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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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JULY 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:
JEAN [redacted]
PATTI [redacted]
KATHY [redacted]

Dear Sisters,

A nice turnout was had for the June meeting. Our streak of rainy, cool weather continued, unfortunately. Hopefully that one will be broken by the older running streak of gorgeous weather for the picnic in August. Then again, who will complain if it ends next meeting! Sure would be nice to be

able to get outside and enjoy our meeting place's lovely gardens and grounds.

Our meeting topic was about discussing various items. I'll try to give the best report I can about this, but I didn't arrive in time for the discussion session. I am relying upon what others have told me in giving this report.

The BIG topic was whether to "break" up the Belles. The answer given, was a vote acclimation NOT too. Nobody spoke in favor of the idea. A question was asked. "What exactly are the needs of the TS that require such special support?"

Certainly there are special concerns; such as hormones, electrolysis, legal, surgical, etc.

However, when a sister has reached this point in her life, she already has her support in place. She has been in this for awhile now. She has experienced all the feelings and had the problems that any CD faces. Most were/are married, have Children. Jobs. Mortgages, etc.

Then it was asked: "What are the special needs of the CD that requires such special support?" Why of course, Wifie, Kids, Job, etc. Sound familiar?

ATTENDEES

- | | |
|---------------------|-------------------|
| JANICE [redacted] | ALICIA & |
| PATTI [redacted] | DOROTHY |
| HOLLY [redacted] | CRYSTAL & TONYA |
| KATHY [redacted] | SHARON [redacted] |
| MICHELLE [redacted] | CAROL [redacted] |
| JOY [redacted] | FRAN |
| ANGELLA [redacted] | JEAN |
| CAMILLE [redacted] | DINISE |
| SUSAN [redacted] | |

RIVERSIDE WEEKEND: Diane didn't make it as hoped. She was to explain what might be needed from us. She did tell me in a phone call a

JULY MEETING: Only one vote was received (sorry Jamie!) for switching to our regular meeting date for the holiday weekend. Therefore we will keep with our usual unusual meeting date of the 2nd Saturday, the TWELFTH. For those confused, THE NEXT MEETING IS JULY 12. OK?

wish to make your interest known, any submission to the newsletter by Aug. 10 will be included in Sept. newsletter. OK, any other rules needed??

We'll have a ballot in the Sept. newsletter to mail or bring to the meeting. If any of you

Or at least volunteer to help out in some way. You have the next two months to think about it. If you can't make the meetings, call or write.

It is up to YOU to decide. There are no rules. Nominate yourself, nominate another sister.

Whoever did whatever was someone like you. They reached a point where they wanted to do more. Simply put, they cared! There are a few of you reading this who feel the same. That's all it takes. Heart. The one feminine trait that there can never be a panty check for. But the one we CAN reach, if nothing else.

We have never had a formal structure of rules or regulations. Whatever seemed to work, we did. And it has worked just fine! At least I think so. Jane Ellen probably disagrees. Can't please everyone, but you can love all.

be willing to stay on a provide the continuity for the new two. (Hopefully!)

few days before the meeting that the location will probably be changed. But will remain in the same general area. Hopefully more information will be forth coming soon and we'll have it before printing deadline.

AUGUST MEETING: THE PICNIC: Our annual event will be on the usual first Sat., the second. This has always been right up there with the Christmas party, as our finest meeting.

Please come out and join us for this affair! Bring some food to pass. Bring the wife, kids, etc. But do you really need to bring your probation officer? Come join our family picnic!

Please call the hotline and tell us what you would like to bring, if you have a specialty! We always seem to have plenty to eat. And don't forget your camera.

We will also be extending an invitation to our nearby friends in Rochester & NW PA to join us in our summer celebration. And maybe the fox will pass by again this year! Certainly we can count on the fire flies and Katie did's/didn't's.

50/50 SPLIT: Patti was the lucky winner of \$9.00 this month and graciously used it in buying the first round in the ladies later respite.

