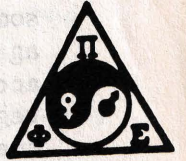




The Femme Forum



SEPTEMBER, 1971

Volume One, Number Thirty-One

Have you ever thought what an average FP was like, what made him the way he is and what are some of the components that have made up his life and experiences? Well, I have often thought about this and adding together some interesting statistics that I have gathered over a six-year period, I would like to relate the results in this report. Because of having the opportunity to look at over 1,000 categories, I believe that we should put these facts together and see what comes out. First of all, we should state that we are not trying to place anyone in a "pigeon-hole" as such, but merely trying to piece together what the average FP is all about. We should also state that using over one thousand applications, undoubtedly the most information (number-wise) that has ever been collected on the subject, we can conclude, with a good deal of accuracy, what areas of development and likes and dislikes the average FP consists of. So with this bit of information as a prelude, let's see what does make up our "average FP".

He was first attracted to some article of feminine clothing, something "silky" about age ten. Before this age most FP's don't remember, but many recall some associated interest in "Femme-things" even earlier. He was one of three children and felt some degree of envy toward a sister, playmate or cousin a few years older than himself. This interest started from noticing the difference in clothing and to some degree, ignorance of the physical differences that made up girls. The curiosity grew to experimentation with articles that were readily available in the bathroom or laundry. Upon trying on something feminine, usually undies, an excitement resulted and a pleasing sense was felt inside. Experimentation with more than one article developed with an increasing feeling of self satisfaction at how he looked as a "girl" and about age 14, some trial cosmetics were used, mostly lipstick.

Development as a boy seems to be fairly average except a definite desire to prove "being a man" by participation of sports of all kinds. The guilt feelings usually became quite pronounced in the middle teens with constant purges resulting, such as "never to do it again". Also, a good degree of confusion became evident in the middle teens regarding whether our average FP was "Gay" or not. The feeling that he was the only one in the world that liked to dress as a girl and strong feelings of sexual attraction toward girls caused periods of depression which were ended by some masculine feat being accomplished.

Mr. Average FP started buying some intimate articles of feminine apparel in his late teens as money became available and his tastes became more sophisticated. After high school he went into the service; the majority served at least two years

with "dressing" opportunities confined to leaves. The "desire" seemed to diminish somewhat while being in the service, but became more pronounced once a civilian again and with adult status. Dating was frequent and Mr. Average FP was well accepted by the ladies, although his search for understanding from his girl friends regarding his femme desires took him to many different girls. He told at least one person of his desires, usually a girl friend. The reaction of these "informed" people was mostly a "so what" type of thing, but little help or encouragement was ever realized. Mr. Average has one year and one semester of college education and is a business man or professional. The incidence of financial success seems to be about on the norm with most men. Our Mr. Average is thirty-five years old, married (once) and has two children.

He didn't tell his wife anything about his FP desires before marriage, although a large percentage, nearly one-third, did tell the wife-to-be, because he thought his urges would diminish or disappear after marriage. To his shock, the "desire" returned within a year of marriage and seemed to increase after that time. Secrecy was still maintained, but guilt, fear and depression built to a very high level. Mr. Average FP went to see a psychiatrist for approximately three sessions within two years after marriage, but was disappointed with the results and lack of knowledge on the subject. His pattern seemed to be one of buying complete feminine costumes, including shoes and some make-up. "Dressing" in these things whenever possible included "business trips" out of town.



After much agony with the realization that he either couldn't or wouldn't quit, he told "all" or as much as he knew to his wife. This very tense occasion took place about three years after marriage. The average reaction by the wife to her FP husband is one of some degree of understanding. At least permitting "dressing" while she is not present and an occasional "feminine gift" was received. It is interesting to note that the early FPE applications showed little acceptance by the wife and a helpful wife was usually the exception. With the last 300 applications averaged in, however, acceptance to a good degree is now normal and complete hostility is very much the exception. We could not include the 10% that have not as yet told the wife anything about FPism.

