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12-1997

### December 1997

Buffalo Belles

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# BUFFALO BELLES



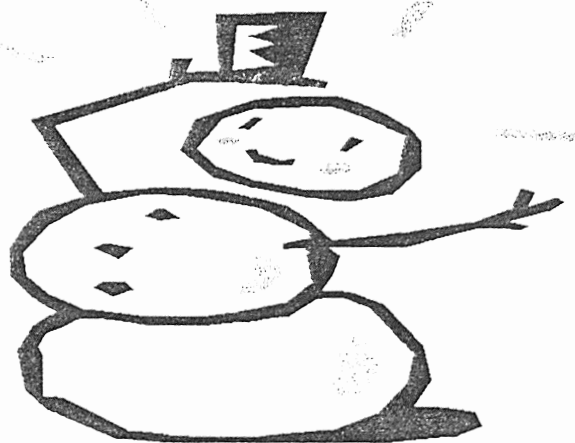
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NU PHI CHI

DECEMBER, 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

CAMILLE.  
PATTI J.  
KATHY LORRAINE



Dear Sisters,

Well, a fond and hearty hello to all of you. It seems so much has happened since I last sat down to write about recent and future events that I don't quite know where to begin. So let's just jump into it.

I hope many of you put together a costume and got out this Halloween. There certainly were plenty of opportunities to get out and strut. After some debate, I shelved 'Cleopatra' and decided to go Halloweening as a 'Nurse'. But not just any generic nurse. No, I was "Hedda Hearse", the head nurse of the "Dr. Kervorkian Terminal Rest Home" where the motto is "We're here when you don't want to be". Joining me was another Buffalo Belle, Susan, who got done up as "Cruella De Vil" (of the '101 Dalmatians' fame). Did she ever look gorgeously eil.

After grabbing a late dinner at The

Towne restaurant on Allen Street, we headed over to the Stage Door, where their Halloween Costume Party was in full swing. The place was crowded with cowboys, nuns, doctors, Roman Gladiators, debutantes, Chippendale dancers (this one was about 60 years old), cows and other creatures that I couldn't quite identify.

It was quite a sight to behold. Also on hand were two more Belles, Kathryn and Joy, but without costumes. Next year, girls. The Imperial Court of Buffalo put on a small Drag Show, to entice some of us back the following night for a bigger show.

Well, my nursing skills may not be up to par, but my partying talents were put to the test as I stayed out later than I expected.

The next day dawned and coffee became my best friend as preparation for Saturday's Belles gathering began. Although we yearned for Jean (pizza girl) and Kathy's presence at the meeting, we managed to wing it. Fourteen Belles and one guest enjoyed a rather informal evening. There was no official business discussed except to remind folks to volunteer for some club activity.

And speaking of club activities, the Buffalo Belles Annual Christmas Party will take place on December 13 (the 2nd Saturday of the month). Please bring: a food item to share; an inexpensive unwrapped child's toy to be donated to needy kids; and a gift for a grab-bag exchange among us girls (a reasonable \$5.00 gift is suggested). Oh, and do wear something festive. It is the perfect time of the year to wear that pretty outfit you've been dying to show off.

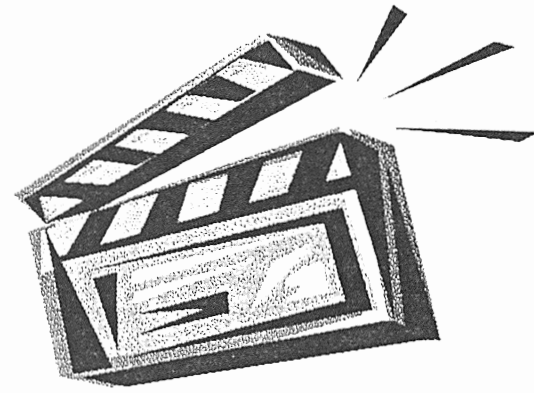
About half of the girls at the meeting made their way downtown to the Stage Door, where we had practically front row seats for the charity

Drag Show. Patty, Holly and her friend convinced me to reach down and grab a second wind and follow them on a late night excursion to Buddies, Detour and Roxy's. It was fun but I have to find more comfortable shoes. Where can you get a decent pair of high heel sneakers?

