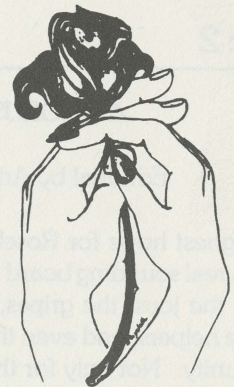


Rosebuds



Volume IV

March 1990

Issue 3

FROM OUR FOUNDER'S AWARD WINNER

Marcie Michaels was the winner of the 1989 Tiffany club Founders Award. Tiffany is very much enriched by members like Marcie, with her warmth and dedication. The paragraphs below are taken from Marcie's heart-felt expression of gratitude.

"Thank you Merissa for the compliment and honor of the 1989 Tiffany Club Founders Award. I was taken completely by surprise and found myself speechless. These thoughts may be late but they come from my heart. I wanted to tell you then, that my efforts to help Tiffany Club and the cross-dressing community are insignificant in the shade of the accomplishments you, yourself have made for all of us. Thank you for being there for all of us, and dedicating your life to advancing understanding for cross-dressers. I do hope that I have been, in some way, of assistance to you and Tiffany Club in reducing prejudices and misunderstanding. The blatant prejudice of recent Congressional action in Senate Bill 933 (equating TV'S, TS'S AND Gays with criminals, and denying us fair housing protection) shows that we all have our work cut out for us if hate and ignorance toward cross-dressers is ever to be eliminated...."

Thank you also to all of you, the Tiffany membership for your support of your club, and for the understanding, warmth, and friendship you are willing to share. During the Awards Banquet, I was delighted to introduce the recipients of the Friendship Award. Cheryl Thomas and Kristina Lindsay were honored for their sense of sharing, personal warmth and friendship. This award is my special favorite.

I have spent most of my life as a wanderer on this earth, and I've come to treasure family and friends as things most

precious to me. The heartache of constant farewells only serves to polish the facets of the gems of friendship and make them more beautiful.... What the writer and indeed many other observers of and within our community miss, is friendship within our groups. For most of us, part of our hearts have been closed and secret. Guilt and fear of rejection have kept us from ever confiding our secret with anyone. Support groups of all sorts succeed because they bring together people with a common interest or concern, and these folks understand when someone pours out their heart, because they have been there.

The cross dresser first discovering the Tiffany Club is many times hesitant and shy to open up. This is a secret which has been guarded for over a lifetime, and feelings are not easily shared. However long it may take though, we each find that understanding ear. Those friends with whom we can share our heart of hearts, become treasures in our lives. Sometimes at a meeting or during an outing, someone will say something, express a thought which brings me such a rush of emotion, that I cannot hold back the tears of joy. (No matter what the consequences to my eye liner.) The feeling of warmth, love and understanding from those friends at times like that, are among the high points of my life. The Awards Banquet evening was one of my life's precious moments. Thank you all for making it a special night for me.

Hugs to you all. I hope to see many of you at coming Board and Programs meetings. Come and take part, get involved. Together, we can stand proud and show the world our personal best.

Love,
Marcie Michaels

A CHORUS??

Editorial by Arlene U.

My highest hope for Rosebuds that it will become a real sounding board for the activities, the hopes, the joys, the gripes, the fears, the love and the helpers, and even the humor in our CD community. Not only for the Tiffany Club, but all those people around us who share our needs and our goals. Maybe, if you look at the new issue each month, you will see more voices singing out about all kinds of things that are important to our lives. Maybe you will see a richer publication becoming more and more what it could be - a focal point for all of those things that we want to share communicate with each other. We must allow plenty of room for diversity of views. After all, there is no "one way", to act or think as a cross-dresser, and there many approaches to the problems and life issues we all face.

This is a lot to aspire to, but it is definitely worth doing. We need this kind of a Rosebuds, because when it really comes down to it, we CD's are the best people around to help and support and inform and encourage one another. Arlene can only do so much, because the real voices for our chorus are yours. All an editor can do is to provide a supportive platform, some inspiration and some orchestration, to the best that you can offer.

So far good things have been happening, and lots of people have been providing good materials. It seems like the list is growing each month. In just the last two issues we have heard from: Kyelle B., Pamela B., Stephanie C., Roberta D., Robyn G., Rosalyn G., Marcie M., Charlene M., Jackie M., Niela M., Karen N., Diane R., and Nicole S. Thank you all very much, you have made Rosebuds a better and a richer publication. And there are others that Arlene has not had the chance to publish yet.

We have made a really good beginning - lets keep it going! Perhaps we can hear from more of you. The new "Letters" section, makes it possible for you to have your inputs without preparing complete articles or papers. Arlene's "Perestroika" policy will give you considerable freedom to express yourself.

For those of you who might like to submit some-

thing, here are some guidelines and words of advice:

- Keep your piece between 1 and 2 typewritten pages or less, but not more than 3 pages. If you can, send a floppy disc (IBM on Word Perfect or ASCII), along with hard copy. But it does not have to be typed or on disc.
- Send materials as early as possible in the month. The 15th is the last day for any materials that can be included in the next Rosebuds.
- You can mail to the TCNE Box in Woburn in care of "Rosebuds", or you can place it in the Rosebuds box at the house.
- Be patient, remember that things may need to be edited, and that your materials may not get published until a later issue.
- If you wish, please leave your name and phone number, so that Arlene can discuss it with you.

