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## Prez Stuff by Denise Peters

### Fling !!

Despite having unforeseen problems with our room at the Holiday inn, the Spring Fling was a huge success. The problem we had was that the room which had the dance floor and bar had been removed several weeks prior and rebuilt into an exercise/meeting room. So, many of our guest made do with the mini dance floor we had. Christine & Sara set up for their photographs and we were off and running.

Amanda & Angela's performance was GREAT, who says we need a DJ?????? The raffle for the Color TV was held at the end of the dinner., The winner was Lorraine F. who promptly had me take her picture holding the TV. Dah..... Lorraine now has a nice photo of my eyeball, since I mistook the wrong end of her box camera for the viewfinder. The flash which incidentally was what I was looking into, went off just as it was supposed to, except I ended up with a sunburn.....Lucky it was my bad eye..... hey, I am only the Prez, nobody said I needed to be smart also.....

### Change;;;;;

For June we had originally planned on having old timers night, however, since some of the old timers were not available that evening, that particular program will

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Programs

- June 19, Outreach and other things
- July 24, Garden Party Luau
- August, Picnic
- October, Halloween Karaoke party.
- November, Turkey on the house

# Chi Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# 38 Issue # 6  
June 1999

CGS and Chi Tri-Ess Invite you;; E hoi pu

“Come, come to our home, Hawaii !”

July 24th

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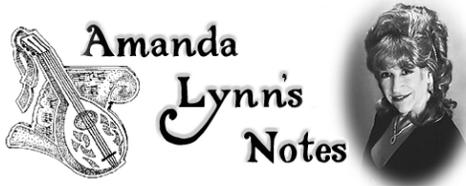
**Angela and Amanda perform at the Spring Fling**

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In May we welcomed the following new member; Jennifer

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**There is no Chi Chapter meeting on the third Saturday of July.  
On July 24th, stop by the Tri-Ess national board meeting then come  
to the Garden Party**



June is Bustin' Out All Over. If you don't know where that came from, you're probably young enough to be my daughter. Actually it's from the Broadway musical Carousel. As I was thinking about my June column, that song kept coming to mind. The connotations of bustin' out started a run of thoughts on the different stories I have heard over the years on how CD's try to achieve those all important curves, so dear and so close to our hearts. I'll share some of them with you.

When I started dressing up as a teenager, I remember catching my sister stuffing her bra with tissues. (Served her right... she caught me in my mother's wedding dress and never let me forget it!) The tissue idea is practical, they're soft, inexpensive and conform to the proper shape easily enough. Besides, if you have to sneeze, you can just gracefully excuse yourself and reach in for a wipe.

Someone told me that she used birdseed in little plastic sandwich bags. One nitty gritty experience she had was when a bag developed a small hole. Little hard grains worked their way down the torso and between cincher and skin. A few dribbled into her heels...not to mention the pigeons and blue jays following her every step.

Another naive girl recommend using the seed for sprouts. I'd hold off on this idea. Sprouts germinate and grow so fast that a humid day and body heat could trigger their 'coming out'. What's that?! Green chest hair!?

How about water balloons? Get 4 larger balloons. Turn one inside out and coat it with baby powder. Now stuff a second balloon into the first by pulling the skin of the first over the second. (The baby powder acts like a soft cushion between the two.) You now have double protection. Fill the inner balloon with water, but not so full as to cause breakage. Stuff into bra. Ooops, silly blonde, tie it shut first and watch out when you pin on that jewelry!

I got an advertisement for forms filled with buckshot or bb's. Now try explaining THAT when you pass through a metal detector. I suppose if you're attacked, at least you'll have enough ammunition to fight off the offender.

Then there was the CD who was also pretty handy around the house. A brainstorm hit one day while painting and caulking her windows. Hmmm. Silicone caulk...silicone breast forms... at a fraction of the price! So she hung up her favorite bra between the backs of two chairs and placed some thin plastic wrap into the cups to protect them. Then she emptied a tube of caulk into each cup. Shouldn't have put it on right away, for she had some big trouble detaching them. Perhaps plaster of Paris would have made her look more statuesque.

What about that person who advertised in CD magazines about her forms made from the same material as those rubbery fishing lures? She doesn't advertise anymore, could it be one of her clients sued her after swimming in the ocean and being attacked by a barracuda.

I confess to having invented the cleavage spring. A neat little harp-shaped wire device that brings your pectoral flesh together to form a very natural looking curve. So natural that at the '97 Be All I was 'forced' by 3 genetic women into the ladies room where I had to reveal my secret to them!

