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Prez Stuff

Jan Meeting

The January meeting was a blast. At least for those who showed up. 23 members and 7 newcomers braved a warm sunny day to attend. The weather was great (a little ice) but apparently some of you stayed at the beach or went mall shopping and couldn't make it, or possibly you are afraid to come pay your dues. All I know is it was our lowest meeting attendance since a day in 1993 when 3 of us showed up ignoring the -15 degree temps. Even though, we still had a great time. Abby's White Elephant trade got everyone involved and renewed my belief that we can all have fun at a meeting. Come join us.

We plan a big year for the chapter, next month we will have the quest for 'Miss Queen of Hearts 99', In May the Spring Fling will be presented. In July we plan on Co-Hosting the Garden Party with CGS and at the same time host the Tri-Ess national board meeting. Of course we will have the Ritz in December.

Future Meetings

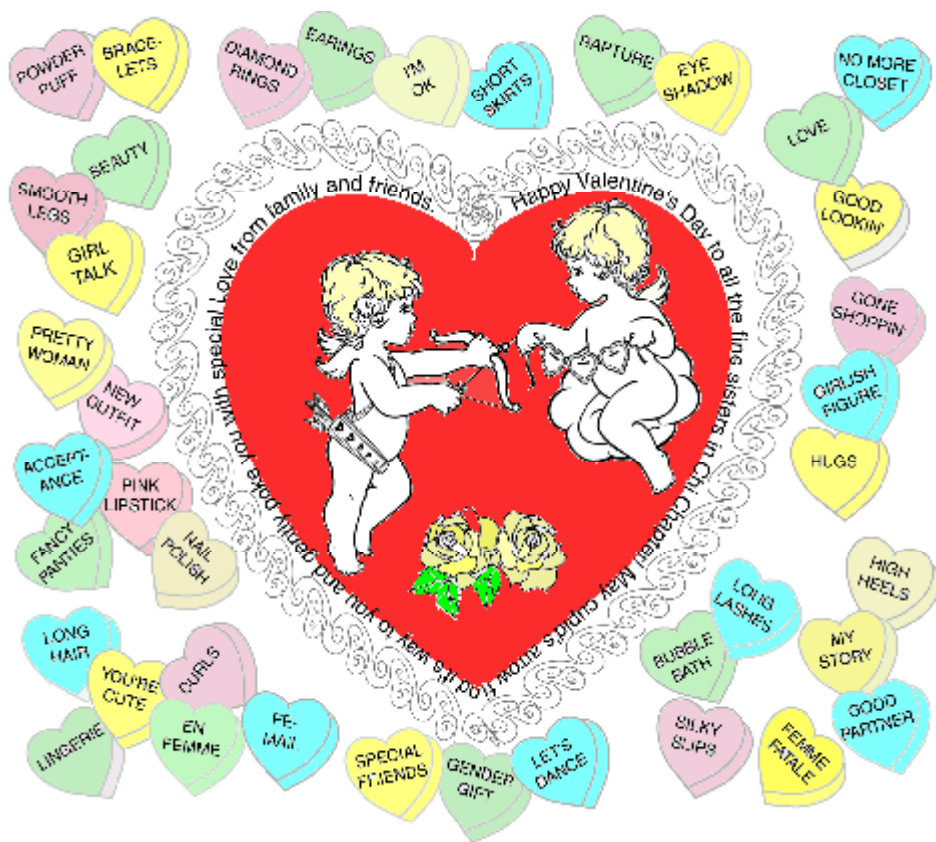
Because of the chance of VERY BAD weather (most of the time) we have established a procedure to notify members of the cancellation of a meeting. If it looks like a bad snow/ice storm or very cold weather (-10 and lower) please check with the hotline recorded message. If a meeting is canceled, it will be announced on the voice mail by noon of the meeting day. We are also working on sending e-mails to those members who we have on file. They will come from CHITRIESS@aol.com

Newsletter

(Continued on page 2)