LETTERS

(The following letter was passed on to me anonymously by some alert member of the club. I am publishing it because it is a powerful and poignant example of the dilemmas and conflicts experienced by young men, as they begin to face themselves and their needs as CDs. This is particularly difficult in the military life. - Arlene)

I am a 25 year old male that likes to cross-dress. And my wife is offended by my desire to dress-up. I love her dearly, and I don't understand, myself, why I like to dress. If I was a woman, I'd be a lesbian. If I am a man, I'd be a T V. Why, I don't desire men, not at all. I like the feel, clothing, the act, roll, beauty of a woman. I often imagine myself being her, and her being me. And I would try to satisfy her needs from that stand point. How does she want to be touched, hugged, treated.

I feel safe dressed as a woman and free. Sometimes a little guilty, but I don't understand my desire, and I have had it since before I started school. In kindergarten, we would play house and I would dress-up. As

Rosebuds is a publication of the Tiffany Club of New England, P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA 01888-0483

Tiffany Club is a service organization founded to support the transvestite/transsexual/crossdressing community.

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You can be one too!

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TIFFANY CLUB SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Persons who are not members need to be screened before attending meetings. Please contact the membership committee at (508) 358-2305. On every Tuesday evening there is a meeting of the group at the house 8pm. to 9pm. These meetings will be moderated Rap sessions as we have held in the past or be featured speakers or classes. Saturday evenings are an opportunity for formal and informal social events. Members find the house a convenient setting in which to rendezvous both before and after dinner, shows or other informal events. Formal events are arranged on a monthly basis.



MARCH		
2	Fri	7:30 Wives Support Group Meeting (House)
4	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
6	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
11	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
13	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
16	Fri	6:00 Programs Committee Meeting (Office) 8:00 Tiffany Board Meeting (Office) 8:00 Couples Group (IFGE Office)
17	Sat	7:30 St. Patrick's Day Party (House)
18	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
20	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
25	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
27	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
APRIL		
1	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
3	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
6	Fri	7:30 Wives Support Group (House)
7-8	Sat,Sun	All day Annual Spring Cleaning
8	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
10	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
15	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
17	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
20	Fri	6:00 Programs Committee Meeting (Office) 8:00 Tiffany Board Meeting (Office) 8:00 Couples Group (IFGE Office)
21	Sat	All Day Open House (House) 1 - 5pm Flea Market (House) 7:30pm Italian Dinner (House)
22	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
24	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
29	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
MAY		
1	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
4	Fri	7:30 Wives Support Group Meeting (House)
5	Sat	7:30 Dining Out (see separate article)
6	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
8	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
13	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
15	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
18	Fri	6:00 Programs Committee Meeting (Office) 8:00 Tiffany Board Meeting (Office) 8:00 Couples Group (IFGE Office)
20	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
22	Tues	8:00 Rap Group (House)
27	Sun	12 noon Alcoholics Anonymous (Tiffany Office)
29	Tues	Tiffany Provincetown Spring Outing

Notes
The Board meets in the Club office, on the third Friday of each month.
The Programs Committee meets in the Club office at 6:00PM on the night of regularly scheduled Board Meetings.
The Tiffany Wives Support Group meets in the house on the first Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted).
The Couples Group meets at the IFGE Office, in Waltham, on the third Friday of each month (unless otherwise noted).
 The Tiffany Club Office is located at 6 Cushing Street, Waltham, room 202. Tel. (617) 891-9325.



PROGRAM NOTES

By Karen Ann Nielsen

The Tiffany Awards Banquet & Winter Getaway Weekend, continues to be a big topic of conversation among those who attended. All in all, everybody seems to agree that it was an outstanding event. Just about everything went smoothly as planned, and the best word to describe it is "fabulous".

I really want to thank all of the people who pitched to make this such a great event. The vendors who put on the fashion show and provided the services we were all able to enjoy, the members who pitched-in and made things happen, the hotel management and staff - all deserve our thanks. As you can probably imagine, this kind of event doesn't "just happen". It requires a lot of effort by a lot of people working together in a cooperative fashion to make it happen. I want to thank all of you, from the bottom of my heart, for a great job well done. Now, on to up-coming events.

The St. Patrick's Day Party will be held at the house on March 17th. Dan Reily will be our host and supervise the preparation of the Corned Beef and Cabbage dinner. Those who have attended the traditional Irish affair in the past, know what a great meal Dan puts on. A good time is had by all. The cost is \$12 for reservations received by March 13, and \$15 for later reservations. If you can come early, please contact Dan at the IFGE Office (617-899-2212), and let him know what time you will be available. He needs a few Irish Maidens to help with the decorations and the fixins.

Don't Forget - The IFGE 'Coming Together' Convention, at the Crown Plaza from March 27th to April 1st. This should be a spectacular national event, and it will be in Boston this year! Previous issues of Rosebuds have described the many activities that will be held. You may be asked to help with the TCNE programs planned for this Convention. See the Registration Form, opposite side from our regular event registrations.

There are two events in April. **The Spring Clean-up** is on April 7th, and the annual **Open House and Flea Market** is on April 21st. Our Annual **Italian Night** will also be Saturday April 21st, at 7:30 PM. These events are described in a separate article.

May is also a busy month with a **Dining-out** on the 5th, and the great **Provincetown Spring Outing**, which runs from May 29 through June 4. Both of these events are also covered in more detail in separate articles. June 23rd, will be the "Judy and Roberts Steak-out", more details next month.