HOTLINE: It was also suggested that we



It is certainly nice to see that we haven't developed any "Us" vs. "Them"

divisions in our little sorority. As long as we can all respect and CARE for each other, regardless of what degree one has chosen as their level; we shall succeed. Whether your need is just a place to go once a month and dress up, or has become something much deeper that becomes a full time existence.

Because this question was raised for the need for a separate group, it may indicate that we have NOT always provided the support that a sister needed. Perhaps if we all try harder to really talk to each other, some of these needs will be met. The idea of having more discussion meetings is certainly valid and should be implemented. What seems to be lacking is someone willing to be the moderator for such a group. Who is willing??

ELECTIONS COMING: Jean and myself (Kathy) have simultaneously and unrelated both decided it is time to step aside.

The timing is just perfect as it will coincide with our fifth anniversary, coming in September. Five years, five leaders. Joan, Denise, Janice, Kathy, Jean. And like the first three, we'll both also be with you helping out in any way we can.

Patti certainly belongs in the same list as one of the originals, but has taken a more formal role in the last year and will

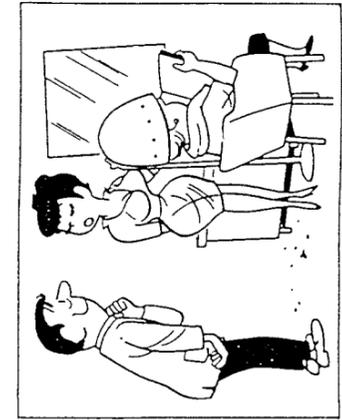
update our message and its name. The first is easy, the second a problem. What do we call it? As pointed out, it is not really a "hotline", as that means it will be answered immediately, like poison control, or suicide prevention. So what should we call it? Answering Machine Only line? That lacks panache, for sure, good buddy. Got a suggestion?

MISSING VIDEO: Our old friend Frances has requested that we return a video she says she lent to the group several years ago. It was a copy of "The Operation" by Dr. Schrang. If you have it, please return it so we can forward it to Frances. It was not in our library.

ENDA NEEDS HELP!: Please read the two articles about the lobbying efforts for passage of the Employment Non-Discrimination Act. And then write/call/E mail your representative in support of it's passage. It IS for your benefit!!

ELECTROLOGY 2000: While I (Jean) was in Texas having my electrology treatments, I met Ison From an Ohio group. I intended to come home and write an article about my trip. However she sent me a copy of her summation of the procedure and our trip. She put it into words so much better than I could, I decided to share her letter with you!





"You brought your wife's wig in? Of course we can style it. But why are you so nervous? Mr. Smith here wears his when he comes in."



"When I dress like a woman I drive like a woman"

P.S. MY VISA BILL JUST ARRIVED, WHERE'S THE NOVOCAIN WHEN I REALLY NEED IT?

EVEN IF MY LIPS DID GET AS BIG AS TEXAS.

USING DERMA-BLEND. IT REALLY WAS WORTH THE EFFORT AND MONEY, THIRD DAY, MY SKIN IS MUCH SMOOTHER AND SOFTER AND I QUIT HAIRS THAT WERE NOT VISABLE IN LATE JULY TO GET THE GO BACK FOR THREE DAYS OF TREATMENT IN LATE JULY TO GET THE

AND CHIN BUT IT SITS ALMOST GONE. I ALSO HAD SOME TINGLING SENSATION ON MY NECK MILD SUNBURN. I

REDNESS AROUND MY MOUTH AND ON MY NECK WHICH LOOKED LIKE A TREATMENT AND LASTED FOR ABOUT FIVE DAYS. THERE WAS SOME FLAKING OFF MY CHIN THAT HAD STARTED DURING THE MIDDLE OF MY I STILL HAD. THE ONLY NOTICEABLE SIDE EFFECT WAS DEAD TISSUE

AT WORK MONDAY NO ONE SEEMED TO NOTICE THE RESIDUAL SWELLING

HAD PLANES TO CATCH THE NEXT MORNING.

