

our Special JOY



Tri-Ess Sorority

CHI DELTA MU

Metro

Vol. III, No. 2

CHAPTER

February, 1983

Chapter Promotion & Activities

...The results of the questionnaire received as of early February are found on P. 7 of this newsletter. I think that we all share many of the same concerns about the Chapter, and that several of these will be addressed at our February 12th meeting.

...I have received two requests from organizations not affiliated with TRI-ESS to publicize their activities in the newsletter and at our meeting. For a number of reasons I've made the editorial decision not to do so; if the membership feels differently, please let me know.

...We are making March "TRI-ESS Library Month". In with your March newsletter you will receive several of our "library cards", and all we're asking is that you deposit them in the card catalogue of libraries near you. Where else would a spouse who is loving and "just found out" go for information on the subject of transvestism and crossdressing. And, Carol Beecroft says: "As good as the library cards are, having actual books on hand is still better. Why not hit the campaign from two angles? Have them not only put library cards in the library card catalogues, but also donate several books on crossdressing to the libraries. I will sell at one-half of the retail price the following books: THE TV AND HIS WIFE, UNDERSTANDING CROSSDRESSING. The way it works is that individuals send a letter to a library and ask them if they will accept the books for their library. If so, the Sister sends me a check or money order (the Chapter will pay for this), for the special price plus the 1st class postage and I send the book directly to the library along with a letter. I will make sure that our name and address is inside the books. This has been done several times and I think that it will produce even more potential members".

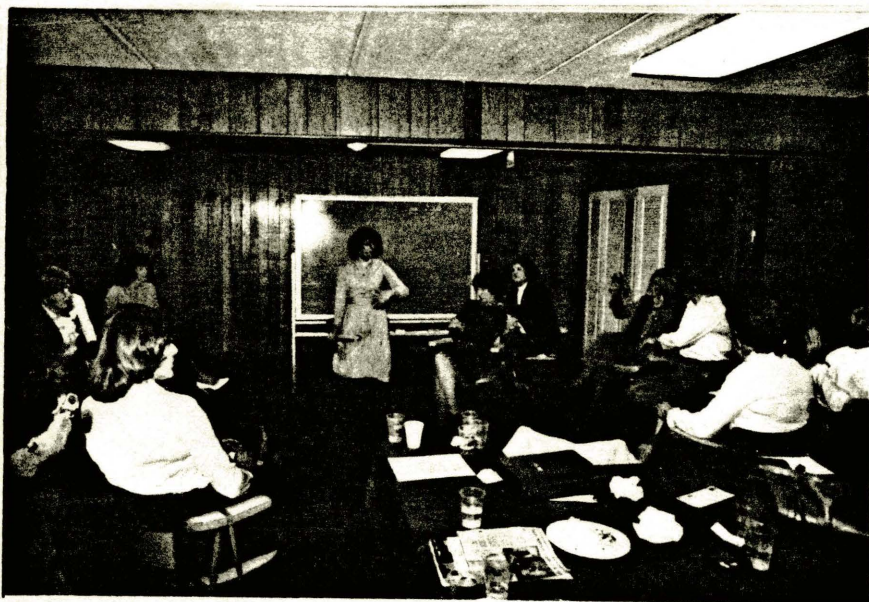
...We are very pleased to announce that Dorothy (NJ-1-G), has joined the staff of OUR SPECIAL JOY to help us in the area of Photo Reproduction. Dorothy is very talented in the area of photography, and is working on ways to eliminate shadows in pictures due to facial hair. She will be helping Nora Helene and our other talented photographer(esses) improve the quality of pictures for the newsletter. This is one more example of a Sister with a particular gift using it for the benefit of the Chapter and the other members. Imagine if everyone did that?

(continued on next page)

Chapter Promotion & Activities (continued)

...The TRI-ESS National Convention will be held in New Orleans at the end of March, beginning of April. Contact Carol B. if you are interested in attending.

...Edith Marie (NY-319-W), has a number of books and cassette tapes which, Edith says, "I can either ship the books to you or, preferably, you can let me know who wants to borrow which and I can send the book directly." I hope that Edith Marie will accept the position of Chapter Librarian. I'll have a listing of these items in next month's issue of the newsletter. If you would like to donate a book to the Chapter, please let me know. Something like a complete Chapter Library will be a definite asset for us, especially for new members.



