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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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February 1999

Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES

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FEBRUARY 1999

Sisters in Charge:

CAMILLE

JEAN

KATHY

PATTI



Hello, La Femmes.

Hope that big snowfall back in early January didn't put a crimp in your style (or a cramp in your snow shoveling muscles). I just took it as an opportunity for exercise in order to fit into that snug two-piece suit I recently acquired. Other less lofty ambitions included:

- To build a snowman or a snowgirl?
- Creative parking on unplowed streets.
- Improving my snow angel renditions.

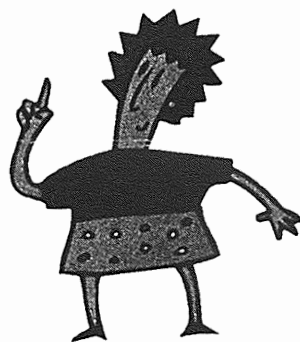
Right now, though, I'm working my way through the classic 'writer's block'. It's as though I've left the 'new ideas' part of my brain in the freezer and now I'm waiting for it to defrost so I can get on with this 'writer's feast'. The thoughts are there. Organizing them is the problem.

⇒ The solution:

- ♦ A bullet.
- ♦ Like this.
- ♦ Lots of them.

So on to the column filled with bulleted ideas and assorted musings.

- ♦ January meeting attendance: 11. Where were the rest of you?
- ♦ Pay your annual dues now if you haven't already 'cause we need the dough for more bullets and related items.
- ♦ New informational brochures available if you know someone looking to join the Belles.



- ♦ First Transgender Discussion Group held in January got off to reasonable start.
- ♦ A second TG Discussion Group meeting planned for March....
- ♦ ...see Coming Events page for details for those details.



- ♦ Helping someone move to a new apartment is a nice thing to do...
- ♦ ...but not on a cold and snowy January 1.
- ♦ A new hairpiece can work wonders for one's image and keep your head warm at the same time.
- ♦ Open toe heels work great in a dance club...
- ♦ ...but not in the snow outside one.
- ♦ Winter clearance sales are going on right now. What are you waiting for?
- ♦ I don't care what the calendar says. February is the longest month.
- ♦ Will Spring ever get here?
- ♦ Is anyone interested in having a 'Glamour Photo' session done ?...
- ♦ ...I'm looking for a photographer/studio that will give a discount if we can sign up a minimum number for individual shots. Let me know if you aware of one or are interested.

Well, I'm out of bullets. Until the next issue, stay warm and think spring.

Hugs,
Camille

KATHY'S NOTES

Dear Sisters,

The January meeting had one of the poorest attendance in some time. This may be attributed to two possible causes: 1. The weather. Hard to believe just several feet of snow in the interim between meetings could have such a drastic affect. Or 2. The word got out that Kathy was going to finally make a meeting. Now if we were to accept the argument in favor of the snow, how can we explain a new sister Kelly making her debut. Especially since she came all the way from Rochester to do so. So it must have been Kathy's fault. Even Kelly's attendance can be explained away with: she didn't know Kathy.

Now Kathy's attendance did have something really unusual with it. For the first time in six years of meetings, she finally came cross-dressed! And only eight others were there to see this event. Hey, if staying home and shoveling off your roof or digging your driveway entrance out for the third time that day is your preference, fine. Just don't blame me. Sure will be great if all this shoveling turns out to be good for breast development, won't it? Of course if you are that optimistic, your also soaking your head with Rogain every day!

FEBRUARY MEETING:

Yes, it isn't to long before the opportunity to go out for a night of tripping the lights femmetastic will be held on February 6th. Just a reminder that this will be held in the upstairs meeting room. The one on the end of the education wing. Now there is the firescape entrance, but without the return of El Nino between writing this and the meeting, it may not be usable nor safe! So just come in one of the other doors and head upstairs.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY:

We wish to offer our thoughts to Joan ■ with the passing of her dear wife Linda. Joan was the girl who ac-

quired our original charter from Tri-Ess and got the Nu Phi Chi chapter started about ten years ago. Linda was a very supportive wife and was pictured along with Joan in the full page article they got printed in the Buffalo News about this new group for crossdressers. Linda often accompanied Joan to the meetings of this new group and again when it was reincarnated by Denise some years later. Although we haven't seen them in some years, they will both always occupy a spot in our hearts. Linda was 42.