Hugs

OPEN HOUSE AND FLEA MARKET Special Added Attraction - Italian Night

Saturday April 21 will be a busy day at Tiffany House. Open House will be from all day until 5 PM. There will be a flea market held in the yard (in the garage if weather is bad). Selling is from 1 PM to 5 PM. The flea market is open to all members, to bring whatever items you wish to put up for sale. A good time to clean out your closet girls. Be sure to tag your fleas. Put a tag on each piece with the price and size. This saves a lot of unnecessary wear in handling by potential buyers.

There is no charge to participate in the market, but we recommend that you donate a percentage of your sales income to the club. There is no need to register for the Flea Market.

Our special added attraction, Italian Night, will be hosted by Laura and Sue. This returns an event to our schedule that folks really missed in recent years. On past Italian Nights, Laura and Sue have gone all out, and prepared a meal to remember. It begins at 7:30 PM. Your cost is \$12 if reservations are received by April 17, or \$15 at the door. Come early, bring a change of clothes, and stay for a pleasant evening.

SPRING CLEAN-UP

April 7th is the date! This is the day we all pitch in to spruce up the house and grounds to get ready for summer. After all the work done at the house last year, we certainly want to keep things looking good. Lets face it, we all enjoy the Tiffany House facilities throughout the year, and it's an obligation that we all, as members, have to contribute a little once or twice a year to maintain the facility. This is an all day project, come as early as you can. Lunch will be provided at no charge, and the regular attendance fee to Saturday night will be waived for volunteers.

SUPPORT GROUP MEETING IN APRIL

There will be another meeting of the Gender Support Group, with Niela Miller on Saturday April 7th, From 9:30 to 12 PM. This session will cover, how to use your dreams for personal guidance. The Group meets on the first Saturday of each month. For information or reservations, call Niela at 508-264-4565.

**"YOUR SURE TO FALL IN LOVE WITH OLD CAPE COD"
(ESPECIALLY IF YOU ARE JUST 'COMING-OUT')**

Ask your sisters what was the most thrilling of all of her experiences as a crossdresser? In many cases, she will talk at length and in great detail about her coming-out on the Cape. Many of us went out dressed for the first time in Provincetown, and the memories of our first time are vivid. Once again, TCNE is preparing for our 10th annual Provincetown Spring Outing, to be held the week of May 28th to June 4th, 1990.

Our P-Town Spring Outing has always been designed for those people desiring their first-time-out. This year, because of our large increase in membership, we are preparing a very special week of things for our newer people to do. The event hostess, Jackie MacDonald, has designated two people to serve as the co-hostesses for our regular TCNE First-Timers Program.

For those of you who may not be familiar with the TCNE First-Timers Program, it is a year-round program designed to foster a new-person who is going out in public dressed for the first time. The program works together with our year-round TCNE Big-Sister Program, where a more experienced person is available to you for the length of your outing. Your Big-Sister is responsible for insuring that you have all of those things you will need before leaving home, for helping you through your new experience, to be with you for your debut.. TCNE would like you to have a pleasant first time out, and for you to be able to share your experience with someone who understands its significance.

The registration form for the Provincetown Spring Outing is available now. We invite you to join us. Note on your registration form that you are a First-Timer and that you would like a Big Sister, and tell us how your Big-Sister should contact you. You may, in any case, ask for a Big-Sister, even if you are not a First-Timer. Just check the appropriate blocks when you register.

Meantime, consider some of the things that First-Timers before you have done in Provincetown. The four ladies who rose at 2:30AM to do their makeup, and were teeing-off at 6:00AM. The gaggle that boarded the boat for a whale watch. The couples who went on a motor coach tour of the sand-dunes. The eleven-person ladies soft-ball team (we would have won, had the outfield worn flats..). The ladies that went horse-back riding. The intimate dinners; the lounge afterwards. Sitting with a girlfriend in a sidewalk cafe, having breakfast. Shopping in the many stores. Going down in the morning, hair and robe, for coffee. Walking the beach. The confirmation that yes, she is real. It is all there for you, and it is very safe. You need only to want to go.

SPRING DINING OUT

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 1990

TCNE is pleased to announce that the arrangements for our third annual Spring Dining-Out are complete. Our hosts, the Cottage Crest Restaurant, 610 Trapelo Road, Waltham, will honor our presence at 6:00PM for cocktails, with seating for dinner at 7:30PM in the upstairs alcove. The alcove is adjacent to the main dining room, and may be accessed either through the lounge, or through the restaurant side entrance, directly from the parking lot. The coat room and the stairs up to our dining area are immediately on your left as you come into the restaurant.

A Dining Out is an opportunity to present yourself, either semi-formal or formal, in a very dignified and refined atmosphere. The offering is a formal dining experience, with some pomp and circumstance, but without any structure (i. e., no speeches).

We have an outstanding menu choice; Veal Oscar with Bernaise sauce, Baked Boneless Chicken Pajaski with wild rice stuffing and mushroom sauce, or Broiled New York Sirloin. Your entree includes French Onion soup, garden salad with choice of dressing, seasonal vegetables, oven roasted potatoes, dessert, and coffee or tea. Cocktail service will be available during dinner. Cost is \$25.00 per person. See your registration form.

