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Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
Transgender Archives of Western New York

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November 1996

Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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NU PHI CHI

NOVEMBER 1996

SISTERS IN CHARGE:
CINDY L.
JEAN
KATHY



Our October meeting was held on one of our areas nicest fall days that I have ever seen.

Although it did cool down a bit in the evening. Some of the girls found that they left their jackets in their cars keeping the car seat warm. After the meeting was over they had a good idea of what cool air up their skirts and fall weather feels like.



The Belles chief editor (Kathy) was unable to make the

meeting this time. As I understand it, she had a bad hair day, a broken finger nail, a run in her hose and very bad cramps. Given all that I think I would opt to stay home too! Anyhow you'll just have to put up with my summation and gibberish thoughts as to what went on at the meeting. After viewing my writing skills, I think you'll agree that we need to wish Kathy a speedy recovery. From

ATTENDEES

- | | |
|----------|------------|
| JEAN | MELISSA |
| PATTI | KIM |
| RENE | ANGELA |
| PAULA | SUSAN |
| CINDY | KATHRYN |
| DENISE | |
| MICHELLE | |
| JOAN | GUEST: |
| CAMILLE | NINA |
| JANICE | STAR'RA |
| DANA | TOM & BETH |

now on we will accept her presence at the meetings in any condition that she may be in.

We had an outstanding amount of girls in attendance. Maybe a new record? All totaled, we had 16 members and 4 guest show up - with 2 new girls among us. Wow! Could it be because it's getting darker early now? I can't understand why some of the girls are afraid to come out in the day light. We don't have any vampires in our membership that I know about and the fall colors are so much prettier in the day light. Oh well. A very big welcome to Susan and Paula, our newest members. Thanks for coming. I sincerely hope that you enjoyed

our company as much as we enjoyed yours. Please come again.

As usual, Louella, (my wife) out did herself again in the snacks department. Keeping with the spirit of Halloween, we enjoyed cupcakes. They had orange frosting with cute little candy pumpkins and corn on top. We also had Halloween plates and napkins. To wash everything down we had apple cider served in black and orange cups. Of course we had the standard bag snacks and drinks supplied by Camille. Along with all this we had our waist reducing low cal Pizza supplied by Santoras'. With all the goodies at our meetings it's hard for me to stay away!



We had a real treat, a very unexpected treat brought in by one of our newer girls.

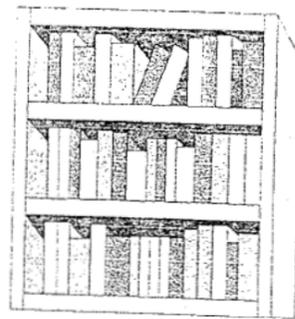
She most graciously brought in a bottle of wine for everyone to share. It was very sweet of her to be thinking of her sisters and it was a very nice gesture. But, I had the unpleasant job of taking her aside and thanking her, and telling her to not bring alcohol in again. (After we finished the bottle.) You see it is against our rules and the land lords rules that alcohol is not permitted on the premisses. We certainty would not want to lose our meeting site over a few drinks. If you would like to have a

few drinks. A few of the girls go out after the meeting and I am sure you are welcome to tag along.

I don't know if you will received this newsletter before our off site meeting. But we are permitted and encouraged to have a few drinks there if you like. That meeting will be held at our regular off site location. It will start around 6:00 and continue until 10:00 pm. After 10:00 pm the upstairs will be open for the public. However you are welcome to stay and enjoy the festivities. As I understand it, there will be country line dancing on that night. So dig out you favorite lace and fringe blouse, full pleated skirt and floor stomping heel kicking boots for a real down to earth country hoe down!

Our couples night out was a smash hit again! We had five couples in attendance with one new couple not there the last time. We had great food and great conversation. Everyone seemed to get along as though they knew each other their whole lives. I for one can't wait for the next couples nite out dinner. It would also be nice to see more couples attend. Consider it. It's so much fun.

