

Princess Lacey's Picture Album #34

Pantywaist Pictures

Everything You Ever Wanted to Know About the Word Pantywaist



With photos, drawings, old advertisements and other fascinating items here is everything you will ever want to know about "panty waists" a childish undergarment that made boys into sissies and a word that became one of the worst insults to call a boy or young man.

Since 1981

A PRINCESS PRODUCTIONS PUBLICATION

**T ROYAL
COMBINED WAIST AND HOSE SUPPORTER**

*Made in Black and White and in sizes to fit all children
from 2 to 10 years of age.*

These garments have an advantage over all others by being **ADJUSTABLE**. The slide on the suspender straps makes them longer or shorter as it is moved up or down, and the suspender straps in the back being **ELASTIC**, prevents the buttons being worn off; and another superiority is their being made of **GOOD** material and first-class workmanship. They support the whole weight of skirts, drawers and pants, as well as the stockings, from the shoulders, and to allow of **THAT**, the waist band should be **LOOSE** and **EASY**. They are two garments in one, and at the price of one of them. Mention the age of child when ordering; also color wanted. Send money order if possible, otherwise one or two cent stamps only. Price, 50 cents.



S. C. KELLOGG,
Room 307. 43 Leonard St., NEW YORK

The 'combination' harness as shown in this 1895 ad was the forerunner to the pantywaist. The combination was so-called because it combined a waist strap and suspenders into a harness to hold up both a child's underwear and stockings.

Picture Album

#34

Pantywaist Boys

A "panty waist" is a garment that was most popular for children (both boys and girls) from about 1910 until the 1940s. A panty waist is a vest-like garment made to clip or button onto a one's underwear and stockings to hold them up and they were widely used until elastic became popular for waistbands on underwear. But once elastic waistbands became popular, panty waists evolved into the garter belt as a support for stockings.

But the word pantywaist soon took on a negative meaning because they were usually only worn by small children, and therefore for a man or boy to be called a pantywaist was an insult and equivalent to them being called a small child or baby.

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The Word Pantywaist

PANTYWAIST PRONUNCIATION

pant-y-waist - 'pænti,weist [International Phonetic Alphabet (IPA): pan-tee-weyst]

PANTYWAIST DEFINITION

1. Noun. Informal. (Pejorative, dated) a man or boy considered as childish, lacking in courage or a timid man or boy considered childish or unassertive.

2. panty waist (two words): Formerly, a child's undergarment consisting of a vest to which panties and stockings buttoned on at the waist. 3. Adjective. (one word): weak; fainthearted. 4. Informal: childish.

PANTYWAIST SLANG FOR: a Democrat, leftist, progressive (as opposed to a conservative), tree-hugger, gun-control supporter, someone who can't handle their liquor or has no courage

PANTYWAIST USAGE: To intimidate for not being masculine (enough) or to tease a guy when he is scared and not acting masculine in accordance with social norms

PANTYWAIST ORIGIN: 1910-30; panty + waist

PANTY WAIST WORD

ETYMOLOGY:

A panty waist was formerly a child's undergarment in which a shirt and pants were buttoned together at the waist. Earliest documented use: 1910.

PANTYWAIST EXACT

SYNONYMS

candy ass, cissy [British spelling], cream puff, effeminate, fag, faggot, feminine, girlish, girly, girly-boy, homo, homosexual, lady-boy, nancy, nancy boy, pansy, queer, sissy.

PANTYWAIST GENERIC SYNONYMS

baby*, butt fucker, caitiff, chicken*, chicken heart, chicken liver, childish, coward, cocksucker, crybaby, cuckold, daisy (also can be used with a positive connotation meaning "best of something"), dick licker, fainthearted, fraidy-cat, ineffectual, jelly belly, jellyfish, lily liver, Milquetoast, milksop, momma's boy, namby-pamby, quitter, pushover, scaredy cat, softy, spineless, submissive, timid, unassertive, weak, weakling, weak sister, weak, wimp*, wuss, wussy, yellow, yellow belly.

