres au sujet du travestisme, ou pour contacter un organisation pour les travesties, s'il vous plaît, écrivez, en français, à

The Society for the Second Self  
256 S. Robertson  
Beverly Hills, Calif.  
E-U 90211

All French speaking girls in Canada (and in France, for that matter) should be appreciative of the efforts of Jenny FCO-5-G who wasn't just satisfied with putting out library cards in English. She was out to help the many French-Speaking Canadians who are Tvs and no

doubt looking for information pertaining to transvestism. So, in order to make it possible for them to locate the Society for the Second Self, she translated the card into the French language and has had cards made up for the various libraries in her area. Bless her!



## Research Study

During the next 30 to 45 days, all members of our SOCIETY will be asked to participate in a study pertaining to transvestism. It will be conducted by Dr. Neil Buhrich, M.B., B.S., D.P.M., M.R.C. Psych. Dr. Buhrich is associated with the School of Psychiatry, Prince Henry Hospital in New South Wales, Australia. The study will consist of a lengthy questionnaire dealing generally with Tvism. All members are urged to answer all the questions and then return the questionnaire to your Editor who will forward same to Dr. Buhrich in Australia. We are not interested in your name being on the questionnaire. The data derived from the study will be shared with the SOCIETY members as soon as the study is completed.

Dr. Buhrich has written many articles regarding Transvestism and related subjects, including: The Clinical Syndromes of Femiphilic Transvestism, appearing in the Archives of Sexual Behavior, Vol.6, No. 5, 1977; Can Fetismism Occur in Transsexuals? appearing in the same Journal, Vol.6, No.3, 1977; Clinical Comparison of Transvestism and Transsexualism: An Overview, appearing in the Australian and New Zealand Journal of Psychiatry in 1977, 11:83. Your editor is going to a lot of trouble in retyping a master questionnaire and then having it printed and mailed to all of you and all I ask is that you take the time to answer the questions. I know that I can depend on you!

# A Letter To Charlene

The process of "joining" is often a long one, filled with hesitation and insecurity. The following letter is just one of many letters involved in the process of a sister traveling the sometimes long road to membership in our Sorority.

As many of you know, Charlene, our Executive Secretary (CA-64-P) writes a personal letter to each person who writes for information. She sends such persons a friendly, personal letter and usually includes a brochure explaining our goals and objectives and perhaps a past issue of the FEMME MIRROR.

Often we never hear from the particular individual again. On the other hand, many do join after a period of time in which the persons correspond with Charlene, learning more about Tvism and himself. There is additional time needed for reflection and for some reading of Virginia's book, "Understanding Crossdressing".

But eventually, the person brings himself to the point where he decides that he really needs the companionship of others like himself. He has read the book - perhaps corresponded with Charlene and then he finally requests an application form and thereafter we soon have a new sister in our SOCIETY. A period of six months is nothing unusual from the time a person first requests information until he eventually becomes a member.

And so, we present for the benefit of our readers, one such letter written to Charlene - a letter indicating the searching attitude of the individual - a letter indicating the gradual change of thought concerning femininity - a letter showing how a person makes up his mind to join our sorority.....

Received your letter earlier this week along with a list of items available from Chevalier Publications. It meant a great deal to hear from you since I am not a member of the Society, yet. I have

read Virginia's book again for a second time - sometimes by reading something again you absorb and understand more than before. I'm feeling better about myself more each day and am beginning to understand myself more. I've sent for my application forms but have not received them as yet, but I'm patient. At least I've broken the ice. Thanks to my private therapy sessions last year and now, being in contact with the Society, I'm back on an even keel.

I'm glad that I am a transvestite because it provides me a source of relaxation and complete change of pace. I've been giving my second-self more time to express herself. I've let Paul have his time and Paula have hers. I try to keep it 50/50 or as close to that as possible.

I've sensed for a long time that I was a lover of the feminine side



DADDY!!!

on whatever, but wouldn't or could not admit this and repressed it. But finally I have accepted Paula - yes, really accepted her. Rejecting and repressing brought me nothing but frustration, anxiety and feelings that tore me apart. Accepting and allowing Paula equal time has made a difference. As I said in a previous letter I don't have a lot of nice things, nor do I wish a lot of nice things, but I would like a little more. What's more important to me is accepting myself as I am - a heterosexual Tv - a male with a second self.

