

The Editor's Corner

By: Wendi Danielle

Hello girls, I hope all of you are doing well and enjoying the summer. I've been lucky enough to spend several weekends at the mountains lately and have thoroughly enjoyed the cool clean air up there. Judee and I spent the 4th of July at Mt. Graham near Safford, Arizona. We were at over 9000 ft. and, it was chilly enough at night to fire up the heater in our camper. This was quite a change from the 110+ deg. temperatures here in the valley. One has to admit though, that our nighttime temperatures. have been perfect lately for walks & evening swims. I've been doing a little of both lately.



As I indicated in last month's issue, Diane and I were guest speakers at another class at ASU in June. The summertime classes are not as large as the spring and fall ones but we were very well received and as time ran out there were several hands still in the air wanting to ask us questions.

This time I had some clues as to what to expect and felt very comfortable starting out the lecture. Diane was the show stopper though, in her mini dress and long tresses, quite a sight to see I would say. Wendi was the conservative and low key half of this duo, although I would venture to say that I was very tastefully dressed with a cream colored long sleeve blouse and a colorful blue and gold flowered skirt.

There were several high points during this talk that will stick in my memory for some time. There was a question from one girl about beard cover. My answer was that some of us shave very close, others have had electrolysis and then there are those who rely on the "Tammi Fay" trowel method of makeup application. Also, I got a number of astonished looks when in the discussion of hairdos, I mentioned that, "This is my own hair". I guess it was a little difficult to handle for some of them that my hair looks pretty much the same whether I'm in my masculine or feminine role.

I have to admit though that I do get "mamed" a sizable portion of the time when in the male persona since my last perm. Lets face it, how many men wear a shoulder length

"Semi-Afro" hair style. Androgyny comes easily for me now and when in the masculine role, I let those I have contact with choose for themselves whether to accept me as a male or a female during the times when I am androgynous. Those that have known me for some time accept me in the male role and those that I casually have contact in shops or eating establishments make up their own minds. The only times I have a little problem is when I am with co-workers and am addressed as a female, as in, "What would you like to order mam?" I usually go along with the roll that I am addressed as and most of the time this is not noticed by those I'm with.

I do get some strange looks in men's rooms and I'll never forget the little Japanese fellow who walked into a men's room when I was fluffing my hair. The restroom had two doors, one to enter and one to exit at opposite ends on the room. Also, there were no handles to open the entrance door once it was closed. Anyway, the guy came in and after looking at me doing my hair, was sure he was in the lady's room. He then tried like hell to get the entrance door open to no avail. Even after I said in my deepest masculine voice, "Is something wrong?", he still was not sure. As



Diane Raises a few eyebrows at ASU

I left the room he was standing at a stall across the room still shaking his head. I bet he had a story to tell his countrymen when he returned to Japan.

Now back to the ASU subject. After the class ended, we were escorted to a local ASU pub and had a few glasses of wine with Professor Whitam and several students. Our ASU evening ended with a stop for breakfast (it was now 12:30 am) at a Tempe Denny's (actually it was at the Superstition and Rural Rd.). I should know better by now that this is not a good idea, at least not at bar closing time.



Diane, Prof. Whitam and Wendi

Somehow there always seems to be some obnoxious drunk that "reads" us and then goes out of his way to let the world know that he disapproves of our appearance. Well, this was the case, or at least it started to occur.

This guy staggers in with a friend and from across the restaurant he proclaims "I won't sit over there with those Homosexual Queers!" His comments made several heads pop up and turn around looking for the offending sight but to no avail. We were not that noticeable and I don't think anyone accept maybe one woman, who's stares seemed to indicate that she was aware of our true sex. Anyway, the night manager was on his toes and forcefully indicated to the fellow, "Unless you can be quiet the police will be summoned to remove you, Sir!" After several tense moments the commotion settled down, the guy and his friend were seated in another part of the restaurant and everything was quiet and back to normal again. We enjoyed a hearty breakfast and ended the evening without any further incident. As a matter of fact it seemed as though our waitress was extra nice to us throughout the remainder of the meal. She was tipped accordingly and I would not hesitate to return to this place for a late night meal again.