I just have to mention my recent trip to New York City to see a good friend. There were visits to two museums, a gothic cathedral, Greenwich Village pubs and theater lofts, Off-Off Broadway shows in Soho, Peking Duck in Chinatown, subways, ferries and tram rides, fabulous fashions on Orchard Street (I only bought a scarf), "talking" drums, dancing and way too little sleep. And not enough time to check out the tranny chaser bar scene in Manhattan. What is a tranny chaser bar, you might ask? Well, its a bar or a cafe that is a meeting place for TV's, TS's, CD's, DQ's and TA's (Their Admirers). I'm told the crowd appeals to a more diverse group than you might imagine. An interesting note is the cover charge, where the chasers (men) are charged \$10.00 and women and the above mentioned 'trannies' are admitted free. I counted at least four or five that were listed in a mainstream publication. But wouldn't you know it. This trip I didn't bring my magic suitcase to transform into Camille. I certainly would feel unfairly charged as a chaser if I had gone. But I'm already making plans to return to New York in the spring and Camille will be doing some hands-on research at these places. (Some of you have a smirk on your face. What dirty minds!)

Well, that's all for now. Call the hotline for the most up to date information or if you have any questions concerning the Christmas Party. Until then, hugs.

Camille



### Movie Review: 'Different for Girls' by Kenneth Turan, L.A. Times Staff Writer

Even in this sexually brazen age, romantic comedies involving transsexuals are not the usual thing. Filmmakers, not surprisingly, aren't rushing to create genial romps about people who've turned to surgery to change their sex because, explains a dictionary, they have "the physical characteristics of one sex

but a strong and persistent desire to belong to the other." Which is why the British "Different for Girls" is different for sure.

The story of a relationship between a prim writer of poetry for greeting cards and a brawny, leather-wearing motorcycle messenger, "Different for Girls" is one of those films for which a lot has to be forgiven.

Its plot, direction and writing have the slapdash quality of mid-range British TV dramas, for which the film's creators have done considerable work.

But there's an exceptional performance, a memorable character at the center of things that makes that forgiveness worth the effort.

"Different for Girls" begins with a prologue at a British public school where a teenage boy named Karl is tormented and beaten in the shower for thinking he's a girl. He has only one defender, a solid, fearless lad named Paul Prentice.

Flash-forward 15 or 16 years. Karl, after surgery and hormone treatment, is now a woman named Kim, leading a quiet life working for busybody Miriam Margolyes at Bon Mot Greeting Cards.

Prentice is a beer-swilling biker with a perky girlfriend, "not pension plan material," who has gone through a collection of odd jobs without ever quite managing to get himself sorted out.

A cute meet is the ticket for these two, facilitated by a crash of Prentice's motorcycle into the taxi Kim's in. Though Prentice knows it "sounds like a line from 'Top Gun,'" he's convinced he's seen Kim before, and soon enough he figures it out. Sort of. Faced with a world of sexual choices he never knew anyone had, Prentice is initially dazed and confused, unable to figure out what Kim's sexual orientation is. Gay seems an obvious choice, which infuriates Kim: "I'm not a [expletive] drag queen," she snaps.