Our Average FP now owns several femme "outfits", including at least one fairly expensive wig and lots of accessories. He has gone "out" dressed several times but has become more cautious about exposure in recent years. He has met at least one other FP and has acquired several books and articles on the subject. He first heard of FPE by subscribing to Transvestia magazine and became aware of Chevalier Publications by reading an article or seeing a book which listed the Chevalier address. Our Mr. average FP is fairly stable now and is trying to integrate his femme desires into a normal, reasonably healthy life. There you have it; nothing

really new or startling, but a factual account of just what FPism is about these days. Our results should dispell much of the "professional conclusions" published in the past based on a few case studies with extreme patterns of behavior. If anyone has any more information(numerically) available, we are not aware of it. In conclusion, it should be stated that the most recent applications have definitely changed the complexion of Mr. Average, especially regarding age and degree of understanding from his spouse. However, trends do change and so has our average FP; perhaps a few years from how he will have long curly hair, dress just like his wife, have no hang-ups and become completely melted into the average "just plain Joe". But for now our average FP looks very average and blends into the norms of the "average male" in society.

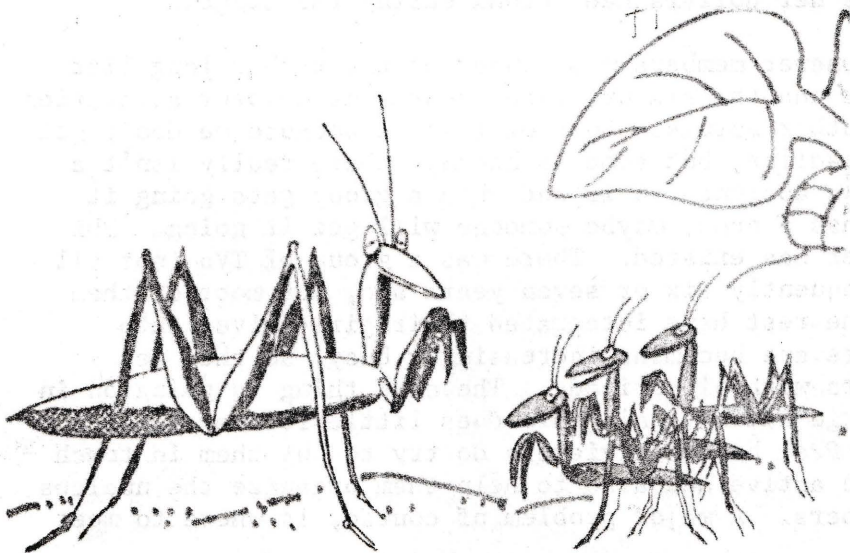
NEW MEMBERS ENROLEED

We have several new ladies to welcome into FPE this time, including Mary from England and Saskia, our first member in Holland. There are also some reinstated members that did not appear on the Annual Report membership list. So let's extend our congratulations to all of these gals and wish them the very best in life.

