

Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVII April 1998
Issue # 4

CHI-CHAPTER

PURCHASES

RAMADA O'HARE HOTEL



In The News

ROSEMONT April 1. The board of Chi Chapter Tri-Ess today announced the purchase of the Ramada O'Hare Hotel. The Ramada O'Hare, known for the location of the annual Puttin' on the Ritz Christmas dinner dance was sold for only 5 million dollars. The board wishes to thank Tri-Ess National for it's generous donation towards this purchase. That and the \$5000 in the Chapter bank account was enough to place a deposit on the hotel.

I am sure that our membership will enjoy meeting at the Ramada in the beautiful and newly named "Chi" room, located next to the restaurant/bar on the first floor. A special 'mall' area will be constructed in the hotel and will house all of our vendors. Rori, Rachel, Judy and Fay are already drawing up the store layouts. Sally Ann's will also be located in the mall area.

The Mayor of Rosemont announced that this was the greatest thing that could happen to his small suburban community of 4000 residents. With their 14+ hotels, convention center, Rosemont Theatre and the Rosemont Horizon Stadium they have been sorely lacking in the area of gender resources. "This 'Chi' hotel will be the best thing that has happened to Rosemont since we lured the hotel away from DesPlaines in the 60's with our free Chicago water."

Kiki, long with a comment on everything has announced she will be opening up a trailer service area in the back of the hotel. "There seems to be an abundance of TG truck drivers, and I hope they all stop by."

Candace [REDACTED] will be managing the new 15 line telephone center. The center, located in the lower level, will be [REDACTED] by trained outreach counselors. 24 hours a day. "We don't believe in answering machines or voice mail, n way. Either you get a live person or a busy signal, that's it" she commented.

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Presidents Podium

Fling

On May 16th we will be holding our Spring Fling. A coupon is located on the rear page and tickets are also available at Rachel's Wigs and Transformations. Work is in progress on some great music etc.

E-Mail:

I would like to make a list of all our members and their E-Mail address/or web pages and post it here in the Tribune. If you would feel comfortable doing so, please send me permission via E-Mail to [REDACTED]@aol.com.

Contact:

For those of you who spend time on the internet, Tri-Ess announces two new E-Mail list servers. The first is specifically for wives and SO's. Operated by a wife, Beverly, the listserv is a forum for all genetic women involved with crossdressers. It is not limited to spouses or partners who are members of Tri-Ess, however, it is for "Women" only.

To sign up, send E-Mail to: <LISTSERV@HOME.EASE.LSOFT.COM>

The second is for Male Tri-Ess members only. To subscribe, please send an E-Mail to sas@tri-ess.com with your full fem name and your complete Tri-Ess membership number. Information will be returned as to setting your parameters up.

If you are familiar with the old BBS message formats, well this is very similar. One message sent by you will be read by everyone on the server.

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March Recap by Kiki

The March meeting was brought to order by our esteemed President Denise around 8:30 not so sharp. She promptly asked for all the members to stand individually and give their names and state if they were new to the group or not. Someone who shall remain nameless suggested that she ask the members to describe their first passionate kiss en fem. She decided against it.

She then asked me, your secretary who again came undressed (it will pass.) and Christine, our Treasurer to speak and we both declined. She couldn't ask Candice our V.P. Membership to speak because she was out of town on business.

Dee Dee, our Chair for Newcomers and looking absolutely marvy, talked about the 10 newbies in attendance that night. Dawn, our Chair for P.A.L.S./Couples then let us in on what's happening in her group. Denise then made an announcement about the upcoming Spring Fling on May 16th which will be held on a regular meeting night at our usual meeting place.

The floor was then turned over to Naomi who spoke about the upcoming Be All in Pittsburgh on June 10-14 which will be the 16th year its been held. (I remember the first one believe it or not.) Miranda then spoke about Its Time Illinois, announced that she is now its Chair, asked for a donation and said that we were all part of being "Queer", or trans inclusive. (I'm not queer, I'm eccentric.)