If I was asked by you to state my degree of dressing I would say that I am in the hi-heels, pantyhose, panty-girdle, bra, slip stage. However, I do have a skirt and blouse which I purchased recently. I guess that I buy my things like most Tvs - by catalog mail order or, going into a store and buying something "for my wife" or "for her birthday". I've made myself a promise that I'm going to start buying a few more things as soon as I can afford it so that I can further express my second self.

I'd like to learn about make-up and wigs from an understanding female if I can ever meet one. At this time I confine my second self to my home. I'm very unsure of myself and I do not know what to do when I do attend a SOCIETY meeting.

Another thing, too - meeting and talking with members of my own sex who wear women's clothes, kinda bothers me, but, after thinking about it, I came up with this: Members of my sex hunt and fish, also bowl, etc. - they do things out of a common interest - they have sort of a bond between them. They're heterosexual and not interested in one another sexually. The difference is that with us Tvs our interests or bond is related to our love of the feminine. I hope that you will understand and bear with me. Getting professional help last year was a great help and a difficult step. The SOCIETY is another major step for me. Comparing my first letter and the one I am writing now, I feel more com-



Jennie

MA-17-B

portable and relaxed. I feel that the SOCIETY is a worth-while organization - it gives me good vibrations. I'll close now although I still have many unanswered questions, but I'll write again. I hope that you will, too. Thanks for writing - it means a lot to me. "Paula" P.S. If there is anything that I can do to help others, I'm willing to do it. Even if I help only one person, it'll be worth it.

## BUSY BEAVER

Sally Ann (MD-7-K) tells us that she went to a local library and personally gave them an index card for the library. Then she went to a nearby shopping mall and put up some cards on a bulletin board. This is not the first time that she has gone out of her way to place our library cards and to post cards on bulletin boards. If more of our sisters would place these cards in their local libraries and on bulletin boards in laundromats and in hallways, etc, we would be able to contact many more girls and give them the opportunity to join with us in developing and promoting the SOCIETY. Need cards? Write me!

# OFFICIAL



## FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF

Cash on hand at beginning of 1977	\$1059.78
Total deposits during the year 1977	<u>5512.35</u>
Grand total.....	\$6572.13

### Expenses:

Compiling, printing, mailing  
the Directory & three supplements \$2521.50

Printing and mailing costs for  
the Femme Mirror 1750.39

### Advertising:

Moneysworth \$380.08

Psychology to-  
day 115.00

Bay Guardian 35.00

L.A. Free Press 19.00

Gemini Directory 10.00

Renaissance 20.00

Berkeley Barb 16.00

Drag Magazine 20.00

Female Imperson-  
ator Magazine 65.00

Inside News 30.60

\$718.68 718.68

Miscellaneous postage 50.00

Chevalier exchange (money sent  
to SOCIETY for Chev.material) 49.85

Rebates for overpayment or can-  
cellations 25.00

Envelopes, forms, etc printed 20.90

Long distance phone calls 15.00

5151.32

Cash in Great Western S&L 1200.00

Ending check book balance 220.81

\$6572.13

\$6572.13

# SUSIE'S PAGE

My GOODNESS! We did receive a number of letters from you girls this time! It appears that one of the questions aroused a considerable amount of interest. If you will recall one of the questions was, Would men's underclothing made of nylon or silk satisfy your desire to wear pretty things under your regular clothes? Of must you have items of feminine cut and design?

Several other questions were : Is there a cream that I could use for my face to take off hair instead of shaving, thus giving me longer time between shaves? and, Does anybody have information about a 'Treasure Chest'?

There was also a question concerning ear piercing and although I do have one comment concerning it, I have misplaced a rather detailed account of ear piercing written by one of you girls. Thus, would the sister who wrote such a detailed account of ear-piercing, please do it again so that our readers will benefit from it - OK??