JANUARY ATTENDANCE:

Jean ■
 Janice ■
 Patti ■
 Danalyn ■
 Kathy ■ (new name: Stanley)
 Colleen ■
 Michelle ■
 Joy ■
 Camille ■
 Jennifer ■
 Kelly ■

BELLES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY - 1998



Pictured above from left to right – First row: Jean, Donna, Vaughn, Becky, Jennifer, Melissa, Janice. Second row: Patti, Dana, Celeste, Joy, Camille. Third row: Susan, Cindy, Nancy, Brenda (guest), Karen (guest) (More attended the Christmas Party but had to leave before this photo was taken.)



Pictured on the left are the sisters honored at the Christmas Party, whose efforts over the years have contributed to the success and continuation of the Buffalo Belles.

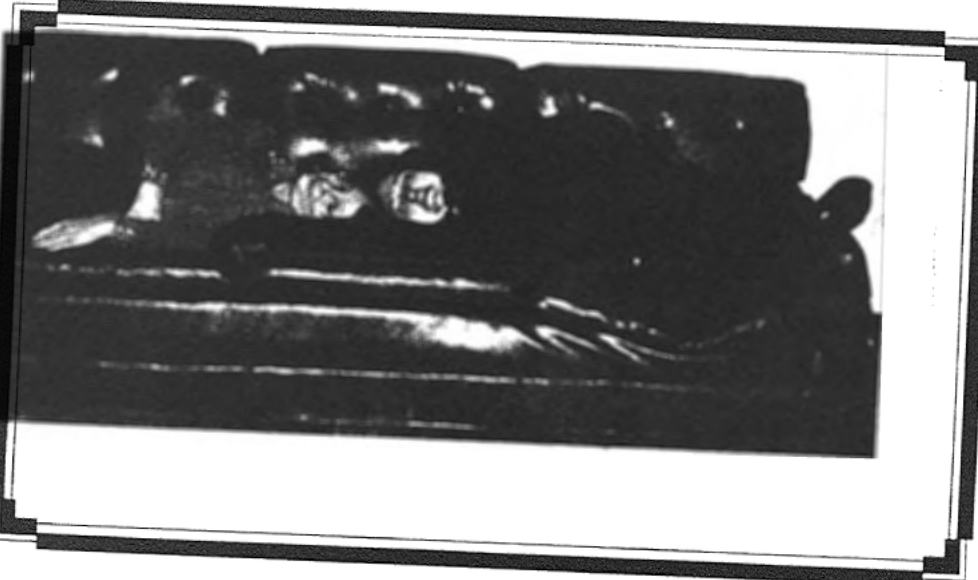
From the left: Camille, Janice, Denise, Patti, Jean. Also honored (but missing from picture) was Kathy.

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Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226-1701

Or E-mail to:

Pictured on right: Jennifer and Jean look on amused, as Vaughn wonders if Santa will bring her that blue negligee set, and more importantly, the breasts to put in it.



The photo on the left shows what can happen to those who party too hardy. Janice, on the left, and Tanya take a well deserved rest towards the end of the evening. Are they dreaming of sugarplum fairies or, perhaps, a good-looking Santa's helper who might help them decorate their tree?

A LETTER FROM CAROLYN:

Dear Sisters,

Enclosed you'll find my dues for the upcoming year. I think everyone is trying to do a nice job for the Buffalo Belles. Keep up the good work. I would like to take this time to wish all my sisters a wonderful new year. I'm hoping to be able to meet some of you this coming year.

Hugs your way,
Carolyn

Jennifer's Corner

Hello Ladies.

We had a very interesting January with all that snow. I hope everyone survived without too many problems. Well as promised in last months newsletter I will discuss the standing of Transgendered people in history.