Rori announced her outing on April 25 for the Gay Men's Chorus at the Athenaeum Theater and has 20 tickets. Colleen from GGG in Milwaukee, invited all of us to the Fall Harvest to be held in Minneapolis this fall.

Rachel [REDACTED], our VP/Programs, introduced Rachel and Velma Wigs who gave us an interesting lesson on wig care. Christine, our Treasurer, modeled a two way reversible wig.

The meeting room was packed and those members that attended were: Amanda, Amanda & Mimi, Andrea, Amy & Fran, Athena, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Carole A, Christine & Cheryl, Collette & Mickie, Debbie & Laurie Ann, Dee Dee, Denise & Kim, Diana, Diane, Eve, Fay, Gloria, Julie Ann, Karen, Kelly, Kiki, Laura, Lee, Loraine, Megan, Miranda, Misti, Naomi & Rachel, Nicole, Norma & Joyce, Rachel & Kate, Rori, Sara, Sheila D, Shelley & Linda, Sherridiane, Stacey & Teresa, Tammy, Velma, Vickie, Wallie. Newcomers were, Carole, Cathy, Connie, Jamie, Jennifer, Kathy, Mary Ann, Missy & Jennifer, Nancy.

Visitors who attended were; Alicia, Aries, Sheila, Toni M, Amy, Megan, Misti, Samantha P. and Colleen OBrien from GGG.

What a Byte!

By Athena

Websites of the Month:

Want to look into the latest report of alien landings (no not the latest boat from Cuba), sea serpents, or fish falling from the sky? Try:
<http://www.forteantimes.com/>

If you want to see a live picture of the eruption of Mt. Etna in Italy, try out:

<http://www.iiv.ct.cnr.it/files/cam/index/etna/regular.html>

TechnoStress

Is the pace of your life stressing you out? Have you found that the modern conveniences, advertised to make your life easier, are instead making it more complex and confusing? You are not alone.

As a professional computer person, I have first hand knowledge of otherwise rational, intelligent people breaking into a cold sweat when they attempt to learn how to operate a new software package. And even us computer types have a hard time keeping up with the dizzying pace of changes in software and hardware. As soon as we learn everything there is to know about the latest software product, it is upgraded and the learning process starts anew. It shouldn't be surprising that more and more companies are balking at upgrades and instead choose to stick to the 'old' technology. So if the knowledgeable folks are having problems keeping up with the dizzying changes in technology, I can imagine how the rest of you feel.

I am old (ouch) enough to remember back in the late 60s and early 70s when the expert prognosticators were predicting 4 day workweeks and more leisure time for us all. How wrong could they be (dream on Arthur C. Clarke). Instead, workdays have increased in length (around 45 hours on average) and the paperless office is but an illusion.

More and more polls have proved that the average person is increasingly feeling alienated from our technological culture:

- A 1995 Equifax/Louis Harris poll found that close to 80% of consumers in the US were afraid that they lost control of their computerized personal information.
- A 1995 Microsoft study of nearly 3000 US adults found that 59% of them have gotten angry with their computers (so you aren't the only one who dreams of putting a baseball bat through your monitor).
- A 1997 MCI One study of 1000 adults determined that 59% of them are hesitant, resistant, or frustrated about communication technologies (darned beeper, I wish I could

(Continued on page 4)

Hey Mom, Would You Like Another Manhattan?

by Rachel Miller

Once I understood and accepted my propensity to cross-dress, I was determined to end the hypocrisy of hiding that part of myself from my loved ones. I had come out to my wife, sister and a few others with great success in early 1994. I wanted to tell my Mother, but she lived in a small Wisconsin town 1,700 miles away. It was crucial to do it in person and my chance came with a business conference in Chicago in June. I made arrangements to drive up to my Mom's house on Friday afternoon.