Ch Chapter TRIBUNE

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Issue # 2



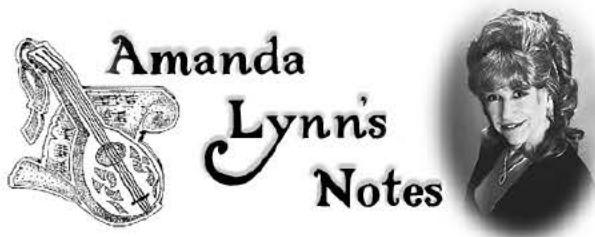
FEBRUARY PROGRAM

It's Sweetheart month, highlighted by Valentines Day. Lets get into the spirit at the February meeting by getting some of those favorite red outfits out of the closet where we can all see them.

The program for February is "GENDER BENDER TRIVIA". We will all have the opportunity to see just how much we're really in touch with our feminine self. At the meeting you can elect to be a contestant, scorekeeper, question reader, or some other job I think up between now and then like audience member. The winner will be crowned our Queen of Hearts for 1999. See you then.

ABBY

In January we welcomed new member Monica Ann
from Wisconsin



Hi Valentines! Well if you missed the January meeting, as so many did, you wouldn't know that I got a great white elephant gift...a riveting tool! I always knew there was an alternative to clip earrings, plus now I can keep my bra straps in place.

I have received several responses to my January questionnaire that listed 10 questions college students have asked after being presented with transgenderism. Some of the comments are really surprising. Since such a small crowd (?) attended last month's meeting, I'm going to give you one more chance to submit your answers. I'll have copies at the February meeting to facilitate getting more feedback. You can also go on line and find the questions at my internet site: <http://www.mcs.net/~mandy> (That's one of those 'tilde' squiglies right before the name Mandy.) I'll use the March column to tell you about the responses.

As far as the condensed minutes for January go... At the board meeting we discussed the possibility of moving the Puttin' on the Ritz to the Hyatt in Lisle, due to parking fees that will be assessed next year at the Ramada. We also approved a new fee schedule that Sara had presented. Plans for the Spring Fling and Summer Garden Party are underway. This summer we will also have the National Tri-Ess board visiting us. Because of the winter white sale that nature dumped on us, we also planned that in case of inclement weather, members should call the hot line, the hotel, or check the Chi-Chapter home page for last minute meeting cancellations.

At the general meeting we dispensed with the usual round-the-room-roll-call, but took a few moments to individually introduce each newcomer. Newcomers were also presented with flowers to signify their special status for the night. Silent tribute was observed for dearly missed Mickie. Abby, I'm sure with the help of lovely spouse Teri, put together a fun distribution (that's right 'dUstribution') of white elephant gifts. I finally got rid of some of those psychedelic colored panties from the Gong Show! See what you missed. Better be there in February. We're gonna have more fun.

(Continued from page 1) Denise

Sara has taken over the printing/folding and mailing of the newsletter effective with the January issue. All the publishing work is done via e-mail. Once I have laid the paper out it is sent to Sara who prints it up.

More Newsletters

Each month we send out newsletters to 63 other chapters, groups and individuals and get approximately 30 in return. With the cost of the newsletter and postage, the exchanges cost us excess of \$900 a year. It is nice to get the information from the newsletters and use what we can for the *Tribune* but we can't afford to spend the money any longer and it could be used more effectively within the chapter. It is just not fiscally responsible to continue in this manner without any financial reimbursement.

We have currently began posting a special version of the newsletter at our home page and will make the complete copy available to other groups, individuals via E-mail. I will be conducting a survey of other chapters and groups regarding their internet usage.

Security

I just wanted to reassure all our members that your membership information is secure. Only Sara, Amanda and myself have access to the membership roster.

A. We will never release any information to anyone without the explicit permission of the member.

B. We will never mail out any type of communication to any address we have for you, unless that address is flagged as your official Chi Chapter mailing address, (Where you get the newsletter).

C. We will never telephone you unless it can be done safely without revealing who we are or your situation to some one who answers.