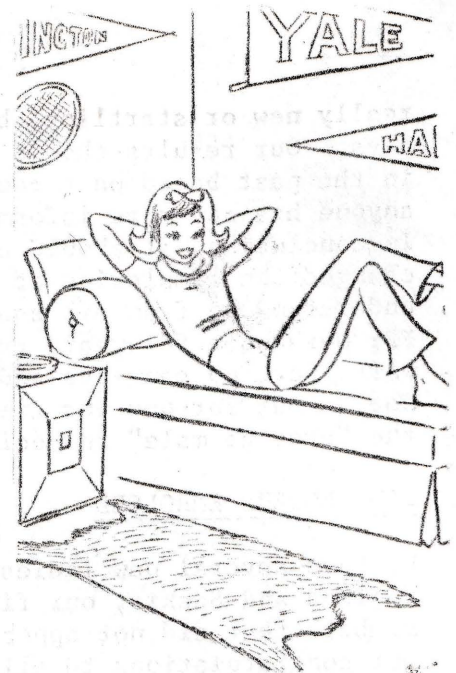
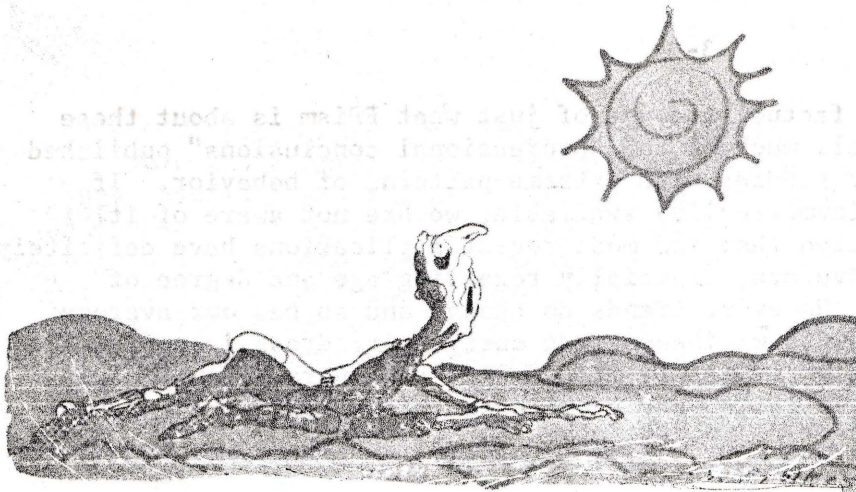
| <u>Region</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>District</u> | <u>Region</u> | <u>Name</u> | <u>Code</u> | <u>District</u> |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|
| 60 | Susanne | 39 W-4 | 063 | 600 | Frances | 13 L-5 | 600 |
| 70 | Linda | 30 C-4 | 088 | 600 | Mitzi | 13 C-3 | 611 |
| 142 | Hazel | 32 F-11 | 140 | 600 | Janice | 13 B-10 | 606 |
| 190 | Maria | 38 M-9 | 191 | 800 | Michelle | 6 M-3 | 814 |
| 210 | Fern | 51 A-1 | 208 | 800 | Joylynn | 6 C-3 | 800 |
| 440 | Beth | 35 H-9 | 448 | 940 | Linda | M5 E-1 | AP0 |
| 440 | Thelma | 35 R-6 | 440 | 940 | Tora Sue | 5 S-27 | 947 |
| 460 | Clare | 14 H-4 | 473 | 980 | Nickie | 47 N-2 | 980 |
| 480 | Paula | 22 B-7 | 470 | | Mary | FE-H-2 | England |
| 550 | Linda | 23 A-1 | 554 | | Saskia | FH-H-1 | Holland |
| <u>Reinstated Members</u> | | | | | | | |
| 70 | Fiona | 37 C-2 | 070 | 460 | Rita | 14 O-1 | 463 |
| 135 | Ella | 32 W-9 | 129 | 550 | Nancy | 23 J-1 | 553 |
| 210 | Gloria | 51 W-3 | 221 | 890 | Dorina | 25 D-2 | 890 |
| | | | | 900 | Sharon | 5 H-26 | 900 |
| | | | | 980 | Jennifer | 37 M-1 | 972 |

Correction

| | | | |
|-----|--------|--------|-----|
| 440 | Carla | 13 H-3 | 455 |
| 440 | Thelma | 35 R-6 | 440 |



"He thinks he's big & beautiful and should be elected Queen!"



"If I don't find a dress shop soon, I'll die!"

SHEILA IN MIRROR-LAND

Why don't more FPs go into library work? We certainly are reasonably literate, and most of us could reach the top shelves without those silly little step-stools the GG's use. All libraries have dimly lit areas, back among the exotic-language journals, where an FP could lurk if she feels herself becoming less and less glamorous as 5 P.M. approaches. Also, you could assure the management, in complete honesty, that you are immune to one problem that periodically depletes the staff - FPs absolutely never get pregnant! Perhaps I'm a little late with this suggestion, though. The Library of Congress recently reported on a survey of 750 law librarians. One question was "who are librarians?" and the answers were: 53% women, 36% men, 11% undecided. So maybe you are in there already? If so, I want you all to get real busy, and seed those card-files with cross-references to "The TV and His Wife" and "How to Be a Woman Though Male" by You-Know-Who!

"The average college man of today!"