Style 4

KAZOO
REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

*Athletic Suspender Waist
for Boys
Ages 4 to 18*

Style 4.....	Sizes 8 to 18
PRICE.....	\$5.75 Doz.
Style B (with Belt).....	Sizes 4 to 12
PRICE.....	\$5.75 Doz.
Style 7 Finest Qual.	Sizes 8 to 18
PRICE.....	\$10.00 Doz.
Style 7B (with belt)	
Finest Quality.....	Sizes 4 to 12
PRICE.....	\$10.00

A handsome metal counter display cabinet lithographed in five colors, given free with orders of four dozen or more.

HARRIS SUSPENDER COMPANY
1230 Broadway, 30th Street
NEW YORK CITY

Pacific Coast Branches
San Francisco 515 Market St. Los Angeles Delta Bldg.
Baltimore Hanover Bldg. Kalamazoo, Mich.

Canadian Licensee for KAZOO
Eaton & Co., Ltd., Toronto, Ont.

"Whiz" Suspenders Harris Belts and Jewelry Buckles Garters Armbands

The suspender waist worn by this boy in an advertisement from 1908 was a forerunner to the pantywaist. Nice bloomers on the boy too!



9 E 664—Here's a well-made Pantie Waist. Fine quality White Knit Cotton is its very durable material. Buttons to attach his panties or drawers to this garment have been sewn to reinforced strips. Two garter tabs. Buttons down the front. **SIZES: 2 to 8 years.** Our price. **Post. 1c. 25c**

Panty Waist Advertisement

(New Castle News [PA], 15 June 1916, p 5)

A panty waist is an old-fashioned vest-like undergarment with buttons around the bottom as shown in the 1916 advertisement above. A child's panties could be button onto the vest; hence the name "panty waist." Generally, garter straps were buttoned onto the waist. However, some models had reinforced straps so garter straps could be pinned on, while other models featured garter straps permanently sewn onto the waist (like in the photo above). But both those models still had buttons for hooking on panties, bloomers, short trousers and skirts.

Boys detested the word "pantywaist" because it came to be used derisively as a term for a sissy or effeminate boy. In the early years of the twentieth century nearly all boys up to the age of twelve wore long stockings and therefore needed supporters attached to an underwaist or skeleton waist, a harness-like arrangement of straps without the vest. Boys often preferred skeleton waists because most people didn't include them in the category of a "panty waist" although the function is identical.

This panty waist on the right was designed specifically for boys because it is plain without gathers. Girls' waists typically were shirred in front (i.e., the chest area was made with extra material to be expandable) whereas boys usually were plain without gathering.

RICHMOND'S

Fatigue Waist and Hose Supporter



FOR BOYS AND GIRLS

with the famous **SECURITY CLASPS** is so constructed that it can be made to fit any child perfectly. All of the weight of the undervest, panties and stockings falls from the shoulders. All dress reformers highly recommend the **Fatigue**. *The Security Clasp never tears a stocking.* Ask your dealer for them or send me your order. In ordering state child's age. Prices by mail:

Ages 2 and 4, — 50 cents
 " 6 " 8, — 55 "
 " 10 " 12, — 60 "

Circular Free

C. F. RICHMOND, Mattoon, Ill.

Children's Hose Supporters

The celebrated velvet grip hose supporters are without doubt the most satisfactory sort. They are made of best materials only, and the rubber covered button absolutely prevents slipping or cutting of the stockings.

Child's or babies' side strap lisle hose supporters..... 15c

Child's or misses' shoulder brace lisle hose supporters, black or white; 30c and..... 25c

Child's silk side strap hose supporters, colors black, blue, pink, yellow, red..... 30c

Same style babies' size 25c.
 We also have them in ladies' sizes.