D. We will never publish your picture in the *Tribune* or on the internet without your permission.

E. We will never publish e-mail addresses which contain your real name in the *Tribune* without your permission. If you do not want your e-mail address on the internet, please let me know.

We also advise you that when dealing with a vendor, please keep in mind that they may not have such high standards that we expect, so be careful who you give your personal information to, be it a vendor or another member who you may have only met. Our present vendors have assured us that they will uphold these high standards. Only those vendors who are current advertisers in the *Tribune* are official vendors of Chi Chapter.

We take security very seriously.

WELCOME

A big welcome back to our friend Sally. She is our official Mary Kay lady and will be advertising with us beginning this month. Please give her a call..

CLASSIFIED

FOR SALE

Used 8 track tape.....last used at the white elephant sale

See Denise

Makeup Essentials

Ever wonder why all of a sudden, for no good reason, your favorite liquid foundation doesn't seem to go on as smoothly as it did just the other day, and the next morning your face is all broken out?

"Gee" you say to yourself. "This stuff is only a couple of years old, and I usually even wash my hands before gooping it on. Maybe it's time to try another brand."

Well, guess what? The problem is probably poor technique, both in application methods and in skin care. Nasty things can, and do, live in that bottle of liquid cover up, and even, to an extent, in that lovely mauve pressed powder eyeliner.

This isn't an infomercial to increase profits for purveyors of cosmetics. It's a helpful hint from an experienced user.

Cosmetics do eventually go bad, sooner if they've been opened, but it is possible to extend their useful life if you are careful.

The key to everything is CLEANLINESS. No bacteria, no germs, no problem. Look at Michael Jackson! I'll bet his skin never breaks out...

Rule One: Shave with a new blade EVERY time.

Rule Two: WASH your hands and face after shaving. Keep your cosmetics in a storage container when not in use, and keep the outside of bottles clean.

Rule Three: Use some kind of alcohol-based astringent after shaving.

Rule Four: NEVER touch your cosmetics or your face with your fingers while applying makeup.

Buy a supply of makeup sponges. A bag of the triangular ones "They'll last you a month if you dress every day." While you're at it, get a bag of cotton balls and another of small (about 2" square) absorbent pads. Last, but not least, buy a set of makeup brushes. These don't have to be expensive. Get a set consisting of one large brush for powder application, a smaller one for blush, two for eye shadow (these look like the largest of model ship painting brushes, one round and one cut at an angle), an eyebrow brush, and a lip brush (yes, that's right, lipstick really should not be applied directly). Altogether, this shouldn't cost more than \$20 to \$30.

Apply liquid foundation by pouring a bit on the short side of the sponge triangle, and press-apply it all over your face, adding more as necessary. Use small brushes to apply eye shadow. Use large brushes to apply blush and face powder.

NEVER touch the bristles or your makeup with your fingers.

foundation ONLY with the sponge. Do NOT use your fingers to smudge makeup after application. Touch your face ONLY with your applicator tools. DISCARD sponges after ONE use. At the end of the day, when it's time

to remove all this stuff (sigh), it is important to remove all of it. Do NOT sleep in makeup. It makes a mess on your satin pillowcase and it will virtually guarantee skin problem.

First, wash your hands. (Yes. Mother..) Next, wipe off as much makeup as you can with tissue paper. Kleenex is cheaper than makeup remover. Next, soak a cotton ball in eye makeup remover and hold it to your eyelids for twenty

seconds or so. Wipe the eyelid with a wet absorbent square. Repeat with other eye. Repeat entire operation. If you're going to see your SO soon, repeat until your cotton ball/square is clean.

Apply a liquid makeup remover to everything else and rinse with fresh water. Repeat. Wipe your face with and alcohol astringent on an absorbent square. Apply a moisturizer. Mary Kay makes an excellent Night Creme (looks like pink Vaseline, and smells only slightly better, but it works absolute magic on irritated skin.) Use this last.

Cleanup should take about fifteen minutes, if done with proper thoroughness. Use a peel-off masque once or twice a week- before the moisturizer. This takes at least another half hour.