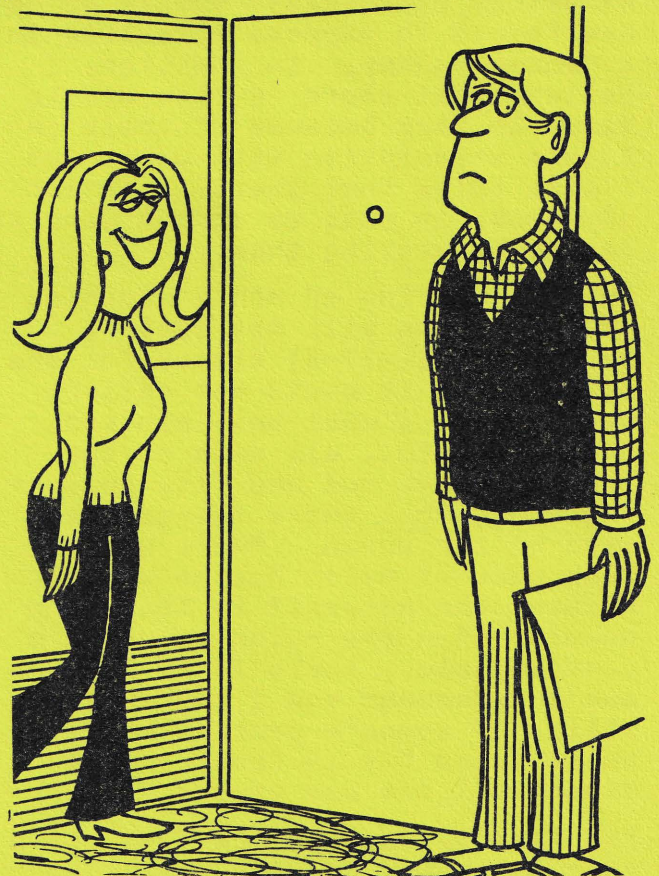
Isobel (AZ-2-W) says, "I wear feminine clothing each day under my outside clothes. I want and only feel comfortable in feminine underwear. I choose white garments for work, reserving the pretty pinks and other lovely colors with lace and bows for home or when fully dressed. At the beach not so long ago, I was in my van, changing my wet clothes, and a male friend opened the rear door. He saw my white panties from the rear but made no comment. What if they had been pink!"

Laurie (FCO-11-P) adds, "I personally think that it is not the material that gives ME satisfaction but the knowledge that these pretty things are cut for the feminine body."

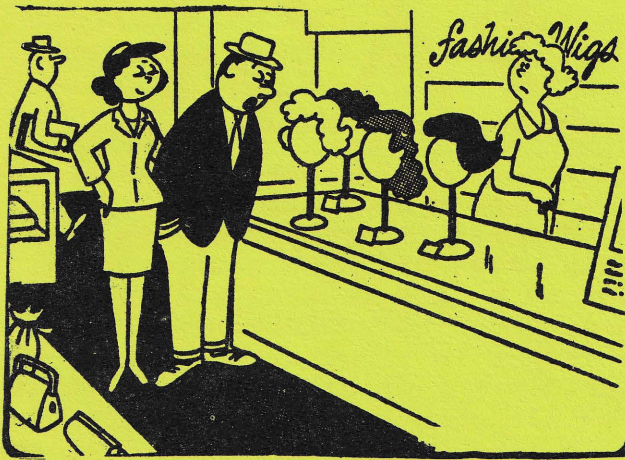
And Shirley (CO-25-W) writes, "About 5 years ago, there was a con-

siderable difference between men's and women's underclothing. Men's were white, coarser and very plain. Only women had much choice. Now, due to a more liberal attitude of men, their underclothes are now available in a number of styles, materials and colors. Some of these for all practical purposes are very much like women's panties. The only difference is that they are given macho names so that men will buy them.

I believe that the only reason that we wear women's underclothing is that we have a definite need to express our feminine self in some man-



You looked so cute at the party last night - dressed as a girl - that I JUST had to tell all the neighbors all about it!!!