The First Lady's Notebook

By: Diane

Some time ago I had an argument with a friend about the similarities between men and women who crossdress. The issue was whether a double standard really exists. He argued that, "Women may dress in pants and men's clothes, may have very short hair and work in traditionally male jobs virtually dressed as men, but if a man tries to go



out in a dress, there could be real trouble!" Often the reply to this is that women wear men's clothes for other reasons than men who crossdress. They wear them for fashion, convenience, comfort, etc. After considering the argument however, there may be more to it than meets the eye. The argument may be distilled into three basic issues. The first is, what do we mean by crossdressing? The second is, do women do it for the same reasons as men? Finally, is there really an inequality between females and males who crossdress? Crossdressing is very simply a term used to describe a person wearing the clothing of the opposite sex. A crossdresser may wear the clothes for a variety of reasons, have any sexual preference or be either sex. But, when a woman puts on a pair of pants or a man's shirt, is she expressing a cross-dressing urge? Not always. Usually, she does not want to be a man, feel masculine or want to pass as a man. Men and women in the past have both been victims of pressures in society to bow to the mores and conditioning of their own sex. To crossdress is to escape that conditioning, those "supposed to's" of manner and appearance for just a while, that stress of trying to be the stereotypical man or woman. So, crossdressing for the purposes of this argument is dressing in the clothes of the opposite sex, knowing that in fact those clothes were not made for one's own sex. It was a relief just a couple decades ago for women to finally be allowed to wear more masculine (less feminine) clothing. There was the androgyne movement, "bra burning", escape from the constraints of society's narrow rules. Women wanted to dress as they pleased, among the other causes that they fought for in those years.

As women have had masculine feelings which they need to express, men have certain feminine ones. We lucky ones, so-called femmephiles, have found a way to get in touch with these feelings. A femmophile is one who has a love for femininity and generally expresses it through crossdressing. But for the most part, society still has trouble dealing with men in feminine clothing. In magazines, "crossdressing for success", is intended for women. However, in the 1980's men who desire to dress as women seem to be more abundant than in the past and want to publicly express their feminine desires. Old stories of men dressing to be women, or crossdressing for sexual reasons should no longer be taken as the universal reason. Men who crossdress do so for many reasons but,

one link may be that men often crossdress to experience or express femininity and to escape certain masculine pressures.

In our subculture women and men generally crossdress to escape certain confines society has placed on their gender and explore feelings formerly exclusive to the opposite sex. This is not to say that all women who crossdress give up all their femininity any more than all men that crossdress lose their masculinity. The point is that men and women have both feminine and masculine desires bottled up inside themselves, and cross-dressing helps to express these desires.

A woman may want to wear a pair of pants for convenience or, a man may want to wear a skirt for comfort. The problem is that he can't go out in public like that. A woman has no need to pass as a man just to crossdress in public, but if a man wants to put on a dress, makeup, high heels or wear his hair in a feminine manner and go out in public, his safest bet is to try to pass as a woman.

Remember when so many women were bound daily by tight girdles, bras, stockings, dresses, garter belts and layers of clothes, not to mention shoes with three inch heels? It must have been a true relief to be able to escape these traditional confines of femininity. But it is these types of things that may free a man temporarily from the stress in his masculine lifestyle. Many women enjoy mixing masculine and feminine styles. It is not uncommon to see a woman wearing a masculine suit or a masculine blue jean jacket offset by feminine jewelry, makeup or shoes. Women's fashion can express feminine and masculine feelings simultaneously! Cross-dressing in today's society is much easier for women than for men. Some women have shed a feminine personality and taken on a tougher, more masculine one, and their apparel shows it. A woman may dress as a man from head to toe, have a masculine haircut, no makeup, and act in a masculine manner and scarcely raise an eyebrow. But, if a man is feminine in public he may be called a sissy or queer. There seemed to be no middle ground for a man until the 1960's, when things loosened up a bit and men could add feminine touches and long hair to their appearance.

In conclusion, the act of crossdressing can be as simple as putting on a shirt or blouse belonging to the wardrobe of the opposite sex. Although it may be done to facilitate anything from a sex change to making a fashion statement, both men and women des-

erve the right to crossdress to experience feelings of masculinity and femininity as needed. Society has a double standard for crossdressing and women currently have the advantage. This inequality does exist and our society must develop more tolerance to male crossdressing in general as it gains in popularity.

(ED: Although Merissa and Diane have slightly different opinions on this subject; see Tapestry #48, "The Fashion Argument", there does exist a common bottom line in that people should be more tolerant and respect the desires of others.)