Within the United States there are more than 15,000 transsexuals, people whose genitalia and identities as men or women are discordant. In transsexuality, a person with a penis, for example, identifies as a woman, or a person with a vulva and vagina identifies as a man. In psychiatric literature, transsexuals are considered psychologically impaired.

Probably the mother of transsexuality would be Christine Jorenson, the first publicized transsexual. Then we have Renee Richards who was in the spotlight in the 1970 era, but the history of transgendered people goes back much farther in the history of the world.

Most Americans consider transsexuality problematical at best. This is not necessarily true in all cultures. In some cultures, an anatomical man identifying as a woman might be considered a "man-woman" and accorded high status and special privileges. He would be identified as a "two-spirit", a man who

assumes female dress, gender role, and status. In this culture a "two-spirit" is not considered a transsexual, or transvestite. The two-spirit is regarded as a third gender. The two-spirit is found in many cultures around the



We'wha was a Zuni man-woman who lived in the 19th century.

world, including Native American, Filipino, Lapp, and East Indian cultures. It is almost always men who become two-spirits, although there are a few cases of women assuming male roles. Two-spirits are often considered "shamans," individuals who possess great spiritual power.

Among the Zuni of New Mexico, two-spirits are considered a third sex. Western beliefs about gender focus on gender as biological. The Zuni by contrast, believe that gender is socially acquired.

Two-spirits were suppressed by missionaries and the government as "unnatural" or "perverts." Because of this persecution anthropologists believed that two-spirits had been driven out of existence in Native American Cultures but there is evidence that two-spirits continue to hold ceremonial and social roles in some tribes, such as the Lakota Sioux.

Understandably, two-spirit activities are kept secret from outsiders for fear of reprisals, much as transsexuals and cross-dressers do today.

I hope you found this as interesting as I did while I was doing research.

We are not alone. We are not anything new. We are just ourselves, as it should be.

Take care. See you next month

This months quote:

"Over emphatic negatives always suggest that what is being denied may be what is really being asserted".

Jonathan Raban (b. 1942), British author, critic. *Counterblasts* (1989).

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

Internet Entertainment Group Plans Webcast of Surgical Sex-change Transformation of 49-year-old "Julie" from Male to Female

SEATTLE--(ENTERTAINMENT WIRE)--Jan. 7, 1999

When 49-year-old "Julie" undergoes surgery on January 28th, (Editor's Note: The date of this webcast has been temporarily delayed. Check their website for updates.) to complete the journey that will transform her from man to woman, the entire procedure will be carried live throughout the world on Websites hosted by Internet Entertainment Group, the company that gained fame for exposing the sexual hi-jinx of celebrities from Pamela Anderson to Dr. Laura Schlessinger.

IEG formed a joint venture to produce the Webcast of the sex change operation with Calypso Health, a division of privately-held Calypso Productions Int. Inc., a Florida-based Internet content provider, which has been assisting the person who chooses to be identified only as Julie in making arrangements for the surgery. The surgery will be carried on www.genderchange.com and www.clublove.com, the flagship site of IEG.

Julie was born with atrophied male genitals but nonetheless fathered a child more than 20 years ago. Julie believes that she was always meant to be a woman and has been undergoing hormonal and other medical treatment to prepare herself for the final step - which involves removal of her penis and constructions of a vaginal canal.

Julie believes that allowing the procedure to be shown live on the Internet will give hope to other people who suffer from transgender confusion and doubts. Calypso partnered with IEG to help handle the Webcast because, based on preliminary interest, viewership is expected to be high and Calypso feared its Internet server capacity would be overwhelmed.

The surgeons performing the operation and a psychologist trained in transgender issues will narrate the event from start to finish.

In order to protect the identity of Julie and to avoid a media frenzy, the name and location of the hospital where the operation will be performed has been withheld. "All we are prepared to say at this time is that it is a highly regarded West Coast hospital," said Warshavsky. "We will be releasing additional details about the Webcast as the time of the event approaches."

FASHION IN THE NEWS?