Included in this newsletter will be a list of items in our club library. Patti, (our libertarian) is working on a system to keep better track of our books and

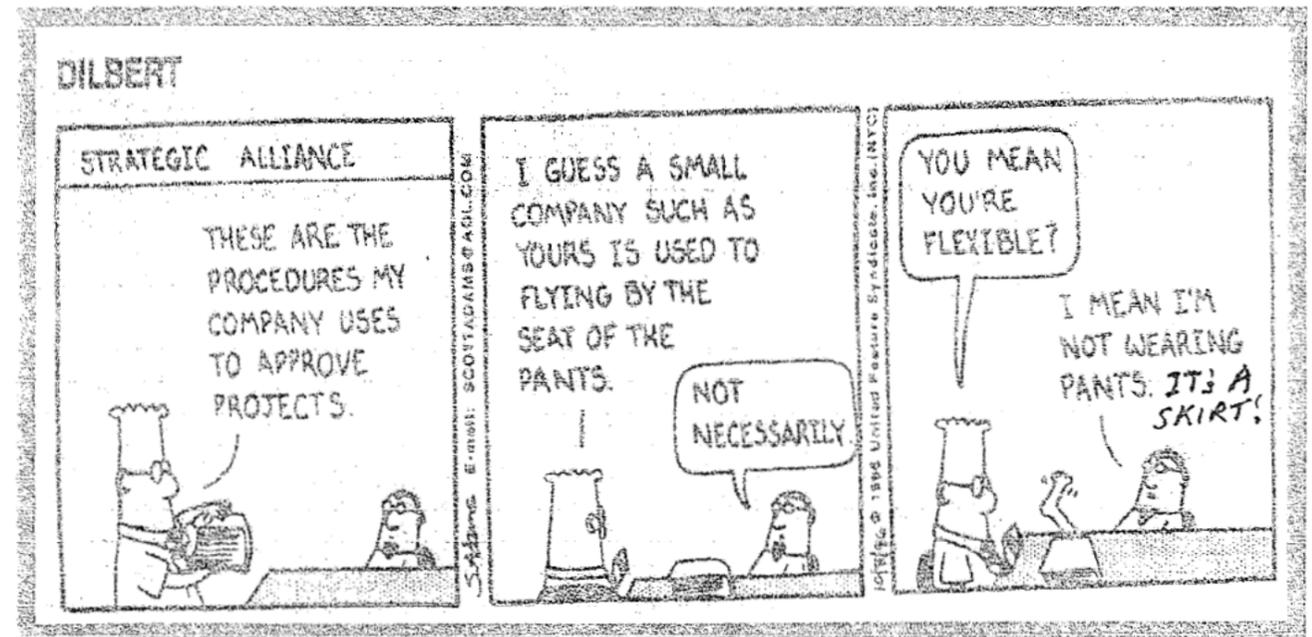
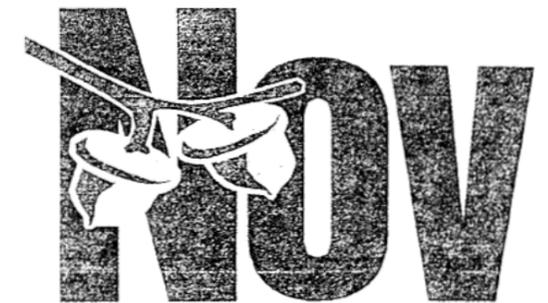


videos in the future. But please remember that you are not the only one who wishes to see these items. Enjoy them and then bring them back promptly so that others can enjoy them too! Also, only members in good standing are allowed to remove items from the library. If you bring a guest to the meeting, you are responsible for there every action. Due to bad experiences in the past, we must be firm with the enforcement of our rules. That's not to say that everything missing is taken with the intent of not returning it. Forgetfulness sets in and we don't see these things again. So as you see we need to have a better watch on our books and videos. Once again, if you submit donations for our library, check in with Patti so that she can enter them into the library.

Don't forget that our next regular meeting will be on November 2nd. The frats Saturday of November. Be sure to dig through your closets, under the bed and pick up the

items at the dry cleaners that you left there. You'll be sure to find things for our tag sale. Come to the meeting early for the best selection. From what I understand, due to a dinner at our site, we will be meeting upstairs. Now that it's getting darker sooner and all the summer activities are pretty much over, we hope to see you in the future meetings.