ANOTHER DANCE HALL THAT NIGHT BUT TURNED IN EARLY AS WE BOTH

NECK LINES. THEN MY NEW BEST FRIEND JEAN AND I WENT TO

AND BEING A GLUTTON FOR PUNISHMENT, I HAD THEM WORK ON MY

THE HOME STRETCH FOR FUNISHMENT! THE GIRLS FINISHED BY NOON

MY NECK. THE SWELLING HAD GONE DOWN SOME MORE AND I WAS INTO

SATURDAY MORNING FOUND ME BACK AT THE CLINIC FOR MORE WORK ON

DANCE, THE LITTLE TEASE TURNED HIM DOWN FLAT!

AND STARTED PUSHING HER TUSH AND WHEN A GUY ASKED HER

PERFORMANCE. BREN REALLY GOT INTO THE SPIRIT OF THE MUSIC

THE MALE SINGER WHO PUT HIS TEXAS-SIZED HEART INTO AND

DANCE HALL I'VE EVER SEEN. BREN ENJOYED THE LIVE BAND AND

AT A LOCAL STEAKHOUSE JEAN TOOK US TO THE BIGGEST

DINNER AT A LOCAL STEAKHOUSE JEAN TOOK US TO THE BIGGEST

FRIDAY NIGHT FOR ME NO MATTER HOW LATE I GOT TO THE

LOOKED, ESPECIALLY WHEN JEAN TOLD ME THAT SHE TOO LIKED

COUNTRY WESTERN MUSIC AND COULD LINE DANCE. I KNEW I LIKE

THIS IS A PARTY NIGHT FOR ME NO MATTER HOW LATE I GOT TO THE

KNOW THE COTTON-EYED JOE FROM A ONE-EYED JACK. SO AFTER

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AS BIG AS TEXAS

BY PAULA ISON

IN 1994 A PRE-OP TOLD ME SHE WAS GOING TO DALLAS, TEXAS FOR HER ELECTROLOGY TREATMENTS AT A PLACE CALLED "ELECTROLOGY 2000" SO I ASKED HER WHY SHE WOULD GO THRU THE TIME AND EXPENSE OF FLYING TO TEXAS WHEN SHE COULD GET IT DONE LOCALLY.

SHE EXPLAINED THAT INSTEAD OF THE TRADITIONAL WEEKLY HOUR OF PAIN, THE DALLAS CLINIC HAS A DENTIST WHO INJECTS NOVOCAIN WHICH ELIMINATES ALL OF THE PAIN, ALLOWING TWO ELECTROLOGISTS TO WORK ON YOU AT THE SAME TIME, EIGHT HOURS A DAY FOR THREE OR FOUR DAYS IN A ROW. SO SHE GOT FIFTY HOURS OF TREATMENT IN THE SAME WEEK. SHE ALSO SAID THAT THIS METHOD ELIMINATED ANY CHANCE OF BURNING OR SCARRING OF THE SKIN. SHE SAID AN "AVERAGE" BEARD REQUIRED 100 HOURS OF TREATMENT.

HER RESPONSE MADE SENSE BUT OBVIOUSLY THE COST WAS A MAJOR CONSIDERATION. SO I MADE A MENTAL NOTE THAT IF I EVER FOUND A FEW THOUSAND BUCKS IN MY CHRISTMAS PANTYHOSE I WOULD GIVE THE MATTER SOME MORE THOUGHT.

AS MY WIFE SELF I DON'T GET A FIVE O'CLOCK SHADOW LIKE SOME GUYS BUT I STILL HAVE TO SHAVE EVERY MORNING FOR WORK. WHEN I WANT TO SPEND A FULL DAY AS PAULA I MUST SHAVE IN THE MORNING AND THEN AGAIN IN THE LATE AFTERNOON SO I DON'T TURN INTO A PUMPKIN BEFORE MIDNIGHT. AS I WENT OUT EN FEMME MORE AND MORE, IT GOT TO BE REALLY ANNOYING SHAVING TWICE A DAY JUST TO STAY OUT FOR ANY SIGNIFICANT TIME. SO EVERYTIME I APPLIED MY DERMA-BLEND BEARD COVER I THOUGHT HOW NICE IT WOULD BE TO RID MYSELF OF THIS PROBLEM FOREVER.