Rupert Graves, who plays Prentice, is better known to

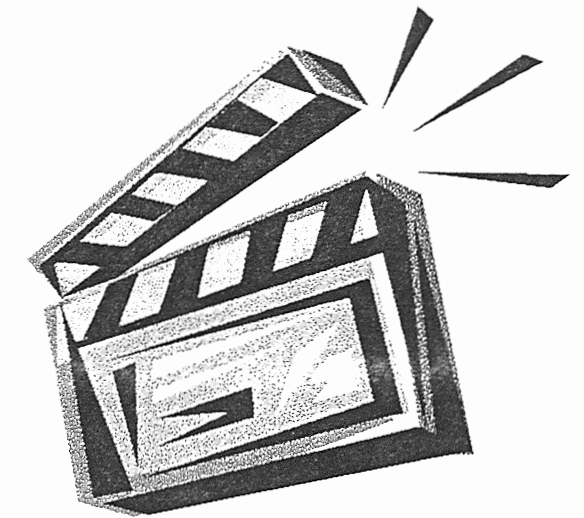
American audiences through roles in films like "The Madness of King George" and "A Room With a View" than Steven Mackintosh, the actor who plays Kim. Though he makes Prentice too much the bull in the china shop at times, Graves selflessly provides the necessary dramatic foil for Mackintosh's altogether remarkable work. As Kim, who never doubts her choice but nevertheless feels sometimes trapped in a world she herself helped make, Mackintosh gives a performance of dazzling tact and delicacy that is as difficult to describe as it must have been to accomplish. Mackintosh couldn't be more exactly nuanced as a

woman who once was a man, someone who is understandably horrified at being mistaken for a drag queen. The initial sections of "Different for Girls," with Prentice and Kim tentatively renewing their friendship, trying to decide if it's worth their time to surmount the inevitable awkwardness, are the film's most satisfying. She learns to ride a motorcycle, he reads a book on transsexuals and mollifies his suspicious girlfriend (Nisha K. Nayar), and they both try to navigate their way through a relationship that lacks ordinary guidelines.

A plot does have to kick in eventually, and as written by Tony Marchant and directed by Richard Spence, what there is is not particularly inspired. It involves an unfortunate arrest, a sadistic policeman, the tabloid press, Kim's supercilious sister (Saskia

Reeves), her drill sergeant husband (Neil Dudgeon) and considerable amounts of sentimental boilerplate that isn't up to the subtlety and sensitivity of the film's best moments.

But those best moments, when they occur, are worth the trouble. Watching Kim and Prentice dancing--half alone, half with each other--to a record they both remember from school is to see something quite special, to feel nourished by an image and a relationship that is both out of the ordinary and as everyday as falling in love.



### Movie Review: 'Ma Vie En Rose':

### Calmly Out of the Closet and Into the Clothes

By STEPHEN HOLDEN

Childhood transvestism could hardly look more dignified than in the regally poised figure of Georges DuFresne, the extraordinary young actor who plays Ludovic Fabre in "Ma Vie en Rose" ("My Life in Pink"). Although Ludovic is only 7, when dressed as a girl, this dark-eyed misfit who insists he belongs to



the opposite sex contemplates the world with the serene hauteur of a natural-born diva. On the rare occasions his solemn face lights up, his lower lip crinkles just like Diana Ross's when she is flashing one of her blinking-back-tears, beauty-pageant smiles.

"Ma Vie en Rose" is the story, told with irresistible good humor and minimal psychologizing, of the far-reaching consequences of Ludovic's sexual obstinacy. By the end of the film, Ludovic's fondness for dresses and lipstick and his stubbornly held dream of one day marrying the little boy next door has nearly torn apart his parents' marriage, cost his father his job and forced his family to move out of a buttoned-down French suburb where they have become pariahs. But a story that could easily have been milked for pathos and weighty social commentary has been directed by Alain Berliner (who wrote the screenplay with Chris Vander Stappen) as a jolly modern fairy tale that is as benign as the imaginary figure who floats through Ludovic's fantasies, offering comfort and escape. That specter, a storybook princess named Pam who glides over the rooftops of the Fabres' middle-class community sprinkling glitter and lavender flower petals, is the benevolent guiding spirit behind this touching fable. As the movie begins, Ludovic's fondness for girl's clothing is viewed by his close-knit family as a charming eccentricity that he will soon outgrow. The first alarm signals go off when Ludovic's mother catches him staging a wedding ceremony with Jerome (Julien Riviere), the boy next door, and promptly faints. Making matters worse is the fact that Ludovic's father, Pierre (Jean-Philippe Ecoffey), works for Jerome's straitlaced father, Albert (Daniel Hanssens), whom the movie portrays as a crude, insensitive bigot.

