

PRES: William M. [redacted]
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Albany, New York
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NEWSLETTER EDITORS
Helen
and
Wilma [redacted]

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Saturday was a lovely day weather wise and to complete the day, the night brought all the lovely Sisters and some had their G.G.'s with them to make it a very pleasant evening. First I'll tell you about Isabelle, who came with one of our members Cynthia from Conn. For her first trip here and a first in hearing of Transvestites, she was a real cool lady. Isabelle, Gail, Betty, Kristine, Joyce and myself took our supper plates in the kitchen and had a wonderful talk session. Kristine and Joyce our two transexuals were really a joy to listen to with all their knowledge on the operation, the feelings afterwards their being accepted for who they are. I myself have learned a few things about the operation, which proves you can learn by listening instead of drawing your own conclusions about the operation. After last night, I can see where it comes down to the point where these girls have to have a lot of patience and will power to control themselves for the behavior of the people who do not understand and will not try to understand. I feel that most transexuals need this operation to ease their mind and find peace within themselves, no one but they know what torture they go thru to become what they desire to be. You cannot feel what some one body and soul goes thru unless you are in it. Each one of us has a secret goal we want to obtain and no one but ourself can do it for us. When we are hungry for food we get that gnawing feeling in our stomach and eventually we have to eat or get sick. The same goes for these girls, they want to be a lady so bad that their nerves tie up in knots, so for them their solution is the operation. All I can say is that I enjoy my Wilma for what she likes to do, and I enjoy the friendships I have made from all the T.V.'s and Transexuals who have come to our home, also the T.V.'s who have brought their wives nad girl friends here for me to meetand talk with, It is a vast experience you can only learn by being part of the group. I was glad that Isabelle had made the meeting, she was a pleasure to talk with, and we were glad she had asked questions of Kristine and Joyce. Some of the Wives who come for the first time are a bit shy to ask any of the questions that are on their minds, but believe me if you are concerned about what your Husband is and want to know why he is what he is, fire away and ask all the questions, and we certainly will try to answer you and keep your mind at ease, and that you will also know that they are many in number. So for a better life, happier home, open up and let your love for the man you married be complete. Take care of his second way of life and I'm sure he will reward you with all the love and affection you deserve. You can be happy when you make others around you happy. A happy handshake and a friendly smile is all it takes sometime

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The menu for the girls last night we had Roast Beef, Potatoe Salad, cole slaw rye bread& butter coffee, homemade pumpkin pie, carrot cake. All was cleaned up pretty good.

The girls here were: Joan and Gail from Granville, Isabelle, Cynthia, from Conn., Joyce from Conn., Paula from Mass., Elanda from Rome., Kathy from Syracuse Betty and Sue from Rochester., Francis from Henrietta., Joan from Colonie., Kristine from Clifton Park,.

Heres one for the books our new girl Isabelle took 6 rolls of 36 shots of pictures., some group and a lot of candid shots of the girls, we'll be looking foward to seeing them.

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This is a sad note: Donna who came from Conn. in March to join with our group went in the Hospital shortly after for surgery on a growth on her leg. Last month we received a letter from her saying the surgery was successful and that she would probably see us on April 15th. however she didn't make the meeting and we sent out the newsletter the same as we always do during the week. A week later we get our envelope back inside of another one and on ours was stamped deceased. We are all sorry to lose a member so fast, whatever happened did so in a few weeks time. God rest her soul.

We also had the news of Myrtle Ann Ma [redacted], Box 961 Minneapolis, Minn. 55440 passing on.

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A thank you to Linda [redacted] for copy of Hose & Heel Newsletter. It is good to receive allthe different newsletters, and be able to stay in contact with all the other groups. Looking foward to seeing Helen [redacted] and Ann in June.

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Hope to see some of the girls from Canada next month along with our steady flow of regulars here.

Peace and God be with you all untill we meet again.