DESPITE STILL NOT HAVING THE MONEY, MY SPOUSE AND I DECIDED THAT I SHOULD GO AHEAD WITH IT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE ON THE THEORY THAT THE SOONER I HAVE IT DONE, THE SOONER I CAN ENJOY THE BENEFITS. SO LAST NOVEMBER I CALLED ELECTROLOGY 2000, HAD THEM SEND ME SOME LITERATURE, CHECKED THEIR REFERENCES AND MADE AN APPOINTMENT FOR MY FIRST TREATMENT WHICH WAS TO BE FOR APRIL 23-26.

A NON-REFUNDABLE \$800 DEPOSIT WAS NEEDED WHICH I MADE OVER THE PHONE WITH A CREDIT CARD. THE HOURLY RATE WAS \$88 PER TECHNICIAN WHICH INCLUDED THE SERVICES OF THE DENTIST-OWNER, A PRE-OP NAMED BREN PIRONIO.

BY MAKING PLANE RESERVATIONS IN DECEMBER, THE DELTA ROUND-TRIP WAS ONLY \$224. ON THE CLINICS RECOMMENDATION I STAYED AT A MOTEL 6 WHICH NEAR THE CLINIC. THE AIRPORT SHUTTLE WAS \$12 EACH WAY.

WHEN I GOT TO DALLAS ONE OF THE FIRST THINGS I NOTICED WAS THAT THINGS ARE REALLY BIG IN TEXAS. THE AIRPORT IS TEN TIMES THE SIZE OF CINCINNATI'S AND THE MOTEL ROOM WAS GIGANTIC FOR A MOTEL 6.

ON WEDNESDAY MORNING, APRIL 23RD, BREN MET ME AT THE MOTEL AND TOOK ME TO THE CLINIC. I FILLED OUT A FEW FORMS AND MET THE TECHNICIANS, CARRI AND ROXANE, WHO WOULD WORK ON ME EVERY DAY. THEY WERE REALLY NICE GIRLS, AS WERE THE OTHER TECHNICIANS, DANA AND CHRISTIE.

BREN DECLARED MY THREE DAY GROWTH TO BE AN AVERAGE BEARD AND SHE EXPLAINED THAT THEY WOULD DO MY UPPER LIP FIRST SINCE IT SMELLS UP THE MOST AND NEEDS THE MOST TIME TO RECEDE. SHE THEN INJECTED NOVOCAIN ON EACH SIDE OF MY UPPER LIP AND THE CARRI AND ROXANE STARTED THE ELECTROLOGISTS.

SINCE NOVOCAIN ELIMINATED ALL THE PAIN, THE TECHNICIANS WERE ABLE TO INJECT STRONGER THAN NORMAL ELECTRICAL CURRENT TO KILL FOREVER THE ROOTS OF ALL VISABLE HAIR ON THE FIRST TRY, WITHOUT BURNING THE SKIN. THE ONLY THING THEY CAN'T DO IS KILL ROOTS OF HAIR THAT HAS NOT YET BROKEN THRU THE SURFACE OF THE SKIN.

WITHOUT NOVOCAIN THE PAIN CAN BE INTENSE, ESPECIALLY IN SENSATIVE AREAS LIKE THE UPPER LIP AND CHIN. WITH NOVOCAIN THERE WAS NO PAIN AT ALL - NONE. UNTIL NOW I HAD HAD ONLY ONE HOUR OF TRADITIONAL ELECTROLOGY AND THE PAIN WAS SO EXCRUCIATING I WANTED TO STRANGLE THE TECHNICIAN.