These days, when a man in the news reveals for the first time he is a transvestite, it seems not so much as to shock as to provide newspapers with a chance to weave a fashion report into the story. In London in November, the former financial fund manager, Peter Young, arrived in court after being indicted on massive fraud counts, which were not discussed by the press as much as his outfit was ("light brown jumper with a pattern of violet and blue pansies over a flowing white dress with red and orange floral prints," wrote the Daily Telegraph).

And also in London, Falklands War hero, Brian "Lynda" Waling's march in the Remembrance Day parade in November was duly noted ("blue skirt, white handbag, floppy hat, all smartly set off by his military medals").

(From News of the Weird)



The Accident

Two transsexuals had a minor car accident:
A trans gender fender bender.

They went to a body repair man:
A trans gender fender bender mender.

They had to see a loan officer:
A trans gender fender bender mender lender.

They received the loan via messenger:
A trans gender fender bender mender lender sender.

The messenger had an accident on the way:
A trans gender fender bender mender lender sender fender bender.

FOR A BETTER YOU...



Makeup Tips

Q: I've got a lot of old, already opened makeup sitting around in my bathroom. How do I know what's safe to keep and use, and what I should throw away?

A: We go to so much trouble to keep our skin clean and healthy, the last thing you want is to contaminate it with old, possible unsafe cosmetics. Here's a handy guide to the shelf life of already opened products:

Cleanser: 1 year

Foundation: 1 year (avoid sticking your fingers in the container)

Lipstick: 1 to 2 years

Mascara: 3 to 4 months, especially if you wear contact lenses or have sensitive eyes

Face Powder: 6 months

Eye Shadow: 2 years

Blush: 2 years

Lip Liner: 3 years or longer

Eye Liner: 6 months (since it's applied so close to the eye)

Moisturizer: 1 year (try keeping it in the fridge for longer life)

Eye Cream: 3 to 6 months (again, refrigerating helps)

When in doubt, check the odor, color and consistency of a product you think might be too old to use. If it looks, smells, or feels bad or "off", throw it out!

Knowing how long your products will keep for not only protects your skin, but it's a great way to monitor your buying habits; if you keep buying creams that end up going bad because you don't use them, you'll know to buy only what you will actually use.

Q: I have a whole collection of makeup brushes, and I'm not sure how or when to clean them. What is the best way to care for makeup brushes?

A: Caring for your makeup brush investment is much easier than most people realize. I typically wash all my brushes every two weeks. All you need is a good, slightly moisturizing shampoo or liquid soap, and a towel.

Start by wetting the brush bristles thoroughly, then apply a small dab of shampoo or liquid soap directly to the bristles, and work it in for a few seconds like you would shampooing your hair. I like to swish it around with a little water in my palm to work off any stubborn eye shadow or concealer. When the shampoo and water are free of debris, rinse the bristles thoroughly under lukewarm running water, very gently squeeze the excess water out, reshape the bristles to their normal shape, and lay the brush on the towel in a flat position. The brush must be dried flat for two reasons:

If the brush is upright, any excess water will run down into the brush and break down the glue that is holding the bristles in place

The bristles will bend and flop over into a completely different shape, making normal makeup application very difficult

I usually clean my brushes at night so they are completely dry and ready to go in the morning. Be careful not to overwash your brushes, as this can make the bristles brittle and scratchy. If you find you are using multiple colors that require the brush to be clean, consider buying more than one of the brush you use most often.



How To 'Bond' With Your Silicone Breasts

by Kimberly [REDACTED] (C) 1992

The joy of actually wearing silicone breasts attached to your own skin cannot be denied! They look, feel, and behave so exquisitely that it is hard to go back to simply wearing them in a restrictive brassiere. Attaching breasts is easily accomplished by purchasing an inexpensive brush-on adhesive from any medical supply company. I have tested several types of adhesives and have chosen one particular type for its wearable strength, and ease of removing the "used" adhesive from the silicone breasts afterwards.

I originally liked UROCARE Uro-Bond 5000. This is a clear polysilicone adhesive which, at first, appeared to be robust (pun - NOT!). But experiments soon revealed that the adhesive weakened around the perimeter of the breast, especially after sleeping in them. Also, cleaning this type of adhesive from the polyurethane "skin" (which covers the silicone gel that fills the breasts) was not easy. Trichloroethane solvents, used to remove adhesive from your own skin, can actually momentarily cause unusual expansion and rippling of the silicone breasts. And I believe that this can accelerate the breakdown and tearing of this delicate polyurethane "skin" (I ruined one pair - an expensive lesson!)