All things considered, Ludovic's parents confront the problem of their son's sexual identity with a minimum of hysterics, which is not to say that Pierre and his wife, Hanna (Michele Laroque), don't each go ballistic at least once. But even at moments of maximum stress, they never stop loving their self-proclaimed "boygirl," who turns an impromptu

biology lesson from his older sister into an endearing ingenuous explanation for his gender confusion. When God was distributing chromosomes, he explains gravely to his parents, the chromosome that would have made him female accidentally fell into the garbage. No sooner has Ludovic learned about menstruation than he becomes convinced that a stomachache is his first period.

For all its charm and daring, "Ma Vie en Rose" doesn't come fully to grips with its subject. Except for a scattered tear or two, Ludovic maintains a remarkable composure in the face of some vicious slings and arrows. In their healthy familial togetherness, the Fabres are finally as picture perfect as "Father Knows Best." Think of "Ma Vie en Rose" as a daydream, a best of all possible scenarios unreeing in the mind of its haunting central character.



N O V E M B E R A T T E N D A N C E

- |             |                    |
|-------------|--------------------|
| JANICE G.   | CAMILLE H.         |
| JEAN H.     | SUSAN B.           |
| PATTI J.    | CRYSTAL            |
| HOLLY I.    | KENDRA             |
| COLLEEN R.  | BRENDA & JUDY      |
| KATHRYNN Y. | CAROLINE & TIFFANY |
| MICHELLE G. | MARSHA (Guest)     |
| ANGELLA A.  |                    |

CARPE' DIEM: NOW MORE THAN EVER!!

by Heather Anne Hurd, TX-3409-H

In August 1992, I wrote an Article entitled "CARPE' DIEM: NOW IS THE TIME!", which was widely published by the Femme Mirror and various Transgender Community Newsletters. Back then, in the early 90's, it seemed that Crossdressers were poised on the brink of Mass Societal Acceptance. We were all over Television, Newspapers and Radio. An increasing number of Us were venturing forth in Public, making our existence Highly Tangible. Additionally, the political climate was changing, and the Air was Electric with a sense of Excitement for the Future for Transgendered People.

Now, in the Late 90's, the Climate has Drastically Changed, and the Barometer of Transgender Acceptance has fallen considerably. Those espousing so-called "Traditional Family Values" have become an increasingly Aggressive, Mean-Spirited Majority, and have publicly vowed to fight against those they Deem as "Deviants" at every turn. Witness the corporate sponsorship pullout over ABC's decision to air the "Coming Out" episode of "Ellen", and the ensuing vehement protest of the Broadcast. Witness the Southern Baptist's current Boycott of Disney for its insurance coverage of Same-Sex Partners. These are only a couple of examples, but they vividly illustrate just how Hostile the Environment has become for anyone who is considered "Different"!

In my article in 1992, I stressed that we Crossdressers needed to "Get Out There", without fear or shame, and make ourselves known as the Good People We Are. Now, however, the Task is not so simple. We still need to increase our Public Visibility for the aforementioned reason, but more importantly we also need to Unite as an Entire Transgender Community and with the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities as well, and Together Stand as a United Front!

The reasons for this are fairly obvious: Unless we can demonstrate our ability to get along within our own Transgender Community, which is unfortunately full of Petty Divisiveness, then how can we expect Society at large to Accept Us?! We further must Embrace the Gay, Lesbian and Bisexual Communities in our struggle for Acceptance, as they are Powerful Allies who face much of what we face and they armed with Excellent Organization, Strategies and the Political Muscle needed for this War!!! Make no mistake about it - - This Is a War! We may not have declared it, but the opposition clearly has, therefore we Must Respond by Stepping up Our Fight for Our Civil and Human Rights!

The rapidly approaching new Millennium can still be Our Time, but we Must Seize It for Ourselves and Vigorously Defend It! If we don't stand up for our rights now, we risk losing All of our Previous Gains with absolute certainty! NOW MORE THAN EVER - - CARPE' DIEM!!