Love to all

HELEN

H I N T S T O M A K E T H E B E T T E R W O M A N : (FROM OUR READERS)

**THE EYES:** The eyes are the heighlights of any face and they deserve a frame which emphaizes them. The beauty of naturally lovely eyes can be promoted and ordinary eyes can be greatly glamorized with the clever use of make up. The legnth and thickness of lashes are important factors. Gentle stimulation tends to make lashes grow. Use oa little eyebrow brush to brush your lashes upward for a minute or two once a day. You can make your lashes appear thicker and longer than they are if you will use eyelash culer before applying mascara. This will not break the lashes if you do not press to hard Your lashes should be clean and without any makeup when you curl them. The upward sweep of curled lashes will also make small eyes appear larger. Personally, I find a little tug of the lashes untill you hear a pop, it also lengthens them. Eye shadows come in so many lovely colors. I do not think the darker shades are flattering to older women, but the pastels are charming. In general, the blues, lavenders and light greens are especially becoming to the woman who has blue eyes while those whose eyes are brown can use the more vivid shades. DOREEN, L.I., N.Y.

Why dont you girls write me somthing for our readers ON WHAT WAS THE FUNNIEST EXPERIENCE you had while dressed. WILMA.

**S P E E C H :** The EEI newsletter have reported interesting and very useful findings of Dr. SANDRA FREEMAN, Chairperson of the Long Island University Speach and Theater Department, and Barbara Clayman, a speech patholgist. They are sumarized as follows:

1. Listening carefully to other people's voices will show that a large percentage are not overwhelmingly masculine or feminine.
2. When a TV is living in the feminine role her apperance reinforces her Acceptance as a woman.
3. Diminishing the forcefulness, volume and intensity of one's voice will not change the pitch, but will help create a more feminine reflection.
4. Although the average human voice range is two octaves, the average male confines his voice to one octave whereas the female is more inclined to use the full range of the speaking voice scale. What is your scope?
5. Listening to other women's voices in comparison with ones own might indicate to the TV that her voice does, or atleast can with alittle concentration and effort fall within the range of women's voices. (Don't forget Tallulah Bankhead, Lauren Bacall, etc., with their deeply resonant voices.

Here's an old story with a new twist: A busy-body GG was in the super-market one day, and couldn't resist being helpful - in spite of past rebuffs - when she saw that the very tall girl ahead of her in the check -out line was showing her slip ratherbadly. So she touched this gal on the arm and started off "Excuse me, but I'm frank..." and the large gal spun around held out her hand like a small frying-pan, and whispered "Glad to meet you, my name's Frank too!"

**T H P S O N S L I P S :** Under a black dress or one of the new brilliant prints, try a red slip or one of shocking pink. Under a blue dress a slip of softer blue looks marvelous and, also, looks chic under greys. SILVEA, HARIS, PA.

PARKING places aren't realy hard to find; look at how many people find them before you do.

**T E X T U R E D H O S E**

If your legs are reasonably slender, wear textured hose. For daytime ensembles, select tentured hosier which carries out the color of the suit, coat or dress, in a muted tone.

JOYCE, TWA TAWAS, MICH.

Who was that lady I saw you with last night? that was no lady that was my brother. He has a problem.

1st PERSON: "What a nice looking little girl"

2nd PERSON "Oh she is my son"

1. "Oh, I didn't know you were HER MOTHER.

2. "I'm not I am HER FATHER.

DO woman chase men? Well, to be concise, No more than a mousetrapchases mice.



# From Our Presidents Pen.....



I wonder... is TVism such a load? Is it such a tragedy to put up with? Is it true that many TV's go through life with the mark of frustration imprinted on their hearts... many feel that they are trapped in an unbreakable cage from which they cannot escape. But in many instances the TV himself is the manufacturer of his own cage? When we say that society frowns upon transvestism we are thinking of our associates in business, our family and friends... that's the extent of our "society" as far as our daily life is concerned. Now let's analyze our "girl within" we find that she'll stay contented with a once-in-awhile dressing session. In that case the TV is entitled to carve a niche in society pretty much like anybody else: standard job, wife, children and relatives. Things will flow fairly normally. But if the girl within is the demanding type, then this TV should realize that he can't have the cake and eat it too - therefore he must simply change "his society" and earn a living in a different activity, and look for an unconventional wife, forget about offsprings, and stay away from relatives. There is a great deal we could do to alter our private social life so that the circles in which we move will be of our own choosing and more friendly towards the girl within.

