

The Chi Tribune



Vol # XX Issue #8

Hotline (708) 364-9514

August 1995

THE WRIGHT LINE!

By Gloria Wright,

PICNIC!



As I write this column, I am visiting Toronto, Ontario in Canada. I am visiting Canada with a bunch of maniacs. Some of the maniacs are my family, wife and kids. The main maniac is a childhood friend of mine who once saved my life. In a recent article, I mentioned a gang attack I was once subjected to. Well the details are that I was attacked by about fifty gang members for being unwise enough to be conversing with a girl one of them liked. He decided to threaten me for doing that. Being about 18 years old (and Gloria not having flowered just yet), I decided to let the testosterone flow, and told him all the things I would do to him if he didn't cease and desist. (I was a practicing black belt in karate at the time, and he knew it.)

Well, being the wise gentleman he was, rather than take me on directly, he chose to get about 50 of his gang friends to come, with the stated purpose of generally beating me until nothing moved.

I didn't feel like being a willing participant in this, so I began to "vacate the premises," as it were. Since running just gets you a bullet in the back, I decided to move away in a variety of karate stances while they tried to surround me. I knew I had friends about a football field away, viewing all of this, but it never entered into my mind that they would risk themselves in my rescue. So I spent the time deciding which of my attackers I would take with me. They saw me making this decision as I backed away, and this kept them off me for a short time. No one wanted to be the first on me.

The came the troops. My best friend, named (of all things) Liberace (really) came a runnin' with about nine others, some from our karate class. He confronted the leader of the gang, and smooth talker that he was, got them to let me go. They made me promise not to ever come back to the area (No problem!). But I was free to live again!

And that's one reason you should come to the picnic!

Friends and family are two of the most undervalued commodities in our world.

(Continued on page 3)

This Month at Chi-Chapter

We meet again at the Holiday Inn Express in Elmhurst. The evenings program will include an Ice Cream social and a program by DeeDee entitled; "3 TIPS AND A SUGGESTION ON HOW TO BE MORE LIKE A WOMAN"

The room will open at 5:00 pm and there will be a changing area available.

Reservations for a room can be made at (708) 279-0700. Please mention Chi-Chapter

On Sunday, Aug 20 we will be holding our Chi-Chapter annual picnic in the Busse Woods Forest Preserve. This is a family picnic and is a NON-CROSSDRESSED event. A map and further info can be found on page 7.

Next Month at Chi-Chapter

Wives/SO rap session. Followed by a mini dinner social

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EDITOR'S CORNER



Rules!!! Bah Humbug!!

As Gloria mentioned at the last meeting, work is under way to finalize the new Chi-Chapter, Constitution/Bylaws. Since my no-show at the meeting was a last minute situation, I was just able to send her the latest draft via E-Mail so she could present it at the meeting.

Susan [redacted] did the original draft using as examples, bylaws/Constitutions from many Tri-Ess chapters, open groups and even the Kiwanis.

On June 30th an officers meeting was held to go over the original and come up with the present draft.

Since we plan on sending each and every Full member a copy of the proposed draft, we will include it with a one page September newsletter (or October if it's not ready yet). Following this a vote will be taken on it's adoption or rejection.

Decisions.....?

Once again our October (Halloween) meeting falls on the same night as the Dunes Getaway, in Douglas Dunes. Last year the Fall Harvest was on the same night. Mary Ann Foster advised me that she couldn't make it the week before since there is a huge AID's benefit at the Dunes that night. Those of us there several years ago know what that was like.

BBS Success...☺

The official Chi-Chapter BBS, THE LIFETIME has been showing a steady increase in usage. I want to say welcome to our new Chi-Chapter members who probably would not be here if they had not been on the LIFETIME. Jane Austen, Robin P., Lucy W., Pamela, Bobbie H., Gloria H., and many more.

Well?

The time is afoot as they say. The time to decide if we return to the Midway or stay at the Holiday Inn Express. We will be having an officers meeting prior to the August meeting and will be discussing our options...

Fur? ☹

Rumor has it that there were several hairy women at the pool party in July, scaring parents....Geeze didn't they read the 'WARNING' in the last *Tribune*? Get with it girls, use some common sense, we don't want to screw ourselves out of a home, do we?