Virginia spent a night with us in August on her way to Europe and we had a chance to catch up with her recent doings, get a first-hand report on her visits with people across the Northern part of the USA and argue a few debatable points with her. She left in high spirits for Stockholm; I hope it wasn't too much of a shock when she got off the plane and found that her dollars had shrunk during the night!

I'll say it again - Some of the newer members may wonder at the rather long list of chapters in the Annual Report and the six or seven reports of chapter activities under Chapter News in this and other Forums. Some of this is because we don't get chapter news items before our deadline, but some is because there really isn't a chapter there - the name has been assigned so if and when a group gets going it will have a name, and since it has a name, maybe someone will get it going. Phi in New Jersey, for example, never has existed. There was a group of TVs (not all of them FPE members) who met frequently six or seven years ago, but most of them have moved or dropped out and the rest have integrated their girl-selves into their boy-selves and the brothers are becoming increasingly busy, so they get along nicely on occasional visits with old friends. The same thing is going on in other areas, especially near large cities. All this does little for new members who need and want to meet other FPs, but Interviewers do try to put them in touch with the nearest groups that are active and also to help them organize the nucleus of a chapter with other new members. A major problem, of course, is where to meet

and who will pay for the motel room if no one shows up. No problems are insurmountable, some just take a little longer to solve, so if you have any suggestions, send them to us and we'll try to be a clearing house for ideas.

Foreign visitor note - We enjoyed a visit with Ellen from England, a Beaumont Society member over here on holiday before starting a new job October 1st. Brother came for dinner the night before he was to leave by Greyhound Bus for the West at 5 A.M. We arranged to put him in contact with some friends out there and hope he was able to meet them, bus and vacation schedules being what they are. We should be in touch before he leaves for England and get a first-hand account of his adventures.

And now for the news from FP land.....

Since there are never any chapter notes in the Annual Report, those of you who were late for May were just in time for September! And further, since Summer activity tends to be slow, that gives us news for this issue.

Omega - Joy Suzanne sent the initial report of activities in Region 740. With three girls in Tulsa and others nearby, they seem to be off to a fine start. A dinner party on April 24th at a posh downtown Tulsa restaurant celebrated the birthday of Myrtle Ann 36 M-1 visiting from Minneapolis. The brothers of Claire 36 F-1, Ruth 36 B-2 and Joy Suzanne 36 H-1 and GG's Rosemary and Mila Margaret made up the party. Afterwards the group went to the hillside home of Louise 36 P-1, visiting and really getting acquainted til the wee hours! The next evening Joy Suzanne and Mila Margaret entertained Claire and Myrtle Ann; and at an informal business-brunch on Monday, Myrtle Ann turned over the reigns of Interviewer for Region 740 to Joy Suzanne, so she can devote her time to interviewing in Region 550. On May 29th Ruth and Rosemary entertained the Omega Okiettes in their Tulsa home. They planned a gathering at Joy Suzanne's July 9th when Sally 43 S-5 and GG would be visiting from Houston.

Gamma - Gamma played hostess to Virginia August 5-9th, arranging a number of radio and TV appearances as well as time to visit with members. Dot followed up her talk on Transvestism as we know it to the HUB with one to the Daughters of Bilitis Chapter with gratifying success and is working on her presentation to be given to a more diversified audience. Eloise is now editor of Gamma Goodies and reports that the first Wednesday meeting in Providence every month will be Ladies' Night. A professional wig stylist will be present to style your wig while you wear it! Should be a wonderful opportunity for all.

"I'll be leaving
Mr. Wellington!"

