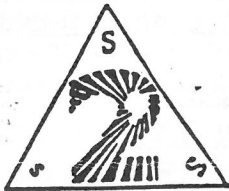


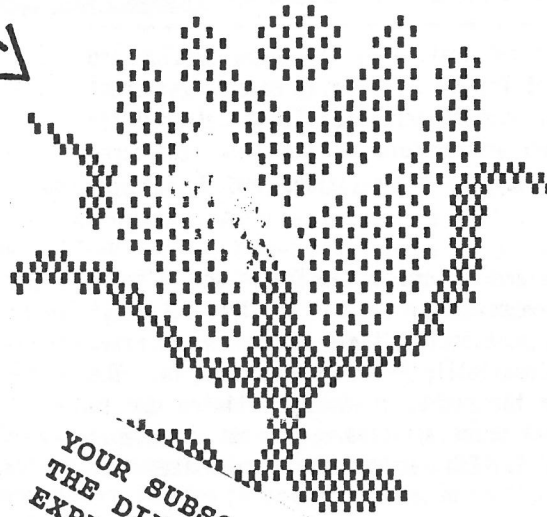
SIGMA
EPSILON



Tri-Ess Sorority

KAPPA
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Notice →

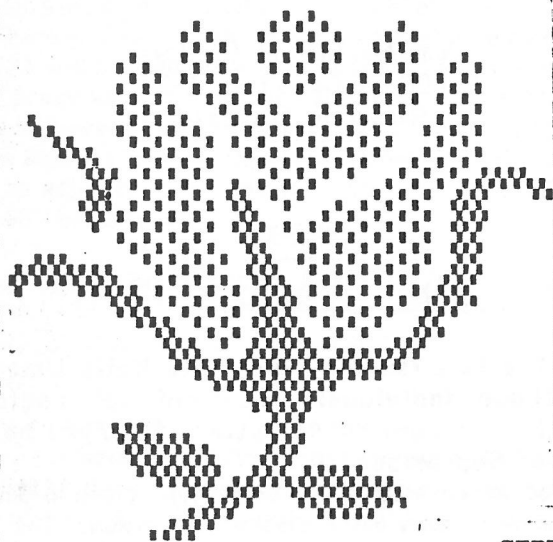


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IN THIS ISSUE....

- * New Sigma Epsilon P.O.Box address
- * Atlanta Halloween Party Oct. 14
- * Charlotte Halloween Party Oct. 28
- * New Presidents Speak
- * Significant Others News and Views
- * Bathroom Etiquette



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RESEARCH REPORT

Bathroom Etiquette

by Sheri Scott

Since a Wives or Significant Others Support Group is in the process of forming, excerpts from a report titled *Alienation, Self Image, and the Importance of Support Groups for the Wives of Transvestites*, by T. S. Weinberg, PhD, (Sociology Professor) and V. L. Bullough, PhD, (Natural & Social Science Dean) at Buffalo State U. College, published in *The Journal of Sex Research* Vol. 24 pp. 262-268, 1988, seems quite pertinent. Wives in four groups, a TV organization, a wives' support group, an outreach organization, and a group in counseling were queried.

A previous report (Weinberg & Bullough, 1986) had reported that most women did not support their husbands' cross-dressing, but only tolerated it. This report showed that the longer-married partners, who found out about the cross-dressing late in the marriage, viewed it most negatively. Feelings of betrayal or the husband's increasing frequency and femininity in cross-dressing, beyond agreed limits, were suspected causes.

"The majority of all wives saw their mates as having positive qualities when they were dressed as women. Over 60% described their husbands as more sensitive, content and relaxed in women's clothing; another 3% saw their husbands as quieter, softer, and more tender and lovable when dressed."

Despite the prevalence of negative feelings, 79% of the women reported their marriages were happy. Self esteem, a critical factor, was found strongly related to occupation and even more strongly to whether the woman felt she had control over her life.

"Those women with high self esteem found some benefits in their husbands' transvestism. They were more likely to say that since finding out about their husband's transvestism their sex life had improved."

A most important finding concerned the value of wives' support groups. Support group membership was related to high self esteem, and most wives who did not belong to such a group wanted to join one. Ninety-five percent of the wives who did belong to such a group felt that it was helpful.

Some summary statements include:

"...women weigh their spouses' good qualities against their transvestism . . . the benefits of living with a transvestite spouse were greater than the cost."

"Our data clearly indicate a need of support groups for wives of transvestites. Such groups may be especially helpful for women who feel that the situation is out of their control and for those whose self-esteem is so low that they may blame themselves for their husbands' cross-dressing.

A full bladder always poses a conundrum for crossdressers. If away from your own toilet, you have a number of alternatives: 1) try to get home as fast as you can; 2) go in the woods; 3) use a men's bathroom; 4) use a ladies' bathroom; 4) find a bathroom used by both sexes; and 5) oops! Waited too long!

If you happen to be close to your home or motel room, you can always return there to use the bathroom. Going in and out of your own home dressed in women's clothing is, for obvious reasons, risky, but if you have rented a room, you need not worry about entering and leaving several times a day to go potty. Returning to your room may, however, require a drive across town in rush hour traffic. Sooner or later you will be forced to find some public place to go. No. Don't even think about alternative number 2!

You'll cause a riot if you go into a public men's room. Going into a ladies' room can be dangerous, especially if you don't pass well. It's one of the few things you can do which can get you in serious trouble with the police. Although I routinely do it, I don't advise it. Instead, try to find a place with one bathroom for both sexes. Or, look for a place with bathrooms which admit only one person at a time. You won't get quite the reaction if you are read coming out of a "single-seater" ladies' room that you will get if you are read by a woman who is adjusting her skirt in a busy public toilet.

Try a service station. Sure, you might have to get up nerve enough to actually go inside and ask for a key; sure, if you're read, you might get laughed at. But there's no danger beyond that posed to your ego. Besides, if you wait a minute, you might be able to catch the door as someone else leaves.

Small shops are another possibility. Try an antique shop. Try a used bookstore. Chances are there will be only one bathroom, and no waiting. Ahhh! Blessed relief!