Some other not-so-good ideas...

Baker's Bra: Flour in plastic bags--don't add yeast or water--You'll be surprised how fast you go from puberty to a triple D. Sports Bra: Cut a 12' softball in two...track and field enthusiasts can try this with a shot put! Auto mechanics do it with air bags. They just have to be careful not to bump into anyone in a crowd.

This is all in fun, but there is a serious side to thinking about breast forms. The next time you put your forms in your bra, put a check in the mail to the American Cancer Society, and take a prayerful moment to remember those women who don't wear their forms for the fun of it.

## May Couples Meeting

By Linda

The May couples' meeting was held at xxxx and xxxx house on the 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:00PM. We had approximately 14 people in attendance with one newcomer couple.

As a way of having all in attendance participate and be able to share their feelings, insights and concerns, we started a new activity. Each person in attendance wrote down a word that they would like to have discussed within the group, such as Love, Respect, Trust, etc. Each word was numbered and each person picked a number, which allowed him or her to discuss the word relating to that number. We discussed feelings regarding Trust, Honesty, & Love. Since we had 14 different topics to discuss, we decided to continue this process at upcoming couples meetings.

Being able to share feelings regarding cross-dressing with other people who are experiencing the same type of issues is informative, not to mention comfortable. This kind of trust that is built within our couples group comes from our strict practice of confidentiality. Nothing said leaves that couples group environment. We do not talk about what was discussed to anyone outside the meeting.

We all had a great time laughing and sharing. Some of the couples brought something Yummy to share that also adds to the enjoyment. Our couples group is growing and I feel very fortunate to share with these special people in this special way. KEEP COMING BACK!

There will be no couples meeting in June

### Couples Food for Thought

*"To know even one life has been made easier because you have lived. This is to have succeeded." Ralph Waldo Emerson*

## PALS SUPPORT GROUP

We will hold our usual PALS meeting the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday in June.

### PALS Food for Thought

*"In the Divine scheme of things, there is a place for everyone, for there is something within each of us which no one can imitate." Ernest Holmes.*



## The Second Time Around

Visiting New Orleans was and will always be a fantastic experience. As I pass by people I can't help but wonder if they know. Sometimes, the looks I got left no question as to what they are thinking, but at least this time no one asked if I were a man. I am settling into the idea that I can be who I really am and not put up a fake front, life is looking better all the time. It makes each day shine in a totally different light. As Lorraine and I walked along the Riverwalk Shops, I felt more comfortable with starting a conversation with the female shop owners, and found that they were nonjudgmental. If their business was slow, they enjoyed the opportunity to pass the time of day with idle chit chat, and as some of you know I can be really good at that.

One day as we were riding the St. Charles Streetcar Trolley and this guy hands me a note that says "Can we talk? Please call me on my cell phone Rick (Sandy) and the number.. My mind was spinning as to what he wanted. Upon a closer look at the note I realized he wrote (Sandy) and knew it was ok to call. Later that evening Lorraine and I met Rick for dinner and he is one of the nicest people I have had the pleasure of meeting. Married, with two children who are also married. As it turns out his job will be taking him to Chicago the first weekend in July. I was wondering if anyone would like to join us for dinner sometime that weekend or maybe a little shopping, please call me at 309-852-2755.

Sara

Fenwick



## Couples Group

The couples group met on May 22nd at Kim & Dick's home. Present were 15 members. I'll let Linda describe the meeting in her column. I have been asked many questions about the group so this month I will highlight the Couples Group, what it is, what it does, and why we don't cross dress at the meeting?

### COUPLES GROUP

A place for members and their wives/SO's to come and discuss cross-dressing issues, their fears, common problems and misconceptions and their feelings, in a secure location with others just like them, without fear of exposure. Because this is a couples group, we ask that only couples attend. In the rare situation that one partner, of an existing Tri-Ess member couple is not able to attend, the other partner is welcome.

### CROSS-DRESSING

There is no cross-dressing at the couples meeting. No item of female apparel is to be visible. Discussion of underclothing will not be volunteered. The reason behind this is that some wives do not wish to see a man cross-dressed. They may never have seen their husbands cross-dressed and some have never been to a Tri-Ess meeting or wish to attend. This is a very sensitive subject for some wives/SO's. We want the wife/SO to feel welcome to discuss their situation without violating her wishes and not put them in an uneasy position. We do not want to scare away the wife/SO who finally decides to discuss cross-dressing with like-minded people of Tri-Ess. This may be the only chance a member gets to bring the spouse into the group and may be the first step she is taking toward accepting cross-dressing on any level. Therefore, please respect this NO CROSS-DRESSING guideline at the couples meetings or social events. Anyone violating these guidelines will be asked to leave.

