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8-1999

August 1999

Buffalo Belles

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Recommended Citation

Buffalo Belles, "August 1999" (1999). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 104.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles/104>

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AUGUST 1999



THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

Inside this issue:

Letters to the Editor	2
Camille's Corner	3
Nancy's Perspective	4
Trans Community News	5
For A Better You	7
Miss Placed Files	9
Coming Events	10

- BUFFALO BELLES ANNUAL PICNIC WILL BE HELD SATURDAY, AUGUST 11.
- MAKEUP DEMONSTRATION AND BEAUTY CONSULTATION TO BE HELD AT THE SEPTEMBER 11th MEETING. MORE INFO ON PAGE 4.
- DON'T FORGET TO SAY HELLO TO OUR NEW MEMBERS.

Dr. Sheila Kirk Visits Buffalo



The July 10th meeting of the Buffalo Belles found the Emerson Room filled with a large crowd in anticipation of Dr. Sheila Kirk's visit to address members of Buffalo's transgender community.

After meeting announcements were made, Camille introduced Dr. Kirk, a surgeon who is transgendered, to the audience. Dr. Kirk then proceeded to educate, enlighten and entertain the roomful of 35 who gathered to listen and become better acquainted with the ever-growing options available to

the TG community.

Sheila, assisted by her partner, Pamela, informed the audience about the recently opened Transgender Surgical & Medical Care Center (TSMC) in Pittsburgh, PA and the many services that are available. This is the first time that so many services for the transgendered individual have been offered at the same facility. Now one does not have to travel to different parts of the country in order to get the care they are looking for.

The latter part of the presentation involved a question and answer period where individual concerns were addressed. Now, with the existence of TSMC, the job of transitioning has become a littler easier

If you would like further details or more information, contact TSMC's website at <www.tsmccenter.com> . By mail the address is: TSMC, P.O. Box 38366, Blawnox, PA 15238. Or contact the Buffalo Belles (by mail or the helpline). We have additional information available about service descriptions, costs and background regarding the center.

Sheila has expressed interest in returning to Buffalo to talk to the Belles and the TG community sometime in the near future. We will keep you informed when that will occur.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR



Dear Camille:

The following is our (mine and Tina's) feelings about the Queer Article.

We agree to disagree. Yes, the outside community looks at crossdressers and generally agree that all are gay. However, we feel that the outside community needs an education and it is up to us to be the teachers. NOT up to them to tell us who we are. Therefore, by using their terms and their standards, we are condoning this uneducated behavior.

First, we consulted Webster for the precise definition of queer.

- 1. strange or odd from the conventional viewpoint.
- 2. of a questionable nature or character. suspicious, shady
- 3. not physically right or well
- 4. mentally unbalanced or deranged
- 5. bad, worthless
- 6. homosexual, unmanly

ALL of the above are negative thoughts. So, when you say that accepting that we are queer will not do us any harm, we disagree. This negative word along with the countless negative definitions just won't do!

As you know, I represent many in our community. I attended the Gay Rights events and was even in the parade. I believe that "we" in the Fetish Community can learn a great deal from the Gay/Lesbian Community. They united, formed the correct groups, and let the outside community hear the truth. Even though the truth was painful to so many! The truth sometimes is difficult. Eventually everyone HAD to listen because they would not be pushed back or silenced. I often tell my group that I just want to live long enough to see this happen for those who love BD, SM, Crossdressing and more!

Let's remember that all of us had to learn too. There is a need for all to be properly educated. We at PEP Buffalo and the Buffalo Belles have the responsibility to ourselves and others to be those teachers. Within the boundaries of privacy though.

So, we conclude, that we will only accept the word "queer" if the definition were to be changed to:

QUEER: A vast growing number of people who are still among the minority, but who enjoy their lives!

To get serious again, we still think it is MUCH easier to educate the outside community that this word just simply does not apply.

With Love and Pleasure,
Mistress Kali [redacted], Tina and PEP

All are welcome to respond to any article in The Journey.