Pretend you're buying it for yourself.

ner. Most of us cannot live openly as women or wear other items such as skirts and dresses openly so we are forced to express ourselves in a secret manner. In addition, I believe that there is some erotic value to them because of their intimate association with women and I also think that there is an air of danger in that we do not want to be caught wearing them.

And the wearing of men's clothing made of nylon will not satisfy Betty Ann (IL-17-A) either for she states, No! It would not satisfy me, because I must have panties, bra, hose etc., all made of the fine quality, cut and fit, including lace, that these things are made of for women. Men's underwear made of nylon has no appeal, because the material is thick and heavier than the nylon in women's panties, etc., there is no lace on men's underwear and I prefer the stinging of women's panties where there is no fly in front - just smooth all the way around.

And lastly, Georgia (CA-13-S) says that while she wears men's nylon underwear from time to time, they are no substitute for the REAL thing! It isn't the material, she says, that makes the difference but the fact that one is for males and the other for females. She says that she supposes that it is all in the mind but that's really what matters.

As to the question pertaining to the 'Treasure Chest', Ruthann (WI-14-L) mentions that she won one at Fantasia Fair. She said that the item is a skin-colored, molded, rubber likeness of the female chest that fits over your own chest. She feels that it is a good item for the gals who are into low-cut dresses and blouses. They sell at an estimated price of \$30.00 and Lora (PA-5-W) indicates that they can be bought at Lee Brewster's, Box 1271, New York, N.Y. 10009, or, Eve Brown Fashions, Box 360, Belmar, N.J. 07719.

Lora also says that in reference to a cream or lotion that can be put on the face to remove the hair, she purchased some Neet and experimented with it but doesn't advise anyone to use it because it leaves the face tender and a reddish rash often develops.

Linda (CA-129-B) adds that she has tried a cream hair remover on the face with poor results. She said that she has also tried a "wax" treatment which does work, but is also painful. She adds that she is more successful when using Clown White on her face, followed by an appropriate liquid foundation. She says that she has a fairly heavy beard and it works for her. She also says that the 'Treasure Chest' can be purchased from April Adams Fashions, Box 1624, Phila, Pa 19105. But this 'chest' is like squeezing a tennis ball (it is advertised as soft & pliable) and is rather hot. She says that the inserts and jelly kit put out by Virginia is the best.

Shirley (C)-25-W) writes that in an earlier issue of the FEMME MIRROR, we asked where our sisters hid their femme clothes. She uses tool cabinets which she keeps locked. And as far as hiding written material, she puts such material in a crowded file cabinet under an unrelated and uninteresting subject.

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

# The Editor's Mailbag



Dear Carol: It was so nice to meet you and your wonderful spouse at our chapter meeting. It seems that we all enjoyed chatting with you and we feel that we learned more about the SOCIETY and our sister chapters.

For the rest of you girls who read this in the Femme Mirror, there's news in the nations capitol. No, the President has not decreed that all men have to spend one day a week in dresses but something better has happened! DELTA CHI Chapter was officially born on the evening of September 16th at my humble apartment. Yours truly was elected (railroaded?) President, even though there were several more capable and deserving girls available. In attendance were Karen and spouse, Nancy; Nancy Jean and her spouse, Anne; Betty Ann, Joanne, Jan, Sandie and myself. Rosalind was there in spirit having to be out-of-town that evening and Patti, Dorothy and Rona are prospective members we hope to have at our next meeting. Sally Ann provided the refreshments, assisted by Betty Ann and Bea, who brought enough deviled-eggs to feed an army. And Nancy brought some delicious brownies for dessert. And Nancy saved my life when she heped serve things. And Karen, Nancy's spouse, signaled the right time to start by raiding the peanut jar.

In all we had a wonderful time and

the evening ended much too soon. Betty Ann and I are going to have a two-girl writing/inviting bee to try to bring in new members. We hope to grow and mature into a viable chapter that will provide all its members with the help, companionship and opportunity to be ourselves. We expect to meet on the 3rd Saturday of each month, Those who would like more information about our meetings, feel free to call 703-941-1210 and ask for JIM.  
Rita (MD-10-Mc)

(The following will show that our library cards to help people to locate us so that we can dispense assistance and counseling.)