...The Chapter now has an active Publicity Committee which is chaired by Eileen, who says: "The members of our newly - formed Publicity Committee are Wilma, Jana, Claire, Yvonne, and Marlene. We are recently formed and just beginning to organize. In the near future we hope to expand our notoriety in newspapers and magazines." At our January meeting Eileen (pictured left), related her and her family's recent television and radio experiences. (photo: Patricia)



...Attending our largest meeting yet were as follows. Frances (seated on floor), 1st row (l-r): Marlene, Nora Helene, Priscilla, Yvonne, Bev, and Wilma. 2nd row: Patricia, JoAnne, Eileen, Carole, Marilyn, Felicity, Joan (NY), Mary Jane, Claire, Jana and Dorothy. See next page for details. (photo: Patricia)



Meetings

As mentioned earlier, our January Chapter meeting was the best yet in terms of attendance. We met in Westchester, and will hold the February 12th meeting at the same spot. In attendance were: Marlene (NY-314-B), Frances (NJ-10-B), Nora Helene (NJ-202-C), Joan (NY-9-F), Lynda (NJ-F) and wife Marilyn, Patricia (CT-8-G), Dorothy (NJ-1-G) and wife Bev, Eileen (NY-11-J) and wife Priscilla, Janet (NJ-K) and wife Marge, Felicity (NY-16-M), Mary Jane (NY-206-M) and wife Agnes, Yvonne (NY-R) and friend Vickie, JoAnne (NY-S), Claire (NY-208-S), Carole (NY-207-S), Jana (NJ-304-T), and Wilma (NJ-300-Y).

Agnes and I had not attended a meeting in a while, and it was very good to be back to see old friends and make new ones.

Eileen and Priscilla talked about their recent media experiences. There was general agreement that we must pursue our publicity effort to overcome the ignorance which the general public has concerning crossdressing. Eileen stated that although she could not go into details at the meeting, she is working on other publicity projects for us. We now have a Publicity Committee, and if you could not make the meeting but would like to work on this effort, let your Editor know and I'll put you in touch with Eileen.

It should be noted that Felicity raised a valid point concerning publicity. Those of you who have met Felicity know that she passes quite well, and ventures out often. Felicity said that too much publicity will have the general populace "too educated". Folks everywhere will be looking for TVs ("is she a he?"), and that our efforts may backfire on us. This is something which the Committee should consider. Perhaps we need to define what we mean by "publicity", and how do we achieve our objectives.

Our March 12th meeting is scheduled for New Jersey, although we doubt that it will be held in the "usual" spot due to the growth in attendance. Wilma and others are looking for comparable quarters as we have in Westchester: a motel room for those who need to change, and a small conference/reception room. We hope to have details available for the February meeting. If you are interested in attending the March meeting, please fill in the form provided below and send to: Ms. Patricia Gallagher, P. O. Box 158, Old Greenwich, Ct. 06870.

Remember, the Chapter meets the second Saturday of each month unless otherwise notified. There is a \$10.00 meeting fee which covers refreshments and the motel. There is NEVER a charge for your wife or girlfriend.

NOTE: ALL KINDS OF "GOODIES" WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE BY MEMBERS. A "LUNCHEON PARTY IS BEING PLANNED FOR THE MARCH MEETING."

Food For Thought

THE GIFT by Sheila (CT-102-W)

How many of us I wonder, have ever stopped to think, in a POSITIVE way, about the "woman within us". For me this mystery has been, as I am sure it has for nearly all of my "Sisters of the heart", an almost never ending succession of negative thoughts from a very early age. Then about three years ago, something very special happened to me from within. I don't mean to suggest that my feelings about myself changed instantaneously. It took some time, and even to this day I am still learning. But gradually, and with much help, I began to think about my "feminine side" in a very gentle and open way. It wasn't an easy thing to do. All of those old negatives kept creeping in; guilt, shame, fear, hurt, confusion, rejection and the rest. My sisters know them all too well.

Much to my surprise, I found in time that there was a positive aspect for every one of those old negatives. I have long since stopped finding the bad things about my feminine self and doubt that there will ever be an end to the discovery of good thoughts about "her" for me.