### ATTENDANCE

Attendance is restricted to Chi Chapter members only, that have paid their dues up to date. Spouses/partners/SO's who are not members of National Tri-Ess are also invited. We ask that if you wish to attend, please extend the common courtesy of advising the host couple, by phone, that you will be attending. One, it gives an accurate count so enough food and chairs are available. Second, if no one calls, it lets the host couple know to cancel the meeting rather than sitting around hoping someone shows up. It also allows the host couple to be able to contact those who indicated their attendance, in case the meeting must be canceled.

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## **THE SIMPLEST OF THINGS..."**

### **From Kiki's archives.....**

I mentioned to my girl friend the other day that my latest ambition as a Transvestite or as a Cross-Dresser as some people prefer, was to go into some bar in high heels, knee length skirt and matching jacket, a beautiful soft V-necked blouse and wearing my short blonde wig fluffed out as full as possible, sit down on a bar stool, cross my legs, and order a "Perrier". Well, she looked at me as though I was crazy! Not because I'm a transvestite, she knows that, but because of what I wanted to do. She's done it for years. It's no big deal. What could possibly be exciting about that?

Well, the amazing and the beautiful thing about it is --- it is exciting! It's a "rush". It's a "high". And no drugs are required. It's like being born again and all the experiences you have as a "girl" you have never had before.

Even if you've done them a million times as a man, when you do them as a man dressed as a woman, they are all brand-new! And yet it is all so simple ..... and that's the beauty of it.

I had a chance a couple weeks ago to do this, not quite the same but similar enough. There was an awards banquet in Grand Rapids sponsored by I.M.E. of Western Michigan, a newly formed organization of CD's, TV's. Pre-OP TS's, TS's, wives, girl friends, and hangers-on, that was celebrating it's first anniversary, and three of us "girls" from the Chicago area decided to spend the week-end dressed and attend the banquet Saturday night. We went up dressed. I've gone to many meetings dressed but this was the first time I ever went as Kiki and traveled to another city.

I mentioned that we "girls" were going to go to Grand Rapids "dressed" to my adult son who has moved back with me again and he practically had a heart attack. "You mean you're going "dressed"? he roared. "To Grand Rapids? What if you have an accident? What about the police? You're going to be on the evening news! Channel 5! Oh my God!" I told him we weren't going to have an

accident and if we did it certainly would not be newsworthy enough to make Channel 5. What we were going to do was simplicity itself, traveling by car to another city. Yet--look at the reaction he had--to something as simple as driving in a car! In a way it was beautiful and I must admit a little unnerving. (I've discussed my transvestitism with him at length and he keeps telling me he is trying to understand it--but in the next breath practically says I'm going to hell. Did you ever get into a philosophical discussion with a red-necked 600 # gorilla? But he is getting a lot better.)

Traveling as Kiki was a snap. Nobody can really see you--just a vague outline in a speeding car. But my first "rush" was about to occur. We needed gas and I wanted to share some of the expense of driving so I volunteered to pay for the gas which meant that I had to get out of the car in, of all things, broad daylight for all the world to scrutinize me, and pay the bill! And wouldn't you know it, we went to the biggest gas station I'd ever seen this side of a truck stop. There must have been 40 pump stations, 10 or 12 cars getting gas and dozens of

people wandering about, all in broad daylight!

Mary Ann, one of my traveling companions and the driver, jumped out of the car like it was no big deal and began putting gas in the car. I sat in the car and became more petrified the longer I sat. Yet I knew I looked good. I wore my short blonde wig fluffed out and not at all transvesty, simple gold earrings, a black and white checkered sweater tight to the neck that came down below my hips, white pants tucked into my low-heeled suede boots, and a full length "Chinese Quilt" type lady's coat. I knew I looked the part I was playing! I sat there terrified, yet somehow welcoming the challenge I was about to undertake! I checked my purse and my wallet. I repositioned a \$10.00 bill in my wallet so I could grab it easily, put my lady's gloves on, and got out of the car.

I went over to Mary Ann who looked as cool as a cucumber as she pumped the gas, mumbled something about the pump number and how much the gas was, whirled about and marched off like Lawrence of Arabia with my coat and scarf flapping in the wind about to take on the Nations of Islam! My peripheral vision intensified about 100% and as I walked toward the entrance I could see everything on my extreme right and extreme left though staring straight ahead and down. Several people passed on either side and I watched each one closely as they passed to see if they took more than a casual look. None did! Why I don't know. Obviously I was "passing" and apparently quite easily, but I know if I was one of those people coming out of that gas station and saw a middle-aged broad coming at me like she was on a mission of destiny charging up a sand dune with a determined, stern look on her face I certainly would have taken a second look. But nobody did!