The Buffalo News/Friday, November 14, 1997

FDA tests find hair apparent after use of anti-baldness pill

Knight Ridder

FORT LAUDERDALE, Fla. — The first pill proven to work in the fight against baldness was praised Thursday by an expert panel at the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, causing a hubbub not heard since Rogaine lotion (minoxidil) came out in 1988.

The panel's stance moved the drug called Propecia one step closer to approval by the FDA. A final decision is due in December. Analysts say the pill by pharmaceutical giant Merck & Co. would be a strong new challenger in the market for baldness products.

"This is going to be a big one," said Dr. Leslie Baumann, director at the University of Miami Cosmetic Center. "It's the closest to a magic potion we have had so far."

Propecia is not a miracle pill — nobody grew a full head of hair and not everybody was helped. But before-and-after photographs showed Propecia helping bald spots shrink, some by very small amounts but a few by enough that bald spots almost disappeared.

Dermatologists concluded that 30 percent of these men grew slight amounts of hair in a year, and another 18 percent grew mod-

erate to heavy amounts.

When Merck actually counted hairs, Propecia patients averaged 106 more new hairs within a one-inch circle on top of the head than did patients who used a dummy cream. For receding hairlines, the improvement was 60 hairs.

Propecia did not help every man. But Merck argued that many who did not grow new hair at least stopped losing what they had. The FDA's advisers were not sure that was proved, but Merck did note that when men stopped taking Propecia, the new hair fell out.

Also, the prescription drug cannot be taken by women because it poses a threat of birth defects.

The nation's 40 million balding men who want to grow hair today have one option: slathering non-prescription Rogaine on their scalps. It helps about 25 percent of users grow varying amounts of hair, but stop using it and the hair falls out, so thousands of men spend \$15 to \$30 every month hoping for help. No price has been established for the new drug.

The panel passed along the drug for FDA consideration, even though it had concerns over safety issues such as the drug's long-term effects on the detection of prostate cancer and its effects on fertility.

▲MYRTLE BEACH, South Carolina — Transgender activist Sharon Franklin Brown, angered by a politician's anti-gay and anti-transgender comments, has recently decided to run for a seat on the council. In March, city councilor Mark McBride objected to the opening of a new gay bar by referring to gays as "garbage" and stating that families shouldn't have to see "transvestites and drag queens" walking along the boardwalk. Brown, a performer at the bar that McBride objected to, said that if elected she will push for an ordinance to ban discrimination on the basis of gender identity and sexual orientation. "I'm a strong believer in democracy... and I think we've lost sight of it in Myrtle Beach," she said. Brown said she plans to one day run for state representative and eventually governor.

"Par is whatever I say it is. I've got one hole that's a par 23 and yesterday I damn near birdied the sucker."

—WILLIE NELSON, commenting on his private course



### PASSING: AN IMAGE PROBLEM

by LEAH SUSAN RANKE

October will bring us National Coming Out Day and a diverse array of educators, historians and activists to celebrate it. A range of events supports the decision of gays and lesbians to come out of the closet and share the truth of their lives with friends, family, co-workers, classmates and the world at large. As every year, it is hoped that millions more will publicly and without shame identify themselves as homosexuals so that prejudices against us will wane.

Let's face it, we still have an image problem. For generations, gays and lesbians kept silent and only hate filled voices defined us, shaping popular opinion about who we are. Jerry Fallwell, for example once said gays "would kill you as soon as look at you". I make no comment about the gay and lesbian population's desire on this issue with respect to Rev. Fallwell himself.

As we prepare for October's debate of whether or not to come out, there looms an equally divisive issue. Unlike many other minorities, we can hide in plain sight. In some circles it is called passing when a gay or a lesbian seems straight. The issue has an impact on the way we value each other. In the gay and lesbian community there has emerged a caste system borrowed... excuse the pun... straight from the heterosexuals.