Panty Waists for Boys and Girls

(Wilkes Barre Times Leader, 16 October 1919, p. 10)



Museum Display of Pin-on Garters

Compared to button-on garters, pin-on garters were a typical option for children during the early twentieth century. The garters would be pinned onto a panty waist and then clipped onto the child's stockings. The above garters, despite the girlishly pink ribbons, were made for BOTH boys and girls. Pin-on garters, like suspender harnesses, garter-anchored blouses, waists and panty waists evolved into the garter belts that were popular from the 1940s to the mid-1960s.

Especially in the cooler months, most boys wore long stockings attached to panty waists (or garter waists) under their short pants instead of knee socks that exposed their knees to the cold weather. Also knee socks tended to fall down and many parents wanted a smooth appearance of unwrinkled-looking legs, so they insisted their boys wear long stockings.

Panty waists were sold either with or without supporters already attached, but they all had garter tabs at the sides because the support of long stockings was one of the most important functions of a panty waist. Note the pin-on garters pictured here with pink and blue ribbons were for both boys and girls.

In the above 1919 advertisement from Richmond's, take special note of the term "dress reformers," which is a reference to the parents, nannies and guardians who used petticoat punishment; the ad openly encourages them to use these panty waists when disciplining their charges. Also notice the boy model had lacy edges on both his puffy sleeved undershirt and panties!



Summer Underwear
For Girls and Boys

Good, durable, dimity union suits for boys. The athletic type that gives plenty of freedom of action. No sleeves, short legs; has buttons for panties and for supporters. Sizes 2 to 12.

50c

Sexton union suits for girls and boys, sizes 2 to 12 years, are of fine rayon with buttons for skirt and panties and tabs for supporters. They are sleeveless and finished with lacy bloomer type knees.

Sexton
UNDERWEAR
AND NIGHTWEAR

79c

For Girls and boys, sizes 14 and 16 are priced at 95c

The suit has tabs and buttons to attach garter straps and shorts or a skirt. The reinforced tabs went all the way up and over the shoulders so the tension on the garters didn't pull on the fabric of the suit. The ad obviously appealed to mothers who liked their boys to be "daintily attired."

The colorized photo below of a U.S. boy in 1921 with his pink bloomers unabashedly exposed shows that his mom was of such tastes with him in lacy-edged bloomers. This boy, even if he himself hated the term "panty waist," his mother made him wear one as well as the other sissy clothes. He probably had little choice in the matter!



Boys' Panty Waist Union Suits

(Salt Lake Telegram, 7 Dec 1921, p 3)

A lot of boys hated the term "panty waist" because that garment was considered girlish or babyish underwear. From 1900 until 1940, long stockings for boys were at a peak of popularity, and of course, those boys had to have some way to hold up their stockings if they didn't wear a panty waist, so they wore either a garter waist, suspender harness or union suit that had a provision for elastic hose supporters and all of which functioned like a panty waist, but at least they weren't called that word.

Mothers might use the term "panty waist" but many underwear manufacturers avoided the term because boys so despised the word that it had a negative effect on sales. Nevertheless, here we see an ad (obviously appealing to certain mothers) for union suits "for girls and boys ... of fine rayon with buttons for skirt and panties."

Union suits (all-in-one style undergarments) were made for both boys and girls up to the age of at least twelve and even sixteen, as highlighted in this advertisement. Perhaps the most interesting thing about this ad is the drawing, which is obviously a boy and the fact that his "union suit" is of the silky rayon variety and "finished with lacy bloomer-like knees!"



Bloomers & Pantywaists on boys in the 30s

Above left: boy in bloomers, pantywaist and stockings 1935 Germany
Above right: Pantywaist wearing boy in colorized photo in Sweden 1935.

More Boys in Bloomers and Panty Waists

Boys often wore not only panty waists but girly bloomers during the early part of the twentieth century, and it was typical in countries throughout the world as shown here and in pictures that follow. In some countries boys still wear them! In the 1920s and 30s, some mothers thought it was unacceptable for a boy to show his garter straps and any bare thigh above his stocking tops, so they had their sons wear bloomers and thought it was OK for the bloomers to show!