Once inside a feeling of relief spread over me. It was one of those combination pay-station, grocery and tourist stores. People were all over the store, milling about looking for various things, much more interested in doing their thing than searching out the other patrons to see who was in drag or not in drag. I wandered about the store looking for a lighter and at the same time using my newly intensified peripheral vision to check for second looks or even stares. There were none! I felt absolutely marvy. I was in heaven!

I could not find a lighter so I got in this long line to pay the bill. As I waited for the line to proceed it suddenly occurred to me that someone next to me might talk to me and I can't talk! I avoided eye contact at all costs and fixed my gaze on a candy rack. On the wall behind the rack sitting on a counter was a cat surveying the crowd. I decided to have eye contact with the cat, and as the cat slowly turned it's head, our eyes met. And broke! The cat turned away. Hah! I passed the pussy test! It was now my turn to pay. I don't even remember what I said or how I said it, but I do remember looking the young girl who was the cashier straight in the eye for an instant, telling her the pump number, asking for a lighter, going to get it, pulling out my repositioned \$10.00 bill and getting change! As I turned away I dumped

the loose change somewhere in my purse (I still haven't found it.) stuffed the \$2.00 in bills into my wallet and stood there half expecting to hear her call out "You lousy female-impersonator, get out of here!" I didn't hear it. Then I

*(Continued on page 5)*

(Continued from page 4) Kiki walked out.

I paused a moment outside the entrance to adjust my purse strap and smooth out my coat and all the time sneakily surveying the entire 360 degree panorama (I knew I could see behind me at this point.) of what was happening with my newly acquired peripheral vision. The coast was clear. No police cars were screeching to a halt with policemen jumping out armed with oversized butterfly nets! Then a great feeling of euphoria come over me, I walked to the car, got in, and we left.

The rest of the week-end was spent in bars where we didn't attract much attention (damn!), at the Awards Banquet, or in someone's home where I met some "wonderful Michigan people.

On the way home Sunday, we again stopped at the same gas station during the day and I again volunteered to pay for the gas. This time though, since I had spent the entire week-end as Kiki and had developed some confidence in her. I wasn't at all petrified about paying the bill. I even preened myself when I saw my reflection in the car window while waiting for Mary Ann to gas the car. My only concern was my voice. I had a few drinks the night before and as usual my voice dropped from a tenor/baritone to a very low gravelly base. As I got in line to pay the bill, I practiced saying in a whisper to myself "pump eight", "pump eight". When the young lady said "May I help you Mam" I felt really inspired and heard myself say in a soft, but low, feminine voice "Pump eight please". Again I walked out with a minor victory and thought "Wow! I'm really getting good at this"!

After stopping at Mary Ann's and having a little chat with Mary Ann and one of the other "girls", I began driving home only to realize that upon my arrival there wasn't a drink in the house of any sort to help me unwind and put Kiki away for another time. It would take at least an hour if I rushed and I didn't really want to put her away anyway! So I decided to go to one of the liquor stores in my neighborhood to get a bottle of Vodka and some Pepsi Cola. There are two liquor stores in my neighborhood. One I seldom go to and the other one is my regular stop. I decided it would be much more prudent to go to

the one I occasionally go to. As I approached the store it seemed to be a little dark and as I drew along side I realized it was closed, it being early Sunday evening now. Well, now I've really got a challenge! I have to go where I know the owners, the employees, they cash my checks, they know me as me!

Hoooooolllyyyly Cow!

In the parking lot I repositioned another \$10.00 bill so I would have no trouble retrieving it in my gloved hand when needed, got out of the car, walked in-- not marched in like Lawrence of Arabia--picked-up my stuff, recognized a couple employees, paid my bill to a young man I've paid many times before as myself, blinked a thank you, picked-up my bag, and sauntered out! Victory #3! Rush #3!

Simplicity itself! Going to a gas station and paying a bill twice and buying some booze at a liquor store! So simple --- yet so exciting. How just walking in a place, any place, as a woman when I'm really a man and "passing" completely as a woman can be so exciting--and yet so simple--is truly amazing! Yet in another way it's also beautiful that such a simple act can give such excitement and pleasure. The simplest of things ...