Dear Madam: I obtained your name from the library and decided to write. About 3 months ago I met a young man at a friend's birthday party and it was love at first sight. I'm 30 years old and I've been married once. He is 29 years old, and very pleasant, handsome (even cute); he has a good job and I wondered why he wasn't married - alas - now I know. At first he tried on my prettiest panties, my night gowns & negligees, my pantyhose and my girdle. He even wore some to bed, but all this didn't bother me.

I'm trying so hard to understand his actions but I need help. If you don't help me I'm afraid that I may lose him because I am not always sure of what to say or do in certain situations. He said that other girls he has met were turned off by his crossdressing. Please someone - any anonymous person - tell me how to handle the situation in general.  
Ms. "V" (San Pedro, Calif)

Dear Carol: Just a note to tell you about a great experience I have had recently. You know, we all talk about what nice people we have in the TV world. Here is something of interest about two of them.



**FANTASY:** If everybody could do what they really wanted to do!!



SUZZIE (CA-41-B)

I have been out of the closet since January of 1977 when I joined the SOCIETY. Up until that time I had dressed alone and with my wife on a few occasions when the children were not at home. It was a problem, however, to keep my wardrobe hidden from them. The results were that I had wig boxes, suitcases and a foot locker hidden in various closets throughout the house. Not only was it hard on my clothes, it was a major project to find the right dress or wig when I needed it.

Well, about 3 months ago my wife and I met a nice couple. He is a TV and has been so for several years out of the closet. His wife understands him as Linda and cooperates with him 100%. At our first meeting the discussion came around to our wardrobe. When I explained my problem both of them had an answer. They have a spare bedroom in their home with a nice closet and a full dresser. They suggested that I bring over all my things and use their bedroom as my own. Since they have no children

at home, no major problems could be encountered. They even gave me a key to their house so that I could have access to my clothes when they were needed. For the first time, my clothes are in a proper place. Since the first meeting the four of us have shared evenings together as four girls and I have enjoyed every minute of it. We have found two real friends. ELLIN (OR-8-S)

Dear Virginia: ...It takes a lot of tolerance and understanding to make any marriage work, and if a woman doesn't have maturity she isn't going to be a good wife no matter who she "snags" to marry her.

I have come to the conclusion that practically all girls get married for personal reasons, whereas men get married because they think they have found the ideal girl. Once they are married and the personal goals have been reached (getting away from home, finding a meal ticket, to have children, or even to have a wedding ring to show your friends) then the girl takes a good long look at her life-time partner as he really is with all his shortcomings as well as his virtues. Her mind does a double-take! This is why women have the reputation of being fickle. Men may go through this double-take, but their goals were different (someone to cook, wash, clean, and sleep with as well as someone to come home to and to boast about). So men, in general, are quite satisfied during the first years of marriage and it is their wives who nag and criticize and, finally, divorce them. BERNADINE

Dear Charlene: Thanks for the letter. I've done most of my shopping in the same stores for awhile and the saleswomen are very understanding. They help me with sizes, colors and proper measurements.

Well! My problem with my wife is over after getting a letter from Virginia. She advised me to read "A TV and His Wife" again and understand it myself. I did this and felt that our relationship would withstand the shock. And she was

shocked! But she did read the books I have and the letters that I have from you and our family minister and now we have a very close relationship. We have helped each other to be better "women" and since we wear the same size we can share the same clothes. She is dieting to stay at OUR size and we love it. It took a lot of time and guts but we did it. I told her that I couldn't live a life of secret ways. She is so very important to me. I know who I am and so does she. She has also suggested our taking trips as girlfriends and she had me pierce my ears. I believe God helped me too. Now I feel that there is a whole new life to live as women with no guilt. Thank you for your help, too, Charlene, I needed your advice, too. I have made further steps to join the SOCIETY by ordering the UNDERSTANDING Book. I'm very heterosexual as I fit the mold the organization is built on. S.L. (Sacramento)

Dear Carol: I am hoping that what I have to say will be of help to some of our closet-bound sisters. The help, peace and happiness I have found through my membership in the SOCIETY has been beautiful; consequently, I feel that if I can pass something on that will help someone else, it is my duty to do so.