This is a FIRST TIMER'S NIGHT. If you wish this evening to be your first time out, and you would like a Big Sister, please note your registration form. And please, be sure to tell us how your Big Sister should contact you. The Spring Dining-Out is one of the best choices for your first time, for several reasons: The weather is relatively warm, so all of the heavy winter clothing is not necessary; The Cottage Crest is a open and inviting host; and the event itself is conducive to relaxing and enjoying a very personal and significant event in your life. If you have questions, or just need a little reassurance or encouragement, see Karen or Stephanie or any of the Club hostesses.

Alcoholics Anonymous

Every Sunday

12 noon - 1:30pm

Closed Speaker Discussion

Tiffany Office, Room 202

Cushing St., Waltham

All are welcome - Only requirement is the desire to stop drinking

Dress Code - Masculine or Feminine in good taste

NOT IN MY BACKYARD

Part Four of a Continuing Series

By Stephanie Chandler

Our subject this month is dealing with problems in public in real-time. What do you do when you are out, you are feeling good about yourself, all is going well, and bang! - something happens that you did not anticipate might happen.

All of us who have been out at least once have had something happen that we didn't expect. Perhaps some of us have more than our share of exciting things happen - perhaps some of us never have anything happen. Perhaps, but what if ---

It is beyond the scope of a newsletter article to detail all of the things that could happen to you while you are out, and what you might do in response. But I can offer some suggestions that may allow you to deal with the issue more positively than you might otherwise.

To do so, I invite you to return to last month's ROSEBUDS article, specifically to page 7, middle of the page, in the right column, to the paragraph that starts with "What does matter, is...".

To understand last month's ideas, you should allow that I do not believe "passing" is based solely on one's ability to look good. While certainly the presentation must be acceptable (fit the time of day and place, be appropriate to your age and build, etc.), the deciding factor on passing, I believe, is how you feel about yourself when you chose to present your feminine persona. Do you feel good about her, and accept her as a part of your whole-self? Are you comfortable with the feedback that comes from the people and happenings around you? Do you consider that feedback to be constructive criticism, and do you learn from it? Do you feel you are an actress who is uncomfortable with her role? Are you always thinking about your body-language, your voice, your hair, who's looking at you? Are you always worrying, will I be read? Please let me offer you my thoughts on these and other questions.

I take due care with my clothes, my hair, and my makeup. I try to dress my age, and have it be appropriate to the time of day and the place that I will be. Still, I'm almost six feet tall, 180 pounds light, and I gracefully float along, much like a penguin. I want to be transparent when I am out and dressed; meaning, I am there, but no one really notices. That wish, alone, is very improbable. Just the presentation is not enough for me to be able to "pass". I have to exude that confidence, that inner smile, that glow, that comfortableness to have it all work for me. It isn't on a switch. It is either there, or it is not there. What makes it happen? I'll offer what works for me, and others that I know. After referring back

to last month's article, let me expand on the subject, "Self".

Self is what you believe to be true about you, and it is expressed in your personality. Personality, by definition, is the characteristic and distinctive traits of an individual, as demonstrated by how those traits interact to help or hinder the adjustment of a person to other people and situations. When you are confident that you are a happy and well-adjusted person (self-concept), because you have given yourself a complete and honest critique (self-identity), you will be able to pursue the issue of passing in a positive way (self-actualization). This does not, and will not, happen overnight; it may take many days or weeks, or even a few or more months. But, you can make it happen for you. It doesn't have to be just for "her", either. It works for "him", too. In fact, if you approach the issue of Self as the total-person, you will find the process to be easier than if you approach it only in a specific gender role. All of you (masculine and feminine) will benefit from your increased self-esteem.

Here is a suggestion for becoming more confident and secure with yourself: sit down when you have a couple of hours, and consider who you are and what you want for you? Is it completely fantasy dressing? Is it dressing only to be out in a safe place? Is it dressing to go out anytime, anywhere? Are you transexually-inclined? Do you dress to shock people? Do you dress for the sheer thrill of it? Do you dress for your own edification? Do you dress to impress? Impress whom? Is family involved; might they be at some future time? What might be their response; can you handle their response? Can they handle their response? Are you being very selfish? Are you being irresponsible? Are you happy with "him"? Are you willing to pay the pauper for your self-indulgence???? Are you being less than mature about all of this? Are you being realistic? Again, are you being realistic??? How will your dressing interact with work, friends, neighbors? Go through this process again, and again, and again. Repeat it until your satisfied, and there are no lingering doubts. It is all important that you have these answers. Without them, the rest of this is a waste of your time and energy, and perhaps through some action you take, be very costly to you in terms of relationships, friendships, or possibly, your health.

Because I spend a lot of time with people new to our community, I am quizzed often on the question of passing. "How do you pass?". I can't answer the question, mostly because my intent in being out and dressed is not to pass, but to be me and enjoy myself. Being me and enjoying myself also happens to allow me to pass. It is cause and effect: I am out (be)cause I want to enjoy myself and express her side of me in a socially-acceptable way; the effect is, "passing". All because I know who I am, what I want, who both 'he' and 'she' is, and how the two relate to each other. And should my little hobby become public, I am prepared to deal with it, as is my family. Knowing this, and being comfortable with it, allows me to be me, no matter what I am wearing.

(Continued on page 8)

CONSIDERATIONS ON A WIFE'S ACCEPTANCE OF HER HUSBAND'S CROSS-DRESSING BEHAVIORS

by Rosalyn G.

