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Prez Stuff

It is my sad duty to inform you that one of our members passed on Dec 20th. Mickie, wife/partner/pal of Colette, was suffering from what seemed to be a cold for several days. She did stop by the Ritz on Saturday evening to be with Colette and to visit with her friends. The next day, feeling worse, Colette took her to the ER where she succumbed to an advanced case of pneumonia. Mickie, 30, was an active member of our PALS group and a regular at our meetings. Our hearts go out to Colette and their family., she will sorely be missed.

Amanda was kind enough to make a memorial which will be found on page 5.

Ritz...

The annual Puttin on the Ritz Dinner/Dance was a huge success with over 136 registered guests.

The Ramada showed their usual class in working with us to set up the dinner. Rosa is the Catering manager who for many years now has worked with Naomi and lately with myself for months prior to the event to see that everything is ready to go. To Margo, our Asst. catering manager who has been working on the Ritz for at least 6 years. Jimmy, the bartender was back this year, following a special request from us. Seems as though a former bartender may have known some of our members and we didn't want a possible outing situation. We do take our security VERY seriously.

Seems as though the Ramada is installing parking toll gates due to it's proximity to the Rosemont Horizon. Next year we may have to pay for parking. Bummer.

A special thanks to Colette for loaning us and setting up several monitor

Continued on page 2



Happy New Year 1999

Programs

ABBY'S ROAD

By Abigale [REDACTED]

Happy new year girls. What a great Christmas party. I can't wait to see Sarah's pictures and Julie Ann's panorama extravaganza. Thanks to Naomi and Rachel for the hospitality suite.

Our January program will be a white elephant gift exchange. Each member or couple should bring an anonymously wrapped gift. If you have some extra items to give away, please wrap them and bring them so that the newcomers can participate. Any items you wish to bring are acceptable, but things that are unusual, clever, funny or strange work best, you don't need to buy anything, it may already be lying around your house gathering dust.

In February, we'll see just how much we're in touch with our feminine sides by playing Gender-Bender trivia. The winner will be crowned our new queen of hearts for 1999. Each contestant can select two attendants to help them in the contest, and I'll be asking each team to take on a newcomer as an attendant, so they can participate too. There will be sign up sheets for teams at the January meeting, so I can get an idea of how many questions we need. If you don't want to be on a team, that's OK too. We need girls to help cheer everyone on.

In March, Shelly will be telling us all about chapter outreach efforts for the coming year and opportunities for us girls to participate in outreach activities. April will be a clean out the closet program. Details to follow.

In addition to the monthly programs, I'm working with Naomi to try and arrange two girls nights out to the theater. We've identified two theater companies in the Chicago area with 1999 programs that should be of interest. One is doing La Cage Au Faux and the other is doing Some Like It Hot. Once we have the details worked out, we'll have sign-up sheets to see if we can get up a large enough interest to get group rates.

If anyone has program ideas they would like to have considered, please let me know by writing me c/o our Wood Dale Post Office Box, or e-mail [REDACTED]@hotmail.com. See you all in two weeks. Abby



Amanda Lynn's Notes



I want this column to include some interaction between you the members and me. I don't just want to put my words into print, but intend to include those of other sisters in our chapter. One way to do this is to ask you to respond to some questions or surveys that I will pose at various times during the year. Remember, this is your group. You have a responsibility to contribute to it, not just to take from it. So spend a few minutes to write back or have some one-on-one dialog with me at our meetings. Your response can be anonymous, but it would be better if you allowed your name to be included, since another sister might find your response interesting enough to seek more information from you.

My first group of questions comes from college students. Over the past four years I have been privileged to have been invited to present transgenderism to several classes at a prominent Chicago university. It's always a warm experience to speak to a group of young people about our lifestyle. My presentation follows my personal life story, but with many appropriate references to people I have met who are positioned at various points on the gender continuum. After about a twenty minute presentation the students have their time to interact with me via a question/answer session.

How would YOU answer their questions? You can reply via the internet: amanda@mcs.net or via U.S. mail to **Amanda Lynn Richards, PO Box 426, Western Springs, IL 60558**. We can also talk at a meeting. Pick any question(s) you like, or answer them all.

1. Do you experience feelings of the opposite gender even when you are not crossdressed and how so?
2. How has presenting as a woman changed your male ways?
3. When in a relationship should a person tell a significant other of their crossdressing?
4. If you're hit on or being picked up by a guy, let's say in a bar, how do you let on that you are not a genetic girl?
5. Do you find that when you are out as a woman you are discriminated against or treated at a lower level of intelligence?

(Continued from page 1)

speakers and Mike stands for Honey's performance.

New Stuff

Still no picture of our reclusive Abby who seems to be cowering from the spotlight, but rumor has it that the new pictures are in the soup as we speak. We did manage to get her out as MC of the dinner so you probably got a glimpse of her. Thank you Abby for your help.

More Ritz

One of the reasons for the Ritz are the awards for those who have served the chapter and it's membership over the past year. The Chapter "Champion" award, (We don't have an official name yet, it's only been 14 years) was awarded to Dr. Russell Getz for his as a consultant with crossdressers, their partners and families. A certificate of appreciation and a pen for his pen collection were presented, a bouquet of flowers was presented to Barbara Getz since she was unable to be present. For many years, Tri-Ess has had the Big Sister program. While Candace was heading the outreach program we operated outside that program since Candace served as our Big Sister. On the eve of her retirement after six years of service she was awarded with a certificate naming her our "Big Sister" and a gift box.

Christine filled in as treasurer when Bridget resigned and dropped out of the recent election due to personal reasons. She was awarded a certificate for her two years as Treasurer along with a gift box.

Rachel was late and Kiki was unable to be present and were both given gift boxes.

Candace presented gifts to Dee Dee, Christine, and Amanda for their work in the Newcomers group, and Dawn and Kate for their work with PALS.

Denise & Rachel both presented gifts to Kim, Barb, Barb and Laurie Ann for their work with the food service.

Denise presented Debbie B. a gift for her work as Librarian. Christin presented Denise with a gift for her work with the newsletter.

For several months Rori and Velma have been selling tickets for the Ritz and before that they had done so for the Garden Party and the Spring Fling. In appreciation we awarded each of them with a hanging jar of Cherries...(not edible...but for show)

Check your mailing label. The label will give you the amount of your Chapter and National dues. All dues amounts are calculated for an expiration date of Jan 1, 2000. You may also take advantage of a substantial discount on your national dues by paying just \$60 for a two year membership. (Couples extra) Adjustments for prorated amounts will show a reduced

Local National

24 35

Jane Doe
PO Box 3622

P.A.L.S.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

Sometimes the fear of doing something is based on our doubts or lack of information about it. Most of us have had feelings of anxiety and fear when we approached the idea of attending our first PALS Support meeting. We hope the following questions and answers will help replace the doubt and fear for those of you who are contemplating this idea, but would like some first hand facts to support your decision.

When and where are PALS meetings held?

Meetings are held at a hotel that accepts and caters to the Transgender community. The PALS meetings are held in a separate room from the main TRIESS meeting. The meeting begins at 6:30PM and ends at 8:00PM, at which time the TRIESS meeting begins.

What options do I have if I am not comfortable seeing my spouse or significant other dressed in feminine attire?

The hotel room reserved for PALS meetings is accessible from the hotel lobby as well as the TRIESS meeting room. Therefore, a spouse can come in a separate vehicle, enter the meeting via the lobby and exit the same way. Your comfort level is a very important factor in becoming acquainted with transgender/cross-dressing issues. Be patient with yourself!

The difficulties I am experiencing regarding transgender/cross-dressing issues are a very sensitive thing to talk about, how can I possibly confide in total strangers?

All information disclosed and discussed in PALS meetings is held in the strictest of confidence. Nothing that is shared leaves that room. All PALS participants are informed of this at the beginning of each meeting. We do not even disclose PALS conversations to our spouses or significant others.

How do I know that PALS meetings are for me, especially when I know nothing about TRIESS or cross-dressing?

The wonderful thing about PALS is that WE ARE NOT ALONE! All of us are on a sacred journey down a new and scary path we know very little about. Each person's journey takes him or her along their path in a different way, as well as, at a different speed. But what each of us in PALS has to offer is that we have all been on a similar journey. We know how important it is to be listened to & heard. To know there is someone out there to talk to when things seem impossible. We don't judge or offer solutions to your problems. We share our insight, knowledge and love to support you on your journey with your loved one.

What if it is just too scary for me to attend a meeting by myself especially when I don't know anyone?

Maybe talking person to PAL would help!

TRIESS AND PALS has a telephone support line. The number to call is (708) 383-1677. Anyone interested in speaking to someone about PALS can contact Linda at the above number or my e-mail address is [REDACTED]@aol.com. Please note that I am not available Monday through Thursday, 7:45AM to 6:15PM, however, I will return your call or e-mail as soon as possible.

With Sincere Sympathy

PALS would like to extend our sincere sympathy to the family and loved ones of Mickey, who made her transition on Sunday, Dec 20th. Our love and prayers are with you.

PALS FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"People find new information distinctly threatening, because if they incorporate it they will have to do a good deal of work to revise their maps of reality, and they instinctively seek to avoid that work. Consequently, more often than not they will fight against the new information rather than for its assimilation." -Peck-

The Real Truth About Crossdressing

by Ellen Shennan

Every Fall, several hundred traditional husbands, fathers and businessmen come together in Provincetown for Fantasia Fair with parties, seminars and workshops exploring the thorny issue of how to buy the right wig and hide a 5 o'clock shadow with the foundation and blush-on. Heterosexual married men from suburbia with families who cross-dress? What's going on?

Apparently a much more common practice than most people would imagine. It's estimated that at least 1% of the male population crossdresses. And even as we approach the 21st Century, the idea of a heterosexual man in heels is still more than a little threatening. And confusing even for the crossdressers; themselves. As JoAnn Roberts, founder of Renaissance, a Delaware Valley crossdressing support group of over 400 said "I knew growing up that I wasn't gay and I was heterosexual. I thought I might be crazy, but I knew I wasn't gay." Crossdressing is a subject that's been universally misunderstood. While producing the first documentary on heterosexual crossdressing called All Dressed Up And No Place To Go, I found a host of misconceptions rampant in most people's thinking. The following are the Top Eleven Misconceptions that abound:

1) Crossdressers Are Gay

More than likely not. As Dr. William Stayton, Head of the University of Pennsylvania's Department of Human Sexuality and himself a therapist for crossdressers, reported "People associate crossdressing with effeminacy and being gay and the fact is most of them are not gay. They are very definitely heterosexual. "In fact one of the most difficult areas for crossdressers was how to deal with the women with whom they wanted to be involved.

2) Crossdressers Don't Like Women

The truth is that rather than shying away from women, most crossdressers are as married or looking for a relationship as any cross section of men in America. "There is even some advantage to being a heterosexual crossdresser," says Dr. Stayton. "When dressed they often become more sensitive and understanding to the women in their lives. Their wives tend to find them delightful and often it can become a real enhancement to marital relations. "However that "enhancement" can only come if the woman feels comfortable with her husband's occasional dressing. Many don't. As Florida lawyer Jeff/Jean reports, "What would happen was that as soon as women found out about "Jean" the relationship would end, so why did I have to keep banging myself in the head. I was married to a woman that didn't approve and it was painful. Now I tell the women and let them even see "Jean." If we're going to be involved then they'll have to accept all of me just like I have to accept all of them."

3) Women Who Love Crossdressers Must Be Lesbians

What's it like to love a man who's wearing a dress?

Pam, the wife of a Bank V.P crossdresser recounts "I did feel funny at first. I love my husband as a man but when I saw him in a dress as "Barbara," I thought how can I love him? The answer was I didn't have to love him the same way. With "Barbara," we're friends like I would be with any girlfriend. When he's dressed as a man, I feel free to love him as a man."

4) Crossdressers Dress For Sexual Gratification

Most crossdressers; reveal that relieving stress and relaxation were the feelings they most associated with their crossdressing. However many revealed that while teenagers there was a high degree of sexual excitement related to crossdressing mostly relieved through masturbation. As Hormones calmed down and they reached adulthood the sexual element declined and the feelings the crossdressing elicited were very different." What you'll find, " Dr. Stayton reported, "is that very early on they associate these clothes with relaxation and stress relief. They often use it to feel calmer. There is an erotic element to the crossdressing. Many will crossdress or fantasize about being CD to enhance sexual enjoyment, but it's not necessary. "

5) Crossdressers Always Wear Women's Clothes

In fact most may only dress once a month or once every six months. Many men don't ever even reach the point of fully dressing but feel the same relaxed feeling by just wearing women's undies under their suits. "You can't imagine how many politicians can't give a speech in Congress without wearing women's panties," Dr. Stayton commented, adding he has first hand knowledge since many are his patients.

6) Crossdressers Have Weird Sexual Habits

No more than most. However cross dressers did report their sex lives were enhanced by crossdressing to some degree. "Dale" recounted that "Although many CDs will deny it, there is a degree of extra arousal that comes with being crossdressed when making love but many women are not comfortable with that and we men have to be sensitive to that and accept it."