So, I have switched to SMITH+NEPHEW Skin-Bond 4000-00, which uses a "white" Natural Rubber adhesive in a Hexane solvent. Hexane does not cause the rippling effect and subsequent damage to the polyurethane breast skin. However it is considered to be a neurotoxin, so it is best to follow directions about ventilation and drying time. (The best adhesion is achieved if you coat the breast and your own skin, then press it in place after 4 minutes). I researched the toxicity of n-Hexane and convinced myself that it can be used safely. Since it is used medically as a natural rubber solvent for application to human skin, I believe it is safe. The amount used is very small. (Any solvent has its risks, even acetone, trichloroethane, etc.)

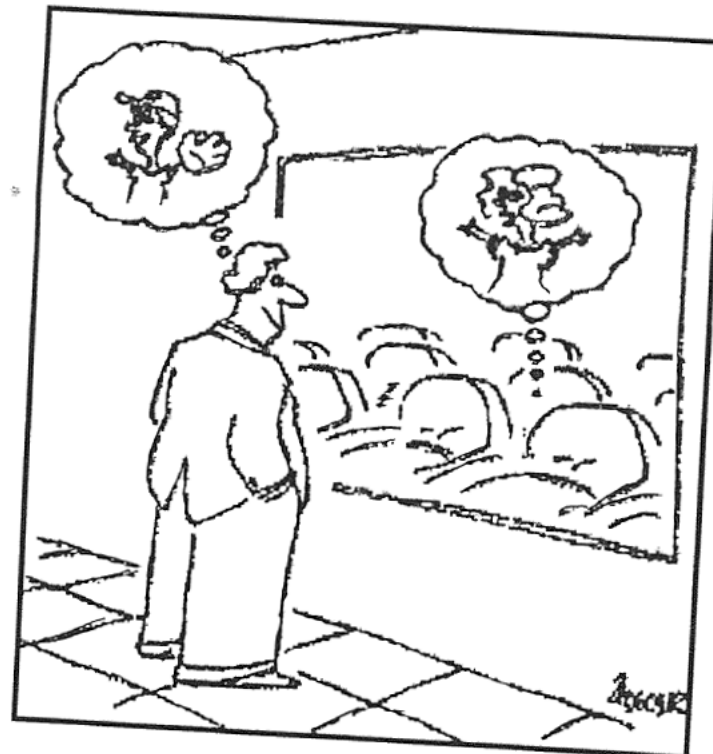
Natural Rubber really has great adhesion! The breasts don't pull away from your skin around the perimeter as easily. And perspiration does not affect the holding power. You can even swim, shower, sleep, or take a bubble bath! eventually, you may have to remove them (reluctantly, I'm sure!), and then it's clean-up time (fun!). The white rubber adhesive that remains on your chest can easily be removed using Mineral Spirits and a paper towel. Wash the solvent off with soap and water. A nice dusting of Baby Powder will absorb any residual stickiness. But what about those silicone breasts? All that white rubber! (And if you were lazy, and built up many layers of natural rubber before cleaning, what a mess!).

As I mentioned, you do NOT want to use pure Trichloroethane on those silicone breasts, as the outer polyurethane "skin" will wrinkle and possibly weaken with repeated exposure. The manufacture of such solvents did not know that you would be cleaning breast prosthesis, or trying to re-use them without damage. You may get away with it for awhile, but it's an expensive gamble..

The Secret!