Although this is a personal commentary, and not research-based, I present it in the hopes of gathering comments and ideas from other wives and couples.

What is it that can make a wife who has felt accepting and positive about the influence of cross-dressing on her husband, move to the point of a negative attitude? I am an educated person with a background in sexuality issues, family problems and counseling. My husband's expression of his cross-dressing was initially seen as positive to his self-esteem and to our relationship. It was hoped that sharing of intimate feelings and open communication would strengthen our relationship, and it did at first.

It is true that I did not have all positive feelings and my husband in his 'femme' persona did take some getting used to. I came to feel comfortable being with Robyn, and to grow to love her as I loved my husband. This was the start of a relationship with my "best girl friend". I enjoyed shopping for her and seeing her joy at trying on feminine apparel. I get a kick out sharing items from my wardrobe with her. I welcomed her into my bed at times and found her a source of nurturing and comfort at times.

This all may sound like a cross-dressers's dream. What then soured my feelings? Slowly, and at times not so slowly, this girlfriend that I invited into my life took over. She wanted to do my cooking, mother my children and even share my role in bed. Hanging in my husband's closet are Robyn's clothes and his male clothes, in my closet are only female clothing. I do not have another identity or role to play. My best friend not only wants to share my life, but to take over my roles, clothing and my husband. You might occasionally really enjoy sharing your home and family with a friend you love, but if she came in and took over what you saw as your roles and rights, would you feel like inviting her back?

A person whose self-identity is threatened, is bound to feel negative. My expression of this negativity is seen as a threat to my husband's cross-dressing and his self identity. This closes off the paths of good communication. So the problem of self identity is driving us apart - not leading us into a more open and intimate relationship. It is very difficult to get out of this spiral. Since we both feel threatened, this leads to a kind of verbal shoving match.

I wonder how other wives feel about this. Is there room for expression of the husband's feminine side and for the wife to retain her identity as the primary woman in the marriage?

WHAT GOING OUT DRESSED MEANS TO ME

By Dianne Richards

Lately there have been frequent articles in Rosebuds about "Going Out", and the fun it has been. This article is my expression of what going out in public dressed as a woman means to me. For over a year now, I have been trying to find the answer to, "Why do I need to go out in public dressed?"

As Dick, I've let my internal flame be dimmed by others. This is my doing. I have always wanted to please others and to fit in. Even at the expense of my own wants and needs. This, letting others go first, has been taught to me since childhood. "Let others have their way." Mine can come later. Even in later life, I do what the boss says, because I need to please him and my fellow workers. This way, I get to keep the job and the income to support my family. Yes, there is some validity to the old saying, "the squeaky wheel gets the grease", but if the wheel does not quit squeaking sometime, it gets replaced.

As Dianne, I've rekindled my internal flame. I consciously dress to fit an image that I respect and that I feel will be passable. I exercise and diet to keep my weight down. (this is also more healthful in that it keeps the cholesterol lower and keeps my heart in better shape.) I get a feeling of satisfaction when I pass. I obviously do not pass all the time. None of us do. No matter how feminine we try to look, some small detail will give us away. The real key is "what percentage of the time do I pass?". I try to remember the times I pass and not the times I am read. This validates my effort and my place in the world. By going out dressed, I am making a statement to the community and to myself, "Accept me as I am. I don't apologize for myself. I enjoy what I am doing!"

Many people don't accept me when I am dressed. I am not bitter with them, because they have just as much right to their feelings as I have to mine. Their feelings come from backgrounds and years of experiencing the male/female stereotypes from a different perspective than I am showing them.

I have come to believe the answer to my needing to go out dressed, is that I have the right to be who and what I want to be. I can take my place in this world regardless of how I am dressed. I have a place in the world, even as a male dressed as a female. Some of the people I have encountered in my travels enjoy me for who I am. They look, they question their own senses, and they smile because they realize I am sharing my secret with them. But, most casual observers don't even pay any attention, because they are all wrapped-up in their own little world. In any event, all I ask is just give me my space in the world, and don't condemn me for a life style that is different than your own acceptable norm.

(Continued on page 8)

Not in My Back Yard

(Continued from page 6)

I learned of the above quite by circumstance. It was there for the asking, and I quickly realized that it held the so-called "secret" (my term) to my being comfortable with her. So I applied what I learned, and it worked well in my being able to accept my feminine side. True, I had embraced the clothes years ago. But only after looking inward and reaching a conclusion about ALL of me, her and him, was I a really happy person. I found out that I could wear any damn thing I wanted, and the world wasn't going to kill me for it. I can be happy with the buttons on my blouse on the left, or on the right. She can wear slacks, and he can wear jewelry. She can be strong, and he can be maternal. It's the best of both worlds, and I can make the choice.

Perhaps we may schedule a rap session on a Tuesday night to deal specifically with this (I would ask an outside person who is a dear friend and a image-professional to act as the moderator). In every case, this is a subject not to be taken lightly if you want to be out. It can be (it is!!) the difference between being a guy in a skirt, or being a lady.

What Going Out Means To Me

(Continued from page 7)

My goal is to bring the enjoyment to myself in either role and to stick-up for what I believe I can do. I want to knit the two personalities together to bring my cherished internal flame into my everyday male life. I hope this short story has helped some first-timer out there gain a new perspective on what 'going out', can mean when it comes to building your confidence.

TIFFANY SPEAKERS LECTURE UNIV. OF N.H. CLASS

by Arlene U and Others.