REPLACE all liquids six months after opening: Powders after a year.

If undergoing a professional makeover, make sure that all make up and brushes, etc are NEW, NOT USED.

NEVER EVER USE AN ITEM THAT WAS USED ON SOMEONE ELSE. Like wise, never loan your makeup out.

Enjoy!

From the December 1998 issue of "Our Special Joy" newsletter of the Chi Delta Mu Chapter. No author was given.

Couples Group

The next couples group will meet at Jim & Linda's home on Feb 27th at 7:00 p.m.

Please call the Helpline at 708-383-1677 and let us know if you would like to attend.. Or E-Mail to Chitriess@aol.com

Remember, there is no crossdressing at this meeting.

Positive Attitudes Living Side by side

SUPPORT SCUTTLEBUTT BY LINDA

PALS

We had seven in attendance at our January PALS meeting which included one newcomer.

As usual we had a meeting of minds & hearts & sharing of feelings. I read a poem entitled "Autobiography in Five Short Chapters" by Portia Nelson. Afterward a few of us gave our interpretation of the meaning of the poem. We look forward to seeing some new faces at our next meeting.

COUPLES SUPPORT GROUP

We had a group of 15 people at our January Couples Support Group which included two newcomers. The topic was the Feminine & Masculine. We discussed how society relates to the two, as well as cross-dressers. The group shared a variety of viewpoints making for a very interesting discussion. During the meeting everyone wrote down topics or ideas they would like to see discussed at future Couples Support Group meetings. Jim & I collected them & will be presenting a different topic each month. I plan to present some research information to enhance our discussion and encourage anyone else to bring information they may find to add to our discussion.

February's Topic: How Much is Too Much and Respecting Each Others Space

FEBRUARY TRIVIA QUESTION

What was the name of the cross-dresser who was the Toast of Broadway and the Vaudeville Circuit and a silent film star that appeared on screen with Rudolph Valentino between 1910 and 1920? (Answer to be shown in the March Newsletter)

PALS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Most of us have forgotten how to play,
forgotten the joy of creativity.
Without joy, we run from pain.
Without creativity, we run from emptiness.
We cannot face our nothingness,
The ultimate anguish of living a life knowing
Who we are not,
Not who we are." - Woodman

JURY DUTY

By Vicki [REDACTED]

I've always liked those World War II movies where an American submarine is able to sneak into Tokyo Bay, destroy half the Japanese Fleet, and get out while defeating the submarine net and all the depth charges in the world. Sometimes I want to be like that submarine. Such was the case during the first week of December of 98. On my first day off I had to take my mother to the eye doctor. I later cut her grass and did laundry. By the time I got back to my apartment there wasn't much time to crossdress since I would have to rise at 6:00 A. M. the next day to arrive at the jury assembly room by 8:00 A. M. I decided to get dressed and just watch TV. However, as often happens I no sooner got dressed than I realized that I wanted to go out. I first tired a neighborhood bar close to where I live. Not much was going on there and I went from there to The Old Heidelberg Restaurant and Bar. This has just recently become a hangout for Vicki after initially going there as a male at one of our "Boys Are Us" functions. I only stayed till a little after midnight, remembering I would have to be up early the next morning.

Surprise! When I woke up I didn't want to get out of my nightgown. Then I had a crazy thought. Most of the time I just sit in the jury room without ever seeing a lawyer. Only once in five calls for service did I ever get in a jury panel. Besides I had what I thought was a high jury number. These thoughts weighed heavy on a mind not willing to give up its feminine persona.

It was a warm morning for December. I had to decide quickly between what a real woman would wear for jury duty and what I felt feminine in. I chose a light blue country and western skirt with ruffles at the bottom and combined it with a red blouse with matching red flats. I hate daytime makeup, but I felt happy with a dark grey/light gray over my eye lids and my usual brown eye shadow below the eye.