And so it should be for all of us no matter what our problems may be. After all, WE did not make ourselves the way that we are. In fact, it is becoming ever increasingly more evident that our families and life circumstances may have had little or nothing to do with the development of our second selves. I am not saying that our second self may not have been influenced to some extent by our upbringing and or childhood experiences, for in fact many of us, myself included, know very well that we may never have become consciously aware of our feelings had something in our childhood not triggered them in the first place.

For those of us who have been fortunate enough to have access to fairly up to date written material on the subject of gender identity, we are aware that there is a fair consensus among the experts in this field, that genetics may have much to do with this phenomenon "we" know as transvestism.

Genetics! you say? Well I admit that possibility was a real shocker for me too! And here is where the positive thinking comes in. We know fully well that no one (so far) has any control over our individual genetic patterns. No one except God! That's right dear Sisters, God made us, EACH AND EVERY ONE, just exactly the way we are right now. This being the case, which it most definitely is, then what we have perhaps believed to be a "curse" or emotional disturbance, turns out to be one of the most amazing mysteries of human nature. Yes, God does work in serendipitous ways, and ours is not to question why, but to accept with gratitude the gifts that have been given us and to share them.

Think about it kind and gently Sisters. Think about your feelings. Let them drift softly through you. It isn't just the lovely soft clothes that we all so adore. They are only ONE of the MANY benefits of being the way that we are. They are the outward expression of our innermost selves. The REAL woman within thinks and feels and loves in much the same way that our biological Sisters do. Yes, oh yes! That woman within me who is NO LESS than half of my total being, is ALL WOMAN, and loves every minute of it! And what a wonderful gift we have been given! It IS "our special joy". And like all of God's gifts, it is meant to be shared with one another. One of the most beautiful passages in the Bible bids us share our special gifts: "No one lights a lamp to put it under a bucket, but on a lampstand where it gives light for everyone in the house" (Matt. 5:14 & 15).

So shine my Sisters, Shine! Love it! Live it! Enjoy it! And most of all share that gift! Not only with those, myself included, who love and understand you, but especially with those who DO NOT understand the many, many reasons why God has given us "the best of both worlds" as a "very special" gift!

"Expert says it shows our secret desire to switch roles"

"...Dr. Hebert Z. Francelli told the EXAMINER: 'We would all like to change sexual identity, if not actual gender, even the most macho and feminine among us. No matter how secure we may believe we feel in our own sexuality, there is a secret yearning in everyone to step over the line at some time and find out for ourselves if the grass is greener on the other side. The movie 'Tootsie' permits us to live the experience vicariously through the actor, Dustin Hoffman. And that of course is the very safest way.'

...(Dorothy Michaels)... 'What surprised me is that at 45 I've spent a lifetime observing women and didn't know how they feel.' Hoffman admitted that playing a woman realized a lifetime ambition, but it was more complicated than he had expected. The Academy Award winner's success in the role of Dorothy isn't at all surprising to Francelli. 'It's just part of the fascination the public has with crossdressing,' he said. 'Keep in mind that this is not the first time an actor or actress has scored a triumph as a crossdresser. It's been going on since before the time of Shakespeare and some of the world's most popular stage and screen idols have dressed as the opposite sex for unforgettable roles.'

...The southern-California family counselor said that crossdressing isn't confined to the movies and stage, nor to homosexuals. 'Because of accepted clothing styles today it's quite easy for women to get away with dressing in what not so long ago was considered to be strictly male attire', he said. 'But a surprising number of men, executives to truck drivers, secretly wear frilly feminine underthings to work and to social gatherings under their outer clothing. Or they wear feminine clothing at home, often with the full knowledge and cooperation of their wives. Yet these are people whose romantic relationships are absolutely heterosexual. They merely enjoy crossing-over. The phenomena is more common than you might expect, especially here in California.'

-----National EXAMINER, February 1, 1983

Treasurer's Report

Beginning Cash Balance
(1/1).....\$299.56

Receipts
Meeting fees.....170.00
Membership (new).....50.00
Membership (renewal)...10.00
Total.....230.00

Expenses
Motel.....97.59
Refreshments.....46.50
Postage.....34.60
Total.....178.69

Ending Cash Balance
(1/31).....\$350.87



A most warm welcome to CHI DELTA MU to the following ladies who have joined us in January: Joan (NY-9-F), Janet (NJ K), Yvonne (NY-R), Jana (NJ-304-T), and Sheila (CT-102-W). We are confident that you will be glad to be one of us. Sisters whose dues are payable in February are: Janet Lee (NY-303-F), and Suzie (NJ-G). Thank you Felicity (NY-16-M), for renewing with us, and we ask that all members who are behind on their renewals to please renew. Annual dues are \$10.00.