The TCNE Public Speakers Bureau has been making a significant contribution to public education on gender issues. This work is much needed in our society, where glib acceptance of sex role stereotypes causes great deal of harm in the lives of millions of people, who cannot enjoy their lives within these rigid constraints.

Three members of the Speakers Bureau spoke before an abnormal psychology class at the University of N.H. last November 17th and 20th. The lecture was heard by the class, and also was widely disseminated through an article in the area newspaper,

THE NEW HAMPSHIRE, of Friday, November 17, 1989. Excerpts from the article, entitled "Transsexuals Expose Their Identities", by Annmarie Timmins, are given below to give an idea of what went on. You may want to ask Stephanie, Denise or Gena to see the newspaper article and read it all.

..... "At a glance, Stephanie Chandler, in her three inched spiked heels, black hosiery, skirt, and sheer white blouse, appeared to be a woman. She wasn't. A biological male and a cross-dresser, he said "don't let the silly clothes fool you."

Attempting to correct misconceptions about cross-dressing and transsexualism, Chandler and three other men, Karen Ann Neilsen, Gena Hengan and Denise Jefferys, spoke to an audience of about 25 last night in Conant.

According to Chandler "the information presented about us is incorrect". Many title cross-dressing and transsexualism as a disorder and believe those involved to be homosexuals.

"What's wrong with it?" Chandler asked. He explained that transvestism, not cross-dressing, is done for sexual reasons, such as to attract members of the (same) sex. a misquote; it

These (two) heterosexual cross-dressers and one transsexual, being Jeffereys, are all married with children."

..... "Each of the men expressed a dislike for the 'macho' and 'Rambo'type men that frequently represent masculinity. However, they said that in their early years, when they first realized their desires to express their femininity, they participated in sports and other physical activities as a cover-up for their feminine qualities.

Because there is a stigma attached to feminine men, these men found "coming out of the closet", as Hengan said, very difficult.

Chandler says it was difficult "because it went against everything I had learned since day one".

..... "Through peer groups, such as "Tiffanys", of Woburn, Massachusetts, a group all these men belong to, Jefferys was able to express his femininity openly. "All those problems have gone away", said Jefferys. "I'm having a wonderful life now".

For a time, Jefferys thought cross-dressing was satisfying his feminine desires and only within the last year has he realized that he is a trans-sexual. He decided to have surgery and become female.

He says of the decision "I needed to go further. I needed full expression of my femininity."

The other men, however, are satisfied to "get dressed" as Hengan referred to it, just a few nights a week. And then they admitted that at times the full make-up necessary to cover facial hair is a lot of work.

..... "All the men have told their wives and feel that their wives "tolerate" their femininity, as Chandler said. They also feel, in some respects, that their wives appreciate their feminine aspects because they are more sensitive and more compassionate men."

EMBARRASSED

by Pamela B.

One recent Saturday, Erika, Kristina and I went shopping at the Howland Place Mall in New Bedford. Dresses in our best finery, we arrived there about 2 PM. There are about 30 designer outlets at this Mall, and Kristina and I are well known and treated very well at all of these outlets.

When the Mall closed at 6 PM, we headed for a waterfront inn in New Bedford for dinner at their roof top restaurant. Well, as luck would have it, the restaurant was closed. As we headed back to Wayland, Erika suggested that we go to a well known restaurant on the Boston waterfront for dinner. Erika and I had been there previously, but Kristina had not, so we agreed to go there. It was a cold, windy night, and the restaurant was crowded as usual on a saturday night.

The hostess told us to go right in to the dining room. The owner, standing just inside the dining room, took a second look as we entered. The hostess took us to a very nice table in the middle of the room. We had a nice dinner, and we had a fun evening, enjoying ourselves very much. After dinner was finished and our bill paid, we walked toward the checkroom to retrieve our coats.

The lobby was quite empty, and on an impulse, I entered the ladies room. A lady was coming out and we passed in the door way. Nothing happened, and I had the room to myself. So I took my time, fixing my hair and lipstick, and checking my dress in the mirror for wrinkles. I then exited the room into a very crowded lobby. As I passed the owner, he motioned to me to come over to him. "Oh, oh, now I am in trouble", I thought. I am quite tall in heels and have a hearing impediment, so I had to bend over to hear him. He put his hand on my arm and softly whispered to me, "Please don't use the ladies room again".

I responded "O K ", went to the check room, and left the restaurant, needless to say very embarrassed. After we got into the car, I learned that Kristina had also been approached in the lobby by the owner, and requested not to use the ladies room. The incident bothered me the remainder of the evening and well into the following week, and I tried to retrieve something positive out of this incident.

You might wonder why I even considered using the room at all. Well, quite frankly, a good portion of the community does exactly this. Right down, from the leaders of Tiffany to some of our newest members, I have heard so many stories of members using ladies rooms, that perhaps I became too complacent about this very "risky" business.

I have yet to be refused in any establishment that I have entered. One can assume that merchants and restaurant managers are glad to have our business, as long as we are well dressed and act with poise and good manners. But when it comes to using the

rest rooms, they must consider their other customers, the bread and butter of their business, if you will. If we insist on using these rooms, we are going to alienate ourselves from these establishments, and no longer be welcome. Further, those that come after us will be rejected without knowing why.

SHOULD THESE ROOMS BE OFF LIMITS? SHOULD WE USE THEM?