THE NOVOCAIN TOOK AFFECT IMMEDIATELY AND THE GIRLS WORKED ON ME UNTIL NOON WHEN WE STOPPED FOR LUNCH. WHEN LOOKING IN A MIRROR I WAS EXCITED TO SEE THAT MOST OF MY UPPER LIP WAS COMPLETELY VOID OF ANY HAIR AND WAS SMOOTH AND SOFT. I NOTED SOME MINOR SWELLING OF MY UPPER LIP AND PASSED IT OFF AS A MINOR NUISANCE.

SITTING IN A DENTAL CHAIR IS USUALLY NOT MUCH FUN BUT THE TIME PASSED QUICKLY AS I WAS ABLE TO OCCASSIONALLY TALK TO THE GIRLS AND THEY HAD A TELEVISION SET AND A RADIO AND THE PATIENT GETS TO PICK THE SHOW OR THE MUSIC.

BREN CAME IN HOURLY TO SEE HOW I WAS DOING AND TO GIVE MORE NOVOCAIN WHEN THE GIRLS MOVED TO OTHER PARTS OF MY FACE. AT THE END OF THE FIRST DAY THEY HAD DONE ALL OF MY UPPER LIP, A LITTLE OF MY CHIN AND SOME OF MY CHEEKS.

LOOKING IN THE MIRROR AS WE FINISHED I THOUGHT IT HAD GONE WELL FOR THE FIRST DAY, ALTHOUGH I NOTICED THAT MY UPPER LIP HAD SWELLED MORE NOTICEABLY. BREN TOLD ME IN ADVANCE THAT MOST CLIENTS SWELL REALLY BAD ON THE FIRST DAY BUT BY USING LOTS OF ICE PACKS AT THE MOTEL, THE SWELLING CAN BE CONTROLLED. SHE SUGGESTED SITTING UP IN BED FOR AS LONG AS I COULD SINCE ANY ELEVATION REDUCES SWELLING. I ATE DINNER AT A PLACE NEXT TO THE MOTEL AND THEN DILIGENTLY APPLIED ICE PACK AFTER ICE PACK AS I SAT UP IN BED, FALLING ASLEEP WITH AN ICE PACK ON MY FACE.

FIRST THING THE NEXT MORNING I CHECKED MYSELF OUT IN THE MIRROR TO SEE HOW THE SWELLING WAS. IT WAS REALLY BAD, MUCH WORSE THAN THE NIGHT BEFORE, ALMOST AS IF THE ICE HAD NO IMPACT AT ALL. I JUST LAUGHED AND MARVELLED AT MY GOOFY LOOKS AND PATCHWORK BEARD.

THURSDAY MORNING BREN MET ME AND ANOTHER CLIENT WHO HAD JUST FLOWN IN FROM NEW YORK FOR HER SECOND TREATMENT. THE OTHER CLIENT, JEAN WAS BLESSED WITH A VERY LIGHT BEARD, WAS FIVE INCHES SHORTER, WEIGHED TWENTY POUNDS LESS AND WAS TWO DRESS SIZES SMALLER THAN ME SO I HATED HER IMMEDIATELY. JEAN EXPLAINED THAT SHE LIKELY ONLY NEEDED ONE DAY OF TREATMENT THIS TIME BUT WOULD STAY THRU SUNDAY MORNING TO GET A REDUCED AIR FAIR.

Estate of transsexual with AIDS awarded \$30,000 in prison suit

By DAN HERBECK
News Staff Reporter

A federal jury awarded \$30,000 to the estate of Dana K. DeVilla, a transsexual convict who died of AIDS in Albion State Correctional Facility.

After an unusual trial in which lawyers used a deposition from Ms. DeVilla to help her speak to jurors after her death, the jury found that former women's prison Superintendent Sunny Schriver failed to train her employees properly on the handling of inmates with AIDS.

"I was treated rottenly," Ms. DeVilla said in a transcript read into the court record. "Because I had AIDS, I was to be exploited and made to live like I was a freak." Ms. DeVilla, who died in 1995 at age 36, claimed she was abused and mistreated in the prison, located in Orleans County. The prison has since been the target of numerous other allegations of mistreatment, raised by Amy Fisher and other inmates.