Xmas is Coming 🎅

It's time to plan the Chi-Chapter Xmas-Holiday Dinner/Dance. Naomi is heading the committee for the event and has announced that there is in the works a couples seminar conducted by Dr. Sandra Cole, which will be held the afternoon prior to the dinner. More news as we get it.

Sept Meeting

Remember the wives/husbands/SO rap session scheduled for the September meeting. If you would like to be on the panel, please call the hotline and let Candace know. The panel is not restricted to just those mentioned above, but is open to sisters, brothers, sons and daughters. This should prove to be a very informative meeting.....

**Deadline for Sept Issue
August 30th**

The Chi Tribune

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The *Chi Tribune* newsletter is published monthly by Chi Chapter TRI-ESS. Please send all news, information, contributions, comments and suggestions to:

Denise Peters
PO Box 133
Park Ridge, IL 60068-0133
OR

Upload your article-etc. to:
LIFETIME BBS

The OFFICIAL Chi-Chapter BBS
(708) 438-1901

OR

AOL-DenisePete
CIS-71321.2131

[redacted]@aol.com

Upload can be in any popular word processing format or ASCII text file.

ALSO ACCEPTED:

Typed articles can be scanned
PC disks in any size or Mac disks in 3" HD
FAX articles with prior arraignment.

Meeting Info.

Chi-Chapter meets at the Holiday Inn Express located in Elmhurst, IL.

It is located at Rt-83 (Busse Rd) and Riverside Dr. Which is South of I-290/ North Ave/St Charles Rd and North of Roosevelt Av.

When on Rt-83, turn East on Riverside at the light, and then turn a half turn to the right, which is the continuation of Riverside. At the hotel, pull in towards the front of the building then all the way around to the right side. We have a 'private' lot and entrance.....near the satellite dishes. Watch for the signs.

If you would like to make a reservation for a room, the hotel number is (708) 279-0700. Please mention Chi-Chapter.

A.P.A. TO SAY "CD-ING NO DISORDER"

Hey! We knew that!
IFGE-WALTHAM

The American Psychiatric Association will be dropping cross-dressing and cross-dressing fetishism from its list of pathologies or mental disorders. In the future, to be given a diagnosis of a mental disorder, the cross dresser must evidence one of the three D's of diagnosis:

Distress

Disability - occupational or otherwise

Dare deviling - high risk behavior, leading to physical injury, loss of job, family disruption, imprisonment, etc.

Deviance is no longer a basis for rendering a psychiatric diagnosis because although society does not accept cross dressing behaviors, that in itself is not sufficient reason to label a person with a diagnosis of a psychiatric disorder.

Educational efforts of national gender pioneers, organizations such as IFGE, AEGIS, Tri-Ess and Renaissance and Dr. George R. Brown, Associate Professor of Psychiatry at East Tennessee State University have all helped to bring about this change of attitude in the APA's DSM-IV.

(Continued from page 1)

Friends are people who have chosen to be around you because they like you. They have made a conscious choice to spend their valuable time around you, even though they know your flaws. They will sacrifice their time, and in my case, one was willing to potentially sacrifice his life.

Family usually don't get to choose you, or you them. But they still are the glue that keeps our emotional life from falling apart. Friends and family are often the ones we need for support in times of trouble, and of course are usually the first people we want to confide in.

I used to bring my children to the picnic, with them having no knowledge of Gloria. Well, now my son knows. And he has the knowledge that he has met others like me, others that seem fairly normal. So maybe it's not that big a deal that dad cross dresses.

These are some of the reasons that I think we should have full attendance at our picnic. You'll have the opportunity to be with friends who know some of your innermost secrets, and who still want to be with you. You have the opportunity to bring family or friends who either now or someday will know about your femme self. You'll have the opportunity to support Chi-Chapter, who made a lot of this possible.

But most of all, we have a lot of fun planned. We'll have food and drinks, volleyball, baseball, bingo, and tons of other stuff. So please bring ALL your friends and family. Even a few enemies are acceptable, as long as they're not violent. But most of all, bring you. Without you, part of OUR family will be missing.

Denise has promised to include a map with copious quantities of information on where, when (starts 11ish, August 20), how, etc. We've scheduled fair skies and no bugs, so it should be a good one. See YOU there!

And please don't forget about our regular meeting the day before the picnic, Saturday, August 19!

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Advertising Notes by Sunny

First let me introduce our newest advertiser, **Verna Venus Foundations**, to build a better you, owned by Verna and Colleen, Chi Chapter members. They handle bras, Panties, hoisery, breast forms, and Avon cosmetics. They also carry dance belts which are ideal for proper tucking under tight clothes. Further plans call for expanded inventory, hip pad panties, garters, waist cinchers, a private showroom, and a private changing room for the TV community. Colleen can also handle your printing needs. They are open 7 days a week, give them a call at (312) 772-2192.

G & L Photography in conjunction with **Transformations** is offering a makeover and photo session for the special price of \$ 50.00. Call Rorri at (708) 383-8338 to set up a session.

At this time I want to wish the newlyweds, Sally and Dave, the best in their future.

Now girls, for some exciting upcoming advertiser events.

Transformations, at 146 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, will be hosting a special day on September 17th from 1-7 PM.

Starting at 3:00 PM, with "Beautiful Breasts" or how to make boobs, by Soto. Ending at 4:15 PM Fee: \$ 18.00

From 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM in the lower level, Joan Marie Sassano will conduct "Movement & Modeling Fundamentals" Fee: \$ 15.00

From 6:00 to 7:00 a buffet will be served. Fee: \$ 5.00 Beer, wine and pop available at \$ 1.00 each

A special outing to the Baton follows for the 8:30 PM show, with a special \$ 4.00 admission and 2 drink minimum.

Please RSVP by September 14th, call Rori at (708) 383-8338 for Baton reservations.

On Saturday, October 14th, Fay R. Bass of Mary Kay Cosmetics and Velma & Rachel's Wig and Hair Care at 1833 W. Irving

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The Day I Stopped Crossdressing

By
Callan Williams

I stopped crossdressing today. I got up and put on a skirt & a blouse. As Holly Boswell says, these weren't my mother's clothes I was wearing, they were mine. I didn't dress in some costume or folly, no special occasion. I just woke up and put on my own clothes. My clothes on my body. That's not crossdressing.

Crossdressing is a term that presumes that it is wrong for people of one sex to wear clothing assigned to another sex. It assumes that clothing is somehow sex linked, as if a dress is specific only to those with XX chromosomes.

We know that clothing is not linked directly to physical sex. Clothing is a social trait, conveying messages of status, power and role. Because we have been taught to link status, power and role to sex, we assume that clothing is also linked to sex. It is actually linked to gender, our system of role definition that is primarily based on sex.

There are other ways of defining role. We might define by occupation, and in this case, for example, plumbers would always dress alike, no matter what sex they are. or we may define by ethnic heritage, so that Scots all wore skirts, no matter what sex they are. But our primary separation in this heterosexual culture is by sex.

We come by being a heterosexual culture quite reasonably. Once we stopped being hunter/gatherers, we needed lots of children to toil in the fields. This mass of population was good, and as we shifted into a consumer culture, we needed people to work and to buy products. We needed a market. With this pressure on procreation, we focused on ways to get men and women to breed, becoming a heterosexual culture.

But things are changing. We are in an era of working smarter, not harder. Brute labor and masses of population aren't the answer anymore. We need to focus on changing to a culture of thought, one focused not on grunt work, but on brain power. We see the problems of large masses of people living without means all over the world. The need to copiously procreate is declining. And with that, the need to focus attention on heterosexual stereotypes, dividing people by sex to build a structure for desire is also changing. We reject sexual harassment, move towards unlocking the potential for thought in us all, rather than simply the raw urge to breed. Our gender system is breaking down under its own weight, a victim of the outdated need for a focus on childbearing.

So our roles change. Boundaries change. The hard and fast rules about what a man should be, what a woman should be change. We have seen these changes since the 1960's and the women's movement, a backlash itself against the social pressures of the 1950's designed to push women out of their 1940's wartime jobs and back into the home for the "babyboom." And my role changes. I was taught to wear clothing appropriate to the gender role "man," one I was assigned to by virtue of my having a penis. I became a crossdresser, putting on clothing that

the culture has assigned to the gender "woman" as a costume. I retained the characteristic behaviors of a "man" as I wore the clothing of another gender role. Putting on these outfits was ceremonial, potent, a powerful symbolic gesture, showing layers otherwise unrevealed.

But I am to the point where I no longer see the donning of clothing assigned to the gender "women" as ceremonial. Rather, I see it as just another option in my daily dressing. Pants, skirt, whatever. It isn't just gender deceivers that wear padding and plastic hair.

I spent many years trying to come to grips with the concept of deceit that is inherent in 'passing' as another sex. But all of those questions go away when the only point is having a much more open wardrobe. You merely express who you are, and people take you for what they take you for. You don't work to pass, just to look good and pleasant. This is the essence of transgender behavior, a moving away from crossdressing and into simply a wider range of expression. No matter what your genitals, it is possible to wear a dress for normal, not just for ceremonial occasions.

There are issues in this expression. Others may not feel comfortable if you are not anchored in a heterosexual role. People may make assumptions about you that are disdainful and inaccurate. One needs to be strong and clear in themselves to effectively open their manifestation options. I know that people outside the gender community can see me as a person, no matter what my expression.

So the day I stopped crossdressing was the day that putting on a skirt no longer felt odd, the day it just felt right and proper. It was the day that rather than wearing clothes that are contrary to my gender, I found the clothes that were appropriate to my gender, to who I am. While, in the context of sex role stereotyping, I may still be dressing inappropriately for my sex, I am not dressing cross-gender, not cross-dressing. I am connected with all humans, many of whom find limits to their full expression in gender roles. Any barrier can separate us, make us believe more in our differences than our sameness. It is believing in the separations that oppresses us, limits all of us. I am the same as crossdressers, the same as feminists, the same as rednecks, the same as all humans. Our diversity is flavor, not substance.

People do respond to the way we look, and it is all right to look any way that expresses who we are. Skirts and heels or jeans and boots, we create our own image, our own identity. We are who we are, and we can show that to the world, must show that to the world.

We all must be able to break the barriers of gender limits that stop us. One way to do that is to stop crossdressing and to just be yourself, whoever that is ... and whatever that wears.

(Reprinted from Southern Belle Jan 1995)

H

Aug 5 Phyllis Randolph Frye-Pizza Party Chicago (708) 863-7714
 Aug 8 CGS Meeting Stardust

Aug 19 Chi-Chapter Meeting Holiday Inn Express
 Aug 20 Chi-Chapter Picnic

A

SEPTEMBER

Sept 2 Gemini Gender Grp Milwaukee (414) 297-9328
 Sept 12 CGS Meeting

P

Sept 16 Chi-Chapter Meeting
 Sept 27 Southern Comfort Atlanta

OCT - DEC

P

Oct 15-22 Fantasia Fair Provincetown, MD
 Oct 19-22 Michigan Dunes Weekend Douglas Dunes, MI
 Oct 26-29 Fall Harvest St. Louis, MO

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Nov 15-19 Holiday En-Femme Calgary, AB, Canada
 Dec 8-11 Dignity Cruise Miami, FL

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Chi Chapter/TriEss

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Officers

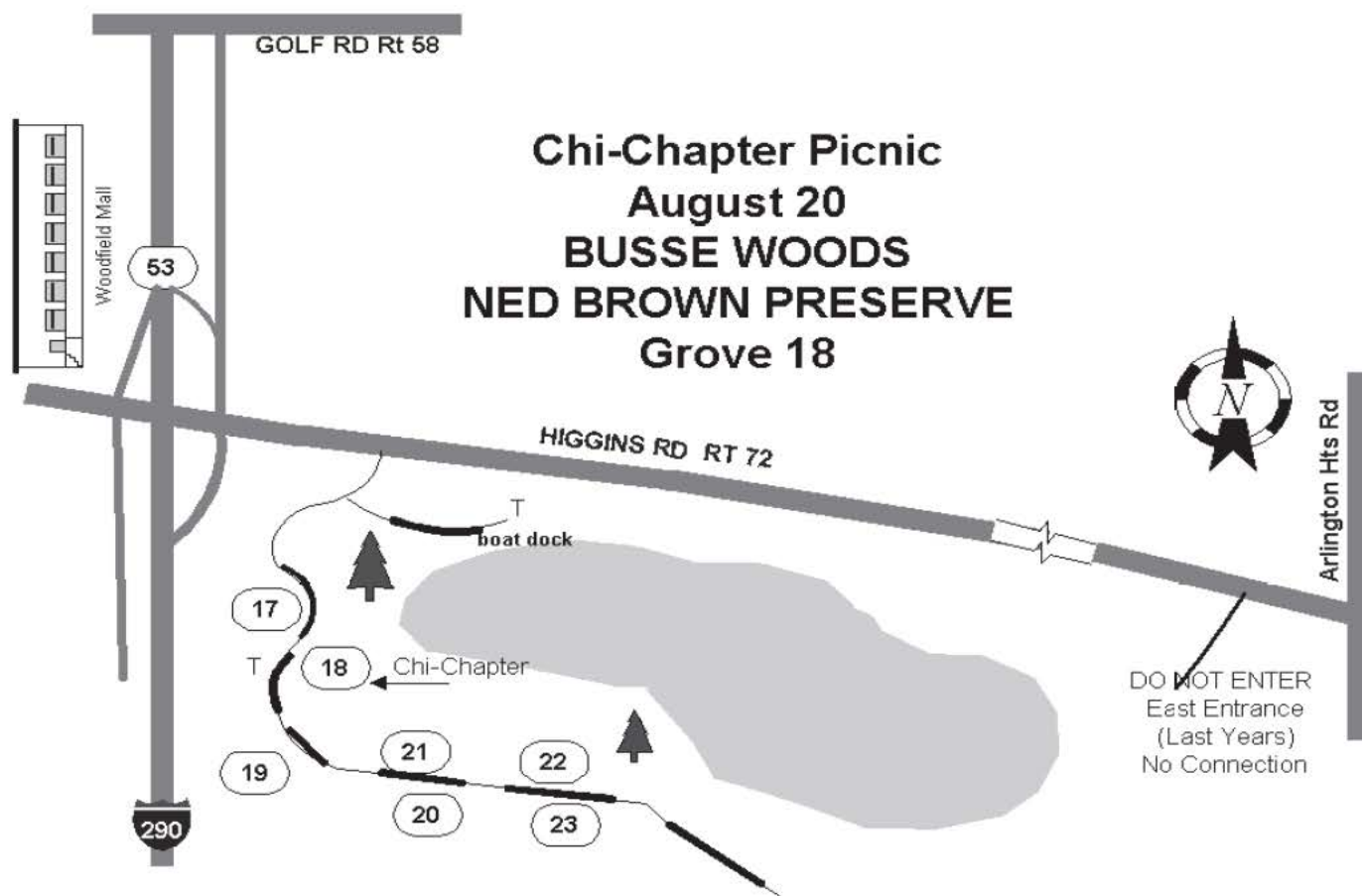
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 VP/Membership: Candace [REDACTED]
 Secretary: Denise Peters
 Treasurer: Deanna Johns

Committees

Couples Group: Susan [REDACTED]
 Newcomers: Amanda [REDACTED]
 Dee Dee [REDACTED]
 Food: Sally [REDACTED]

TRI-ESS is a not-for-profit social and educational support group for crossdressers and their spouses and partners. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. Except April 95

Chi Chapter Telephone Hotline:
(708) 364-9514



PICNIC

Yes, it is time for our annual Chi-Chapter picnic. The best time to arrive is about 11AM at the Cook County Forest Preserve, Busse Woods, grove 18.

PLEASE NOTE that this is NOT the same grove as last year and NOT the same entrance. The grove is located just south of Higgins Road and thru the entrance which is just (500') East of Rt 53 exit.

The picnic is open (at no charge) to all members, prospective members, their spouses and partners, their families and friends. The chapter will provide hamburgers, hotdogs, brats, and corn. We ask every family to bring salads, relishes, pops, chips and desserts.

Proper picnic attire is required for all — SORRY, NO CROSSDRESSING for the guys.

The annual Douglas Dunes, Michigan Get-A-Way will be held October 19-22nd.

As usual, the Chi-Chapter meeting is also scheduled for that weekend. Grump-grump Brunches, dinners, everything to make you happy for 4 days, and private too. Reservations can be made by calling the Douglas Dunes (616) 857-1401..make mention of IME/CGS

Costs and maps will be in the September *Tribune*

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