Arriving downtown I really began to wonder if I was out of my mind. What would I do if a homeless person confronted me? What If the clerk asked for identification? Most of all I had to remember that today my name was Ronnie, not Vicki because that was the name on the jury summons. Entering the jury room I saw one woman who was scanning me like a NORAD radar system looking for incoming ICBMs. I looked for a seat near a woman who looked like me. I found such a woman wearing a jean jumper and ugly sandals with no hose. Sometimes small details can keep you from being detected. So I took out a romance novel from my purse and began to read.

When they began calling jury numbers I noticed something strange was going on. From a range of a hundred numbers only forty to fifty perspective jurors were getting up. Where were the other fifty jurors? My eight hundred number didn't seem so safe anymore. This was not what I bargained for. I thought about developing a sudden case of bubonic plague, but a plea of illness might draw more attention than just riding it out.

(Continued on page 5)

(Continued from page 4) *Jury Duty*

There were several things in my favor. To the credit of the citizens of Harris County, who might not like losing a day of work, once in the house of justice they behaved just like they were in church. The members of the jury panel.

I was apart of seemed especially absorbed in the duty before them. From the assembly point we were led on a myriad path which would take us to a courtroom. Girl, how stupid could I be! I wore both an underwire bra and a waist cincher with metal snaps. Naturally I lit up the metal detection machine like a Christmas tree on the way to the courthouse. The deputy then scanned me with a hand held devise and gave me some comfort by calling me ma'am.

Next I would have to face lawyers and a judge. Could I get away with this scam? After all these were men trained to argue fine points of law. Moreover, it was likely that they had some exposure to gender dysphoria somewhere in their litigating experience. To make matters worse I was in the first row when we were finally seated in the courtroom. Suddenly I felt like a giant because both of the attorneys were Munchkins. Let me put it this way. If Phyllis Frye was losing a case against these guys and decided to revert back to trial by combat she would have two heads mounted in her den.

I was on the horns of a dilemma. I couldn't serve on this jury. My femme voice is pretty good, but not good enough to pass in long winded debates. Still avoiding my civic duty was against my principles. The handsome shrimp was the plaintiff's attorney and he gave me the wiggle room I needed when he asked if I could be objective about the case without a police accident report, which was either lost, misfiled, or never taken. On top of that he asked if I could ignore the fact that the plaintiff was arrested for shoplifting a year after the accident. Another sore point for me was that we were not allowed to know if any insurance money had been paid to the plaintiff.

I support Tort reform and so it wasn't difficult to communicate to prosecuting shrimp that I was one fish he didn't want on his line. When it was the defense attorney's turn to question the panel I figured that he wouldn't even bother with me since I had alienated Hamilton Burger. The Short to the point where he would rather have the late Percy Forman on this jury than me. Nevertheless, the diminutive defense did ask me a couple of questions. He addressed me as Juror number twelve. There was something comfortable about being juror number twelve. No sex, no gender and if six is the number of man according to The Book of Revelation then divided by two I'm the devil. The square root of twelve is one hundred and forty four. Twelve equals a dozen. Jesus had twelve disciples. My dress size is...Well so much for the comfort of mathematics.

Since there was still a chance that I might be on this jury I had to make myself just as undesirable to the pint sized Perry Mason as I had to his advocate. When he asked if I thought if it was possible to rear end a vehicle and not be at fault, I replied that while I thought it was possible to do so on a freeway, (last year's personal experience proved that to me) rear-ending on a perfectly good street like South Braeswood was about as likely

as me getting pregnant.

Afterwards we all waited outside of the courtroom as the lawyers made their decisions. To the credit of row one, jurors three, six and surprisingly number eleven were chosen. Early on I expected her to be picked. Late middle--aged, passive, and well dressed she was just the type that lawyers can agree on, except that she had raised many of the same objections I had. My time to sweat was not over. When Juror number sixteen was called next I breathed a sigh of relief.