Jean



BOOKS:

"Style is not a Size" by Hana Matano
 "Dressing up-Transvestism and Drag-The History of an Obsession" by Peter Akroyd 1979
 "Speaking as a Women" by Alison Lang (phamphlet)
 "Transvestites and transexuals" by Debordh Feinbloom
 "Hormones" 2nd edition by Sheila Kink (old)
 "My Husband Wears My Clothes" by Peggy Rudd
 "Cross Dressing with Dignity" by Peggy Rudd
 "What Sex Am I?" (lost)???
 "How to Be a Woman, Though Male" by Virginia Prince (copy, black 3 ring binder 0)
 "Voice-The Rap" (Speaking as a woman, body language mod., blue folder)
 "Inside Beauty" (Makeup application, blue folder)

REFERENCE:

Complete set of Toronto Cross Dressing Club Magazines (3 ring binder)
 Complete set of Buffalo Belles Newsletters (3 ring binder)
 Miscellaneous Club Newsletters (3 ring binder)
 Buffalo Belles Photo Album

VIDEOS:

"Girl Talk" (speaking as a woman)
 "The Crying Game"
 "Mrs Doubtfire"
 "Too Wong Foo, with love Julie Newmar"
 "Take a Walk on the Wildside"
 "Jerry Springer"-(Men Who Live as Women)
 -(Men Who Want to be Women)
 "Night Club Disc."
 "Crossdressing Shows" #1, #2, #3
 "Glen or Glenda"
 "Transsexuals" #1, #2, #3
 "Makeup Tape" #1?, #2
 "Talkshows" misc.
 "Due South"

HOME MADE BREAST FORMS

by Robin

Like most TV's (I assume), I have experimented with different approaches to get what I feel is the proper weight, shape and sensation of a female breast. Although tempted to buy a relatively expensive pair of breast prosthesis (\$3-400), because I'm fickle about bra size. Depending upon my mood- 38c-38dd+, and being thrifty to boot, I developed my current breast form, which satisfies my needs.

1. Start with a couple of oversized balloons-40" size. They can stretch to that size without bursting, and can easily hold up to a quart of water and still take the shape of your bra. Liquid fill can be adjusted depending on cup size.

2. Measure liquid you plan to use- whether water, syrup, thick hair conditioner or shampoo into balloon, & seal with a thin rubber band, wrapped several times around opening.

3. Care should be used to get all air out of balloon before sealing. Excess air allows liquid to slosh and may be a little noisy.

For me, a 38c bra will take 16oz liquid, 38d 20 oz., and 38dd 24oz..

Typically, after a few months, some liquid will migrate from the balloon and they should be rebalanced.

Once you feel comfortable with this approach, you may want to have a few sets to match your different cup sizes, rather than adjust fill for each bra size.

I suggest starting with plain tap water and if you like it, experiment with shampoo, etc.

Good luck,

Robin

Thank you Robin for your input! I remember reading one time of using orange marmalade as filler. The idea being that a jell will be more life like than water. Now if you were to use bread for your hip pads, and got stranded in a snow storm, you wouldn't starve!!! Gives new meaning to EAT ME.

-Kathy.

Self-Expression by Crossdressing -

What Does It Mean?

by Jane Ellen Fairfax

Asked why they crossdress, gender-gifted people often reply, "Oh, it's a means of self-expression." Certainly that answer is constructive, for it guides conversation beneath the clothes to the beautiful person within. After many repetitions, however, the words seem almost trite. Do we really consider what it means to be a crossdresser? Do we really explore for new ways to use the language of our feminine clothes? What are we saying when we put on a particular outfit? Crossdressing provides a unique opportunity to use our creativity to make statements about who we are and how we relate to people. This is one of the most fulfilling aspects of being a crossdresser.