The Journey is the monthly publication of the Buffalo Belles. All articles and information contained in this publication may be reprinted in full by any non-profit gender community organization without permission, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. The material contained herein does not necessarily express the views or opinions of the Buffalo Belles, its officers or editorial staff. Contributions of articles are welcomed. The Buffalo Belles reserve the right to edit submissions for publication for suitability, spelling, grammar and/or length. Submissions or comments should be addressed to:

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CAMILLE'S CORNER

Greetings Dear Belles,

Hope you got to our last meeting to hear Sheila Kirk. I learned quite a bit from her visit and am looking forward to her return visit to Buffalo.

Of the 35 who attended the gathering, over half (18) were Belles' members. That's quite a feat considering that during the summer months the attendance usually slips. So I'm encouraged that if we book guest speakers of interest you will come.

In fact, for our September meeting we have Beauty Consultant, Daryl Christine Holzauer. She is a Mary Kay representative and a very pleasant woman who enjoys working with the trans community. So if you would like an evening of pampering that will include facials and makeovers, make it a point to come to the meeting on the 11th of September. As an added bonus, if you fill out a short questionnaire (available at the upcoming picnic from Nancy or by calling the helpline), Daryl will have some free samples customized for you.

If you are planning to attend the Buffalo Belles Annual Picnic please note the following: Everyone is encouraged to bring something to pass around. A main/side dish or dessert. It doesn't have to be much, just enough for 4-6 people. That will be enough for you hungry folks if everyone brings something. If you want to bring an item for grilling (like hot dogs/hamburgers, etc.) we encourage you to bring a grill (charcoal or gas). Hope you enjoy the day. Unfortunately I will not be attending the picnic, due to previous obligations. This will be the first Belles picnic that I will miss.

Thank goodness that horrible heat wave finally broke. Talk about makeup meltdown! Most of the time the only thing I felt like doing was consuming massive quantities of ice tea and to stare at my toes (which I noticed, needed a new coat of polish that I didn't have the energy to brush on). I'm looking forward to September, cooler temperatures and fall fashions.

And with the fall not too far away, it's a good time to start thinking about YOU getting out to one of those wonderful out-of-town conventions. In October there's the Fantasia Fair in lovely Provincetown, on Cape Cod, Massachusetts. And just down the road from us in Erie, Pennsylvania is the Erie Lakeside Gala (formerly the Riverside Gala Weekend), in November. We will have information brochures available at the Belles' meetings about these and other events.

Well ladies and gent, I'm off to Toronto for a little fun and adventure this weekend. Hope to see you at the September meeting. Be well.

Hugs,
Camille

MEMBERS ATTENDANCE

JUNE

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Camille | Kendra |
| Dana | Patti |
| Holly | Rhonda (guest) |
| Jay | Susan |
| Jo (new member) | Tina (guest) |
| Kali (guest) | |

JULY

- | | |
|----------|--------------------|
| Becky | Joy |
| Camille | Kathy |
| Colleen | Kelly |
| Crystal | Kendra |
| Debbie | Nancy |
| Holly | Patti |
| Jay | Susan |
| Jennifer | Vaughn |
| Jo | plus 17 guests and |
| Joan | visitors |

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi again ladies,

If you missed the July meeting, SHAME on you! Our guest, Dr. Sheila Kirk, was terrific. I certainly hope you don't need to find some excuse to come to the picnic in August. I also have a preview for you: we will have Mary Kay beauty consultant at the September meeting. Fun (and knowledge can be yours if you want some tips with makeup. I will be available at the picnic to answer questions and to help you with some minor paperwork (that will help the beauty consultant prepare for your time with her). She is a super person and has a number of TG clients.

