



Merry Christmas And Happy New Year





The First Lady's Notebook

By: Diane ■

I recently attended the Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme in San Francisco and would like to share a few perceptions and experiences from the event. The Holiday En Femme is a national Tri-Ess program and is unique in many ways. It is a chance for the average crossdresser to see what it feels like to be accepted as a woman and try her wings at passing in any number of real life situations.

I was a coordinator of the event this year, along with Jane Ellen of the Tri-Delta Chapter, so I did have a slightly different perspective. Yes, I was scared to death that the whole thing would fall flat on its face.

I flew as a woman to San Francisco again, escorted by Terri's "brother", as I had done last year. But, this time, there wasn't the fear of being read so much, just the serenity of the flight, coupled with my joy of feeling free and feminine, and of course, the good company. In San Francisco, everything went smoothly for the Holiday, a step at a time. I met Ginny from ETVC at a local soup and sandwich place. ETVC is a great crossdressers organization in San Francisco with whom we co-sponsored a fashion show on Saturday night. It was like Ginny and I were old friends and she welcomed me to the City. We had known each other from some other meetings, but this was special.

After that, Terri and I got together (her brother now conspicuously put away for the week) and went shopping. The first things that I noticed about walking around Union Square with Terri was 1)that we weren't noticed and 2)how much my feet hurt. We finally ended up in Macy's with me buying new shoes, then buying teddy bears (not

teddies) on the seventh floor. Dinner was great at a local Chinese restaurant, eating scallops, beef strips and veggies off of a sizzling platter. The clientele was fantastic, as was the atmosphere, until I realized one of the things sizzling in the platter was my finger, which I had carelessly placed. I did enjoy the rest of the meal however, even with my finger conspicuously in my water glass, eating with chopsticks in my left hand, all the while trying to look as feminine as possible!

Back at the hotel, we ran into an out-of-breath crossdresser from Canada, Olivia, who had just flown in en femme. We went into the bar and were recognized by the bartender who remembered Terri and I from the year before. We had great, friendly service from that point on. The three of us ended up going out to see the movie, "Dirty Dancing." That evening, following the movie, Jane Ellen called, and we met until 3 in the morning, working out the finances and details for the Holiday.



That was Tuesday, and the Holiday didn't even start until Wednesday night. But, as time went on, I realized that I had tried every basic benefit the Holiday had to offer, in that one day. We had 1) a safe and friendly base, at our hotel... the Hotel Californian, the best in the world as far as I'm concerned; 2) we met new friends, as if we were long lost sisters; 3) we passed and were accepted in front of hundreds at Union Square; 4) I dealt with a crisis well, when I burned my hand and 5) we had a blast!

Throughout the Holiday I may have had more fun at times, but it never got any better or worse. What I mean is that the Holiday En Femme is all about accepting yourself from within, gaining the self

confidence you deserve, and feeling comfortable with your surroundings. So, you're in public, some may stare, but usually, you're just accepted for who you are. Then you can forget about it all and enjoy just being a girl on vacation! It's a very fulfilling experience!

We did set up most of the events to minimize potential problems, but for the most part we were in some contact with the public.



Oh well, so much for theory! Here are some memorable flashbacks of the trip... being face to face with Robin Williams on the plane, both hoping we weren't read; my sizzling finger at the Chinese restaurant; the wine country tour in Napa and Sanoma, drinking wine with the wine maker; the picnic at the geyser; a wonderful jazz club with wall to wall teddy bears, listening to "My Funny Valentine;" walking out of Alcatraz prison into the light of day... a free woman; changing clothes at least three times a day; riding a cable car and having the conductor say, "Please step back Miss;" my sightseeing adventure with Kimberly from San Francisco, through a submarine, Pier 39 girl shops, past the human mechanical man at the Wharf and in just a few bars in Sausalito and along the way; the awards banquet and the famous English actor (Allistaire Cooke?) at Ghirdelli Square; dancing in a teen bar on a back street with Rosalind; and the feel of the bay wind blowing my skirt up! I also loved modeling lingerie at the fashion shows. And, of course the Advisory Board meeting on Saturday.

And before I forget, I would like to say thanks to the Alpha Zeta members and supportive others who attended; Terri, Ericka, Monica, Rosalind and Phyllis, and (with special thanks to) Diane [redacted] and George!

And already, I miss San Francisco!

The Editor's Corner

By: Wendi Danielle P.