My Mom and I have had an excellent relationship for many years. Still, I was fearful of her response. I knew that I couldn't continue to live a lie any longer, yet I had heard enough stories to know that there was significant risk in telling. Much of the advice I had received from well-intentioned transvestites was to NEVER TELL ANYONE! Perhaps my greatest concern was her religious background. My Mom is an extraordinarily devout Catholic and attends Mass daily. I had never heard a sermon that preached tolerance towards cross-dressers so my anxiety level was high.

One thing I had learned in telling others is to take control of the situation rather than letting things happen by chance. So, after a great dinner of fresh lake perch I took advantage of a Wisconsin characteristic and my Mom's one small vice -- brandy. Most people think of Wisconsin as the beer-swilling capital but it's in the consumption of brandy where we are true professionals. In the evening Mom enjoys a brandy manhattan (2 parts brandy + 1 part sweet vermouth for the uninitiated) on the rocks.

My butterflies disappeared with the first drink and the beginnings of courage arrived with the second. Before the third arrived I thought I'd better start telling my story or risk losing the ability to speak rationally. "So Mom, I've got something I'd really like to tell you." I had developed a pattern of presenting a personalized letter to each person we were going to tell. It was designed to establish the desired context for the discussion. Here's a lightly edited version of the one I gave my Mom:

"Dear Mom,

"Over the years you have sent birthday and holiday cards that express the most wonderfully thoughtful sentiments. It makes me feel very good to know that you feel that way about me. I have always felt that we were very much alike with our softness and sensitivity. I like that part of me. Unfortunately, I was also insecure and uncertain and others often took advantage of me. So, far from being settled, life has been a long journey of exploring and finding out who I am and who I want to be.

"The big improvements started on Easter Sunday, 1980 when I first attended a new Church and with the help of many, began to discover my spiritual and emotional self. It was the beginning of a long journey to become all I am capable of

(Continued on page 4)

Christine's Cash Count

"Christine, where are you?"

"Don't you just hate it when you can't find the Treasurer?"

Hey! Christine.....



(Continued from page 1) New Hotel

Athena, who has long advocated a 'home of our own' was speechless when informed. Since the hotel is across the street from the airport, she felt that this is a goldmine. "Hopefully, we will realize enough profit from traveling crossdressers that we can pay back the members money by 2000. error =1900 error=1900 error....."

Christine commented that the income realized from the rental of meeting spaces for other gender groups and the remainder to transgendered travelers to Chicago's O'Hare Airport will be more than enough when added to the \$40,000 which each present member will be assessed in May. Actually, arraignments have been made with each members bank to automatically deduct this amount from their account, or their first born child, whichever comes first. This also entitles the members to a special room rate of only \$78.00 a night.

So come visit...See us for Be-All

1999,1900,1901,1902,1903,1904 error.....error.....

Be Careful What you Wish For (You Just May Get It!)

By Andrea [REDACTED]

A man walking along the beach found an antique bottle. Looking around, he didn't see anyone who might have dropped the bottle, and so he opened it. A billowing cloud of smoke erupted from the bottle, and a genie appeared. The genie thanked the man for letting him out, and said, "I am so grateful to be out of that bottle! Since I can only grant you one wish, please choose carefully."

The man thought for a while and said, "You know, I've always wanted to go to Hawaii. I've never been able to go because I can't travel either by air or by sea. The thought of flying scares me too much, and the way they pack the people in is too claustrophobic. I also get seasick very easily, and with all that open water I become very agoraphobic. So, I wish for a road from here to Hawaii so I can drive there."

The genie thought for quite a while before finally saying, "No, I don't think I can do that. Do you realize the involved? Consider all the piling needed to hold up a highway, and how deep they would have to go to reach the bottom of the ocean. Imagine the amount of concrete and asphalt needed, not to mention all the environmental impact studies.

No, I am afraid that you ask much too much of me."

The man thought for a few more minutes, and then told the genie, "Well, there is one other thing I've always wanted. I'd like to be able to understand women - what makes them laugh, what makes them cry, why are they so temperamental and so difficult to get along with? Basically, I'd really like to know what makes them tick."