Back in June as I drove away from the 17th Annual Be-All Convention over in Cleveland, as song came on my car radio that sounded different to me. I had just spent 3 1/2 days encased in nylon, satin and lace so I suspect I was listening to the lyrics on a different level. I've heard this song over the years but the timing was ironic. I want you to read the lyrics and see what comes into your mind. sometimes living in OUR world becomes routine, and we tend to push aside who we are.

Oh yes, I'm the great pretender,
Pretending that I'm doing well,
My need is such, I pretend too much,
I'm lonely, but no one can tell.
Oh yes, I'm the great pretender,
Adrift in a world of my own,
I play the game, but to my real shame,
You've left me to dream all alone.

Too real is the feeling of make believe,
Too real when I feel what my heart can't conceal.

Yes, I'm the great pretender,
Just laughing and gay like a clown,
I seem to be what I'm not you see,
I'm wearing my heart like a crown,
Pretending that you're still around.

What do you think? A subliminal message written down long ago or have I finally lost my mind completely?

Until next time,

Your sister,
Nancy

Learn the fine art
of beauty & makeup
application and...
have some fun!



At the September
11th meeting, the
Buffalo Belles will be
hosting Beauty Con-
sultant, Daryl Chris-
tine Holzhauser.
Please join us for a
terrific and fun-
filled evening!

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

Losing a Son, Gaining a Daughter

By Adair Lara

SAN FRANCISCO CHRONICLE, June 24, 1999

As you know, this Sunday's the gay and lesbian parade, with its annual collection of leather, tattoos, lingerie, goosebumps under fishnet and lampposts decorated with San Franciscans. Marching by will be gay lawyers, gay trombone players, gay Foreign Legion posts, gay Lions clubs, gay parents of straight kids and straight parents of gay kids.

I've had a soft spot for this parade since 1978, when Jim and I ourselves whooped up Market Street in it. I was five months' pregnant, and we carried a sign that said "Expectant Parents Against Briggs." (State Senator John Briggs was trying at the time to keep gay teachers out of schools.) Now that child is 20 and will doubtless be back there Sunday, as will we all.

What I like best are all the moms and dads marching in the parade, or blowing whistles as they march by -- kids who surprised them along the way with revisions in dress, partners and even gender. Some parents have to accept that their kids don't want to go into the family business, or become lawyers. Other parents have to accept that their son wants to be a girl, or maybe already is a girl, but wants to marry another girl.

One of them this year will be Karen Thomas of Lafayette, who will watch her own child, Vera, march by with her friends. Vera is tall and thin with short, curly hair and bangs. Warm brown eyes look from behind small round tortoise-shell glasses. She and Vera have lunch at least once a month, swapping talk about books.

"I met Vera on her 30th birthday," Karen told me. "Until then she was Gary, my older son." Over five-cheese pizza at the California Pizza kitchen, Gary said, "I'm not gay, Mom. I'm transgender."

"OK," Karen said.

Such astonishing quick acceptance is unusual. More often the parent will have to struggle with disappointment and fear -- fear for the child, who will be living outside society's definition of "normal," and fear for himself, parent of a child who is different. Each of the exuberant people marching in the parade has a story to tell -- and some of the stories echo with the sound of slammed doors, or the worse sound of a conversation cut off.

For Karen, it was easy. She felt that Vera was the child she had always known, only now more completely herself. "Since I'd never been a parent with specific expectations beyond 'law-abiding citizen,' acceptance was quite natural to me," she told me. "Besides, I could feel happiness across the table, and that is every parent's dream."

She later went to the Museum of Modern Art with Vera. "She knew about every artist, and I learned a great deal about her -- and about me as well, about what it feels like to be in public with a son dressed in denim skirt, white blouse, denim vest, with sensible shoes, handbag, earrings and makeup."

As they left, Karen took Vera's arm. "This is wonderful," Karen told her. "The best part is, you're still you." When they parted on a street corner as usual, they shared a hug that seemed more real than ever before.

Karen, who can remember going to see "E.T." with her little son Gary, recently enjoyed "Cookie's Fortune," a wonderful movie about family, with Vera. They share a passion for Robertson Davies novels and for art: Karen is sculpting a small bear, and Vera gives her advice on painting it.