Research

*Dear Ms. Moran:

I am a PhD candidate at the Institute for Advanced Study of Human Sexuality in San Francisco. My dissertation topic is a study of women who are in relationship with a man who, sometimes, wears women's clothing.

Little is known about such women. What is known either comes from the man, or from women who are in therapy situations. I want to get information directly from the women, so that their feelings and thoughts can be expressed without being diluted. I am making a national request for women who are willing to take about an hour to fill out a detailed questionnaire. Complete anonymity is assured. The completed questionnaire will be returned in a post paid, pre-addressed envelope. While my questionnaire contains personal questions, I am not asking for any information that would identify the sender. The completed questionnaire will be seen only by myself. My final report will combine the responses in such a way that individual responses can not be identified.

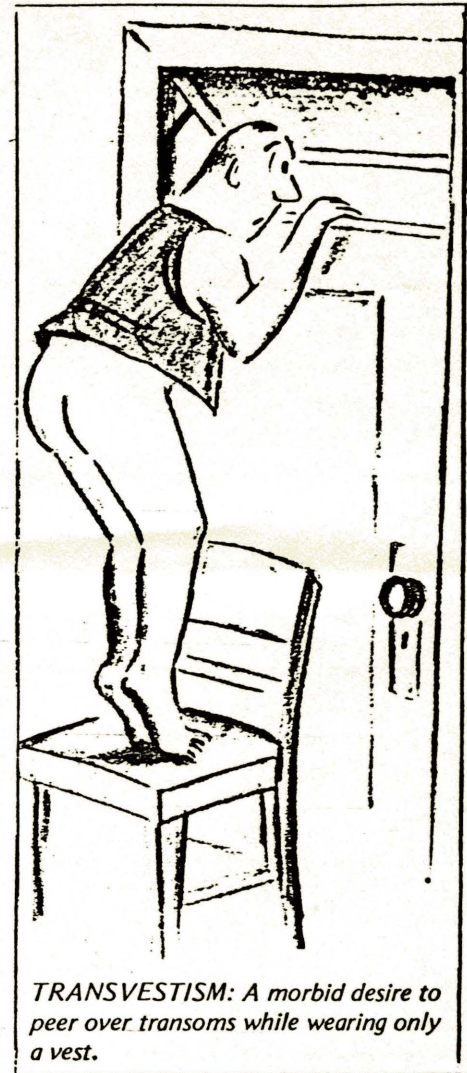
There will also be an opportunity for the research participants to be interviewed directly, if they wish to do so. Such an interview will allow me to gain more insight into their feelings and situations.

My intent is only to describe and from that description, learn more about women who relate to men who crossdress and also more about the relationship that they share. I have no intention of providing therapeutic or etiological explanations about crossdressing nor of providing therapy for the respondent.

I want to gather as diverse and varied a sample as possible. Your Chapter of Tri Sigma has the potential of helping me reach many such women. I would appreciate it if you would place my request in an upcoming issue of your newsletter, Our Special Joy, asking that any women who are interested in participating in this important research contact me at the below address for a copy of my questionnaire.

Thank you,

P. O. Box 4887
Poughkeepsie, N. Y. 12602



(FEMME MIRROR, Apr-Ju, 1980)