After considering this second request for only a few seconds, the genie gazed out over the ocean and said, "So, are we talking two lanes or four?"

Reprinted from the Dec 1997 [REDACTED] who got it from [REDACTED] Dec 1997.

(Continued from page 2) Athena

kick it into the stratosphere!).

So if you thought you are the only person to suffer from this malady, you are quite wrong. Many, outwardly intelligent people often melt into a quivering mass of goo when they are thrown into the same room as a PC.

Next month I will test you for your technophobia (you think Athena wouldn't make you work, Huh?).

[REDACTED]@usa.net

(Continued from page 3) Rachel Miller

being.

"Over the years I made great progress. Still, I continued to have difficulty with one area of my life. That one area is often viewed negatively by others so it was difficult for me to deal with it. Finally, on my 50th birthday, I determined that no matter how difficult the process might be, I was going to resolve it.

"My search turned out far better than I had ever envisioned. As a result I feel whole and complete for the first time in my life. My big questioning and searching is over. The best part is that I like the person I found inside myself.

"The attached poem is a way to tell my story in a simple way. What the poem says may surprise you, and it may take awhile to get used to, but it is all positive. I am glad to finally be able to share my feelings with you. We can talk about any parts that you are comfortable in doing.

"Mostly, I just want to say - I love you!

"Your son, Richard"

The poem that I shared with her is an outgrowth of trying to put my cross-dressing in perspective. Without the appropriate context it could appear to be the defining characteristic of my life. While I am a cross-dresser, I also have many other important aspects to my personality. Cross-dressing is just one aspect. I wrote the poem for myself but found it effective in communicating the whole me to others. Here's a copy of what I gave her.

Do you love me?

You know me as a person who has strong spiritual beliefs, who loves his wife and is committed to his marriage, who values family and friends, and who feels that being a grandfather is one of the greatest experiences of life.

You know me as a person who loves children and childlike things, who is sensitive, caring and compassionate, who believes in personal responsibility, and who is committed to working hard and doing a good job.

You know me as a person who enjoys good food and fine wines (plus beer, pizza and ice cream), who brings humor to the workplace and elsewhere, who works at physical conditioning and enjoys long distance running, and who loves animals, especially cats.

You know me as a person who is discovering a love for theater and the arts, who is learning to express his enjoyment of decorating, colors, fabrics and textures, who wants to be accepted and loved just as he is, so, do you love me?

What if I take a chance and become vulnerable and disclose my story;

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) Rachel Miller

will you still love me?

What if society does not accept part of me, but I do;
will you still love me?

What if I need to expose the truth about me to be at peace
inside;
will you still love me?

What if I told you that I like to shave my legs and wear a skirt;
will you still love me?

As I handed the poem to her, she started reading and I stopped breathing. At the end she put the paper down and said, "Of course I love you. I don't understand all this, but I love you." She asked a few questions and we talked for about a half hour. Finally she stopped and asked me to follow her into her bedroom. She opened her jewelry box and asked if there was anything I wanted for myself. I was thrilled with her response. I took a necklace plus a locket with my grandparents' pictures inside. Then she opened her closet and asked if I wanted any clothes. I laughed and said, "Mom, we're not anywhere close to the same size but THANK YOU!" We hugged and all was right in my world. No more manhattans were required.

Well, that's my story. What's the best way to start coming out of your closet?

Rachel Miller

Note

We are on the program at Be All '98 in Pittsburgh (Marsha's home town) from June 10-14. Bring your gum-bands, red-up your rooms, be prepared to go danh-tanh (downtown) and brush up on other Pittsburghese. We will not be touring a steel mill in evening gowns so don't worry.

Marsha and I will also be very active at the S.P.I.C.E VI conference in Atlanta from July 16-18. It is a great opportunity for healing and growth and we hope to see many of you, especially couples, there.