Above: Russian boys wearing gartered stockings in 1976
Below: Garter belts are the modern variation of the pantywaist.
This ad is from Sears 2012 catalog for His & Hers garter belts (the same) for medical prescription support stockings



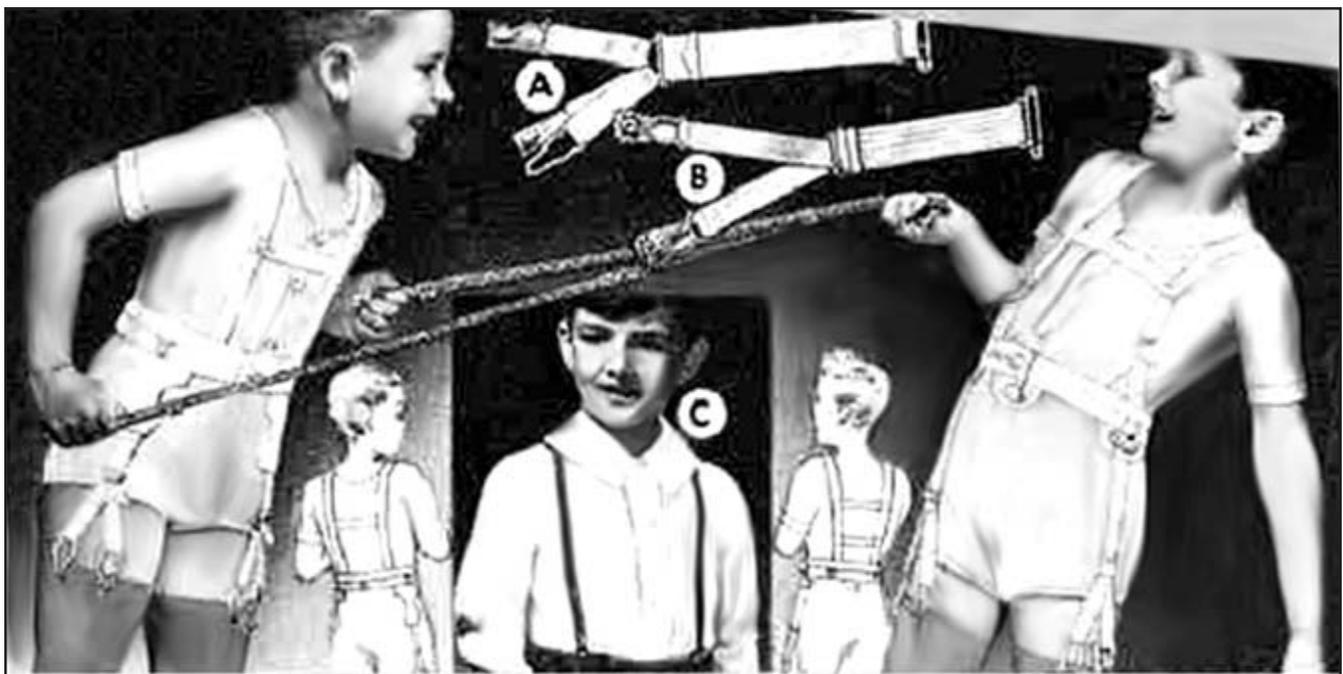
The Word 'Pantywaist' in Other Languages

Some languages have a word that precisely translates into the word 'pantywaist' -- like in German: "Schwächling."

Of course, all languages have a word roughly equivalent to the word 'pantywaist' but do not have an exact match. Therefore, in many of those languages, they also use the English word 'pantywaist.' Those languages include: Danish, Dutch, French, Hebrew, Hindi, Hungarian, Italian, Lithuanian, Norwegian, Polish, Portuguese, Romanian, Russian, Spanish, Swedish, as well as many others.

This 1930 photo shows a "Schwächling" a German boy wearing his pantywaist school uniform. It looks like he won a trophy for something but he doesn't look very happy!





More fun for girls and boys in Sissy-Style Pantywaists & Garters

Kern's Sateen Button-On Garter Waist. Double-thickness material... reinforced at all strain points. Soft sateen, eliminates irritation at rub points. Adjustable elastic garters. Straps across front and back. White. Even Age-Sizes: 2 to 12. State age-size. Shpg. wt., 3 oz.
25 D 5436—Each, 59c

(B) Pin-On Garters— Adjustable rayon elastic. Sizes, colors as 25 D 5400 a. right. State age-size, color. Shpg. wt., pr., 3 oz.
25 D 5401—Pair, 9c
2 Pws. (Shpg. wt., 5 oz.) 17c

(C) Child's Suspenders. Rayon Elastic. Adjusts to age 10. White on Blue, or Brown. State color. Shipping weight, 4 ounces.
25 D 5402—Pair, 9c

Rayon Elastic Suspenders with gold color slides and clips. Adjusts from age 8 to 14. Maroon, Dk. Brown. State color. Shipping weight, 2 ounces.
25 D 5403—Pair 19c

(A) "Velvet Grip" Garters. Adjustable 1-in. liilo elastic. Age-Sizes: 2 to 4, 4 to 6, 6 to 9, 10 to 12. Black, White. State age-size, color. Shpg. wt., pr., 3 oz.; 2 prs., 5 oz.
25 D 5400—Pair 18c
2 Pairs 35c

Kern's "Daisy"—so simple, children dress themselves! Sturdy white rayon tape. Adjustable shoulders, elastic garters. Buttons at side, front and back for outer garments. Front and back straps prevent slipping from shoulders. Age-Sizes: 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 14. State age-size. Shipping weight, 4 oz.
25 D 5433 37c
Each 37c

Above style in lighter weight white rayon tape. Even Age-Sizes: 2 to 12. State age-size. Shipping weight, 3 oz.
25 D 5432 21c
Each 21c

Sears 1939

From "Maven's Word of the Day" web site:

Originally the word "panty waist" referred to an article of clothing for children, an undergarment that consisted either of suspenders or an undervest that buttoned at the waist to hold up a child's underpants and stockings. The word panty waist isn't used to much anymore. I guess it fell out of favor, but I still like the word.

I read your definition of pantywaist, using it as an insult. I like it. We have always used the word when someone was acting like a coward or acting afraid of something that

wasn't really frightening. I called my preteen grandsons "pantywaists" when they were acting like a couple of silly little girls, giggling over something. They had never heard the word and thought it was funny.

By metonymy, beginning in the 1930s, the term for this children's garment began to be applied disparagingly to tease or shame older boys and men who normally would never normally wear a panty waist to insinuate that they were effeminate or weak, a sissy.



Scenes from a period piece European movie of one boy's daily ritual of helping his younger brother into his panty waist and stockings.





Pantywaists on boys in the 40s
 Left: USA Sears catalog ad for hosiery for school children 1941
 Right: Switzerland 1941



Boys Strumpfhalter-Gurtel

(Germany, 1940s)

Especially in Germany during the mid-1900s, long stockings were standard wear for children, and both boys and girls usually wore a simple, unadorned garter belts to hold up the stockings. Strapsleibchen (panty waist-like bodices with four supporters attached) were sometimes worn by older boys and girls, but many children by the age of thirteen wanted a more adult-like gartering system.

Boys older than twelve thought garter belts were more masculine and less humiliating than the old garter shirts which they tended to regard as little girls' underwear even though most small boys wore them too. Strumpfhalter-Gurtel (garter belts) were mostly available in pink and gray. Of course during World War II, throughout Europe, most children had no say in what their mothers were able to provide for them. Because of austerity measures (since almost everyone had been impoverished by the war), many boys had to wear dresses and girls' clothes because of an extreme shortage of male clothing. Clothing, especially

underwear, was often handed down in German families, and mothers during this difficult decade paid little attention to color since they were interested in practicality more than gender significance. So boys often had to wear pink underwear if they were inheriting it from an older sister, and girls sometimes had to make do with boys' supporters as well, and many boys opted to wear a pink garter belt instead of a panty waist.



Pantywaists on boys in the 40s
Left: Boy busking in Poland 1949
Right: USA Sears catalog ad 1943

Pantywaist vs Panty Waste

Language experts hate when people substitute words with similar sounding words. For example, saying the term "panty waste" instead of "pantywaist." Calling someone a "pantywaist" is equivalent to calling them a sissy. However, when people try to insult someone by calling them "panty waste" -- as some people do, either on purpose or out of ignorance, they are saying that person is crotch rot!

"Panty waste" appears in way too many published books and articles by authors and editors who should know better. It's even in a book of euphemistic insults where one would hope they wouldn't be afraid of saying something gross like "cunt-rag." As a garment "panty waist" is two words and as an insult it is combined into one word "pantywaist." Used properly, they are both correct.

Yes, "panty waste" might be more offensive, it's of recent vintage and incorrect. The original "pantywaist" goes back to the 1930s. Perhaps some people don't know the original meaning of pantywaist and think it means the elastic waistband on a pair of panties. While "waste" might be a more graphic insult, that doesn't make it right.

Examples of the use of the word 'pantywaist' from a search of web sites, books and magazines.

"He's limp-wristed, feminine, lacks courage -- a real a pantywaist, for sure. Maybe he is or maybe he isn't gay, but I assume he is -- how much evidence do you need?" *Muscle World*, 1974

"Jimmy swears that he likes chicks, even though he's such an obvious pantywaist." *Omnibus*, Fall 1981

"I'm happy that Danny got the lead as Pinocchio, but I don't know how the school gave an OK to his costume. A queer must have designed it. You should see it: a frilly girlish blouse, wide-legged shorts and an old-time panty waist

underneath with the garter straps in full view stretched down his legs to hold up his stockings! Really faggy! They even have him wearing Mary Janes. But do you know what? Danny loves the outfit! Go figure!" *Moms Online*, 2004



Three German boys recently spanked in 1954. All three wear somewhat sissified clothing.

"Did you see how that kid threw the ball -- or should I say tried to throw the ball? The wimp is an obvious pantywaist." *Boys Playtime*, 1992

"I think my career has shown I'm not exactly a pantywaist" (John Wayne, in a 1971 *Playboy* interview).

"My kid said his new teacher is a pantywaist. I told him that's not nice to say about someone, but then I met the guy at the PTA meeting -- my son is right -- but I would have used an even stronger word!" *Family Days*, 2000.

"Hey, Josie, today at the museum in the vintage clothing exhibit, I saw what they called a "panty waist" -- a garter belt attached to a blouse kind of thing to hold up a kid's long stockings, but here's the kicker -- the panty waist thing was worn by boys as well as girls. I couldn't believe it!" *Sally Gals Online*, 2005



Pantywaists in Europe in the 60s
Upper left: East Germany 1962
Upper right: Germany 1963
Bottom left: Sweden 1965

Pantywaist Metonymy

A metonymy is using the name of one object or concept to apply to another to which it is related. A panty waist is a childish garment to hold up stockings but the word "pantywaist" evolved into a metonym for "an effeminate or weak man or boy -- a sissy." Other clothing-based metonyms are a "skirt" as an older slang term for a woman and a "suit" for a business executive. An expression that parallels pantywaist in using a woman's garment to refer to weak men is the British English big girl's blouse; the Longman Idioms Dictionary cites such examples as "Go on then, try and hit me, you big girl's blouse" and "You can't sit in a pub and drink Coke, you big girl's blouse!" Some other metonyms referring disparagingly to men based on items considered inappropriate for masculine men are creampuff and the older cake-eater.

The Original
Knit Waist

For Boys
and Girls



Nazareth Waist

Millions of mothers during the past 34 years have shown a preference for the Nazareth Waist because it gives the utmost satisfaction in comfort and wear. Made of soft, elastic, knitted fabric—worn next to the skin, it absorbs perspiration and keeps little bodies cool and dry. Knitted suspender tapes support weight of outer garments direct from shoulders. Metal pin tubes for hose-supporters. Buttons down front. For boys and girls 2 to 15 years.



Nazareth Waist
Union Suit

The ideal knee-length, sleeveless undergarment for growing children. Shirt, pants and waist in one. *A New improved non-irritating tape finish at arm-holes; also new, a durable binding to prevent drop-seat from tearing.* Practical and economical. Easy to put on, helps children dress quickly. Fewer garments to buy, less to wash. Sizes 2 to 15 years. Always look for the Nazareth trade-mark.

If your dealer can't supply you, write us.

NAZARETH WAIST CO.
349 Broadway Dept. K New York
Mills at Nazareth, Pa.



Send for Nazareth Doll-Cut-Outs

The children will enjoy them. Two dolls in color with two costume changes for each one, sent free.

Nice silky high-waisted bloomers on the boy model in this 1921 magazine advertisement!



Panty Waists in Sports

Men and boys playing soccer and hockey both wear long stockings usually secured with a panty waist-like garment that has long been a traditional part of each sport's regulation uniform.



Panty Waist Shortage!

The men pictured here are soccer players from Spain. A few years ago an interesting thing happened when the only company in Spain that supplied the panty waist-like garments for the soccer players went on strike and they became unavailable. And since Spain has a law that all their official national sports uniforms must be made in Spain, the various teams had to buy women's garter belts (like those pictured above) to use in place of their official soccer garters until the company settled their strike and made them available once again! How about the cute little satin bows on those garter belts!

Tami Erin starred as Pippi Longstocking in the 1988 film by Columbia Pictures



Pippi Longstocking

Pippi Longstocking is the lead character in a famous series of books by Astrid Lindgren. She's a girl of exceptional strength and ingenuity. She's nine years old and doesn't want to grow up. These stories have been translated into over 60 languages and made into numerous movies.

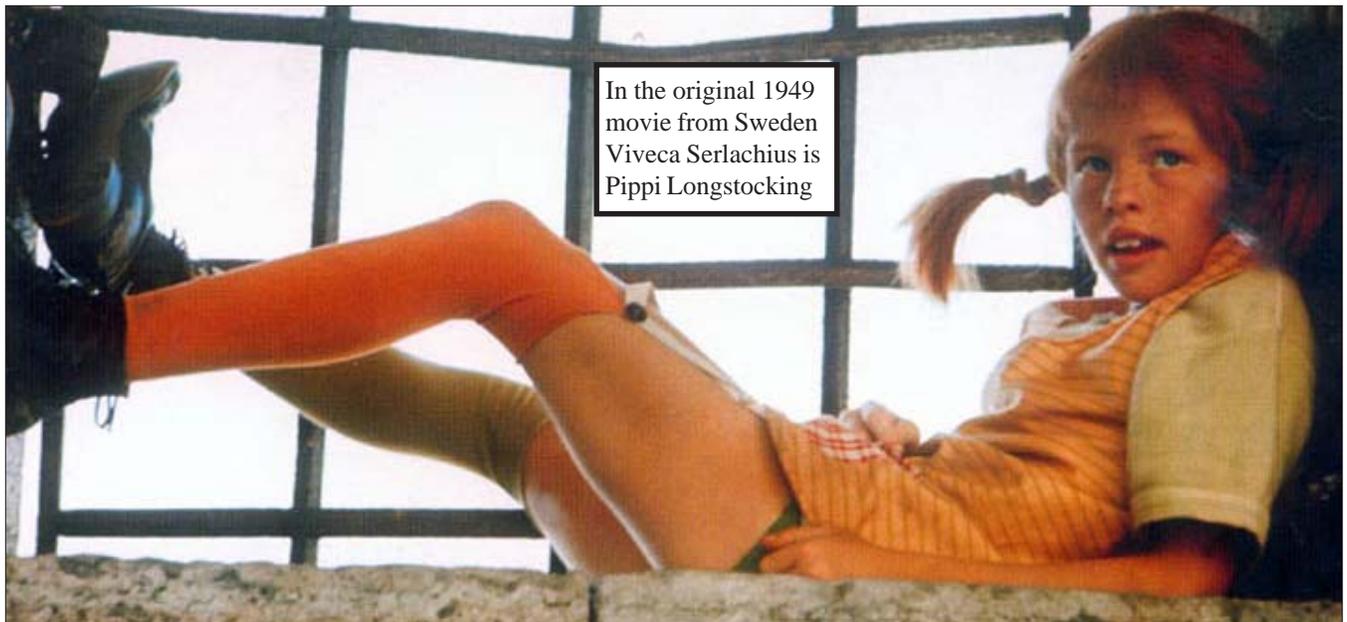
Pippi is a girl, but what is most striking about her appearance, besides her flaming red hair in flyaway pigtails, is her gartered stockings, always mismatched and sloppily



Even some boys love to dress up as Pippi Longstocking

attached to her garter waist. We're sure Pippi hooked many young boys on gartered pantywaists and stockings, and we thank her for it! Pippi Longstocking costumes are popular dress-up costumes and even boys have been known to dress up like Pippi on occasion, like the boy pictured here.

In the original 1949 movie from Sweden Viveca Serlachius is Pippi Longstocking





Other Books by Astrid Lindgren

Best known for her "Pippi Longstocking" series of books (see photos and information on the previous page), Astrid Lindgren also wrote the very popular "Noisy Village" series about the Six Bullerby Children living in a tiny, remote village in Sweden in the late 1930s, a relatively calm time in Sweden although a war was "starting soon" as mentioned in the stories.

The photos on this page are from a movie version of these books and shown here is a boy in bloomers being dressed by his nanny in a pantywaist with long stockings, typical underwear for children of both sexes at that time.

The books were first published in Sweden, but have been translated into dozens of other languages. The story-teller is a little girl named Lisa; she tells us about her life and adventures in the small and neat Swedish village Bullerby (Bullerbyn in Swedish) and the children living in two nearby houses.

The books have been made into several movies and TV series in several different languages including English.

Pantywaist Christians

Evangelical church members endure countless pulpit-tantrums against the "pantywaist Christians" -- a derogatory term intended to implicate as cowards any believer who does not shove doctrine of Jesus down the world's collective throat.

I am not a coward, but I do wear panties, and because I am not a coward, I am not ashamed to say that I wear panties. In fact, I want the pulpit-thumping preachers of the South to know: I am a pantywaist Christian!

And I am not alone. According to a study by the Barna Group, panties are worn by:

- Most churchgoers
- Most "born again" Christians
- Most prayer warriors
- Most of the "deeply spiritual"

So get a grip, preachers; it's panty-wearing Christians who write your paycheck. Historically, the baddest, boldest missionaries the world has ever known were pantywaist Christians too. We're tired of the subtle and not-so-subtle gender slams that imply any kind of feminine Christianity is somehow bad -- to be feminine is good not bad. In fact it is women who have been the backbone and strength of the Church from the beginning.



I'm very proud to say I'm a Pantywaist Christian boy. I love wearing a modern version of a 'pantywaist' -- a sexy corselet with the garters attached to hook up my long silk stockings. I love Jesus for making me so I can become a lovely girl whenever I want, and I'm sure he loves me too! After all, he must be a trannie -- he wore dresses too!