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NO. 3
\$2

A black and white fashion illustration of a woman in a long, elegant gown. She has a high, rounded hairstyle and is holding a small clutch bag. The signature 'Vick' is visible in the bottom right corner.

Vicky



Mardi Gras '72

The Tiffany of
DRAG BALLS
watch for it !

489-1348

DRAG

A MAGAZINE ABOUT THE TRANSVESTITE

VOLUME 1

NUMBER 3

DECLARATION OF GUILT

Signed by Pastor Martin Niemöller at the Council of the Evangelical Church in Germany, October 18, 1945

"In Germany, the Nazis first came for the Communists and I didn't speak up because I was not a Communist.

Then they came for the Jews, and I did not speak up because I was not a Jew.

Then they came for the Trade Unionists and I didn't speak up because I wasn't a Trade Unionist.

Then they came for the Catholics and I was a Protestant so I didn't speak up.

Then they came for ME... by that time there was no one to speak up for any one."

To make sure this doesn't happen again the injustice to anyone anywhere must be the concern of everyone everywhere.



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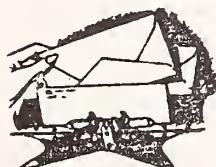
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Official publication of

Q U E E N S

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Go Away Little Girl

Recently a dear friend of ours brought to our attention the fact that the gay clubs in New York bar drag queens. A new club that opened with the help of your editor has now decided that the drag queen and tv should not be allowed. Another bar, a former tv place stopped the drag, went straight-gay and now wants the queen back as business is bad.....

How do we fight such obvious prejudice? Should we not go back to places that have barred us previously or should we force ourselves upon them?

We get calls nightly from tvs and drag queens who want to know where they can get together. We have to say we're sorry, but in New York there are only two places that cater to the drag scene. One is a semi-private club, the other exclusively private.

However, until cross-dressing is made legal these clubs and bars have the right to exclude the drag. We can't do anything about it until the criminal aspects of dressing is taken away. The only thing we can do is yell a lot and try to embarrass the clubs as they continue to say, "Go away little girl, we can't allow you to stay." ■



He's wearing his wife's best dress



Hope I win the contest!



Your wife called.



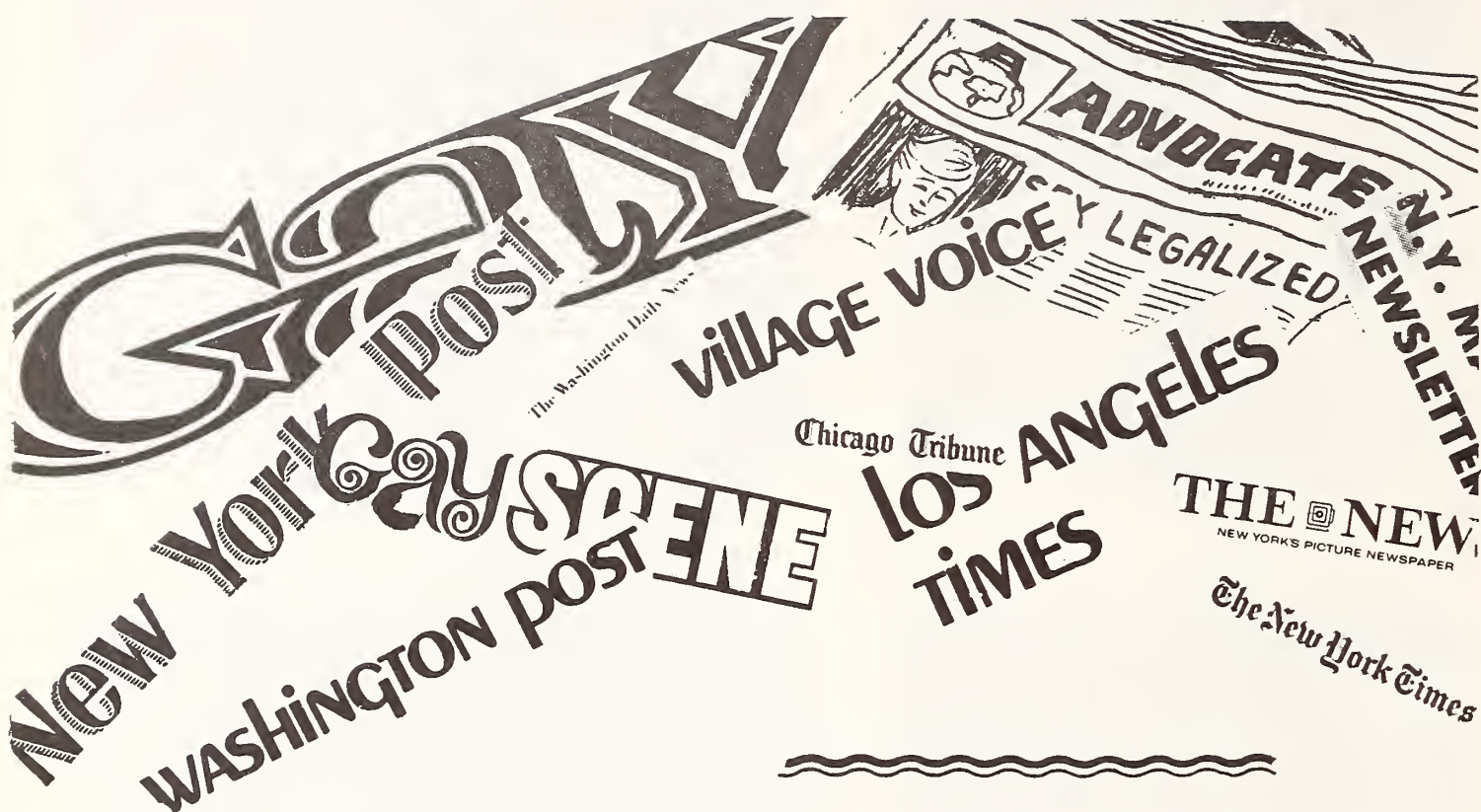
Are they really guys?



Dressed for the first time.



And tomorrow we'll be back in pants



NEWS

NEW YORK

Dr. Frank Kameny, the first homosexual to run for congress was questioned by members of the Queens Liberation Front in regards to his anti-drag stand. Dr. Kameny, according to an article in the Advocate, reputedly preferred not to have the drag queen help in raising funds for his campaign for the government office. When confronted with this, Dr. Kameny stated that it was not so. "I actually went to a drag ball and had my picture taken with two drag queens. "However, I did call the press aside and requested that they not take pictures of the drag queens, as not all homosexuals were that way and it wouldn't be fair representation." Evidently Dr. Kameny prefers to think that the drag should still

remain in the background and brought out only on special occasions such as fund-raising.

SAN FRANCISCO

Producer Paul Gregory in association with the American Conservatory Theatre, presented Dame Judith Anderson in the title role of William Shakespeare's Hamlet, under the direction of William Ball. The production opened to a three week engagement at the Geary Theatre in San Francisco.

One of the most distinguished actresses in the English-speaking theatre, Dame Judith has long been a major figure on the Broadway and London stage

as well as in films and television.

This was, apparently, her DRAG debut..

WASHINGTON, D.C.

Whoever would have thought that Christine Jorgensen would figure in this years election and as a result people get their minds off the high cost of living. Spiro Agnew's apt discription of Sen. Charles Godell (R-NY) as the Christine Jorgensen of the Republican Party was a master stroke, a perfect followup to the labelling Goddell a 'radic-lib' which to some naive, confused voters suggested a form of sexual aberration. Christine requested an apology, and received international publicity. Miss Jorgensen believes that even if Vice President Agnew does not apologize to her, he may be more careful in the future about using a private citizen's name in political speeches.



Christine Jorgensen
New epithet, old politics

NEWSWEEK (1/4/71)

Theodore Roszak, author of "The Making of A Counter-Culture," says "Talk to any psychiatrist and he'll tell you that one of the major sources of sickness in our society are men fighting down their femininity and women fighting down their masculinity."