Well, nature must be satisfied so what do we do???

I am going to return to my old plan, that has been used in hospitals for operations. Simply, I will not take liquids after noon the day I plan to eat out. In the past I have done this often, and I was able to get through the evening without the need for a rest room.

But what if an emergency should arise and a rest room is required at once?? You could humble yourself before management, and seek their help in finding a less conspicuous rest room. Perhaps they have one for their employees, etc. If approached correctly, they will most likely be as willing as you to handle the problem quietly.

If all else fails and you must use the men's room, then have a friend stand outside the door while you enter and occupy a stall as quickly as possible. In the better restaurants, you will at the most receive a few stares and a snicker or two. Try to do this as you are leaving. It won't be pleasant, but it may solve the immediate problem.

It would be wonderful if we could all pass all the time. but this is not the case. The truth is most of us will not pass the close scrutiny that can occur in a ladies room. We risk embarrassment at the least and arrest at the worst, since being there is against the law.

Each of you must decide for your self what course you will take!!!

The Transsexual Phenomenon

by Harry Benjamin

The Outreach Institute announces the reprinting of this classic publication on gender issues. This major work on transsexualism, which includes 16 pages of photos associated with important case histories, and the well-known Benjamin Scale of Gender Shift, is available in limited numbers.

The glossy cover edition is priced at \$39.95 and the standard edition costs \$35.95. Please add \$3.50 for postage and handling.

Please make money orders and checks payable to:



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This project is being supported in part by the Renaissance Educational Foundation.

LETTERS

(Continued from page 2)

long as I can remember, to the age of 6, I carried a baby doll, playing mommy. Through my teen-age years to now, I've cross-dressed and wondered what it was like to be a woman.

I still have a strong desire for women as well as to dress as one. I started liking girls when I was in 2nd grade. Now I'm in the military, it's even harder for me to seek counsel, as well as being discreet. In need of answers.

Yours truly,
(Name withheld)

Dear Rosebuds,

This letter has been several years in the writing. But its time has arrived, so here it is. This is a letter of gratitude - and of celebration.

Once upon a recent time in a not so distant land, there lived (if one chooses to call it that) a young prince/ss under a spell. Only trouble was, it was the wrong spell. You see this prince/ss had been promised a spell that would produce a moderately lovely princess. But someone misspelled something, or maybe somehow read the label wrong. In any case, our prince/ss became instead (poof!), a particularly clumsy, shy, awkward, and exceptionally angry frog.

Many painful years passes. The Frog Prince/ss eventually lurched into a den (ah, publishing office) full of other frogs, some so gay as to be downright grim. A yellowing copy of "Tapestry", was there. It exerted a mysterious, powerful attraction toward the prince/ss. Our hero/ine discreetly copied a few reference listings at a convenient machine and left quickly.

Perhaps you all know the rest. Maybe not. For the record, the above royal amphibian was me. And I might have remained in a state of frogginess for the rest of my life - but for the Tiffany Club.

The club was there when I needed it. I at least started to learn the benefits of total personality expression on an intellectual level, just by hanging around with the girls on Saturday night. Some years later, I needed a safe place to live and finish my gender-related issues. I could no longer deal with these issues while living in the "free world". Or maybe, the "free world", could no longer deal with me. Either way, TCNE put a roof over my head. Life was still dangerous, but manageable. At least with Tiffany, I had a fighting chance.

so I took that chance. What a struggle! But a year and two months later, I find myself at peace at last. I have just won my first employment as a business professional, under my new seamless identity. With no gender issues. Just because the job needs someone like me. In an office. Wearing a ladies business suit. With every man in the place calling me by my right name and treating me with such respect as I have never before experienced. It's only two days a week thus far - but it's a start. Another fighting chance. I can builds on it. And if I die tomorrow, at least I shall have lived today - really lived.

To everyone who ever contributed of their substance to Tiffany: thank you from the bottom of my heart.

Love,
Charlene Mann

(The following is a letter received by the Awards Banquet Committee. It is reprinted here with Nicole's permission).

THE AWARDS BANQUET WEEKEND

While sitting down to eat brunch on Sunday, Stephanie Chandler repeatedly put the question to those of us who were attending the Awards Banquet for the first time, "Did you enjoy yourself? What was the most memorable part of the weekend for you?" As I reflected on the questions, I wondered just how I would answer the second question. To the first question, I answered an emphatic YES, without hesitation.

Not only was this my first Awards Banquet; this also was my introduction to the Tiffany Club. I joined the Club in December but had been unable to attend the Christmas party, so I was quite excited when I found out that I would be able to attend the Winter Get-Away Weekend. The prospect of being able to spend an entire weekend dressed and to meet some of my sisters was constantly in my thoughts in the days leading up to the weekend.

I decided to make the drive from Connecticut dressed, but I wondered a bit about the wisdom of this decision as I arrived at the hotel early Friday afternoon. Without a great deal of hesitation, I finally decided to enter the hotel and to just handle whatever happened. I quickly discovered that there was nothing to be concerned about. The woman at the front desk was very pleasant and helpful; she asked me questions about the weather and my drive. Any residual awkwardness that I might have felt was dissipated by her obvious lack of discomfort. It was as if the only person who felt that there was anything special about my walking into such an elegant hotel as my femme self was me; it was special for me as I certainly had never done it before.

The weekend just fell into place.