One of the important things that I have learned lately is that as a girl I must learn to enjoy the things my wife enjoys - if I expect her cooperation in making me a believable woman. It has occurred to me that we Tvs become so embroiled with the mechanics of looking like women that we forget the more important aspect of what a woman is.

I don't want to sound like a know-it-all because that is not my intention. I have been crossdressing for 50 years. About a year ago, I found Feinbloom's book, "Transvestites and Transsexuals" and realized that for the first time there are many men who have the same feelings as myself. I accepted the fact that the desire to crossdress would not be overcome so I should work to make it possible to really enjoy

my two worlds.

This involved gaining my wife's acceptance of my feminine identity. To a great degree this has been accomplished. In all honesty, she would rather that I not crossdress, but being a loving wife she recognizes my need and how much it means to me. She now makes helpful comments on makeup and shares her wardrobe with me. Fortunately for me, I can wear many of her clothes.

What I feel has made all this possible is that I try to anticipate HER needs and wants. I help her around the house and when I am all dressed up I do everything that needs doing as far as housework is concerned.

What I am saying is that putting on a dress, wig and makeup does not make a believable woman. All you have is a man in women's clothing - which seems to be what most Tvs want. But to gain the real value and enjoyment of being a TV we must learn to do feminine things in a feminine way. I am aware it takes effort and the putting ourselves in our wives shoes literally so that we can empathize with them.

Our wives spend 20, 30, 40 and even 50 years learning to be a woman. We can't expect to do it in 1 or 2 years. It is a continually growing procedure and worth the effort.

#### AN UNDERSTANDING WIFE:



Dear, I appreciate your fixing my hair for the SOCIETY meeting tonight. You're so understanding.

I would like to close by saying that if I could be of any help to the sisters I would be happy to do so. Just drop me a note in the mail.

## HERE & THERE

Girls! When you move, please send your Editor your new address. The problem your Editor has is that the large envelopes with your FEMME MIRROR are always sent back when you move (because we have asked for any new addresses) and it costs us about 55¢ at the post office and then an additional 28¢ to remail the envelope. How much better to have your correct address in the first place. Please don't forget!!

ADVERTISING: Virginia and your Editor are planning some very extensive national advertising this year. Last years advertising was pretty good and brought in over 250 requests for information.

USAGE OF GREEK WORDS: Please re-



Now MISS Jones, er, I mean, Mr. Jones, you don't really think that you can fool people into thinking you are a girl, do you?

member, gals, what the last issue of the Femme Mirror had to say about the use of the Greek words, Tri-Sigma; Sigma, Sigma, Sigma; and Tri-Sig. Since these Greek words (actually letters) already belong to a college sorority, we should not use them in ads, write-ups, interviews etc., but we have no objections to your using those particular Greek words "internally" among yourselves (correspondence between members, discussions between the sisters at meetings, etc) but whenever you supply the name of our sorority to the public, we ask that you use the name THE SOCIETY FOR THE SECOND SELF. We have given our promise that we would not use the particular Greek words in public use.

NEW APPOINTMENT: Due to illness, Dianna (CA-48-D) has had to resign her position as Regional Coordinator for Southern California. We wish to thank her for her work and enthusiam. In her place we will have NANCY (CA-116-W) who is very experienced in management work and should be able to carry on in the footsteps of Dianna. So, Nancy, the best of luck to you in leading Southern California on to greater things.

WE MADE THE PAPERS: Ruthann, (WI-14-L) recently read an article in the local weekly, ISTHMUS, which confused crossdressing with homosexuality. But, RUTHANN was on the ball and wrote an article to the Editor which was published later. In her letter, Ruthann made the distinction between those who cross dress for sexual reasons and those who do it out of gender discomfort. Your Editor will re-print her letter in a future edition of the FEMME MIRROR. But she did mention our name and address and since the weekly has a circulation in an area of almost 15,000 people, we should get some action soon. But you gals out there might take a lesson from Ruthann and write a letter to the Editor of any publication which confuses crossdressing with homosexuality. Let us know the details.