"We're very gratified," said James Ostrowski, who represented Ms. DeVilla's estate with co-counsel Salvatore P. Abbate. "The jury spent a lot of time deliberating this case, and they came to the conclusion that they believed Dana's story. I think Dana would feel she was vindicated."

Assistant State Attorney General Joseph F. Reina said Thursday he is planning to appeal the verdict.

"We feel the verdict goes against the weight of the evidence," Reina said.

Ms. DeVilla claimed prison officials held her up to ridicule by illegally circulating the word that she had AIDS and had undergone sex-change surgeries. Ostrowski read jurors a 200-page transcript from a deposition she gave years ago.

Ms. DeVilla described how she was born as a male in the Bronx and named Kevin Otis. She said she grew up in Westchester County, had a series of sex-change operations in the 1980s. She told how she later moved into a life of crime, passing bad checks and at various times using almost 20 aliases, male and female.

Abbate told jurors that, under state law, prison health officials could not tell anyone — including other prison employees — about Ms. DeVilla's illness.

MIND, just want to see
us Alone! 6/9/97

ASK ANN

He won't change, she won't leave

Dear Ann Landers: I am a frustrated woman who is married to a cross-dresser. I have read your columns saying some wives and girlfriends enjoy their cross-dressing sweethearts and husbands and promote their "hobby." This certainly is not the case in our house.

For the past several years, I suspected my husband was wearing my clothes. I have had to discard many items that were stretched out of shape or torn. When I couldn't find a bra or a blouse, I knew that "Don" had acquired it.

Our home life is miserable. Don's mother still continues to manipulate him even after all these years. He has never been able to stand up for himself, which infuriates me and has caused some hot arguments. Counselors have suggested I leave him or "take him as he is" because he will never change. We've been married for 25 years, and I don't want a divorce, nor do I want to damage Don's image. His friends and family members hold him in high regard, and the people he works with think he is wonderful.

My woman friends are under the impression that we have the perfect marriage. I don't know what to do, Ann. Our family life is terrible, and I cry a lot.

— *Lonely in the Metropole*

Dear Metropole: There is no way I can help a woman who tells me her home life is miserable, she is frustrated and unhappy and cries a lot, but she does not want a divorce.

You say counselors have suggested that you accept Don as he is or leave him, but you don't want to do either one. It appears to me that you are going to be miserable either way. Your best bet is to develop some outside interests, stay in therapy, put a lock on your closet door and keep your underwear where Don can't find it.

WHAT WOULD IT BE LIKE TO WEAR A PRETTY DRESS?

What would it be like to sit while I pee?
To put ribbons in my hair, without mommy scolding me!
I'm going to have to hide, I guess.
What would it be like to wear a pretty dress?

What would it be like to have a doll of my own?
You know, someone to hug when you feel all alone!
Dad keeps saying to me "You're different than the rest".
But he doesn't know how I look in a dress!

Why can't I play with the girls at school?
Hopscotch and jump-rope seem really cool!
The boys are too rough, and everything is a test.
I wouldn't want them to see me in a dress!

What would it be like to kiss a boy?
To have him call me on the phone, after he walked me home.
Coach says I should play football, a game I detest!
He's trying to stop me from wearing a dress.

What would it be like to make love to a man?
To feel the strength of his arms, and the softness of his hands!
But my marriage is really the best.
She doesn't even mind my wearing a dress!

What would it be like to give birth to a child?
To feel her inside you, while you wait for her smile.
Since the kids have been born, our life has been full of duress.
She doesn't want them to see me in a dress!

Forty years have gone by and I'm still waiting to live.
My thoughts and feelings are mixed, something has to give!
There is no one left to impress.
I spend a lot of time in public wearing a dress.

I'm desperate now, and my back's to the wall.
I feel like a woman, but I'm so damn tall!
The only way to get out of this mess.
Is to change my body to fit this pretty dress!

Charlegne