(Continued from page 1) Prez's Note

be postponed. In it's stead, we are planning on having Shelley and Dee Dee speak on the current outreach programs.

## Skyscraper Heels Party

The estimated 85 attendees of the First Anniversary party were treated to a wonderful party by Luci which she held for her customers and friends and anyone else who picked up a free ticket. The show was a little late in starting but we did get out by 1 a.m.. Featured were Gabriela, Petzy and Jennifer from Lolita's at 4400 N. Clark St., Xviara, Tina and Vanessa (former Tri-Ess member) from the Mashed Potato club at 318 Erie and Deji from the Pour House in Calumet City..

Luci has announced an Halloween Costume party in October, the theme is to be the 1960's and /or 'Austin Powers', costumes are not required.



Sara and Lorraine after winning the Color TV

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# GREAT LAKES COUNCIL OF GENDER GROUPS ACTIVITIES CALENDAR JUNE 1999 - JULY 1999

*Great Lakes*



**COGG**

*Council of Gender Groups*

**June**

Tue. 6/ 8 - CGS Business Meeting, Stardust 8:00 p.m.  
 Fri. 6/ 11 - GGG Drag Queen Revue, Unitarian church  
 Sat. 6/12 - ITI's 2nd Annual Celebration of Pride, Ann Sathers 7PM  
 Sat. 6/12 - GGG meeting  
**Sat 6/19 - Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst**  
 Sat 6/26 - T.O.N.I. meeting

**July**

Sat. 7/10 - GGG meeting, Intersexed, Milwaukee, LGBT Center  
 Wed. 7/14-Sun. 7/18 - S.P.I.C.E., Minneapolis, Minn  
**Sat. 7/24 - Chi/CGS Garden Party, West Chicago - No meeting on 3rd Saturday**  
**Sat. 7/24 - Tri-Ess National Board meeting, Elmhurst**

**August**

Sat. 8/14 - GGG meeting, Milwaukee, LGBT Center  
**Sat. 8/21 - Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst**

**September and beyond**

Sat. 9/11 - GGG meeting, Unitarian church  
**Sat. 9/18 - Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst**  
 Nov. 10-14 - Holiday En-Femme, Houston, Texas  
 Nov. 11-14 - Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, 414-297-9328

Contact information:

Chi-Chapter - Meetings on 3rd Saturdays - 708-383-1677  
 Chicago Gender Society - CGS - Meetings on 2nd Tuesdays - 708-863-7714  
 Gemini Gender Group - GGG - Milwaukee area, Meetings on 2nd Saturdays -414-297-9328  
 It's Time Illinois - ITI - Political Action for Transgendered Community- 708-535-1506  
 T.O.N.I - Northern Indiana - 219-650-2142

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# SECOND ANNUAL GARDEN PARTY *HAWAIIAN STYLE*

*When: July 24<sup>th</sup> Saturday*  
*Time: 4:00 p.m. to Midnight*

Julie Ann's Johnson's beautiful home and grounds will be open at 4:00 p.m. We will be having two service bars available for our cocktail hour serving soft drinks, wine, and beer and wonderful hor-d'oeuvres. We are planning a buffet "Hawaiian Style" dinner to start at 6:00 p.m. with Hawaiian ham, sweet and sour shish-ka-bobs Hawaiian style and all the extras plus desserts for your dinning pleasures.

Following dinner you will be entertained by fabulous Hawaiian dancers who will perform traditional Hawaiian dances and may even ask you to join in the fun. We will have a DJ at you service during the cocktail hour, dinner and afterwards for dancing.

We are looking forward to this wonderful event co-sponsored by Chicago Gender Society and Tri-Ess Chi Chapter.

We are requesting that this event maintain on a semi formal basis so please no shorts or t-shirts. Tickets will be available through both Tri-Ess and CGS and this will be a pre-sold ticket event only.

Ticket prices are as follows: \$40.00 prior to July 10<sup>th</sup> and \$45.00 up to July 22<sup>nd</sup>. No tickets will be available after July 22<sup>nd</sup>.

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## Dancing, Dining, Entertainment Garden Party Tickets

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

For more information: call the "helpline" at 708-383-1677

Enclosed is my paid reservation for \_\_\_\_\_ person(s), for "Garden Party Luau" on Saturday evening, July 24th at Julie Ann Johnson's. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please print your femme name and last name or Initial \_\_\_\_\_

**COST: Payment received by July 10; \$40 per person**  
**July 10 thru July 22; \$45.00**  
**At the door: Sorry, tickets must be purchased in advance.....**  
**Please DO NOT MAIL after July 14th**