	5	4	3	2	1	TOTAL
1. Chapter meetings have been well-planned.	# 3 % 30	4 40	1 10	2 20	0 0	10 100
2. The newsletter provides Chapter members with adequate material.	# 6 % 60	4 40	0 0	0 0	0 0	10 100
3. The Chapter should promote the auxiliary group, "For Couples Only".	# 2 % 20	0 0	3 30	4 40	1 10	10 100
4. Considering the area we cover, we should become one regional organization, with more local Chapters.	# 1 % 10	2 20	0 0	3 30	4 40	10 100
5. The organization of the Chapter as it is now is satisfactory.	# 2 % 20	5 50	1 10	2 20	0 0	10 100
6. The Chapter should offer more services: shopping guides, special events, etc.	# 4 % 40	6 60	0 0	0 0	0 0	10 100
7. We should have more frequent meetings.	# 1 % 10	4 40	2 20	1 10	2 20	10 100
8. A more private meeting place, other than a motel, should be found.	# 5 % 50	2 20	3 30	0 0	0 0	10 100
9. More counseling and referral services should be provided by the Chapter.	# 3 % 30	7 70	0 0	0 0	0 0	10 100
10. The Chapter should have an elected slate of officers.	# 5 % 50	4 40	0 0	1 10	0 0	10 100
11. There should be special committees for specific purposes: to plan meetings, welcome new members, etc.	# 6 % 60	3 30	1 10	0 0	0 0	10 100
12. The newsletter relating Chapter activities and other items is needed.	# 8 % 100	0 0	0 0	0 0	0 0	8 100
13. Efforts to bring more wives/girlfriends into more Chapter activities are necessary.	# 5 % 50	4 40	0 0	1 10	0 0	10 100
14. An important objective of the Chapter should be publicity of the Sorority and its goals.	# 6 % 60	4 40	0 0	0 0	0 0	10 100
15. The promotion of local contact with Sisters who live near one another should be pursued.	# 6 % 60	3 30	0 0	1 10	0 0	10 100
16. Chapter activities such as the lending library and mail forwarding are needed.	# 3 % 30	5 50	2 20	0 0	0 0	10 100

- 5 = Very important, strongly agree
- 4 = Important/agree
- 3 = No opinion or feeling on this item
- 2 = Not important/do not agree
- 1 = Very unimportant, strongly disagree

*preliminary - as of 2/5/83
27% of membership has responded
more in March
Our Special Joy MAN*

Looking Forward**COURT RULES CITY MUST NOT DISCRIMINATE**

Femina, N. Y. February 26, 2023 (Combined Dispatch)

The U. S. Supreme Court ruled today that this upstate New York city of 22,000 can no longer bar residence to anyone regardless of their preference in attire. Femina, known for permitting only crossdressers and their families to live within its boundaries, had fought the case for four years. The community's basis was that no resident wanted to sell their property, so there really was no case.

Mr. John Birdswell, of New York City, wanted to move into a house he says that he inherited. But the matter was disputed by Femina, claiming that the property should revert back to the city as the former owners, Pam and Tammy Birdswell, have died. The property would have been auctioned to qualified applicants who want to live in Femina. Birdswell said that his Aunt Pam and Aunt Tammy's only child, Sammi, now preferred to be called Sam and had no interest in the house. He said that he is now the rightful owner, and is anxious to move into the home on Lace Lane.

"I have no problem living with crossdressers. They are very nice people", stated Birdswell. Mayor Patricia Gallagher said: "We are law-biding people, and we will, reluctantly, obey the law". In her eighties, Mayor Gallagher continued: "It really is a shame that Birdswell has persisted in this matter".

Mayor Gallagher related that in 2019 Birdswell showed-up at the Mayor's office asking for permission to move into his aunts' house. Birdswell, who was dressed at the time, apparently didn't fool Mayor Gallagher. She said that Birdswell was really not a TV.

"He wasn't wearing a slip, a sure give-away", recalled Gallagher. Birdswell persisted, and now has finally won his case through the courts.

City Treasurer Mary Jane Moran was uncertain as to what the financial impact will be on the community as a result of the decision. "Back in '09, when the court ruled that we had to have urinals in all public buildings, we really suffered. Why it cost \$1,930,681.35 just to install the one in the rest room at Felicity's Garden next to City Hall. We had to replace it two years later because the pipes rotted out from lack of use".

Other concerns were cited by both residents and non-residents alike as a result of the decision. Mrs. Fred Custer lives in Denver, some 20 minutes from Femina by aerocar, but does most of her shopping here. "I just don't know what will happen, but I hope that things will not change", said Mrs. Custer.

She was busy discussing hemlengths with Sue Parsons, owner of Sue's Nails and Pails, when the decision was announced over the air. "I turned to Sue and said, 'I'd hate it if you had to leave. I don't want to buy Fred's junk in Joe's Hardware in our town. Why, Fred is always telling me to get this or that at your place because Sears is out of stock.'" Ms. Parsons said she was not worried about losing her business because of the ruling, but was concerned with the overall impact on the city in the future.