As crossdressers, we have been granted a priceless gift - freedom to explore our crossgender potential. All the finest shades of human emotion are ours to express, for we have declared our freedom from the shackles of society's stereotypes for male behavior. Our palette of colors is limited only by what looks good with our skin coloring. Our clothing can match any mood - any trait - any life experience - we want to portray. Prints available on our dresses are limitless. There are clothes for every occasion - flower print tops and shorts for the garden, color-on-color shirtdresses for church, and elegant silk and lace for that romantic evening on the town. Anytime we wish, we can don our Arrow shirts, trousers, and oxfords, and our knightly brother comes forth where masculine expression is desired. We can move back and forth between masculinity and femininity - and we don't even have to click our ruby slippers! Ours is the full kaliedoscope of human emotion, the full palette of color, the full freedom of life experiences. Truly we are children of the rainbow.

What a wonderful gift - to be feminine people even though we are genetic males! (The vast majority of crossdressers are male. For female-to-male crossdressers, an analogous case can be made.) Not everyone, however, is so happy about our presence. As crossdressers, we are members of a misunderstood minority. Society is the Great Lumper. Given little experience with crossdressers, many elements in society lump them with other males they have seen in dresses - drag queens, female impersonators, gays dressing in mockery of women. Now we are at last making our presence known.



Society is scrutinizing us, evaluating what kind of people we are. From that evaluation will come a code for relating to us. Our behavior will be a major factor in determining the outcome. Our dilemma is to use our freedom of expression responsibly, while remaining true to our self-identities.

What should be our standard of responsibility? Society is already tending to judge us by our presentation as feminine people. This seems reasonable. Responsible presentation means bearing oneself as a woman would, appropriate to the occasion. One doesn't see 50-year-old women in blond curls to midback and thigh-high miniskirts at the mall in the morning. Such an appearance would excite all sorts of negative comment.



The highest compliment a crossdresser can receive is, "You look so realistic; you always dress like other women. You make a fine lady!" It's all there - knowledge of the crossdressing coupled with respect as a feminine person. Undoubtedly, some people reading this article will insist on their right to dress as they please, regardless of the feelings of others. That's fine. But both flowers and weeds spring from seeds. What type are you sowing in the society in which we all must live?

In our dressing we can speak eloquently about who we are. Using this "language" can be a creative way to introduce oneself to others, and can be a source of fulfillment and fun. A bridge player, I love wearing my fringed shirt with its designs of spades, hearts, diamonds and clubs. Regardless of occasion or other clothing, I wear my sterling silver cross, for, *en homme* or *en femme*, I am a servant of Jesus Christ. My treble clef pin proclaims the role of music in my life. I'd love to find a skirt or blouse with a musical theme!

An owl pin demonstrates my loyalty to my alma mater, Rice University. Sometimes feminine items can whimsically be used to express my "brother's" interests. A caduceus pin symbolizes his profession of healing, and a silver-gold-navy-and-white silk riding scarf expresses his love for thoroughbred racing. Now, if I can only find a take-me-out-to-the-ballgame blouse!

September, 1996
For Immediate Release

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"Transsexual" Challenges Tri-Ess

Dallas [redacted], popularly believed to be a six year post-operative transsexual woman, has sent an application to the Society For the Second Self, claiming to be a heterosexual crossdresser and asking for full membership status. The Society, popularly known as Tri-Ess, is a "sorority" for heterosexual crossdressers. Only heterosexual crossdressers and their female partners are allowed full membership status. Some chapters offer "affiliate" status to those who do not meet requirements for full membership.

[redacted] formerly a full member of Tri-Ess, has been an associate member of Tri-Ess' Atlanta-based Sigma Epsilon chapter since 1990, when she submitted her letter of resignation to Sigma Epsilon and was told she was welcome to attend functions as a friend of the chapter.

Over the years, [redacted], who has remained active with Tri-Ess, has become increasingly concerned about Tri-Ess membership requirements, which she calls exclusionary. "And not only exclusionary," she says, "but hypocritical. There are members, chapter officers, and even some members of the national Tri-Ess board who are not heterosexual crossdressers by any common-sense definition of the term. Some live full-time as women, some take hormones. And yet I am identified by Tri-Ess as transsexual and denied full membership privileges. I presume it's because I've had sex reassignment surgery, but I don't recall a panty check. My genital status is my own business, and not Tri-Ess'. If I say I'm a heterosexual crossdresser, then by golly, I'm a heterosexual crossdresser. For the purposes of joining Tri-Ess, I'm a heterosexual crossdresser, and as such, I am applying for full membership privileges. If Tri-Ess denies me membership, then I'm going to insist on a clear explanation why. I don't want to hear that I don't believe in and support the mission of the organization, which is to serve heterosexual crossdressers and their partners. I do. And I don't want to hear that I'm transsexual. Tri-Ess has no right to label me. If they want to deny my membership on the basis of my presumed genital status, then I'm going to insist on a panty check, not only for myself, but for all Tri-Ess members. And I'm going to ask why others born male who live as woman are allowed in, while I'm not."