7) Crossdressers Look Like RuPaul

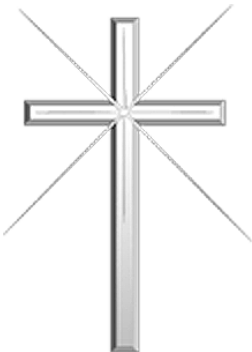
In fact many crossdressers are most comfortable dressing their " femme " selves as they would dress their male selves. Therefore most conventions of crossdressers find a roomful of men in dressed for success women's suits, low heels, tasteful makeup and coifed hair ... much more Margaret Thatcher than RuPaul.

8) Crossdressing Develops in Adulthood

"We really find that crossdressing starts very young," reports Dr. Stayton. "Many remember that as preschoolers they got a certain feeling with Mom's clothing. It's very rarely something that develops in adulthood.

9) Crossdressers Are Made, Not Born

The current conventional wisdom seems to be that crossdressing is a result of both Nature and Nurture. "I certainly think there's a genetic influence just as for all of us there are things that happen that program us as to how we'll be sexual, whether we'll like redheads or thin women. We have preferences, but the truth is there's no common thread and we really don't know why it happens," reports Dr. Stayton.



Mickie

January 2, 1968 - December 20, 1998

On Sunday, December 20th at the hour of 6:30pm, Mickie was called to eternal life by her creator. She passed from this world quick and unexpectantly after being stricken with a massive attack of pneumonia so strong, medical personnel were unable to save her life.

She was the young spouse of Colette. We would often see them together. You might be fortunate enough to recall watching them dance at one of our parties. Mickie's arms around Colette in warm loving embrace.

Would that the world follow her example.

Let all of us embrace and support Colette.



Couples Group

The next couples group will meet at Kim & Denise's home on Jan 23rd at 7:00 pm

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.

Chi Chapter Tri Ess

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

Officers

President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Abby [REDACTED]
VP/Outreach: Shelley [REDACTED]
Secretary: Amanda Richards
Treasurer: Sara [REDACTED]

Committees

Newcomers: Christine [REDACTED]
Dee Dee [REDACTED]
P.A.L.S.: Linda
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/triss/
chimain.htm](http://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/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).

MUSICAL MEMORIES OF THE RITZ

George the DJ playing:
"Walking round in Womens Underwear"



(Continued from page 4)

10) Crossdressers; Are Schizophrenic

In reality crossdressers exhibit slight personality alterations in their "femme" role, but in general, their personalities only change to the extent that many peoples do when assuming different roles in life, i.e. CEO, husband, father. One wife reports her husband likes to dance as his "femme" self where he wouldn't feel that free as a man. Other wives recount how their husbands will shop with them when otherwise they'd never have the patience.

11) Crossdressing Can Be Cured

"Truth is you can't change it," Dr. Stayton concludes. Most professionals now try to counsel the crossdresser to deal with his crossdressing rather than eradicate it. "When someone comes to me and feels it's sick behavior, then to me helping them to be healthy is to help them accept it and to be able to appropriately accept their own crossdressing feelings."

For more information:

All Dressed Up And No Place To Go, the first feature documentary on heterosexual cross dressing. Now Available in home video Contact:

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G.L.G.L.C .

Activities Calendar

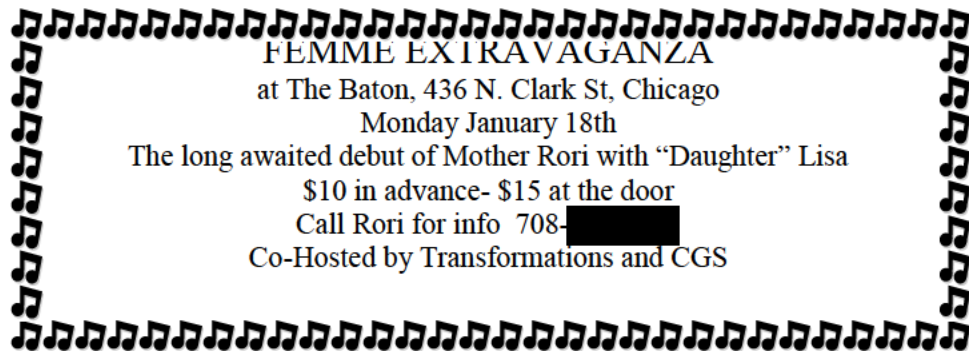
DEC 1998 - JAN 1999

January 1999

Tue 1/12:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
 Sat 1/9 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 1/16 Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst 708-383-1677
 Mon 1/18 FEMME EXTRAVAGANZA, at the Baton. Hosted by Transformations and CGS 708-383-8338
Sat 1/23 Chi Chapter Couples Group

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, Elmhurst 708-383-1677
Sat 2/27 Chi Chapter Couples Group


 FEMME EXTRAVAGANZA
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