Chapter Update

by: Terri

The June meeting at Terri's was an ice cream "Sociable". Present to feast on three flavors of ice cream and numerous scrumptious toppings were Diane, Wendi and Judee, Rosalind, Terri, Kay, Ericka, Mae, and Vanessa. As we proceeded to trash our figures and really put our girdles to the test, we were entertained by a video tape of "Les Belles de Trackadero", an all male ballet troupe, and also a collection of music videos of drag performances featuring David Bowie, Divine, Freddie Mercury and Paul Jabbara.



In the business meeting, it was decided that we advertise in the New Times weekly for a month again, and maybe do some advertising in Tucson as well, since we do have sisters in the "Old Pueblo". There are also rumors of perspective new members who even now are trying to scare up enough courage to attend a meeting. Be patient, it's a real big step for some, remember?

Do try to get your dues paid up. If you are so obliged, mail your checks to Diane or to Terri or simply hand them to Terri at the July meeting. We'll take it from there. Show that you are an active caring member. Even the nicest pair of nylon stockings needs something to hold them up!

In but a few short months, some interesting special events will be taking place. From October 16th to the 25th, the 13th annual Fantasia Fair will be held in Provincetown. See Wendi for more details. From November 11th to the 15th Tri-Ess will once again hold a "Holiday En Femme" in San Francisco. Participants will stay at the Hotel

California and "Tuition" is \$25 for Tri-Ess members, \$55 for non-Members. Our own Diane is involved in the planning of this event. There also exists the possibility of a couples convention right here in Phoenix early next year.

Also at the meeting, Rosalind reported to us on the "Be All You Can Be" weekend she recently attended in Cleveland. There were 156 participants listening to the presentations on topics varying from the psychology of transvestism to how to select clothes. Rosalind returned to us with her new found knowledge, not to mention a dreadful cold.

Diane and Wendi completed another successful speaking engagement at ASU, which should be pretty well educated by now. Maybe they might next be seen at De Vry Institute of Technology, speaking on the topic "Your Career in TV".

(Ed: Sometimes Terri gets a little carried away but I let her go within limits, otherwise, I'd have to write this column myself.)

Treasury Report

Balance as of 5/29/87.	211.32
Paid out	0.00
Income	30.00
Interest	0.97
Balance as of 6/30/87	242.29

Reminder of Dues

As most of you girls know the annual chapter dues are due July 1st. The dues for Alpha Zeta are \$15 per year. This fee also includes this newsletter. Please make your checks or money orders out to "Alpha Zeta", or you may pay in cash. Submit your dues to Terri or Diane, or send them to, Alpha Zeta, P.O. Box 8425, Mesa, Az. 85204. **Help support your local sorority chapter Girls.** Those of you that fall more that 3 months delinquent will not receive meeting notices or the newsletter so lets get those dues in now.

Also, for those girls who have not yet joined Tri-Ess National, the start-up fee (for the first year) is \$30. See Diane or Terri for more information, or write, Carol Beecroft, P.O. Box 194, Tulare, Ca. 93275.

National Events

"Fantasia Fair"

There is still time to get your reservations in for this event but don't delay too much more. The fair looks like it's going to be a

sellout and it also promises to be another high point for the year. See Wendi or Diane for a copy of the brochure. The 13th annual "Fantasia Fair" will take place on October 16th through the 25th and the address is:

**Fantasia Fair
Lincolnia Station, POB 11254
Alexandria, Va 22312
Atten: Eve Goodwin**

* * * * *

"Holiday En Femme"

This event will be the national convention for Tri-Ess. It is being planned in part by our own Diane and will be in San Francisco, Wednesday November 11th, to Sunday November 15th. The event is a learning and entertaining experience with several days and nights filled with activities. It's location alone is a great vacation spot and the chance to visit this wonderful city "En Femme" is a thrill we all deserve. For more information watch this newsletter or contact:

**"Holiday En Femme"
c/o Alpha Zeta
Po Box 8425
Mesa, Arizona 85204**

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"1988 I.F.G.E. Convention"

Work is now progressing on the next I.F.G.E. convention to be held in Chicago next year. In Merissa's words, this year's convention was our "Let's get our act Together" convention, next year's theme will be, "Let's Accomplish Something". The dates will be February 23rd to March 1st 1988. Look for more information in future issues of this newsletter, or write to:

**I.F.G.E.
Po Box 19
Wayland, Mass. 01778
(617) 358-2305**

Writer's Corner

This column is included so that any authors out there who would like to be published are welcome to submit their works and see the results of their labors in print. Terri's short story concludes this month, so here goes girls. Now we'll find out, "The rest of the story!"

"The Joke" (continued)

by:Terri

Marcia was about to get me off the hook by suggesting we just head home, but Bill interrupted her with, "Yeah, how about a few drinks at Stuart Anderson's? There's a dance floor and everything." "I'm afraid I can't dance too well in these shoes", I said, and that was certainly the truth. "It's OK, it's all slow stuff," Bill answered. "Great, I love it", Chuck said, "Let's go". So we found ourselves on the dance floor. I had to ad lib a lot, so I just let Chuck lead wherever he wanted to, which was into trouble! I had to watch his hands at all times, fearful that he might try to grab one of my boobs and bust one. Every time we close danced and he pressed in close, I was thinking, "Pretty soon he's gonna get a faceful!" Fortunately though, I just gurgled occasionally, covering for it by saying my stomach was growling. Five numbers went by and as we went to sit down, Bill took me by the hand and said, "Let's dance". The music was real slow and all the wine we had was slowly taking effect. I kind of just relaxed on his shoulder and moved from side to side. That seemed to satisfy Bill for a while. Out of the blue he whispered into my ear, "Martha, I've got to tell you that I've been wanting to hold you like this all evening. I think you're a beautiful, warm person and I want to get to know you better. I think you understand, can I call you next week?" I was stunned. Here was Marcia's boyfriend trying to ask me out, while Chuck was practically throwing himself at me all night! It would serve her right, I thought, if I took Bill away from her. Then I thought, wait a minute! What am I talking about? I chose the words carefully. "Bill", I said, looking him in the eyes, "I know what your getting at, but Marcia's my best friend and I couldn't do that to her. I'm going to forget you ever said anything and you'll never see me again, because I'm moving out to L.A. next week." "Too bad, we could be good together, but I admire your frankness and respect your friendship, so I won't interfere". We returned to the table, had one more drink, and left the place. Chuck, realizing he was running out of time, asked if he could see me tomorrow because he could only stay for the weekend. To be consistent I gave him the same story about L.A. and said I had to start packing. We got out of Bill's car and the boys walked us up to Marcia's door. Bill gave Marcia their usual kiss, and Chuck following suit, cupped my face in his hands and gave

me a long, deep, full kiss on the lips. "I'll never forget this night", he said. "neither will I", I said. The other day Marcia came up to me, pulled me aside and giggled," You know the other day Bill asked me if I'd heard from Martha lately, and if I'd received any mail from her from L.A.. I don't know why he said that". "Neither do I", I shrugged. "And one other thing. Speaking of L.A., I got a postcard from Chuck the other day. He's in L.A. but he says it's not all he hoped it would be"."Can't imagine why", I mused.

THE END !!!!!

Local Events

The July meeting will be at Wendi's home on the 18th of July. This month we will be having a light barbecue if there is such a thing, so please bring you own choice of main dish to cook on the grill. Salads and veggies will be provided by the hostess but it's going to be a BYOB if you desire any libations.

The evening will be mainly a social event with no specific addenda for the formal meeting. Later, if any dare, we might venture to the private community pool down the block for a quick dip. The pool's usually deserted after 10:00 pm so bring a suit if you'd like to try such a daring adventure.

The evening will start at 7:00 pm but if you would like to eat earlier feel free to come over any time after 5:00 pm.

Food For Thought

This month we are featuring a breakfast or coffee time treat that is so easy to make that a 5 year old could do a great job at preparing it. The dish has several names but here we will use the name that Judee uses. She tells us that this name was derived from the fact that you are supposed to pull off pieces with your fingers as do the animals it is named after when they eat.

Monkey Bread

- 2 tubes refrigerator biscuit dough
- 1/3 cup chopped pecans (or Walnuts)
- 1/2 stick butter (or margarine)
- 1/3 cup brown sugar
- 3/4 cup white sugar
- 2. tsp. cinnamon

Cut up biscuit dough into 1/4 circle wedges, coat with 1/2 c. sugar & 1 tsp cinn. (shake in plastic bag). Melt butter in sauce pan and blend in remaining white sugar, cinnamon, and brown sugar. Place pieces of dough in a bundt pan and cover with sugar mixture. Bake at 350 deg. for 25 mins. Let cool 2 mins, invert to platter, cool 10 mins, ENJOY !

Classified

Wanted - Phone answering machine (for our hot line).

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Po Box 4351
Scottsdale, Arizona 85261

Some Recent Photos Of Our Girls



Diane, have you been pumping iron lately?



Ericka



Vanessa



Mae



Rosalind



Diane & Vanessa



Kay