Let's take an example: There is a TV of my acquaintance who has definitely decided never to get married. He figures that two women in the same household don't mix. So he has his own apartment, carefully chosen as to landlady and finds himself in a position to dress whenever he pleases. Friends? Also carefully chosen... they all know he is a TV. Anyone who comes to his apartment knows and accepts his TVism. Girl Friends? (GG's I mean)... several... and each one knows about his "girl within," RELATIVES? HE leaves them out. FAMILY?. He left them all behind. JOB? Also carefully chosen TV-wise. He started as an employee in a ladies garment store and to-day he owns the shop. His employees, five GG's all know about his TVism. In other words he has created his own society, where he finds the acceptance that allows him to live without frustration and fear.

The problem stems from the fact that most TV's insist on belonging into a ready-made society in which they are unable to do any manipulating to satisfy their inner urges. The TV wants to be like everybody else around him, knowing that HE IS NOT like everyone else. So he creates for himself a world of make believe, which is a world he DOES NOT LIKE. He forces his personality into the conventional mold. To be a successful transvestite one must manipulate and plan so that one can end up in a world selected to one's own measurements. There are a few TV's who are managing rather nicely, The extra apt., the periodical "businessstrips," the TV friends, and even the non-TV friends. The shame of it all in this case is the constant lying and therefore the growing guilt.

(ANY COMMENTS)

I would like to seize this opportunity to invite any of you who are both willing and brave enough to submit guest editorials on any aspect of our mutual interests that you think might be interesting or thought provoking. You can check back on previous Journals for an idea of the length to make it. I hope some of you will take advantage of this invitation. I'm sure there are some with ideas worth expressing and I hope they will do so. If you get stuck for original ideas and find yourself in disagreement with me on one of my previous ones don't be hesitant, send it in. So do get out your trusty ball point or typewriters and get with it.

W I L M A

## MEMBERSHIPS

Samantha T. -- Memphis -- Tenn. 38112

I am pleased to announce the enrollment of Samantha. We all hope to see you in the coming months in person. And may you find many true friends among us.

## GATHERINGS

Our next gathering will be our Canadian night June 19th. NO gatherings in July & August. THE first fall gathering will be September 18th. So let's get these dates on the CALANDER NOW.

QUE: What do you get when you cross an owl with a duck?  
ANS: A wise quack.



# letters to the editor

Dear Wilma;

In your March Journal you asked for a response from all beautiful transexuals. I don't qualify on the beautiful but I'm responding anyway.

Firstly, I must publicly say thank you to JOANNE R. of Glens Falls not only for myself but for all of us who are TS's. The fact that you give a damn enough to write what you did makes me feel very good to say the least.

I must also thanks to LESLIE Q., of Boston for her comment on the letter I did on electrolysis. One thing I should say is that neither I nor anyone I know have ever had a sever a reaction to electrolysis as she described, I don't know much about GALVANIC ELECTROLYSIS but I can't help but suspect that you have extremely sensitive skin Leslie. Yes?

The very easiest part of sex-reassignment is the surgery itself. Sure it's painfull and all that but still easy in comparison with pre-op preparation and post-op adjustment. Now it would be ~~grxx~~ quite presumptuous of me to say anything here about post-op adjustment not yet having had surgery. So I'll leave that hopefully to one of my post-op friends to elaborate on. (ED. NOTE: O.K. all you post-op's haw about your say. Our readers would like to know)

In the 30 years prior to starting pre-Op preparation. I have, as have most other people, resolved to satisfaction a number of difficult situations and problems. None however has requiried as much effert and single minded determination that has so far gone into my preparing for sex-reassignment. If I were not a TS', I would quite probably be horrified by what I have already done in the past year and ~~an~~ half.

Keeping in mind the fact that one persons pain is another persons pleasure, and that degree of difficulty depends largely on the amount and quality of social entanglements as well as financial position, here are a few of the more significant things that must be done pre-op.