That June after the birthday lunch, Karen went to the gay parade, watching Vera march proudly with her transgender group.

"I expected crowds and colorful costumes, music, noise. But what I hadn't anticipated," she said, "was the overwhelming joy of the event. Not only of the parade, but of the party afterward, blocks and blocks of people, the most open, unrestrained and happy gathering I'd ever been a part of."

E-mail Adair Lara at alara@sfgate.com.

Yes, Darling. I will be going to the Beauty and Make-over event at the September 11th Belles Meeting. Of course, I don't need it. I just like the pizza that they have. It's good for my skin.



TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

Tokyo Tour Agency Offers 'Beauty Boy Transformation'

July 16, 1999

TOKYO (Reuters) -- The quest for beauty in Japan is no longer the unique preserve of women. Now Japanese men are flocking to beauty salons and donning makeup. A Tokyo travel agency has decided to capitalize on the new trend by offering "average joes" a tour called "The Beauty Boy Transformation."

Many young Japanese men already flock to beauty salons and hairdressers, wear makeup and pluck their eyebrows, inspired by a host of glam-rock bands flourishing in Japan in the past few years.

According to a survey conducted in autumn 1998 by advertising agency Dentsu Inc., 54 percent of the surveyed men aged 12 to 24 regularly used some kind of facial product, including face packs, cleansing tissues and lip creams and even foundation and eyeliners.

Tobu Travel's tour however attempts to train novices in the art of beauty, for the equivalent of \$110.

First stop: The 'do

It begins with a trip to a popular hairdresser -- Febbraio di Ales. This is one of many in the trendy Harajuku district of Tokyo cashing in on the male beauty interest fueled by fashion magazines such as BiDan --the two Japanese characters in its name translate to "beauty" and "man."

The monthly magazine, with a circulation of 350,000, offers makeup tips on how to trim one's eyebrows as well as new hairstyles and fashion items.

Yukio Miwa, BiDan editor in chief, says the trend is not simply a way of attracting a partner but also shows a need by young men to become more confident.

"By bringing out the inherent beauty in oneself," Miwa says, "the men also become more positive about their lives."

Seiji Machida, 22, had been to a hairdresser before, but says he balked at first at the idea of going through a full facial. But once in the hands of beauticians at the salon Jolicanaille, Machida reports he quickly relaxed and enjoyed every second of the pampering.

Jolicanaille, among the oldest of its kind to offer facial and hair-removal treatment for men, currently has about 300 regular members at its three Tokyo salons. "Most of our members are college students -- some who may come as often as once a week," says Saori Kawakami, manager at the Shibuya branch in Tokyo.

The most popular treatment among Jolicanaille's clients is the facial to produce egg-smooth skin. But demand for chemical skin peeling is also increasing, Kawakami says.

Dutch postman suspended for working in mini-skirt

August 2, 1999

AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (Reuters) -- A Dutch postman has been suspended from work for the rest of the week after he delivered the mail in a mini-skirt Monday, Dutch media reported.

The postman from Ermelo, in the center of the country, wore the skirt to protest an employee policy that male workers wear pants.

The issue has become particularly heated with temperatures climbing above 86 degrees on Monday.

Dutch postwomen are allowed to wear long shorts and their male counterparts had taken the post office to court, claiming sex discrimination.

However, a Dutch court last week ruled the post office was within its rights to insist male employees cover their knees.

Defining male beauty in Japan

One characteristic of the concept of male beauty in Japan is that it stresses cleanliness over macho masculinity.

Japanese traditionally have placed a high importance on hygiene. A word used to mean "to purify" or "pure," is the same in many religious contexts in Japan as the verb "to cleanse."

Machida says he felt compelled to brush up his image when his last girlfriend found him "unclean" -- a strong word in a nation in which hygiene has moral implications.