It accepts society's assumptions that there exist masculine and feminine characteristics that are separate and distinct; that women should act as feminine while men should act masculine. If you break this rule you might tip off straight people who may figure out you are gay or lesbian. This is highly undesirable because straight society does not value homosexuals in the first place. Therefore, being able to hide is an advantage. Not being able to hide is a disadvantage.

The issue goes far beyond personal romantic preferences for a straight acting boyfriend or butch/femme role play because it has begun to pervade more than simply how we categorize potential partners. It affects how we see ourselves and the rest of our already ostracized homosexual community. Adopting these heterocentric prejudices and exercising them on one another deepens the divisions within the ranks.

How often have we laughed at characters like the one portrayed by Nathan Lane in *The Birdcage*, men acting like women? We feel free to mock a male born with the potential to become masculine power personified but who foolishly squanders his testosterone in favor of being, of all detestable things, a weak Mary, not respected in any matters of business or sports, and as shunned from the boardrooms as women have traditionally have been.

Similarly, a character like Alice in *The Brady Bunch* or Jane Hathaway on *The Beverly Hillbillies* gains our sympathy. If only someone would give her a makeover, do her make-up and nails, buy her some gentler fabrics to wear, a kinder neckline, perhaps some jewelry to accessorize... and for heaven's sake, let her hair grow in... she might find she has some attractive features to showcase. She might look pretty and no longer be so angry, which must be the reason she wants to look so much like a man in the first place.

At the heart of a stereotype is a kernel of truth. We all know someone who, without trying, looks more like the opposite gender than her own. And it is often a woman. Maybe this is because to look more like a male in our culture, one merely needs to omit frills, while to look girly means taking effort to add steps like make-up, coiffed hair and painted nails. Feminizing means adorning. Like a Christmas tree, it requires an investment of time and money on decorations.

Appearance is only part of the issue. The heart of the matter is attitude. Feminine wiles or machismo bravado are two options among many for gaining power in situations and influencing others. Coy and vulnerable gets results sometimes while tough and confident can work better elsewhere. Criticism comes when people who have found success with one method disapprove of those at the opposite end of the manipulation spectrum.

Experience teaches us that certain behavior is successful in certain circumstances. An older attorney once told me that to be taken seriously in business to never smile when presenting my opinions. A wedding planner told me she won't wear the butch haircut she wants because she fears it would make the brides nervous. My straight neighbor hates building supply stores because of the false bravado he feels required to project to the men who work there. "If I don't speak loudly and slam my keys on the counter," he said, "they will know I am intimidated."

Try adopting such postures at a dinner party or around small children and rather than obtaining a power advantage, you are alienated and disliked. Situational ethics? Perhaps, but the irony of the debate may be that we are all a little bit country and a little bit rock and roll.

At work and at home, we get comfortable projecting one affect over another but we can and do play either role at different times. And there are countless exceptions to the rules... gay men with no interior design savvy, lesbians who don't play pool, butch moms, football queens, dyke florists and straight men who don't like Home Depot. Well, okay, maybe we all play pool, but you get the idea.

The desire to pass is the hope that straight people will not spot gay people and that is internalized homophobia, no matter what clothes you put on it.

Obviously, these prejudices are rooted in the worst of society's stereotypes about gender, the value of being either male or female. Men are worthy only if they are sweaty and brutish, women only if they are sweet and beautiful. We can and should challenge them rather than internalizing their faulty premises. Mainstream media already has with movies like *G. I. Jane*. Qualities such as "strong", "beautiful", "sensitive", "brave" have no limited correlation to one gender over the other. We should be setting the heterocentric opinion.