LONDON:

Sex change operations costing \$220 each --paid for by taxpayer -- are on the increase in Britain, an expert in treatment of sexual deviants said.

He was commenting on a disclosure by a Sunday newspaper that seven men have been changed into women in Britain during 1970.

A senior official of the Albany Trust, a charity organization which works with homosexuals, said, "There are a growing number of people with transsexual problems seeking medical advice. It would be outrageous if such operations were only available privately."

DEAR ABBY:

Abigail Van Buren recently reported the letter from a mother who's daughter had fallen in love with another girl.. a female transsexual, who felt herself to be a 'man imprisoned in a woman's body, and was contemplating a "Christine Jorgensen" operation in reverse. Abigail, who has been a free-thinker of late told her she must accept her daughter as she was if she loved her. She then quoted Freud, who in his famous Letter to an American Mother: "Homosexuality is assuredly no advantage, but it is nothing to be ashamed of, no vice, no degradation, it cannot be classified as an illness: we consider it to be a variation of sexual functions produced by a certain arrest of sexual development."

ATLANTA

The famous Centaur Club has been closed and Mrs. P's has halted gender impersonation acts.

TALLAHASSEE

Several male homosexual transvestites held a drag-in at a gay bar in Tallahass-

ee, Florida which refused to allow their admittance. The action was the culmination of weeks of hassle between liberated gays in the area and the bar which had been working with Gay Liberation Front of Florida State University for some time. As a result of the bar's discriminatory policies, GLF broke ties with the bar.

MIAMI

ANGELA KEYES DOUGLAS WINS COURT BATTLE

TAO founder Angela Keyes Douglas won a court decision in Miami, Fla on December 18. She had been arrested and charged with 'wearing the clothing unbecoming to his or her sex.' The charge was dismissed by the judge who felt it was a 'bad arrest.' Legal action against the city of Miami for restitution may be taken. Douglas is a preoperative transsexual.

DRAG LEGAL IN D.C.

Public transvestism is fully legal in Washington, D.C. (Be sure to visit Lincoln's Memorial and the White House.)

BIRMINGHAM, ALA:

Since Mr. Sid took his case to court, no harassment has occurred in regards to 'dressing' in this southern town.

MIAMI: GAY MINISTER TRIES TO SILENCE DRAG ARREST

Pastor Brad Wilson of the Miami Metropolitan Community Church attempted to silence the arrest of a pre-operative transsexual. "To fight the arrest would bring trouble for us all," said the gay minister. He threatened to turn all mail responses sent to the transsexual over to the federal government. The MCC-Miami received hundreds of dollars from drag benefits. (reprinted from TAO News-letter)

NEW LONDON, CONN

A homosexual backed by the Connecticut Civil Liberties Union, is going to court to challenge the State's refusal to reinstate his drivers' license. (ED. This could be enforced against transvestites, hetero or homo. that's why we must unite for greater strength.)

TALLAHASSEE:

Tallahassee police have taken a progressive and enlightened view of transsexualism after arresting Angela Douglas, who was in the area to lecture at Florida State University. Charged with 'disorderly conduct', the charges were dropped and she was released with full permission to live as a female in the area. A lecture on transsexualism and transvestism was given to Lt. Peacock, Sgt. Beagles, a couple of policewomen who discussed male chauvinism with her, and the police chief. Tallahassee is Florida's state capital and Angela hopes to be able to meet the new governor-elect, Reuben Askew (his daughter is also named Angela) who was attacked by defeated Governor Claude Kirk as being 'sweet-looking and a mama's boy.' during the election campaign. Angela hopes to have a special identity card similar to the one issued by the Center for Special problems issued by the State of Florida for transsexuals.

LOS ANGELES

Welfare assistance to transvestites was cut off recently in Los Angeles. The directive does not effect transsexuals, according to officials as erroneously reported in several publications. A letter campaign in protest has started. Write to Joseph L Winkler, 3401 Rio Hondo, El monte, Calif. 91731. Winkler was the official who issued the directive.

NEW YORK

16 male members of the Congress of

Racial Equality picketed the Apollo Theatre in New York recently, charging that transvestites were offensive to their manhood. Chris Moore of the JEWELL BOX REVUE (DRAG #2) said the spokesmen for the group stated, "We've got enough of our own queers in Harlem, you don't have to import them." (The Jewel Box Revue is the only 'white' show to appear on Apollo's stage). The picketing closed the show temporarily. Complain to CORE, 200 W. 135th Street, N. Y. C.

USSR

A document has been obtained from the Soviet Embassy describing nine sex conversion operations performed in the USSR in 67-68. Four of the changelings were true hermaphrodites. Such operations are performed in ordinary town hospitals free under socialized medicine. The USSR also has an Institute of Experimental Endocrinology and Research of Chemistry of Hormones.

LOS ANGELES

Women's Liberation legal aid in Los Angeles has granted assistance to a pre-operative male to female transsexual seeking a divorce from a woman she was married to and legal change of name. The feminists provide divorce assistance to women requiring it at minimal cost.

MONOCLISSIA, GREECE:

Women in men's clothes strolled the narrow streets Jan 9th, smoking, drinking and relaxing while their husbands, clad in dresses, stayed home and did the housework.

Thousands of tourists flocked to this village in eastern Macedonia as the inhabitants observed a festival said to date from pagan times.

The women played cards in coffee

houses and signed documents in the village town hall while the men stayed home to bake bread, milk the cows and look after the babies.

By tradition, any man who appears on the street during the festival is chased by the women and drenched in cold water.

The village returned to normal at midnight when the women -- most of them the worse for drink -- returned to their roles as housewives for another year.

MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

Two homosexuals who want a marriage license were refused a court order for one in Hennepin County District Court. Jack Baker and James Michael McConnell, who are challenging the constitutionality of a state law, has also been denied in an earlier court action for a license. Mr. Baker recently won the presidency of the Student Council at the University of Minnesota. One of the campaign ads pictured him sitting with his legs outstretched, wearing women's white high-heeled shoes. The caption was: Put me in your shoes. He won the office overwhelmingly.

NEW YORK

At a recent cock-tail reception for the 'gay' minister from Los Angeles, the Rev. Troy Perry, members of the Queens Liberation Front questioned the Reverend Perry's statement in the Los Angeles publication HIM that he would not marry two men, one of which would be in drag, but would marry two men. Rev. Perry when confronted with QLF representatives acknowledged making the statement, and said he had since changed his mind. He now is proud that the drag queen is part of his world and will now perform a gay marriage with one of the individuals.

in drag. (All right girls, be sure to send us pictures of the wedding..... Black and white only!)

ALBANY

Pamela Nolan will be married in full drag and hopefully the editors of DRAG will attend and report the full details. Mister Nolan will be marrying a female.

TIJUANA SPECIAL:

The National Transsexual Counseling Unit reports that the second step in the male to female sex conversion operation at the Tiajuana Clinic has risen to \$3000, for a grand total of \$5000.

tv humour



"No, it isn't the margerine darling.
I just won first prize at the Drag Ball."

On Monday, March 29th four members of the Queens liberation front presented themselves and causes of the transvestite and the transsexual at Ros Regelson's class on homosexuality at New York University.

Four different types of transvestism were presented by the panel: The heterosexual transvestite, the homosexual transvestite, the drag queen and the transsexual.

Debbie Hartin, a transsexual also spoke from the podium. Miss Hartin recently received much publicity due to her divorce proceedings. Earlier in the month, SCREW, (issue #109) featured Debbie in an explicit article about the transsexual. A full page center spread was given to her vagina.

The moderator asked the four representatives to detail their emergence into drag. Kay Gybbons stated, "I started in grade school with the proper Public School supervision." Bunny Eisenhower started at the age of 3 with the assistance of his sisters. Barbarella, the transsexual, realized her desire to be a woman only after attending a drag ball. Later she was discharged from the army for damaging government property. The property in question was her 'busts', as she started hormone treatment while in service. (Army regulations state that a soldier is government property).