But now, with growing wealth among average citizens, this concern has reached its peak. Young men can spend up to 30,000 yen (US \$250) weekly on hairdressers, makeup and facials.

Some of the older men have also gotten into the act. A few, like Takeshi Mori, say they were prompted by their wives. Mrs. Mori thought a trip to a beauty salon was a perfect birthday gift.

Mori chuckles at his new casual outfit, but says he came out feeling a new man -- changed from the inside and the outside.



FOR A BETTER YOU...



Try the following exercises for getting more feminine hips.

- (1) Stand up straight with your feet about shoulder-width apart.
- (2) Raise your hands up just above your head, like a ballet dancer (you might find it easier to keep the hands at the side of the body).
- (3) Bend sideways while exhaling (if your hands are to your side, one hand will slide down the side of your leg) until you can't bend any further; hold this for a second or two, then straighten back up, inhaling as you go.
- (4) Repeat this for the other side, counting each time you complete one set.
- (5) Do this as many times as you can without discomfort, attempting to do one or two more each time. Do each repetition slowly; good form will yield the best results.

This will both stretch and tone muscle (high repetitions/low weight), making the hips a bit larger while slimming the waist; the result is a more feminine silhouette.

An exercise to bulk up the hips a bit is:

- (1) Lie down on your side.
- (2) Keeping both legs straight, raise the "upper" one, exhaling as you lift. Hold it for a second or two, and then exhale as you bring it down.
- (3) Turn over and repeat with the other side.
- (4) Do this as many times as you can without discomfort, attempting to do one or two more each time. Do each repetition slowly; it's not a race & you want good form for good results.
- (5) After you've done this for a bit, you can get greater bulk by adding ankle weights. This will add muscle mass to the hips, with lower repetitions of higher weights giving the most bulk.

MIXED MEDIA



Beauty Advice

Lipstick and lipliner are the hottest tools for a new lip look! Shape, color and size are all just a brush stroke away...



To keep your new shape subtle is the key to improving your lip line. Symmetry is achieved w/ clean, soft lines and smooth color application.

To guarantee your improved lip shape has a smooth, professional finish, first draw your corrected lip line in with a sharp lip pencil, then fill in your lips with your favorite color, tint, shimmer or shine. For all day lip service, brush over blotted lips with a coat of lip sealant!

When correcting lip shape do not reshape your whole mouth - not a good look when lipstick wears off leaving VLL (visible lip line)... For the most natural looking reshape, prime lips first with concealer, foundation and powder. This will also give added staying power and help to prevent 'bleeding'.

Keep lips soft and supple for the smoothest finish by applying a nourishing lip balm under your lipstick, or when you are not wearing lipstick.

1950s Movie Star Jeff Chandler Was A Cross-Dresser

August 5, 1999

LOS ANGELES (Reuters) - Western movie hero Jeff Chandler concealed a dark secret behind his manly 6 foot 4 inch tall frame.

He was a cross-dresser with a penchant for flowered chiffon and polka dots, according to his former lover, musical swimming star Esther Williams in an excerpt from her autobiography published Wednesday by Vanity Fair magazine.

Chandler, whose tanned features brought him fame as Indian chief Cochise in "Broken Arrow" and two sequels in the early 1950s, dated Williams for two years after they met on a film set in 1957. He died in 1961 at the age of 42.

But the love affair came to an abrupt halt when he revealed his passion for silk stockings and high heels, Williams recounts in her biography "The Million Dollar Mermaid." Excerpts from the book, to be published in September by Simon and Schuster.

"I froze at the bedroom door and started screaming. I couldn't

stop myself ... Jeff was standing in the middle of the bedroom in a red wig, a flowered chiffon dress, expensive high-heeled shoes and lots of make-up. I just kept screaming," Williams said in the excerpt.

"Suddenly I couldn't make sense of a large piece of my life. Here was my lover -- a strong, manly figure by anyone's estimate -- who had just been standing before me in high heels and a dress. This was no joke. He enjoyed that kind of thing. He was a cross-dresser," wrote Williams, now 75.