### You Might be a Transgendered Male if ...

- You'd rather talk girl talk with the ladies than sports with the men
- You know which of your work shirts effectively conceal a bra
- You are comfortable in the lingerie department
- You know your sizes in bras and panties
- You tell your guy friends the women's clothes in your closet belong to your girlfriend - and you don't have a girlfriend
- You can name the perfumes women are wearing
- You don't know last night's hockey score, but you know which store had Vanity Fair Lingerie on sale
- You know what "season" you are
- You can put on hose without running them
- You can put on a bra at all
- Your girlfriend complains that her bra is bothering her and you tell her about the new underwires with the "no-poke" wires
- The sales ladies at Victoria's Secret all know you by name
- You know where to buy size 13 heels
- You ask a woman where she bought that pretty new blouse
- You know what a "bustier" is
- You have a Victoria's Secret credit card
- You have to remind yourself not to accessorize for a day at the office
- Your underpants & undershirt both say "Maidenform"
- You know what shade foundation you wear
- You can admire an attractive woman and be jealous of her outfit at the same time
- You've ever forgotten to take out your earrings before you went into the office
- You secretly enjoy being dragged to "chick flicks" by your girlfriend
- You dress up like a woman every chance you get for two full weeks before and after Halloween
- You tell your girlfriend \$250 for a pair of breast forms for your Halloween costume isn't excessive
- You know all the words to the Rocky Horror Picture Show's song "Sweet Transvestite"
- You can paint your nails without painting your fingers
- Women remark that your nails are nicer than theirs
- A woman jokingly asks if you have any nail glue - and you hand her some
- Men apologize after swearing in front of you
- Your girlfriend asks you for fashion tips & makeup advice
- You find yourself repeatedly dating girls close to your size so you can try on their clothes
- Women start sharing personal things about their sex lives with you
- The boys at the neighborhood bar call you "babe"
- Your new girlfriend's parents think she's become a lesbian
- Your new doctor has to examine you before he believes you are a male
- Men start holding doors open for you.



-3-

### MARVIN



# TRANSGENDER QUIZ

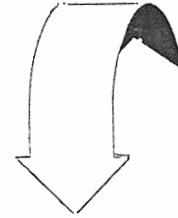
By Victoria Powers

1. Who starred in the most famous pantyhose commercial of all time?
2. What is the name of "the worst movie director of all time" who had a love for angora sweaters?
3. "He had the body of a Venus-- Lord imagine my surprise." Name that song.
4. What United States President liked to lounge around the White House wearing women's clothes in the evenings?
5. In this sci fi series, a main character's "child" was allowed to choose its own gender.
6. "Girls will be boys and boys will be girls . . ." Name that song.
7. What is the name of the famous crossdressing director of the FBI?
8. In what movie did an actor play his son and his daughter, in addition to his own main male character?
9. "Shaved his legs, then he was a she . . .". Name that song.
10. In this book - an alien species had a regular change back and forth between sexes - it was considered perverse to remain one sex.
11. A famous sci-fi actor of a tv series and some movies has admitted he wears pantyhose - who is he and why does he wear them?
12. "And wear my mother's lingerie learn the songs of Broadway" - Name that song.
13. In what movie did a woman pretend to be a man pretending to be a woman?
14. Which James Bond novel had a male character whose disguise was that of a female?
15. In what movie did a womanizer die and come

back in a woman's body?

16. What TV series had two men disguised as women to live in a women only boarding house?
17. In what movie did a male actor get work as a woman?
18. What famous male actor wore women's nylon panties explaining that "they are easy to drip dry when traveling"?

See Quiz answers below



1. Joe Namath
2. Ed Wood
3. "Dude looks like a Lady" by Aerosmith
4. Richard Nixon
5. Star Trek: The Next Generation "Girls will be boys and boys will be girls . . ."
6. "Lola" by The Kinks
7. J. Edgar Hoover
8. Back to the Future III
9. "Walk on the Wild Side" by Lou Reed
10. "The Left Hand of Darkness" by Ursula K. Leguin
11. William Shatner wears them to prevent chafing when he rides his horse.
12. "I Wish I Was Queer So I Could Get Chicks" by Bloodhound Gang
13. Victor/Victoria
14. "In her Majesty's Secret Service"
15. "Switch"
16. "Bosom Buddies"
17. "Tootsie"
18. Cary Grant

## TRANSGENDER QUIZ ANSWERS

### MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