I just discovered a "solventless" method of removing the layer of white natural rubber - apply Vaseline petroleum jelly all over the adhesive, and let it sit overnight. Then, after wiping the Vaseline off, and "degreasing" in soap and water (DAWN detergent is great), you can use your fingertip to gently peel-back and "roll" the rubber into a ball. It peels back off the breast very nicely, leaving little trace of rubber! This is a significant improvement over dissolving it with solvents - large build ups of rubber can take absolutely all night to remove using solvents. The Vaseline method takes minutes (after the overnight soak). If a small amount of stubborn rubber goo remains in some places, this can be safely removed using SMITH+NEPHEW Uni-Solve 4020-00 Adhesive Remover. This contains Naphtha (also called Mineral Spirits) and a smaller percentage of Trichloroethane. The ratios of solvents make it gentler on the polyurethane, and you don't have to worry about damage. If you own silicone breasts and have never attached them, I encourage you to try this delightful experience. The SMITH+NEPHEW Skin-Bond 4000-00 Natural Rubber Adhesive (with Hexane) costs less than \$10.00. Ask your local medical supply house. Mineral Spirits Paint Thinner is less than \$5.00 at any hardware store, and Vaseline petroleum jelly is about \$3.00. Good luck, and enjoy your "bosom buddies"!

ZIEGLER



MISS...CELLANEOUS FILES



NANCY NOTES

Hi again, Ladies!

My offering in January was a bit serious so I want you all to take the following short quiz. I call it "Nancy's Top-10 List of Indicators." This may be helpful in deciding if you are a M to F crossgendered person.

10. Your birth name is John, but you tell everyone your nickname is JACKIE!
 9. You know a TV is not something you sit in front of each Sunday watching football games!
 8. You don't wait until Christmas or Valentine's Day to buy lingerie, make up or perfume...you buy in weekly!
 7. You were 11 years old when you sent away for a pair of Joe Namath pantyhose!
 6. You're the only male on your block who goes shopping with coupons, does laundry, housework, sewing and cooks all the meals, but you hate to mow the lawn or take out the garbage!
 5. You tell people at your church you always wear a skirt on Sunday because it is a Scottish custom...even though your last name is Soblewski!
 4. Your favorite Halloween costume is Janet Reno!
 3. You're convinced a bad habit is something you wouldn't be caught dead wearing!
 2. You prefer your Ked's sneakers over your Air Jordans!
- Drum roll.....The top way to discover if you are a M to F TG is:
1. Your mailman congratulates you on finding a queen size girlfriend when the Lane Bryant catalogs start coming to your house!

If you identify with less than 3 items on the list you are borderline, and should seek help. If you identify with more than 3 items you are beyond help because you are in fact a M to F crossgendered person. If that is the case....ENJOY!! Get all dressed up, and attend a group function soon. Help spread the word that it's OK to be accepting of others.

Until next time, I remain your sister,
Nancy



(From a greeting card picked up in Toronto.)



COMING EVENTS



FEBRUARY 13

THE RED PARTY at CLUB MARCELLA 10:00pm
622 MAIN STREET, BUFFALO (716) 847-6850

FEBRUARY 27

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 10:00pm – 2:00am
Benefit for AIDS Community Services to be held at
Buffalo State College, Elmwood Ave. Info: 847-0340

MARCH 7

TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY MEETING 2:00pm
367 DELAWARE AVE (near Tupper St.), BUFFALO

MARCH 13

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm (upstairs room)

MARCH 17-21

IFGE 13th ANNUAL CONVENTION, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

APRIL 3

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm

MAY 1

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm

MAY 13-15

TRANS AMERICA CONFERENCE CHARLOTTE, N. CAROLINA

JUNE 2-6

17th ANNUAL BE-ALL CONVENTION CLEVELAND, OHIO

JUNE 5

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm

Since February is the month where we honor those we love, here's a short story that shows the power of devotion and commitment.



A male-to-female transsexual and the wife who has remained with her through her gender reassignment process are fighting a Belgian court order that they divorce because the country's laws do not recognize same-sex marriages. Priscilla (nee Rony) and Jeannine Van Sandt appeared on January 13 in the Antwerp Court of Appeals to contest the order.

Priscilla was adamant about not abandoning her marriage, saying, "And why should I? My partner has supported me during this difficult period. Should I just throw her away saying thank you for the service given? It's not possible." Jeannine said of her 25-year spouse, "I love this person, whether he's a man or a woman. That may seem bizarre, but that's how it is."