[redacted] who founded and is director of the American Educational Gender Information Service, a national clearinghouse for transsexual and transgender issues, was also concerned by the number of Sigma Epsilon members who approached her privately to talk about their issues with homosexuality and transsexualism. "Cumulatively, over five years, it was more than half of the organization," she said. "We're talking 30 or 40 people. Eventually, I said 'Wait a minute.' Something is not adding up here."

In May, [redacted] published an article entitled "Heteropocrisy: The Myth of the Heterosexual Crossdresser," in which she brought up her concerns about the massive amounts of denial she had seen in various Tri-Ess chapters. Tri-Ess officials responded by asking the AEGIS Board of Directors to "counsel" with [redacted] for her criticism in "Heteropocrisy" and other articles. The AEGIS Board has not yet taken action on Tri-Ess' request.

[redacted] received a "Friends of Tri-Ess" award in 1992 at the organization's national convention in 1992. She displays the award prominently in her home office. "It's because I am a friend of Tri-Ess that I'm doing this," she says. "Supporting the organization does not require me to condone the membership policy. Let's face it: any organization which excludes homosexuals from membership can only be called homophobic; any organization which excludes transsexuals can only be called transphobic; and any organization which differentially enforces its own rules is in need of reform."

11 September, 1996

Society for the Second Self
P.O. Box 194
Tulare, CA 93275

Dear Tri-Ess:

Enclosed is my \$40 membership fee. I am requesting full membership in Tri-Ess as a heterosexual crossdresser. As you know, I have been a long-term supporter of Tri-Ess. I've been reasonably content to be an associate member of Sigma Epsilon, the local chapter here in Atlanta-- but I'll be much happier as a full member with voting privileges.

Now, most people would say I'm transsexual, and in truth, that's a designation that I have proudly used for myself. I have lived full-time as a woman for more than six years, and have every intention of continuing to live as such. However, I know some Tri-Ess members, including some Board members, cross-live full time; if they are heterosexual crossdressers, then I certainly am too!

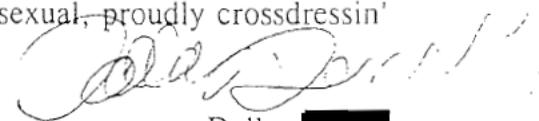
I'm not sure if it's possible to be a heterosexual crossdresser after genital sex reassignment surgery. I do admit to making a two-week trip to Belgium in 1991, and it's commonly believed that I went there for SRS. However, I would submit that my genital status is my own business. Tri-Ess, to my knowledge, does not do physical examinations on its members, and I should certainly hope that it would not begin with me. Of course, there will be a Tri-Ess physician present at Southern Comfort, should you insist on a panty check.

So far as my sexual orientation goes, it's difficult to say what constitutes the "opposite" sex. The only person I've have a sexual relationship with within the last six years was a pre-transition FTM transsexual. I can happily say that heterosexual is as good a term as any to use to describe my sexual orientation.

It's swell to be a heterosexual crossdresser who, like so many Tri-Ess members, cross-lives full-time, has taken hormones, has had electrolysis, and maybe even (I'm not tellin') had SRS. Why, if everyone just understood that no matter what they do with their bodies and who they have sex with, they can be heterosexual crossdressers just by saying that they are, they would know that Tri-Ess' membership criteria aren't really exclusionary.

I'm happily awaiting my full membership status.

Proudly heterosexual, proudly crossdressin'



Dallas [redacted]
P.O. Box 33724
Decatur, GA 30033-0724

8

cc Just about everyone you can think of