At breakfast the next morning, I was able to renew my acquaint-

tance with Sheila Kirk and get better acquainted with some of my sisters. Then there were pointers on makeup, the fashion show, and shopping in the mall, dressed, for new clothes and shoes. It was all more than I could have imagined. As the day progressed, our numbers grew, culminating with the Awards Banquet. It was at the Banquet that I realized that what was so important about the weekend for me was the sense of validation. Over the course of the weekend, I had experiences both on an individual and personal level as well as on a much larger scale as a part of the group that left me feeling accepted and loved. I had to struggle with a sense of alienation in the course of things --- a familiar experience for me, but this had been overwhelmed by the knowledge that here was a place and a group of people that made it possible for me to honestly express myself without having to be concerned with rejection. I was amongst people (most of whom I had never met before) where I could reveal my deepest secret and feel embraced by the friendship around me. With intimacy occurring on this level, the bonds of sisterhood became very strong.

The next day came all too fast. But in the lobby, my eyes filled with tears as I tried to tell Stephanie how much all of this meant to me. She looked at me and said knowingly, "You did have a good time, didn't you?" I nodded yes. It's so nice to feel understood.

Nicole Snow

At the Christmas party this year, one of the 'girls' asked my wife, "Are you a man?" It hurt. It hurt a whole lot. I can't even describe how much it hurt. Imagine how you would feel if you spent hours getting all dolled up and someone says to you, "Hey Fag, you look like Sylvester Stallone in drag - you look like a clown". If you can imagine the felling you would have, then you get an inkling of how my wife must have felt. For a wife to come to Tiffany to see her husband dressed as a woman, is very difficult. to then be taken for a man herself, is dealing her a double blow. My wife now feels that she is reluctant to come back to Tiffany Club.

That one remark dealt a severe blow to her self esteem. It caused her and myself extreme psychological pain for at least ;the rest of the weekend. I felt extreme anger towards this person and it ca;used me to fantasize actions against him that are inappropriate to print here in Rosebuds.

The lesson to be learned here is that at; Tiffany club we are all ladies. No matter how good or bad we look, no matter if we are transsexuals, transgenderests, transvestites or genetic women, WE ARE ALL LADIES (except of course the F2M people). At Tiffany, we ARE what we look like. If someone looks like a woman, that person is a woman. To assume otherwise , and to state that assumption, can do extreme harm and is a serious breach to Tiffany Club etiquette.

Robyn Goldstein

Dear Editor,

I would like to describe an incident that recently happened to me.

Have you ever been read? I haven't because I haven't been out much. But my WIFE has. Where? In the most improbable place in the world. At the Tiffany Club.

Dearest Sisters,

I can't begin to tell you how surprised, thrilled, and honored I felt when I heard my name announced at the Awards Banquet as Miss Tiffany 1989! But I can tell you that I never felt more feminine or more whole in my life as I did that night standing there before all of you, knowing that you were the source of my extreme joy and gratitude. I hope we all always try to be the best we can be for ourselves and our club.

Love,
Marie

"COMING TOGETHER CONVENTION"

at the beautiful
Crowne Plaza Hotel
in Natick, Massachusetts

MARCH 27 - APRIL 1, 1990

(Please note the 3/20-3/25 date originally advertised has been changed.)

**ATTENTION !!! ALL CROSS-DRESSERS
YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO ATTEND
THE TIFFANY CLUB 10TH ANNUAL P-TOWN OUTING**

Tuesday, May 29, 1990 thru Monday June 4, 1990
In the Beautiful Cape Cod Community of
PROVINCETOWN, MASS.

All members of the Cross-Dressing / Transsexual Community,
their families, friends and those who work on our behalf,
are welcome to join us in enjoying a vacation en/femme.

GENERAL INFORMATION:

HOSTESS PROGRAM. If you would like to try your hand at being a motel desk clerk volunteer, for our Hostess Program, and enjoy the experience of welcoming arriving guests.

BIG SISTER PROGRAM. If you are a past participant, and would enjoy helping newcomers, volunteer for our Big Sister Program.

NEWCOMERS. If this is your first outing, or if you are feeling a little shaky and in need of moral support, we have a group of experienced cross-dressers who will help you and guide you to enjoy and make the most of this unique experience.

BANQUET. Bring the finest and fanciest, to enjoy our banquet at the lovely Bayside Dining Room of the Boatslip Beach Club.

P J PARTIES. Bring your loveliest negligees and mules or your funniest flannels and fuzzy feet, for our endless stream of P J Parties.

Pool Party, Pizza Party, Buffet, Shopping, Beach Combing, Dune Touring, Whale Watching, Bye-Bye Brunch, Chit-Chat, Koffee Klatching, F I Shows, Dancing Night Clubbing,, etc.

ACCOMMODATIONS ARE LIMITED - SIGN UP NOW

FEES:

Registration fee includes: tax, gratuities, banquet, buffet, pool party, and all other organized activities ...
Regist.fee is \$100 per person, or \$150 per male/female couple.

ACCOMMODATION COSTS:

SHARED OCCUPANCY: \$50 per night. SINGLE OCCUP.: \$75 per night COUPLE OCCUP.: \$75 per night.

DISCOUNT: Discount 10% of Total Price if paid in full by Apr. 4.
REFUNDS: Full refund prior to 4/15, 50% refund prior to 5/15.

FOR ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS, OR TO GET REGISTRATION FORMS:

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