(continued on next page)



DISCRIMINATION BAN

However, Marlene, the owner of M & M's Motel off the Boulevard at Nora Helene Court, said that business is doing just fine. "With all the tourists we get in Femina, I'm sure that we'll survive. Why, we have just added on to the Darling Wing of the motel, and we're booked solid for the next three months".

"Out in New Femina, California, they permitted the open purchase of homes and businesses five years ago. It really did nothing for them, and soon Georgette's Foundry became New Fem Found. Very tacky. Things went downhill quickly", said Ms. Parsons.

The city's Planning Board apparently has similar concerns, for they said in a report prepared last year that: "The main arterial in and out of Femina, Pumpkin Boulevard, was rapidly developed. There are on the average two lingerie shoppes, four dress boutiques, and five beauty salons per block. The ability of these businesses to survive under open market conditions is questionable".

Founded some thirty years ago, this busy community is used to change. Mayor Gallagher quipped how crossdressers were once looked down upon by society, and that a lot of effort was required to overcome prejudice and ignorance. "Look at us now. Our taxes are the lowest in the State, no wonder why everyone wants to live here", stated Mayor Gallagher.

Police Officer Joan Debbs perhaps best expressed Femina's reaction to the ruling when, speaking from her pink aero-patrol car, she stated: "I just hope the Birdswell will at least get into the community spirit of things and wear a ball gown at the annual Founders' Da affair".



Those of you who have attended our meeting know that we are most fortunate to have several members who are quite adept at photography. Patricia (CT-8-G), has been most generous in sending out to you pictures which she has taken of you at the meeting. Well, attendance is growing. It is only fair that Patricia not foot the bill for postage. Beginning in February, if you want pictures taken by Patricia, send her a stamped, self-addressed envelop: Ms. Patricia Gallagher, P. O. Box 158, Old Greenwich, Ct. 06870. Again, we are very lucky to have Patricia perform this service for us.

Berry's World



Thanks, Felicity

I'm requesting that all members who have not yet done so to please complete and send in the questionnaire which you received with the January newsletter. It is important that we have as large a response as possible so that we can identify the direction which the Chapter will take in the future. Your opinions are important!

OUR SPECIAL JOY

Editor and Chapter Treasurer: Mary Jane (NY-206-M)
 Production/Distribution: Nora Helene (NJ-202-C)
 Photo Reproduction: Dorothy (NJ-1-G)

ADDRESS:

 Poughkeepsie, New York 12602

First Meeting

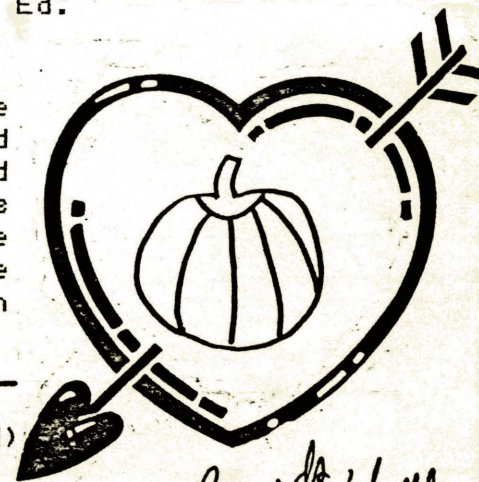
"Attending your January meeting was a revelation of sorts. Afterward my wife said she had never attended a party where she enjoyed meeting the other guests so much. I was surprised to find such an interesting mix of backgrounds and interest in the membership. We were both impressed by the manner in which we were immediately made to feel welcome. I think Eileen put it best when she said that you are an above-average group of people, outstanding members of your respective communities. I thought to myself afterwards that I had never been in the company of so many interesting and sociable people who so quickly accepted me into their midst.

Yes, we enjoyed ourselves, but that is not so remarkable in itself. The fact that we enjoyed ourselves while I was crossdressed is what made this a positive and valuable experience for both of us."

Your friends,

Marge & Janet

And a very warm welcome to you both. I'll say this for all of us: you both added to the pleasantness of the evening, and I hope that your experience will help others to decide to come to the Chapter meeting, and bring their wife or girlfriend. Ed.



*Best Regards,
 Mary Jane.*