1. The decision that you can't go on as a male any longer and must go ahead with the following steps.
2. Seek out a doctor who is experrined in helping transsexuals.
3. If married, you must inform spouse of what is happening.
4. Tests and evaluations by doctor's.
5. Start hormone therapy. After several months feel chemical castration.
6. Counseling sessions (possible with wife).
7. Periodic physical examinations to keep track of effects of hormones on body functions.
8. Start electrolysis.
9. Accumulate and learn to wear the clothes a women really ~~wxx~~ wears everyday. They had better look good and be comfortable because you'll be spending a lot of time in them.
10. Got a bad facial feature like me a big nose? Have plastic surgery.
11. If married start preparation for divorce.
12. Begin informing those who must know of your impending change. Be prepared for a lot of hurt here.
13. Make arrangments with surgeon.
14. Make finacial arrangments for hospitalezation and surgery.
15. Begin living as a full time female.
16. Make arrangments for current & future employment.
17. Make legal changes, in name, legal documents, credit cards, etc.
18. If you've come this far, chances are that it is right for you but still think long and hard about whether you must take the next step.
19. POST TIME.

Well there you have it, 19 easy steps to being a woman. The magnitude of each is far greater than the description phrases I've used here and I'll leave to your reason and imagination the emotional toll each takes.

Does all this sound discouraging? Gosh I hope so. Many of the steps are irreversible and expensive so if it is not right for you, you've made some rather sad mistakes.

Each of the above items could be explined into a chapter but time nor space permits. I hope that one of my post-op friends will continue where I've left off. If not you'll have to wait 7 or 8 months for me to give the rest of the story. How about it KRIS or JOYCE or JAN?

Well gang the windmill of my mind have slowed to a dead stop so I think my pen had better follow suit. If anyone has any specific questions they would like to ask, feel free to write me. Bye for now  
LYNN M. [REDACTED], ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Marriage Connselor: "But, Madam, lots of men are wearing high heels these days - it's a trend-----"

WIFE: "yes, but in the BATH \* TUB?"

(how about that ELANDA, do you do that?)



'HURRY DADY, MOMY WANT'S  
'HER LIPSTICK BACK.

NEWS RELEASE

ATTENTION, FANTASIZER;

Have you ever wished that those rich,erotic, vivid daydream tapestries you weave could have as much value to others as they do to you? Well, you may have a priceless gift to offer science - a gift that could lead to greater understanding of transvestism and transsexualism. Somebody wants your fantasies.

Garrett Oppenheim, director of Confade, tells us that Tina [redacted] has joined their crossgender conseling group as a "participant observer" [redacted] specific interest in the erotic fantasies of male transvestites and transsexuals.

Tina is a doctoral candidate in N.Y. University's Program in Human Sexuality. With the cooperation of some of the top scientists in the field of cross-genderism, Tina is doing research for dissertation on male erotic fantasies and sexual identity. She is presently interviewing transvestites and transsexuals on their fantasy life. And you're invited! Interviewees report that Tina's understanding questions have given them new insights into themselves.

Anyone in the N.Y. metropolitan area who would like to tell Tina his fantasies should write to her at [redacted] N.Y., NY 10019.

WHY is it when I mention to Helen the thrill of crassing my nylon clad legs, she retorts, "That's Silly, they are only stockings." Only stockings\$\$\$ mmmmmmm

DEAR WILMA:

I especially enjoyed the letter published im the Journal by a sister who wrote about going out into public. You know this is also my line. I am enjoying it more & more & am getting more confident. I think - contrary to many TV'S I have talked to - that things are looking up for us and I dont even consider oudselves a subculture anymore. Society has been getting quite tolerant about so many things. I would say that TVism is actually not that different from anythingelse.

Besides we have everything else going for us, gorgeous wigs, fabulous make-up and a never ending supply of the most elegant clothes, so you can go as a well dressed lady or if you wish sloppy in jeans hair culers on make-up. It's so easy. As our sister mentioned in her letter women come in all sorts. There is really nothing to be afraid of. Rember if you do only a halfway good job people always have to wonder is she or isn't she?

Of course certain basic precautions will have to be taken. If you have a deep voice, don't talk, make your plans before hand so you will not have to ask or be talked to.