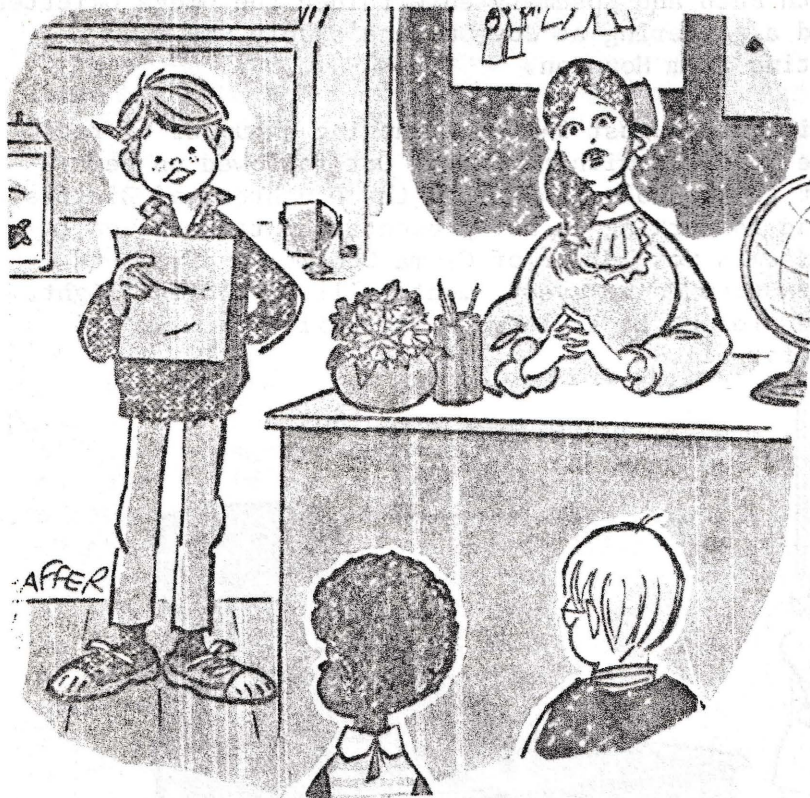


Lambda - May 22nd found the girls gathered in Seattle for a relaxed, fun evening in honor of Amelia Bloomer's 153rd birthday... (Marilyn says "I'm sure you will agree that it's altogether fitting that we do so . . . and, if you ask why, you're no TV!!") Brendalyn 47 B-3 is their new President.

Denver - Sigma continues to meet monthly. One night they went to a hairdresser to have their wigs styled, to a drive-in for hamburgers and then listened to the tape of Virginia's Seminar in February. In May they drove en femme to visit Wilma at her rural home in Northern Colorado. It was delightful to be able to wander around outside.

Kansas City - Eta Chapter reports "Summer has come and Eta Chapter has succumbed to normal summer dormancy. The only newsworthy item other than the normal weekly get-togethers involves an ex-member of Eta who has obtained a liquor dispensing card from the State of Kansas with a feminine name and picture without any false pretense.

Beaumont Society - An Inaugural Dinner September 24th at a hotel in London coinciding with Virginia's visit to England is the highlight of fall activity. They expect a large turnout, since each member may bring one guest (wife/girl-friend/mother) free. A group of London area members have banded together to rent a small flat where they can keep their clothes, meet informally and dress. They hope for more members, so they can afford larger quarters. The area representative system continues to be most successful and groups are forming outside of London. One member wrote sadly that she had finally found and joined the Beaumont Society just as the seven-week Post Office strike began - so for seven weeks she fumed, unable to contact anyone or be contacted!



"My Summer Vacation...I dressed like a girl every day!"

Rho - In May Rho met in Baltimore for their annual anniversary party, always a high point in their year. They are planning another week-end in the mountains about October 1-3 just before Virginia stops by on her way back across the country from Europe.

New Chapter Receives Charter

Sigma Phi has been formed in Florida. An organizational meeting was held in August and attended by Heather 7 D-3, Joan 9 B-4, Brenda 9 F-1 (formerly Candice), Donna 9 W-2 and Stephanie 9 L-4 (formerly Stella), and four interested GGs. Pauline 9 L-3 is also a member. Stephanie was elected President. The group first met with all the boys taking the GGs out to dinner and then the group returned to the meeting place and produced several new ladies. This way the GGs got to know both sides of the story Good luck to Sigma Phi.

New Interviewer Appointed

We are most pleased to announce that Jan 5 M-14 has been appointed Interviewer for Region 940, Northern California. Jan is a long-time friend and will do a great job in the busy region of 940. For those of you who have not been interviewed in #940 and still wish to do so, please drop Jan a note via us at FPE. Fran 49 C-1 will forward your introductory note to Jan.