Williams said she later discovered a closet full of expensive dresses, swimsuits and beautiful lingerie in Chandler's painting studio.

Chandler explained that his father left home when he was young and he was brought up by his mother and aunt in a house where male-ness was held in contempt and where he was made to hate his own sex.

She says Chandler was undergoing therapy from a therapist who was also a cross-dresser and had hoped that his relationship with Williams was strong enough to accommodate his secret, but she said she left him the next day.



MISS...PLACED FILES

The Hopelessly Inept Transvestite Filmmaker Was Also, It Turns Out, A Hopelessly Inept Transvestite Novelist.



As a filmmaker, Edward D. Wood Jr. was the ultimate auteur, stamping his work with a signature idiocy that resists even camp appreciation. As if to prove his talents were far too hideous to be contained by the movies, two pulp novels Wood wrote in the mid-'60s are now being reissued with every typo and malapropism intact. The rotten books are actually more fun than the rotten movies, in the same way that a paper cut is more fun than poison

ivy.

In "Killer in Drag," Glen Marker is the top transvestite hired killer in New York. He wants to ditch his life of crime, get a sex-change operation and live permanently as his gorgeous alter ego, Glenda Satin. (Note: The schlub portrayed by Wood in his ridiculous cinematic work "Glen or Glenda" has only the name and nylons in common with the novel's hard-boiled hero.) Glen finds himself hunted by both the police and the mob, so he goes on the lam and winds up in a small Colorado town, where he buys a decrepit carnival and finds love with the town whore. But his Ferris wheel falls over and kills a few people, forcing him to hit the road again. In the sequel, "Death of a Transvestite," Glen makes it to Los Angeles and bonds with another hooker, while the beaky, jealous Paul/Pauline, a rival drag killer, chases Glen/Glenda down. In the middle of a hippie riot on the Sunset Strip, Pauline and Glenda shoot it out. Glenda wins the battle but gets the electric chair.

Why does the mob have a roster of transvestite hit men? Who cares? Not Wood. He writes like Jim Thompson if Jim Thompson were a lobotomized monkey on angel dust, and what he does care about, mostly, is angora sweaters and satin panties and what they do for Glen and his girlfriends. Early on, Glen, as Glenda, gets into his car and is distracted by his own angora-covered falsies: "She squeezed harder -- then harder -- she rubbed it -- the sensation overwhelmed her --

She sighed aloud -- 'Oh what matter -- there are more panties in the glove compartment.'" Wood informs us pedantically that "when Glen talks of Glenda he speaks of her in second person"; he means third, but who's counting? Here's Glenda musing as she squashes a black widow: "She was ready to meet the outside world again. A hostile world, with dark passages concealing things and elements of the shadows and unseen dangers The spider had been the first thing Glen/Glenda had killed since leaving the Syndicate. But death followed him like the deep shadow of disaster it was." One of the love-struck whores eventually gets tied up nude and pitched into the East River; after a last flashback, she inhales the waters of the Hudson. Oh what matter, there are more panties in the glove compartment.

Ominously, the press material alerts us that Wood wrote at least 20 more of these things. The same publisher has also issued another Wood document from the '60s, the previously unpublished "Hollywood Rat Race," in which the would-be industry player regales aspiring starlets with anecdotes about how much persistence and luck it takes to make it big in the movies. As if he knew. After you surf Wood's stream of inanity in these books, Johnny Depp's portrayal of the director in "Ed Wood," the 1994 Tim Burton film -- flashing scores of tiny teeth in a wacked-out grin as he plunges ahead, reason and second takes be damned -- doesn't seem at all exaggerated.

Written by Greg Villepique (c) 1999, Salon.com

PICNIC DILEMMA:
Macaroni salad?
Potato salad?
Baked beans?
Dessert?
ANSWER:
Bring something as long as you bring yourself to the Belles Picnic.