If you invade a shopping mall don't just walk around like a scared chicken, carry a small bag showing that you made a purchase at a store and look busy kooking at things. I never pay attention at others and if some cat decides to stare at me I give him a dirty look and go writeon with my business. Besides if you do ~~ix~~ this for a while you can learn how to scan any situation.

Strangely enough I do see many who dress nicely and do a fine job with make-up but they fail miserable when it comes to the act of being a female. Either they don't want to bother that much or they are simply lazy. Well girls if you want to join them you should do as they do it's a lot of fun.

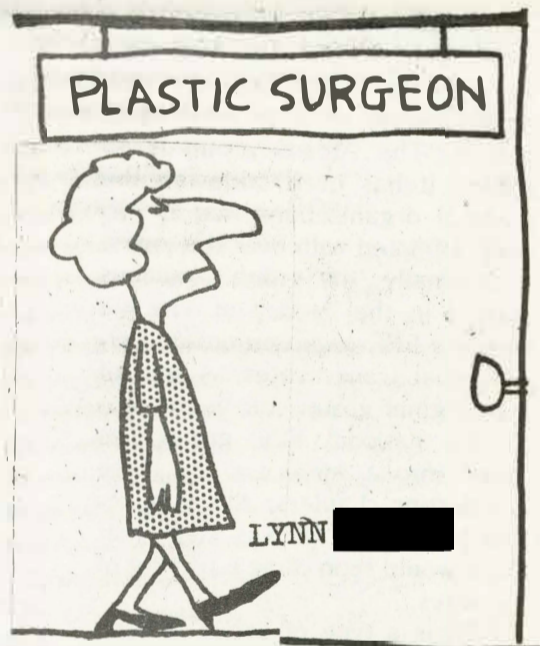
Myself I prefer being a lady and dress like a lady no matter how ~~many~~ many sloppy women are around me. I also like to walk like a lady and eat at Resturant's like a lady. You are surprized with how many things you get away with if you spend some time learning these basics and how muchm much more enjoyable your TV life will be. ELENDA M., ROCHESTER, N.Y.

Dear Wilma;

My favorit shopping item is shoes. Ijust love shoes, I must have over 50 pair. Sometime s it's funny to see the looks on the faces of clerks when a man asks to buy a pairof womwn's shoes yo fit himself. It is fery funnier when he gets up on a pair of 3 inch heels and walks ~~ix~~ very well in them.

One day I went into a store and asked to buy a dress ti fit me to wear to a party.

The women clerks had such fun finding one that would fit I'M 6'422 BARBERA , WISE.



By Andy Music of F.J. News

## SPOTLIGHT ON ALBANY

As my car sped through the seemingly endless ribbon of asphalt commonly known as the New York Thruway, winding as a snake from the city to the foothills of the Catskills, my mind drifted to all the unusual places where crossdressers have congregated, forming, as it were, a mobile subculture. It seems that almost every week, the scene changes — one weekend it is Albany, the next, Hartford, sometimes Philadelphia, Washington, or perhaps the Jersey Shore.

Crossdressers seem to rely upon their cars as much as women's clothing to express themselves, finding solace in numbers greater than one. Gatherings of TVs have occurred in a variety of places, some likely, others unusual; apartments in cities, homes in the country, farms, out-of-season resort areas, and bars. There is a certain breed of TV who finds solace and enjoyment in meeting with others to sit and chat.

One of the mainstays of the transvestite social network for almost twenty years has been the Albany TVIC group. This is one

monthly gathering that has withstood all the forces that contribute to the demise of other such social groups. The Albany group is so stable, it has even outlasted the national organizations that it has been affiliated with over the years.

Originally, the group's nucleus started in the heyday of Virginia Prince's FPE organization for heterosexual transvestites. A few of the original group still linger, but as the national FPE group has faded into a mere two or three clandestine chapters, Albany grew and blossomed. It was clear that there would soon come a parting of the ways.

FPE is a type of social sorority that has a very rigid structure and set of laws. Members had to be screened prior to joining, and guests at meetings were strictly forbidden except for a few exceptions. Group meetings were secretive, and blackballing members for improper behavior was common practice. It was clearly an organization that had its own eventual doom built into its governing policies.