Photographic Service

Lori 22 M-2 has offered to do color or black & white photographic work at special low prices for FPE members. She is a professional and will quote on work in advance. If anyone is interested, they can write to Lori through Contact or FPE. Be sure to enclose a description of the work or the film itself and authorization to give Lori your address so she can then respond directly.

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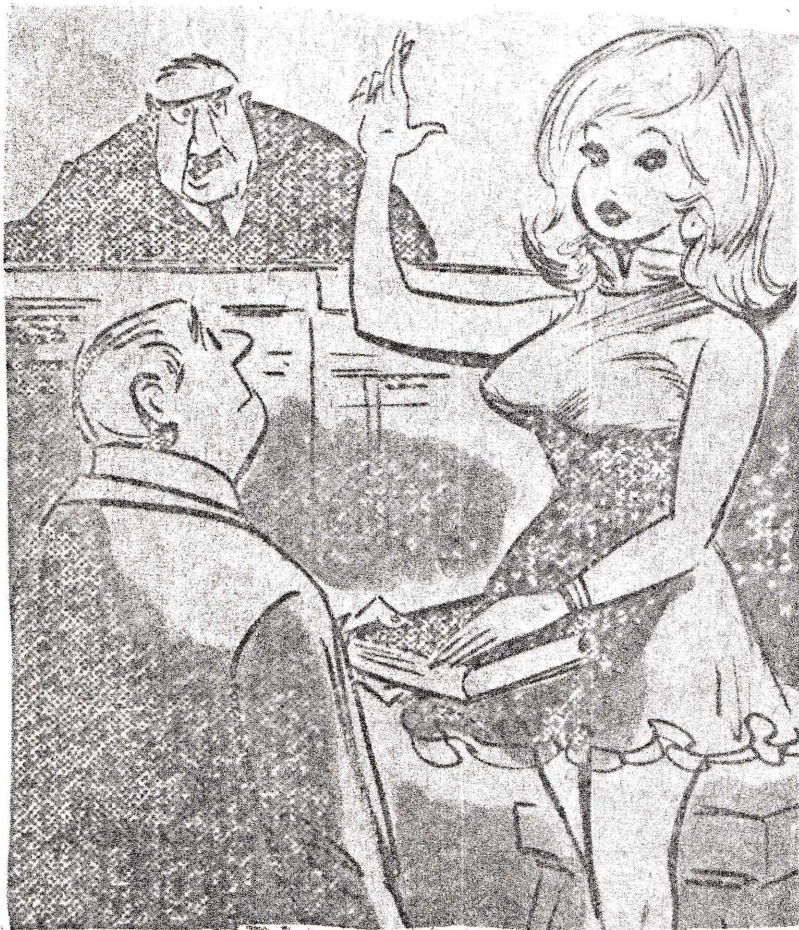
In the annual report we asked the question "What would happen to FPE if Virginia or myself could not continue to do our work in the organization?" We also asked for suggestions about the future of FPE, especially in view of the above question. So, as of this date, no one has responded with any thoughts on the question at hand. So I assume that no one has any ideas worth viewing. There was, of course, a few complaints and one or two criticisms about Virginia, myself or FPE in general, but not even one idea as to how FPE could be run or what steps could be

could be taken to perhaps re-organize things into less work for Virginia or myself or to make our organization more effective. Well, in view of the lack of interest in FPE perhaps your silence is an answer in itself. So, let me say that as your Executive Secretary I can no longer do all of the tasks required of this position and will have to do whatever is best for all concerned including myself. The job of getting this newsletter out is nearly impossible for me and collection of dues, as well as normal "critical" correspondence and general membership processing are just too much. So some radical adjustments will have to be made in the next month or two. You will be hearing more on this in the November Femme Forum.

Until then, enjoy yourselves, ladies!

Femininely yours,

Fran 49 C-1
Executive Secretary



"I swear I am not now nor have I ever been a girl!"

It was a very pleasant surprise to find that the...

I am sure that you will find the information...

The following information is for your reference...

It is noted that the results of the survey...

Further details can be found in the attached...

The data indicates a significant increase in...

Very truly yours,

John Doe

Enclosed for your information...