Rachel Miller
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(510) [REDACTED]
(<http://members.aol.com/rachelmill>)

Reprinted from the AOL Transgender Community Fourn, Jan 1998

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**PLEASE ADD YOUR ADDRESS HERE, SEND
US YOUR PERMISSION.....**

[REDACTED]@aol.com

Wanna Have A Party???

Here's your chance!! At Chi-Chapter's

'The Celebration of Spring'
Buffet with a cash bar, dancing and surprise
entertainment

May 16th 1998 Regular Meeting Night Holiday Inn Express-Elmhurst

Located 1 Mile south of North Ave. on Route 83 (Kingery Hwy-Busse Road)
at Riverside Dr. (opposite Wal-Mart) Elmhurst

(It's only 10 miles directly south of the Midway hotel on Busse Road/Rt 83)



**Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Menu: Inside Round of Beef,
Baked Chicken, Mostascioli Oven Browned Potatoes, Green Beans
Almondine, Dessert, Tossed Salad, Rolls, Coffee / Tea, Cash Bar**

All Tickets are reserved and must be purchased by May 12 to insure seating.

We cannot guarantee seating/food for "At the door tickets" Door Tickets \$36 each

Total cost per person \$29.00 / Room reservations available (630) 279-0700

TO: Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

DON'T MAIL AFTER May 5th, IT MAY NOT ARRIVE IN
TIME. In that case, please call in your reservation to the hotline
630-262-8707, leave your name and number of tickets desired.

Enclosed is my paid reservation for

_____ person(s), for the 'Spring Fling' on Saturday evening, May 16, 1998 at the Holiday Inn Express, I
am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$_____ Tickets will be
retained at the door.

Please print your femme name and last initial _____

Member #(If a member) _____

COST: Per Person \$29.00 At the door: \$36.00 @

**NO RISK....MONEY REFUNDED IF YOU CANCEL BY 6 p.m. FRIDAY MAY 15th
BY LEAVING A MESSAGE ON THE HOTLINE....PLEASE PRE-PAY**

Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council

Activities Calendar

MARCH 1998

April

Tue 4/14 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee
 Sat 4/11 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. (Riki Wilchins) 414-
Sat 4/18 8:00 p.m. Chi-Chapter meeting Elmhurst
 Thur 4/23 7:00 p.m. T.O.N.I. meeting, 219-650-2142 E-Mail: @aol.com
 Tue 4/28 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations
 Sat 5/2 6:30 p.m. CGS Social, ULTIMATE OZ (Upper Level) 7301 W. Roosevelt, Franklin Park
 Sat 5/19 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328

April 30-May 3 California Dreaming (714) 281-0271 E-Mail PPOC@aol.com <http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>
May 16 Chi Chapter SPRING FLING Dinner E-Mail Chitriess@aol.com
June 10-14 Be-All, Pittsburgh (412) 242-5902
 July 15-19 S.P.I.C.E. Atlanta E-Mail: spice@tri-ess.com
 November 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis

March meeting schedule April 18

Upper Level Holiday Inn

Newcomers and PALS meet at 6:30
 Business meeting starts at 8:00

(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

S.P.I.C.E.

Don't forget that on July 15-19, S.P.I.C.E. will be held in Atlanta. If you are interested in attending, please contact Dawn at the Hotline to find out how to share in the Chapter S.P.I.C.E. account.

Denise

Chi Chapter
Tri Ess

P.O.Box 40
 Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Officers

President: Denise Peters
 VP/Program: Rachel
 VP/Membership: Candace
 Secretary: Kiki
 Treasurer: Christine

Committees

Newcomers: Amanda
 Dee Dee
 P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn & Kate
 Hospitality: Norma, Joyce & Donna

Chi Chapter is a not-for-profit social and educational support group of Tri-Ess members and their spouses, partners and friends. Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month.

Chi Chapter Telephone Helpline:
 (630) 262-8707

E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com

Home Page:

[HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm](http://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm)