



# The Phi Journal



ISSUE 22

Editor - Wendi Beeman

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## GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLISHER

The rest of this paragraph may sound like a replay of my November opening paragraph. I'm sorry this issue is coming out so close to the March meeting, but we just returned from a 4-week vacation trip. This is my first chance to sit in front of my word processor and get Wendi's prose into your hands. But first a report from Treasurer Emily that is not your usual "treasurer's report".

Jane

## A SHOPPING ADVENTURE

Well, you missed it! Tina made arrangements for a group of us to go to a first-class Shoppe "en femme" to do a little shopping in privacy before the Deptford shopping mall opened for the day. Your intrepid president and I arrived some 15 minutes before the appointed hour and waited in pleasant anticipation, waiting for the arrival of some of the rest of you to complete a cheerful party to be escorted through the main entrance and up the staircase to the mezzanine where the Tall Girls Shop holds forth. Well, somewhat later just the two of us were in the store while the store manager went in vain to the other mall entrances to see if anyone had tried to get in the wrong way. Alas, no others appeared. Oh well, on with the show.

There is, I am sure you know, a considerable body of CD literature about fictitious incidents similar to what actually happened to us next. What we were there to see was a demonstration of color in make-up, clothing, and accessories. There were THREE ladies standing behind a table spread with powders and small pots of color, mirrors and sponges, and brushes and who knows what else. We were soon the subjects (being the only two there) of the undivided attention of the Four Seasons consultants. Their approach to their art involves dividing their subjects into four main classes, which they designate by the names of the four seasons.

It seems I am one of those warm-completed people they designate as "autumn", who radiate in rich red, orange, warm brown, tan, gold, navy blue, warm yellow, olive green, and peach. This was all "peachy" news to me, as autumn is my favorite season. Of course if you are one of the other seasons, some of these colors could be the pits, as white, black, and pink are for me. (Unfortunately, in some aspects of CDing these are highly symbolic colors, charged with powerful meanings for folk of our sort, and I am loathe to give them up altogether.) I am also to shun silver and anything that smacks of purple.

Imagine though, sitting in the midst of a fashionable ladies boutique, with a lovely feminine creature doing fabulous things to enhance your feminine appearance, and making all the while such comments as "doesn't this lipstick look stunning with her complexion?". We almost needed strings tied to our foundations to keep from floating away like balloons. And then of course there were the clothes! Never mind what I spent, but the male person who pays my bills will have to settle with the credit bureau or the sheriff.

When it was all over, I was all for lunch in the mall, in something like a department store tearoom, but Tina had had enough public exposure for one day. That left nothing but to go back to her home and wash away our lovely new faces. Then I was off for home, with the mice riding in my diesel-powered pumpkin. The transformation was really so striking that I almost expected to find to find a glass slipper among the packages when I got home.

Yes, you missed it! (But we still love you all.)

*Emily*

#### NEXT PHI CHAPTER MEETING

Emily's report leads in to this topic. Tina tells me there is a good possibility that she can get those same three image consultant ladies on the program for our March meeting. The date is next Saturday, 28 March. The time is 8 p.m., but its OK to come a little earlier, particularly if you want to use the (limited) changing facilities. Do call Selma at 609 [REDACTED] if you can come. Louise and I expect to be there. I for one anticipate with pleasure an opportunity to meet the consultants and to receive advice on colors.

*Jane*

#### PARTNERS SUPPORT GROUP MEETING

One of President Tina's dreams has been the establishment of a support group for the "partners" of crossdresser members of the Phi Chapter. This dream will become a reality on Saturday, 11 April at 8 p.m. The group will be hosted by Mary, who is the wife of one of our members. She will open her Cherry Hill home and her heart and provide refreshments. "Partners" is a collective term frequently used these days to cover wives, lovers, and significant others. We crossdressers are not invited, but our partners are urged to come and share. Call Mary at 609 [REDACTED] for further information.

*Jane*

#### A PERSONAL OPINION

There's been talk for some time of having a dinner or similar outing for the Phi Chapter that would allow members to get out in public in pleasant surroundings without jeopardizing individual security. So the Phi Chapter leadership set out to find a place that would provide these essentials. Having found a place that guaranteed us security and was looking forward to serving us, leadership planned a formal dinner meeting for May.

There was a small catch. Since we would be reserving a dining room several months in advance, we had to have a deposit from everyone planning to attend. The feeling seemed to be that it was a great idea.

Unfortunately, that was not the case when people were called on to put their money where their mouths were. The response was *underwhelming*. Only 9 people turned in their \$20 deposits by the extended 17 February deadline, and that included deposits for two spouses. To say that leadership is disappointed would be an understatement.

Seriously, the Phi Chapter must decide where it is going and just what its purpose is. Do we have any responsibility as a group to educate and support or do we simply sit around and cry over the lack of acceptance of CD's. No one is suggesting that we flaunt our existence and create situations that might make some people feel uncomfortable, but I feel that opportunities must be given to those who want to grow. You might begin by asking yourself what kind of commitment you have made to the Phi Chapter.

Because there wasn't enough of a commitment from Phi Chapter members, we have cancelled plans for the dinner. Deposit money will be refunded to those of you who sent in your \$20.

As an alternative, since there would be no need for group advance registration funds, we may schedule a trip to the Finicchio show now playing at the Tara Dinner Theater at the Brandywine Hotel and Resort in Downingtown. This female impersonation show (see February issue) is now expected to run until June.

#### IN CASE YOU MISSED IT

You may have seen some familiar faces on the Phil Donahue program that aired locally on 23 February, the day of the big snowstorm. Our own Angela was one of those who first walked out on stage at the beginning of the show.

The program (the third Donahue show that I can recall on the subject of crossdressing) was another great opportunity for us to show that the vast majority of crossdressers are not perverts or other threats to society. Crossdressing is simply a phenomenon that even medical professionals do not fully understand.

The show's panel of four crossdressers handled themselves very well, but the most significant aspect of the program may have been the comments by Bonnie, the wife of crossdresser Rhonda, and by Phyllis Levy, a sex therapist. These two women answered some rather tough questions very knowledgeably and confidently.

Bonnie brought out the "harmful" aspects of crossdressing: the cries for help from individuals who need support but don't know where to get it and are afraid to reveal their secret to anyone; the destroyed marriages; the suicides or suicidal thoughts of those subject to the compulsion. The depth of Bonnie's compassion and love was truly heartwarming. We should all take a lesson from her.

#### WHAT THOSE HORMONES CAN DO

February was a banner month for crossdressers on TV. In addition to the Donahue show, the Oprah Winfrey show on 20 February featured three

impersonators, Chili Pepper and Leslie of the Baton Club in Chicago and a former truck driver who mimics MM at the La Cage show in Los Angeles. Chili and Leslie, who have made numerous television appearances, live full time as women. Their comments were interesting.

Earlier in the month, Liz Starr of AM Philadelphia did an interview with several crossdressers, one of whom the camera followed to a night-club in northeast Philly that features the Doll Factory, another group of impersonators. We are trying to find out something about the night-club to report in the next issue of the Journal.

#### AND THEY KEEP COMING

Although contributions to the library have been slow in coming, our collection of photos of members and prospective members continues to grow. I am planning to mount the photos on a huge board and bring it to a meeting.

If you haven't sent in a photo of yourself dressed, please do so.

#### THE WORLD IS FULL OF US

Just thought you would be interested to know what kind of response the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess got after sending Eve and Naomi on a tour of TV stations around the country. If you will recall, they appeared on the People Are Talking show on Channel 3 in Philadelphia last fall.

After their "hotline" was shown on the shows (it was not shown in Philadelphia), they received more than 150 inquires and they're still coming in.

#### TREASURER'S FINANCIAL REPORT

Here is Emily's report through February:

On hand after 24 January meeting

\$65.00

##### 28 February receipts

attendance fees - 17 x \$15	\$255.00
donations	9.00
total	\$329.00

##### 28 February disbursements

Selma - 17 x \$12	\$204.00
newsletter postage, issues 19, 20, 21	79.00
total	\$283.00

Balance forward after 28 February meeting

\$46.00

#### FINALLY

Plan to attend our 28 March meeting and give Selma a call at 609 [REDACTED] to let her know you are coming. *Hendi*