When the inevitable split came

between the Albany chapter and FPE, there were no hard feelings. Times had changed and the group felt stifled under the rigid rules. Like a flower needing to reach for the sun and blossom, Albany needed to reach out and embrace other people who did not necessarily agree with the dictums of FPE.

That this was the right thing to do was proven by time, with the decline of FPE, and the rise of the Albany group.

The next affiliation came with Jamie ██████'s TVIC. To this day, the Albany chapter still bears the TVIC title, even though the national organization has faded into oblivion, beset by troubles, financial and otherwise. From here, the Albany group embraced a wide variety of individuals: transsexuals and transgenderists as well as heterosexual TVs, and all were enriched from the mingling of these diverse individuals.

That has been five years ago, but the fires of dedication and service still burn in the hearts of Helen and Wilma ██████, who have taken over five hundred crossdressers of

all types into their homes and into their hearts. Where many would have grown weary of carrying this burden for so many years, this remarkable couple has thrived on such a social milieu.

Fame of the Albany group has spread through the years, mainly through word of mouth. Members constantly bring in new TVs, who grow and mature in their femininity within the group and, in turn, bring in more fledglings. It is almost impossible not to learn something at one of these get-togethers, as the older members share their wisdom and experiences with their young sisters. At the same time, the youngsters add to the total vibrancy and energy of the group consciousness.

This constant give and take, combined with the lasting friendships that are developed from within this group, make it one of the most valuable social and learning milieus available to the crossdresser. Albany has become the mecca of the crossdresser world, and many TVs have made that long, arduous journey from the closet to that tiny oasis in upstate New York.

The newsletter published by the group is a gem in its simplicity; five or six mimeographed pages complete with typographical errors and cartoons clipped from magazines. It almost radiates the warmth that emanates from the hearts of Helen and Wilma. It is mailed to members all over the world, many of whom will never be able to attend a meeting in person, but who take solace in knowing that Albany TVIC is there. One can almost get the vicarious feeling of the group by reading through the newsletter.

## SPOTLIGHT ON ALBANY

The monthly meetings are conducted with decorum. I was warmly greeted by Wilma herself, an earthy, fun-loving person who minces no words, but has an intimate rapport with all the members of the group. As I watched her sitting in her easy chair during the meetings, I could see an expression of satisfaction on her face — almost a feeling of fatherly pride as he watches his children maturing before him. I learned that Wilma is a bus driver by profession, and I marvel at the tremendous amount of patience the man must have.

And then there is Helen, Wilma's wonderful wife. She might be considered the den mother of the group, as she listens to the members' problems and offers an occasional word of advice or encouragement. She tells me that she takes pride in her group and that through the years, everyone has been well-behaved.

### DEAR ABBY



### Transsexual problem

DEAR ABBY: About three months ago my son, who is 37, divorced and the father of two, introduced me to his fiancée—a nice-looking, intelligent, refined person. I took to her right away. (I'll call her "Agnes.")

My son told me that Agnes was a "transsexual." I never knew such people existed. Abby. He explained that she was born a male and lived as a man for 26 years, but always felt she should have been a woman. She had a sex-change operation two years ago and is now a normal woman, except that she can't bear a child.

Agnes looks as much like a woman as I do. Nobody would ever know she wasn't a born female. Anyway, I had a hard time accepting all this, but when I saw how happy she is making my son, I couldn't hold it against her.

Nobody in our family knows her background, and I don't want them to; but Agnes is going on a national TV show to tell her story. (She says it will help other transsexuals.) If she goes on TV, all our friends and relatives will recognize her, and I don't think I could hold my head up. My son says he doesn't mind, and he's considering going on TV with her!

Don't you think they should consider me and keep this whole thing a family secret?—  
ASHAMED

DEAR ASHAMED: Agnes' first consideration is to herself. If she and your son want to go on TV, it's up to them. Ask Agnes to tell you more about the transsexual phenomenon. Nature sometimes makes mistakes, but God has

divinely inspired men with the medical and scientific knowledge plus the surgical skill to correct them. Hold up your head. You have nothing to be ashamed of.