Back home in the safety of my apartment I pondered the day's events. Like Tootsie the more I conduct myself in normal situations the more proud I am to be a woman. The problem is that whereas a man I can go about my business without thinking, as a woman every movement, word spoken, and gesture must be thought out. I'm reminded of a popular early Sixties British TV series called "Secret Agent." The words of the theme song go:

"Be careful what you say.
You might give yourself away.
Odds are you won't live till tomorrow."

As usual I must end this article with the standard Tri-Ess disclaimer. Unless you have had hundreds of hours in public do not attempt this in your home town. This is not to say not to go out in public as a woman, but rather to match the outing with your level of experience. Moreover, you never quite conquer your fear. Like many others my greatest fear has been getting arrested enfemme. Being in the belly of the beast helped me control that fear. Going out in public dressed is very much like our judicial system. The doctrine of Political Correctness puts an even heavier burden of proof on those bent on exposing us. Like a defendant in a trial, we don't have prove we are women, but create a reasonable doubt that we are anything other than what we appear to be.

Are there any more mountains for me to climb? They are getting rare to be sure. Does this mean that my next objective is to live full time as a woman? The jury is still out. Meanwhile, Fire all torpedoes!

(Phyllis NOTE: While Vicki supports tort reform, I do not. In my experience, tort reform is a cleverly packaged lie from insurance companies and big business to help them peddle their defective products with less risk.)

Received from Texas Attorney Phyllis Frye and written by Vicki 
 both members of Tri-Ess Tau Chi chapter.



IS THIS YOUR FINAL ISSUE ?

**It is if your dues are not received by
March 1**

Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members.

**National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and
\$48.00 for couples
(Two years available at \$60 or \$80)**

Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:

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First Page

C G S

St. Patrick's Day Celebration

It's that time of year to be "green" and celebrate. Enjoy a fabulous traditional meal of Corned Beef and Cabbage plus all the extras. Special guest star entertainment, DJs for music and dancing and the Chicago Gender Society's special award presentation for achievements in 1998.

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Treasurer: Sara

Committees

Newcomers: Amanda Richards

Outreach: Dee Dee

P.A.L.S and Couples: Linda

**Hospitality: Kim, Laurie Ann, Barbara
& Barbara**

Library: Debbie B.

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:
(708) 383-1677**

E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com

Home Page:

**HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/
chimain.htm**

Articles are welcome in all formats. Via E-mail or Snail mail.. Please note that snail mail articles must be on PC disk, or scannable (Typed, not handwritten or hand printed).



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Great Lakes Gender Leadership Conference

Activities Calendar

FEB – MAR 1999

February 1999

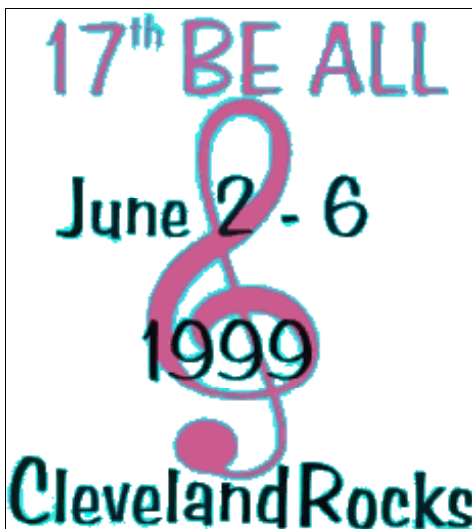
Tue 2/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
 Sat 2/13 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 2/20 Chi Chapter Valentine meeting, 708-383-1677
Sat 2/27 Chi Chapter Couples Group

March 1999

Tue 3/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
 Sat 3/13 CGS St. Patricks Day dinner at the Stardust
 Sat 3/13 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 3/20 Chi Chapter Meeting, 708-383-1677
Sat 3/27 Chi Chapter Couples Group

Upcoming:

May 15 Spring Fling, hosted by Chi Chapter
 June 2-6 Be-all, Cleveland 330-923-3413 E-mail host@beall.net
 June 3-6 Summer Frolics 99, Sanibel Island FL, Hosted bt Gamma Chi Beta 941-481-1410
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