The panel was introduced by D.D. columnist from one of New York's gay newspapers. Earlier in the class, poet Taylor Mead, one of the innovators of the underground cinema had shown his "Rainy Day Women," in which he had figured as transvestite, and photographer Bruce King had discussed his film-making which had begun with covering drags. ■

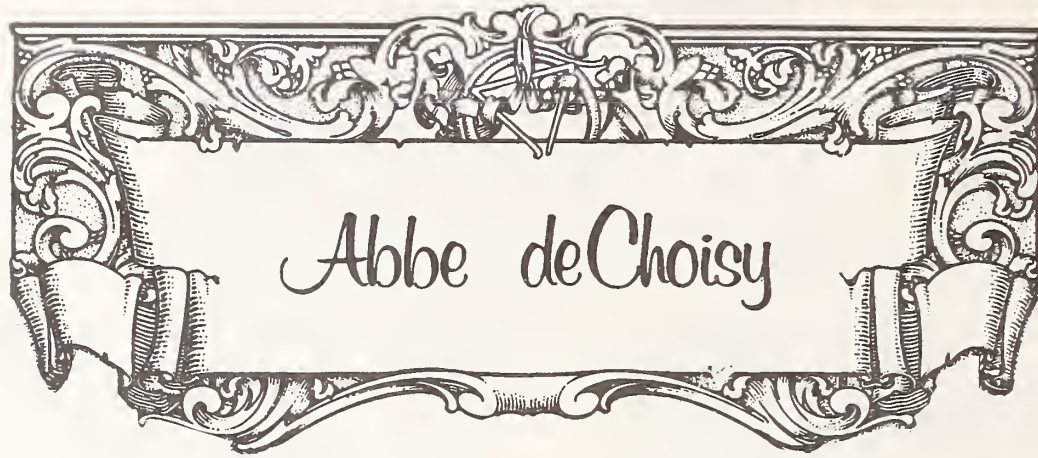


Telling It Like It Is !



A group consisting of Lee Brewster (drag queen) Barbarella (transsexual) Bunnie Eisenhower (heterosexual transvestite) and Kay Gybbons (homosexual transvestite) spoke to a group at New York University on the various aspects of transvestism to a standing room audience.

PANEL AVAILABLE FOR SPEAKING ENGAGEMENTS
The above group is available for speaking engagements before
various organizations. For information contact
QUEENS PUBLICATIONS



Abbe de Choisy

France produced two famous transvestites, one of which was the ABBEE Francois Timoleon de Choisy, who was born in 1644 to a middle-aged mother who persistently regarded him as a girl and dressed him as such; he never in fact wore men's clothes until he was 18 years old. Initially he tried to make a career for himself on the stage at Bordeaux, an enterprise that lasted only five months. "I played in comedy at the theatre dressed as a girl," he writes in his famous MEMOIRES. "Everybody was deceived and I had lovers, but was very discreet and had a reputation for prudence and virtue." de Choisy's memoirs are outstandingly candid and self-revealing and frequently describes dresses and occasions: "I had a bodice embroidered with natural flowers on a silver ground and a skirt of the same material with a long train. The skirt was fastened up on both sides with yellow and silver ribbons. The bodice was very high and padded out to make it appear that I had a bust, and as a matter of fact I had as much as a girl of 15."

It is clear that his mother was largely responsible for Choisy's continual choice of female garments and feminine behavior. "My mother made me wear bodices that were extremely tight and this pushed up the flesh and

I also took extreme care of my neck, rubbing it every night with veal broth and a pomade of sheep's foot oil which makes the skin soft and white. My hair was done into large black curls. I had big diamond earrings, a dozen patches, and a necklace of false pearls."

Choisy appeared in public so dressed when he was young. His father was Chancellor of the Duke of Orleans, so the best salons in Paris and the country were open to the family. No one seems to have minded overmuch and it is said that young girls copied the fashions that Choisy set, particularly his hair styles. (Such social acceptance was also seen in the case of Monsieur Philippe d'Orleans, brother of Louis XIV, who was spoiled by ladies of the court. He frequently dressed up as a girl and sang curious songs for the courts amusement. DeChoisy was brought up as a friend to Monsieur and the two boys delighted in their shared amusements.)

After his abortive attempt to go on to the stage, he entered the Church as his family wished and, recommended by the Bishop of Paris, was received as an Abbe. He retained his women's clothes, wore patches and had his ears pierced. He had some sexual adven-

The Awards Club of Washington has to be in my estimation one of the best organized group of people in the nation. It has a membership of close to 500 people and its leadership is Jerry Buskirk. I visited with Jerry at her posh apartment and over coffee we chatted about its beginning and its growth.

It all began with the introduction of the first "Miss America" pageant in 1961. It was originally referred to as "Bill Frye's Masquerade Ball" and it was changed to its present title in 1963.

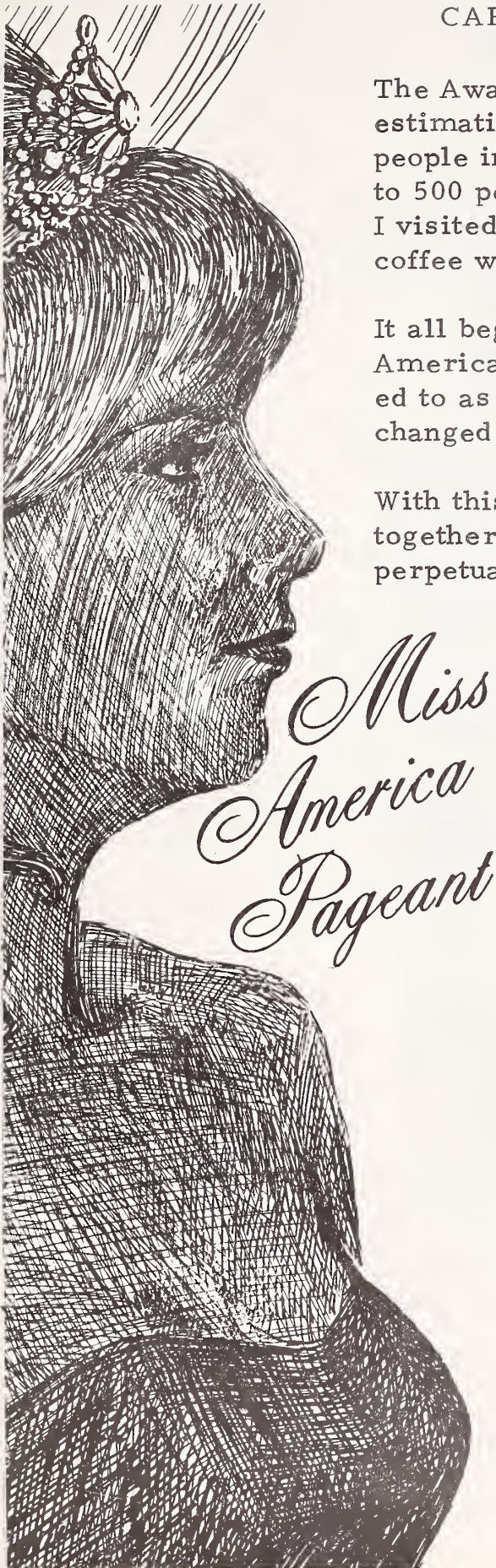
With this uniting idea, Jerry and other people got together and formed an organizing committee to perpetuate the pageant and the group. There are now

two committees in operation who oversee the many functions of the Awards Club. There are countless number of people who give of time and talent to make their functions the successes they are. The Awards Club has done much for charity and civic undertakings and is respected by the community minded officials.

Two of the year's outstanding events are the "Miss America" pageant, done in true regal splendor and the "Emmy Awards of Washington", with all the emotion of its television counterpart.

This past October 24th was the scene of the 1970 "Miss America" gala. It was held in the Washington, D. C. Civic Center. It was truly spectacular in its splendor as a crowd of over 500 people looked on. The contestants representing the states were as stunning as the gowns and the swim suits they wore in the competition.

Jerry said, "We expect the 1971 pageant to be even bigger and better." ■

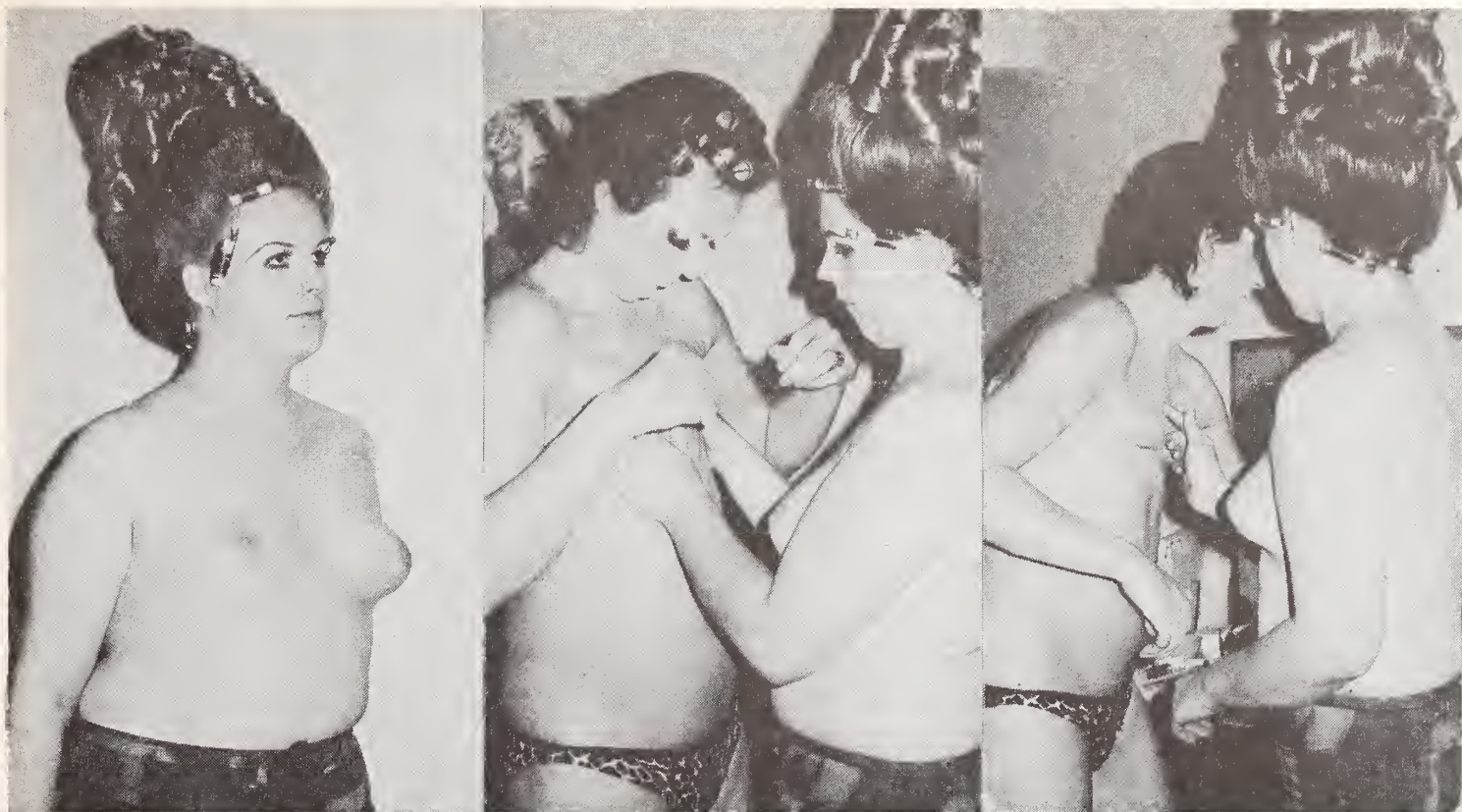




Hormones DO Make A Difference



Pre-operative transsexual, the beautiful Barbarella puts the finishing touches on her make-up. She then offers to help her new found friend, Josie from Birmingham, Ala. Josie just started hormone treatment.



Barbarella has beautiful breasts. So does Josie, but she needs a little help from the cosmetic and undergarment industries. "Barbarella" helps Josie tape for the cleavage effect.



Josie has to paint in the cleavage now; but in a few months she'll have the same beautiful breasts as does Barbarella. After putting on her hair she and her friend are ready to face the public as two beautiful girls. They went to the "April in Paris" drag ball arriving in a horse ■ drawn carriage.



The Curtain Rises on TRANSVESTISM



To the consternation and bewilderment of the vast majority of homosexuals, it is, as Queens Liberation Front has often stated, the female impersonator who is leading the vanguard in public acceptance and will be more quickly assimilated than the straight homosexual.

Much of this acceptance can be attributed to the entertainment field which has suddenly opened up all its avenues to the transvestite.

On the legitimate stage, on neighborhood movie screens, at favorite night spots, and lastly, but most important of all -- on millions of television sets the female impersonator is winning the American public over in positive and flattering portrayals.

The motion picture, always quick to pick up on new trends in American audiences, has had a plethora of films having transvestites in either central or sub-plot characterizations.

GOODBYE GEMINI, THE KREMLIN LETTER, (George Sanders), THE MAGIC CHRISTIAN (Yul Brynner), THE DAMNED, (Helmut Berger), WUSA, (Paul Newman) and IN LIKE FLINT (Lee J. Cobb) are just a few motion pictures using female impersonators as a subordinate but integral part of the story line.

However, two of the bigger pictures of

the past year have had transsexualism as their central subject, MYRA BRECKENRIDGE and CHRISTINE JORGENSEN STORY were responsible for enlightening and loosening up a few American stays.

Looking quite promising is Emersons Film release of THE SECRET OF DINAH EAST. Opening to good business in Los Angeles, Kansas City and Seattle, "Dinah East", the story of a well-known glamour movie star who suddenly dies and is exposed as a man.

Mae was quite taken in by the story and had a private showing. So far, there has been no comment from 'la West.

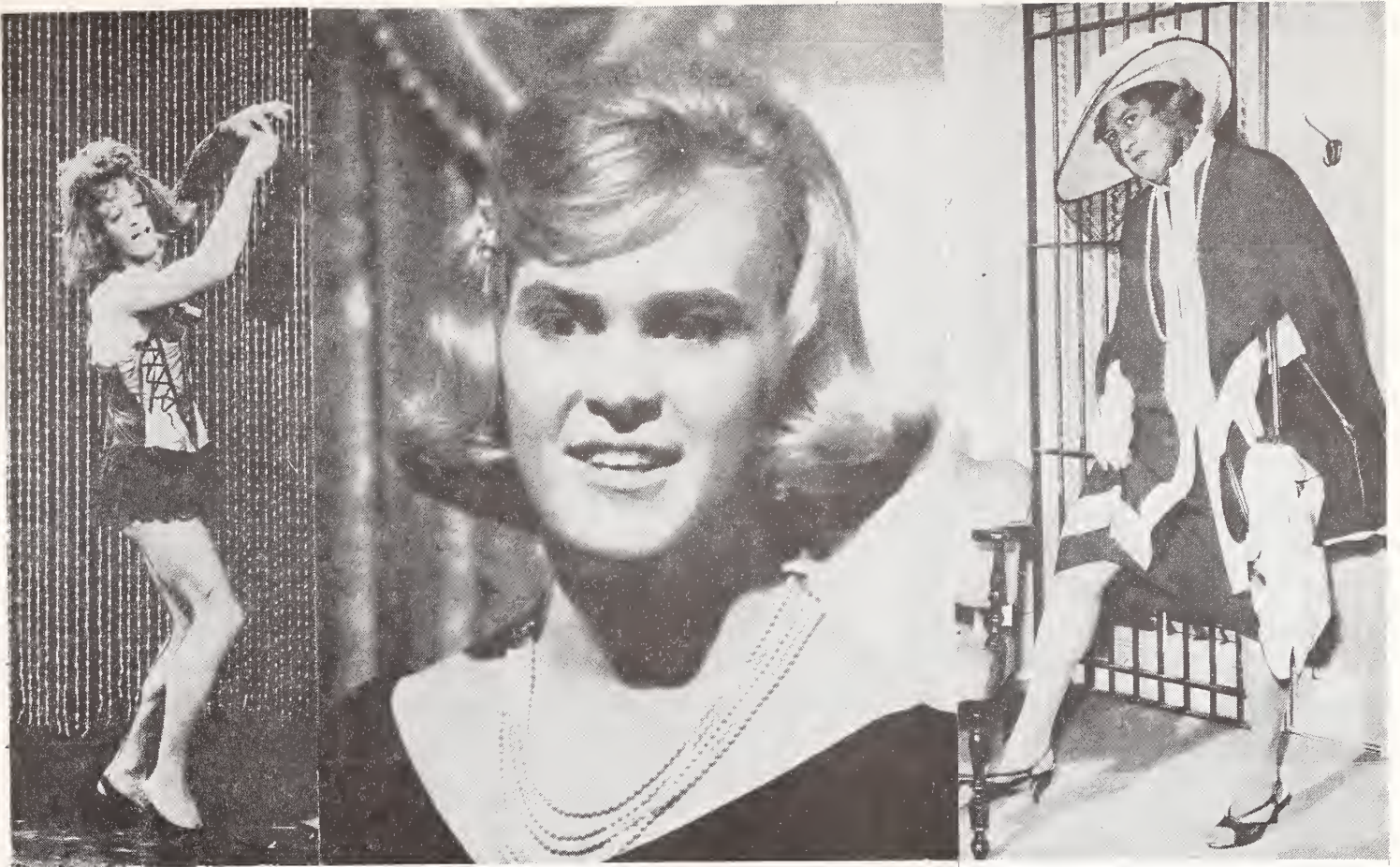
And is it any surprise that the drag queen taking a page from Women's Liberation, has demanded and won the right to star and perform by and as herself!

It is the Holly Woodlawns, the Jackie Curtis', and the Harlows who are the frontrunners on this whole new breed of starlets.

While all are certainly not the glamorous or ultra-feminine types, all are shockingly convincing in their particular role of female impersonation.

Andy Warhol, not one to miss out on a good thing, has always had transvestism

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(1) French comedian Jean Paul Belmondo doing a strip tease (2) John Hansen as Christine Jorgensen (3) This feminine exterior is really veteran actor Lee J. Cobb in 20th Century Fox's "In Like Flint."



(1) The now famous Sabrina from the QUEEN one of the first pictures to include the transvestite. (2) Beneath that blonde wig, feather boa and black sheath dress lurks the usually dignified actor George Sanders.

curtain rises

incorporated into his underground movies.

While Mario Montes was his first drag star, it is through the personage of the wild-eyed and bushy haired Holly Woodlawn that Andy has soared to new record breaking heights with his current hit... TRASH.

Miss Woodlawn, so comfortable and realistic in her far out person, works wonders on an unsuspecting movie audience.

Managing to capture all the attributes of a re-incarnated movie queen of the 30's; she is nothing short of sensational in TRASH....and she steals the picture right under Joe Dellasandro's buttocks! It has been rumoured that Holly was disqualified from an Academy award nomination only because the difficulty in deciding which category-Best actor or Best actress--would prove too traumatic an effect on the Academy's members!

Carnegie Hall, the pinnacle and ultimate desire of any performer recently had the distinction of having one of the world's leading female impersonators.

Straight from a triumphant stay in England, LYNN CARTER floored a packed, standing room only house of gays and straights, and won herself a standing ovation.

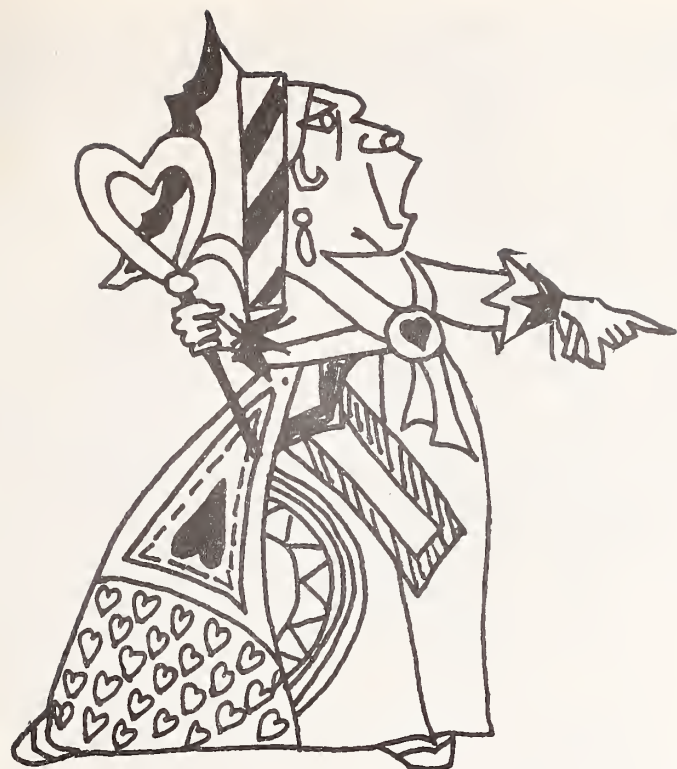
And what else but the world renowned JEWEL BOX REVUE can become an annual attraction for New Yorkers? Although the revue is a long-standing, long-running show, being in existence for many years, fresh new faces, cos-

tumes and opulent musical numbers, reminiscent of those big musical productions of the 30's, still captivate mixed audiences wherever the production tours. So beautiful are the 'girls', the backers defy the audience to identify the one existing genital female!

But perhaps one of the least realized incursions transvestism has had in the entertainment field is contained in the lyrics of some of our top recording hits. The Beattles, "Get Back", and the Kinks, infamous "Lola", (see DRAG Vol.I, #1) actually caused controversy over radio playing because the lyrics strongly implied homosexual-transvestite tendencies.

LAUGH IN, CAROL BURNETT, DON KNOTTS, and DEAN MARTIN are just a few of the television shows which can be depended upon to spotlight one of the girls. But when one of us can make the longest running most venerated and as American as apple pie show, I think it is safe enough to say -- We're In! The show -- ED SULLIVAN in the person of JIM BAILEY (Ed. note...no connection with the sudden demise of Mr. Sullivan's show.) While the number was a knockout, it was JIM BAILEY's flawless looks on an ever close-up television camera which defied any late-tuner ins to doubt they were looking at the 'real thing'! Even Miss Burnett had trouble keeping her eyes from Mr. Baileys' cleavage.

DICK MARTIN and JIMMY BROWN, stars of N.B.C.'s LAUGH IN are that shows leading drags. While Mr. Martin goes in for laughs with elderly, patronly types of impersonations, it is Jimmy who comes across as a smashing last of the red hot black mamas.



THE SQALLING CATS

The exact origin of the castrati is not known. Their necessity arose through the Church, wherein, St. Paul had forbidden women to raise their voices. Italy seems to have been the country where they flourished from the earliest days, though an unsuccessful attempt was made to shift the blame to Spain, some of whose choristers had developed a falsetto range.

Their appearance on the stage was the result of the familiar ban on women performing on the boards. By the early 17th Century, all the arts were breaking away from Church domination and in Italy the beginnings of secular opera were under way. But the Church still forbade women to go on the stage---licentiousness and potential prostitution were its reasons. Ironically by doing this, the Church was also tacitly condoning castration. A company of men might be able to produce some members capable of playing women straight on the stage; but the idea of a baritone-voiced heroine is clearly ridiculous, even for opera.

Women sopranos existed, naturally, but they performed privately and did not finally appear on the public stage in Rome until the end of the 18th Century. During these years the castrati flourished magnificently, having to play all the roles demanding soprano voices--male or female as the composer had set them. Many travel writers of the period, including Goethe, were favourably impressed by the performances they heard. There must have been some extraordinary performances and appearances with the castrato Marianino, a hefty six-footer, sweeping on as a delicate princess. The castrati developed breasts and usually grew extremely plump, and when they grew older must have resembled vast flowery galleons sailing across the stage.

These social conditions led to romantic stories. Just as one occasionally comes across a novel set in Elizabethan England where a girl disguises herself as a boy, goes on the stage and plays a boy playing a girl, so in the 18th Century Rome there

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NEW YORK

NEW ORLEANS



The first question asked by tourists is, "Where is the drag queen contest to be held?" This contest is undoubtedly the biggest 'happening' of MARDI GRAS day.



The street is full of beautiful queens who come from all over the country for this grand parade. It is said that the Texas and N. Y. queens usually walk away with the prizes.

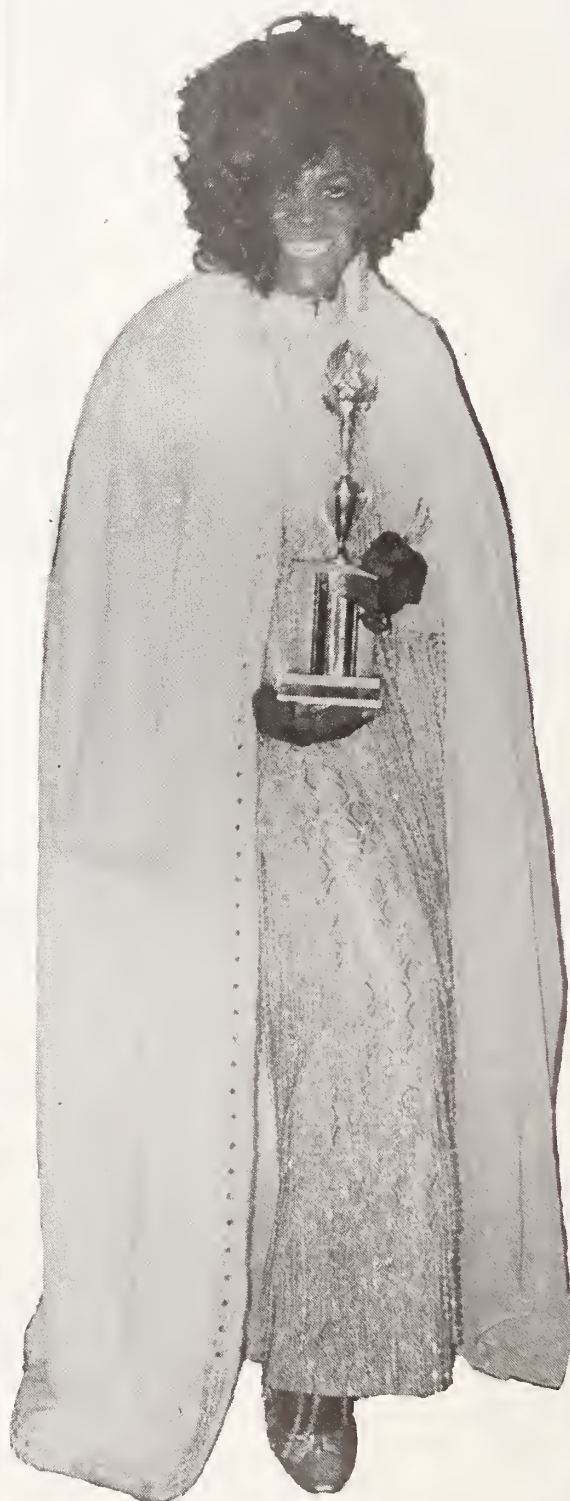


BEST HAIRDO

Those that couldn't make
it to New Orleans settle
for Lee's Mardi Gras '71
in NEW YORK.....



QUEEN
runner - up



the Queen



GRAND PRIZE
(for loudness)



PROFESSIONAL

AND OTHER WINNERS



A FEW MORE OF THE CONTESTANTS



AS YOU CAN SEE, THE JUDGES HAD A DIFFICULT TIME SELECTING ■
THE WINNERS.

ABBE de

tures too; he kept a mistress and at one period went through with a false marriage with a young woman dressed up as a man. In 1685 he sailed for Siam as part of the entourage of the French Ambassador to the King. He remained in that country for only three months, preaching devoutly to the crew of the ship on which he returned to France, but still hankering after his corsets and skirts. He led a fairly public life and was well known, but in his later years he assumed male clothes, only wearing some of his old dresses from time to time. In his *Memoires* he attempts a little self-analysis which is rather touching:

"I have tried to find out how the strange idea came to me of believing myself a woman. It is an attribute of God to be loved and adored and man -- so far as his weak nature will permit -- has the same ambition. It is beauty which creates love and beauty is generally the woman's portion; when it happens that men have, or believe they have, attractions for which they may be loved, they try to increase them by putting on women's attire. They then feel the inexpressible pleasure of being loved. I have had that pleasant experience many a time. When I have been at a ball or a theatre in a beautiful dress with patches and diamonds and when I have heard someone whisper near me: "There is a pretty woman" I have felt a pleasure so great that it is beyond all comparison."

Choisy was eighty-one (the same age as Chevalier de Eon when he died in Paris in 1724. His effort at self-examination is remarkable considering the period. Even today the desire to attract the sort of admiration reserved for women is still given as one of the reasons for transvestism in men. ■

Squalling

were stories of women getting on the stage pretending to be castrati and singing women's parts.

Like other female impersonators throughout the ages, the castrati were adored by women and were highly feted wherever they went. They earned large salaries and were vain, quarrelsome and often remarkably stupid. It was only the poorest of families who would allow their little sons to suffer the humiliation of the surgery, so initially the singers had no social or intellectual background. (This was because fees were offered for promising children). They were, however, impeccably trained with rigorous attention to deportment and gesture as well as vocal finesse. One of the most celebrated was Carlo Broschi, known as Farinelli; he came from a noble family (which was most unusual) and ultimately rose to an almost magical position of power over Philip V and the Spanish court. The life-span of the castrato voice was longer than that of a woman's soprano and so, during the rising ascendancy of women in opera, the castrati had many advantages in the maintenance of popularity.

In his *Memoires*, Giacomo Casanova has some remarks about the castrati that reveal the delight they took in the impersonation of women. Many would go about off-stage in female clothes and flirt with men in the side-walk cafes of Venice and Rome. In one such place Casanova mistook Bepino Della Mamana, a famous castrato, for a real woman. "The impudent creature, looking fixedly at me, told me that if I liked he would prove that I was right, or that I was wrong."

In another passage he describes a vis-

it to the opera in Rome when another celebrated castrato was singing the leading female part. "He was the com-lasisant favourite, the mignon of Cardinal Borghese, and supped every evening tete-a-tete with His Eminence." He describes the scene in the theatre: "In a well-made corset, he had the waist of a nymph and, what was almost incredible, his breast was in no way inferior, either in form or in beauty, to any woman's; and it was above all by this means that the monster made such ravages. Though one knew the negative nature of this unfortunate, curiosity made one glance at his chest, and an inexpressible charm acted upon one, so you were madly in love before you realised it. To resist the temptation or not to feel it, one would have had to be cold and earth bound as a German. When he walked about the stage during the ritornello of the aria he was to sing, his step was majestic and at the same time voluptuous; and when he favoured the boxes with his glances, the tender and modest rolling of his black eyes brought a ravishment to the heart. It was obvious that he hoped to inspire love to those who liked him as a man, and probably would not have done so as a woman."

Casanova then observes: "Rome, the holy city which in this way forces every man to become a pederast, will not admit it, nor believe in the effects of an illusion which it does its best to arouse,"

But though Casanova records these feminine incidents with an apparent mixture of frustration and amusement, generally the castrati were sexually decorous, especially the greatest ones who seem to have conducted themselves with considerable restraint--apart from backstage quarrels and petulance. Some indulged in liaisons with their female admirers, one carrying on an affair under

con't page 34



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The BITCH QUEEN...what makes her that way...frustration, jealousy, mental disorders or a combination of all. Why do they like creating scenes, embarrassing others for little or no reasons?

We have observed a few bitch-queens and found that the combination of the aforementioned reasons more or less describes why.

They are frustrated because they wait for special occasions to dress and sit in their little walk-up apartments bead- or sewing clothes purchased in thrift shops or the like. Or setting and re-setting wigs and having other queens over for coffee to discuss the last drag ball and how horrible it was.. Compliments are never paid to the other queens who attended that horrible affair. One would get the impression from the conversation that all the others in attendance were nothing but horrible messes! They also discuss how they are going to "knock them dead" at the next affair with their new gowns or hairdo.

When they arrive and find that some

other queen or tv is getting more attention or is better out-fitted the jealousy begins. To get the attention away from the other individual they first 'snub' her and if that doesn't work try to embarrass her by creating a scene which many times ends in hair pulling and vicious assaults. Obviously one isn't in complete control of one's faculties to allow this frustration to go to this end. It many times ruins an affair and embarrasses the hosts and doesn't make the queen any more beautiful or realistic.

Unfortunately, the BITCH QUEEN has the personality that stands out in the minds of the heterosexual public, the heterosexual transvestite and the gay and slows down the acceptance of the cross-dresser as a whole. ■

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A DRAG REVIEW

by
BETTY O. YOUNG

it's LYNN CARTER at carnegie hall



It was about 7:45 pm on January 20th that small groups of people started to gather on the corner of 59th Street and the Avenue of America in front of the famous Carnegie Hall. By 8:15 the group swelled into a sizable crowd. Each time a professional or amateur impersonator would arrive in costume and make-up a buzz would run throughout the assemblage as 'she' would wind 'her' way to the entrance of the Hall. The occasion was "It's Lynne Carter at Carnegie Hall", a one woman show of impressions by "Miss" Carter. Murmurs of excitement whirlwinded through the packed auditorium as the house lights dimmed to darkness to start the performance.

"Miss" Carter first did an impression of the British stage and screen actress, Hermione Gingold in a hilarious discussion of "Disney for Adults." This was followed by Phyllis Diller, and to the entire audience it was Miss Diller on the stage and not Lynne Carter, so precise was the impersonation in voice and actions.

Then in a bizarre costume of red, white and blue sequins emulating the Statue of Liberty complete with a torch, Lynn did a take-off of Mae West that in this reviewers estimation just did not quite come off.

After a short pause for intermission a highly believable Marlene Dietrich came on stage in a copy of La Dietrich's famous see through dress. This was a delightful episode. Betty Davis in a heated debate with Bill Baily was a credible portrayal. For the finale Mr. Carter again brought Pearl Baily on stage in the now famous impersonation of the great singing star.

As the house lights rose again for the end of the show the audience got up and gave the performer a standing ovation for this star who had so deftly created such a believable impression of so many famous women. ■

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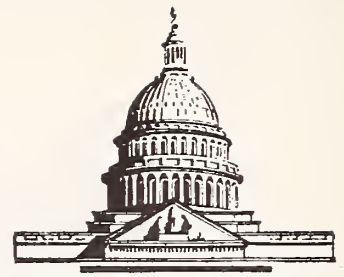
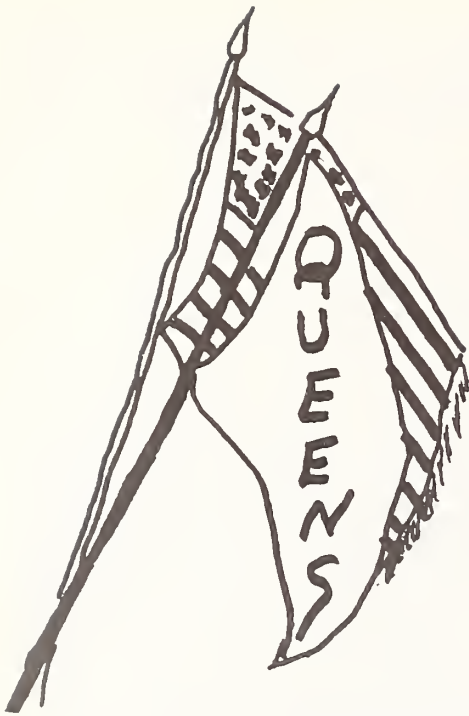
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TV'S AND QUEENS

MARCH ON ALBANY

Seek Statute to Legalize Crossdressing!



"Grant us courage for the facing of this hour," stung the drag queens, tv's and homosexuals attending the church services prior to the march on the State Capital in Albany, Sunday, March 14th. The march was in support of the bills currently before the legislators in behalf of liberalized laws on homosexuality. Amongst them are bill for the repeal of impersonation laws, according to the Gay Activists Alliance news release.

This is the first time in the history of the homophile movement that the gay organizations have publicly acknowledged as one of their goals the legalization of female impersonation.

Queens Liberation Front supporters, S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestites Action Revolutionaries) and their guests went to Albany on one of the four buses chartered by the NY GAA, slowly marched out of the church with the song still ringing in their ears and tears in their eyes... "Grant us courage for the facing of this hour....."

Albany is known for its small town

attitudes so the demonstrators didn't know what their reaction would be to the three thousand invaders. Would they allow the gays to demonstrate without any trouble? Would the drag queen and tv be arrested? How did they feel about the invasion? According to one of the N.Y. newspapers, "Well, they loved Lee Brewster, anyway... Lee displayed 'her' womanly charms to stupified firemen and their hardhat buddies." The Albany KNICKBOCHER NEWS reported the demonstration and speeches in their article, "We're not afraid anymore", the signature line of the Rev. Troy Perry. Womens Lib Leader, Kate Millet, Lee G. Brewster of QLF and the Rev. Troy Perry were quoted in the article.

Amongst the QUEENS delegation was Bunny Eisenhower who explained to passersby why he dressed. His wife was with him and contributed to his defense and the two enlightened many. Bobbie, who gives drag balls and dances and his friend carried the QUEENS banner during the entire march.

The town was stunned but no trouble occurred. After the demonstration the participants returned to New York feeling a spirit of unity and satisfaction. ■



"Well, it all started when my wife found them in my car!"

The Passing Parade



The trip to Albany was fun! Before going to church the Queens delegation took a small walk through town.



Bunny and Lee walking down the street in Albany. Famous New York columnist, D. D. Griffio joins the demonstrators as an uptight citizen looks on.



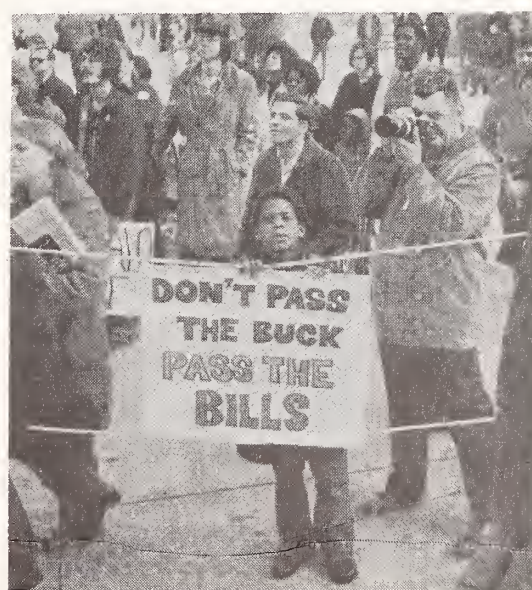
S.T.A.R. (Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries) was out in full force for the demonstration. Standing next to Lee Brewster is Sylvia Rivera leader of the militant transvestite group.



Sylvia (S.T.A.R.) and Lee (Q.L.F.) lead the march on the capitol. Both militant transvestites spoke to the press and 3,000 spectators. The Rev. Troy Perry also spoke.



Bunny and wife after a long trip.



Even the kids were for us! ■

SQUALLING

the very nose of his mistress's husband merely by turning up at the house in his stage costume. This was possible because no matter where the opera was supposed, dramatically, to be taking place--ancient Rome or mythological Greece--the costumes worn on stage were elaborate counterparts of prevailing fashion. Castration did not apparently preclude the first two of the three canonical conditions of virility laid down by Cardinal Peretti de Montalto, the future Sixtus V, in 1581 (Erectio, introductio, emissio.)■

CURTAIN

HARVEY KORMAN, one of CAROL BURNETTS regulars, is somewhat of a phenomena. Although big and burly, Mr. Korman makes a startling transformation in female attire. Unforgettable to this viewer was his authentic and hilarious portrayal of one of the King sisters.

LOUIS NYE, MILTON BERLE, JONATHAN WINTERS, DOM DE LOUISE and PAUL LYNDE are just a few other performers who give varying types of female impersonations. But perhaps no one has done more for the transvestite than a little ball of black fire, fully liberated and embodying all the militancy of today's woman----GERALDINE JONES in the person of FLIP WILSON.

There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson owes much of his success to this wild and independent "The Devel made me buy this dress", "What you see is what you get" characterizations. Whether in a maxi or a mini, Flip has astounded audiences with his unabashed authenticity. I will never forget my parents disbelief at Flip's portrayal of Geraldine as a Play-

boy bunny. Walking down a spiral staircase to a rock strip-tease beat, my father could not believe his eyes. With his gorgeous legs and with a toss of his hair, Geraldine has soared to the Number ONE television show position.

Yes, girls, we can hold our heads up high and join the multitudes clammering for social acceptance and justice. Lashing back on our record, we can proudly say, "We've come a long way, Baby!"

All this, after being so maligned and ridiculed by so many of our own brothers and sisters.

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NEW YORK Box 470
 NY Male pretranssexual seeks sincere gentlemen friends for mutual pleasure. Has a pleasing personality for all occasions - as a well dressed male or as an exciting and attractive female. Please write and I will answer all promptly. Picture appreciated

NORTHERN N.J. Box 477A
 MATURE TV, passes well, would like to meet other TV's and understanding couples for sociability and discussions. Wife knows but does not accept. Please send photo for prompt answer.

NEW YORK Box 477
 QUEEN would like to meet TALL men, over 6' to escort her to drag balls. Photo please. All answered.

NEW YORK Box 483
 Male, married, seeks queen in Queens N.Y. Am 25, 5'8". Part-time student wants queen of same age group for mutual interest and enjoyment.

NEW YORK BOX 488
 Married TV wishes to meet others with understanding wives.

NEW YORK Box 490
 Sexy black 'professional' wishes to meet men for mutual satisfaction.

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 Young TV/TS wants to meet and write others. Seeks sincere friends. Will answer all.

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NEW YORK Box 297
Attractive, professional man, very masculine, likes young, slender, pretty feminine queens who look well enough in drag to be taken out to dinner, etc. Fee refunded to all who answer. Photo or full description please.

WASHINGTON, D.C. Box 418
Male, 6'4", husky 270lb, operates 'straight' but will operate 'Bi' for attractive -fem-looking Drag Queen. Bust developement (hormone or otherwise desired but not required. Wash DC

CALIF MALE: Box 432
Tall and leggy, shapely and busty, passive (But wow! How active!), and totally adept in pleasuring virility. Can travel and fluent in French and Greek. Close friendships desirable, men who are gentlemen are well received and deeply welcomed.

NEW JERSEY Box 555
NOVICE seeks married couple for talks and get togethers. Send picture with reply.

NEW YORK Box 583
NEW YORK male 29, wants to meet tvs queens and female impersonators for physical and mutual satisfaction. Photo and phone helpful.

NEW YORK Box 602
Novice T_v interested in learning more for a more complete transformation. Seeks friends male or female for mutual friendship or whatever?

SANDUSKY, OHIO Box 606
Married T.V. Trucker get to Ft Wayne, South Bend, Ind lots of Mich all of Ohio wish to meet or write other tvs. Letters with photo and phone answered first.

GREENSBORO, N.C. Box 689
Male wishes help on how to dress as woman.

BATON ROUGE, LA Box 609
Very feminine TV loves minis and sheer exotic lingerie, especially silk undies and hose, would love to correspond with every TV and TS who is sincere I'm AC/DC. Cauc. Laurie

NORTH JERSY..NYC Box 628
Male 36 tall, passive tv likes mild B/D, all -cultures. Wishes to meet men and other tvs. Little or no correspondence. Phone number for prompt meeting. Sincere mutual Pleasure.

NEW YORK CITY: Box 622
GEMINI QUEEN... Perhaps pretranssexual would like dates with men. A photo would be nice, but I will answer all.

PROVIDENCE RI Box 634
NYC MASS CONN.. Tall WASP tv can appear as a regular guy or neatly dressed young woman. Has apartment with room for guests and car for weekend travel to meet friends any age be they queens tv ts gay guys butch guys or females seeking romantic or platonic escort. Am fun loving with many interests. But docile, adaptable and discreet.

NEW JERSEY Box 635
Central Jersey male age 35 seeks gay tv for mutual satisfaction and long term relationship. The objective also interested in leather. I will buy the boots if you will wear them. Phone number means prompt reply.

NEW YORK Box 647
Male, sincere, 30, handsome and VERY butch seeks dates with attractive queens.

ALBANY N.Y. Box 679
TV-married- wife approves 100%. Now corresponding with over 400 TV's. Wish to make new contacts and exchange photos...all answered...

NEW YORK Box 300
Young married man turned on by guys who love to wear drag. Let me hear from you -- want a relationship. TV's also invited.

NEW YORK Box 333
New York Male seeks queens, TV's for fun, fashion instruction in TV art. Likes dancing, window shopping. Photo please.

CHICAGO Box 397
SERVANT IN SILKS: Teach me, Dress me, make me up... Love me. Scold me. But don't hurt me... Lest you lose the love of a tall leggy lover of wispy silks and confining nylons. My wife has tried, but no person could satisfy this need to be totally FEMALE. Liberate me! Litters with pictures answered first. I am extremely discrete.

SERVICEMAN Box 398
TV WAF lonely, serviceman wishes to correspond with other T.V.'s. Enclose picture.

SAN FRANCISCO Box 436
Attractive, photogenic, gyneconmast, 5'10", 36B, 29 36, wishes to meet a shorter transsexual who lives full-time as a female. Very attracted to long hair. Could be a lasting relationship. Photo please.

PHILADELPHIA Box 460
DEVOTED TV
Seeks correspondence with all girls, amateur, or professional, devoted, ac-dc etc. for friendship, swap information, make-up, fashion, etc. parties, cards and just plain girl talk. Photo, information appreciated. All answered or met coast to coast, border to border. My name is Brandi, What's yours?

CALIFORNIA
STRAIGHT APPEARING Guy 25-40 sought to share love & loving with attractive feminine transsexual. Call evenings (213) 621 8425...Cathy

US SERVICEMAN Box 242
Seeks young drag queens. All letters answered.

DETROIT Box 246
Lonely TV.....wishes to meet some queens for lasting friendship. Likes movies, dancing, window shopping and playing cards. Photo please.

NEW YORK Box 248
NY Male TV-BI seeks sincere, discreet and compatible friends. Has pleasing personality as a conservative, masculine male or as an attractive and fashionably attired female. Please write & send picture and will answer promptly.

NEW YORK Box 250
Experienced female impersonator invites contacts with others. Also TV's and interested females.

MASSACHUSETTS Box 267
Have wigs-will Travel. Male TV 37, 5'7", WASP, Femme Name Rhoda, Divorced. AC/DC. Seeks beautiful lover, either sex, for fun, games, love, marriage, short correspondence. Sincere only. Photo/phone first letter, promises prompt reply. Near Boston.

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. Box 295
TV wishes 5 or 6 people to share an apartment in Nassau or Suffolk Counties. Interested: Contact me at once.

NEW YORK-PHILADELPHIA Box 508
Generous gentleman seeks gay TV who would entertain as a hostess when I come to N.Y.

NEW YORK Box 495
Amateur TV seeks domineering female
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