Hello girls, I hope this newsletter reaches all of you in good health and all has been well during the past month. This month I thought I'd give you a little more information on a subject many of us have thought about but, for one reason or another, have not yet tried. The subject is the transition at work. Those of us who desire to be more open about our transgender nature have all thought about how and if they could ever make such a transition. Most do not ever feel that it would be possible, but there are a few, myself included, that have decided that it is possible. I am of course speaking of keeping the same career and in my case the same job position.



In my case, it started about a year ago, after my return from Fantasia Fair '86. I was on a high and did not want to return to my old appearance. I began to let my hair grow and to experiment with various hair styles. Little things like eyebrows, nails etc. were gradually feminized and a man's purse was added. These little touches were gradually added to by the appearance of feminine shoes, they were women's shoes but could have been for either sex. After about three months, I was wearing a complete wardrobe of clothes, purchased in women's departments, but was not being read as a female or even kidded about my gradual change in appearance, I was truly androgynous.

Hair styles were continually changed, permanents were tried and even hair color was changed a few times. People began to accept the fact that I was apt to change my appearance, sometimes weekly, and had started to show a flair for colors, and jewelry. I started to add necklaces and bracelets as well as feminine watches etc.

Along about the same time I started to change my name informally to just my initials. My Identification badge was also changed to initials and a last name only. This removed the definite male connotation from my identity to those who do not directly know me.

Well, my androgynous appearance continued for several months, and at an appropriate time, I brought the subject of my appearance up with my manager. It was a time of my own

choosing and at the close of a successful day. I felt that the timing was right to test the waters and see what limits might be present should I go any further in this progression. Well, I was pleasingly surprised when after I told him that I desired to have a much greater feminine appearance at work, he said that it would not bother him and that it was my work, not my appearance that the company benefited from. I do not have a great deal of contact with customers, but from time to time, I do, so he added that as long as I was neat and presentable he didn't have a problem with it.

For the last three months I have been gradually making a more feminine appearance with blouses, feminine flats, sweaters and a truly feminine hair style. Today I am addressed as a woman by those who have not worked with me or are now meeting me for the first time. A good example was a comment from a new secretary to one of my female friends. She said, "Why does that girl keep taking so and so's mail, is she related to him or something". My friend's answer was, "I guess you could say so!"

I am still addressed in my old male name by a few co-workers, but the majority have either started to use my initials (the new secretary changed the name on my mail box) or a nickname that one co-worker started using, which seems to have caught on.

The process continues, I have yet to wear a frilly blouse, heels or a skirt, and am not pushing these steps. If at some time in the future I feel that I would be comfortable wearing these items, then I might give it a try. For now though, I have the feminine appearance that I desire, I am addressed in the feminine role by those I meet and I have not lost any noticeable ground in my career. So far so good. I would now say that in some cases transitions are possible and in discussing careers with Judee the other night I kiddingly said, "There is only one job that I know for sure that a person could not make a transition. "A Men's Room Attendant". This, I know, is not the case, and many of you out there probably have jobs that would, for one reason or another, not allow you to make such a transition. But, if after some careful thought, you feel that there might be a chance, and your lifestyle, family etc. are supportive, then why not try a few little tests to see how bad the water might be.

I'll be waiting to hear your results. Now on with the show. Until next month girls, "GO FOR IT!"

Letters to The Editor

Nov. 28,1987

Dear Wendi,

I received a copy of your newsletter last week. I enjoyed reading your article about "How I Spent My Fall Vacation". It brought back a lot of happy memories for me too. I was both surprised and pleased to see that you attended the "Tiffany Wives Support Group" outing. I'm surprised because I thought all the members and attendees were from the northeast. I'm pleased because I can see that you found them to be as fantastic as I did. Although some of them are long-time friends (like Renee' & Karen and Helen & Sydney), I met many of them for the first time two years ago. I was immediately taken by their warmth, friendliness and openness. I'm happy to hear that your experience in New England was so enjoyable.

Pam

(Ed: I'm glad you enjoyed the newsletter, I really enjoy doing it and would like to encourage persons like yourself to let others know of it's existence. Possibly, in the future, we might someday be able to reach a larger audience and become a nationally known publication. I hope I will be seeing you next year, possibly at IFGE in February or at FF '88 next fall. until then, "Go For It!")

* * * * *

Nov. 30, 1987

Dear Wendi,

A little late in getting back to you but had a couple of things that I wanted to thank you for. First that you joined us at the table for the awards banquet. Barb and I were glad to get reacquainted with you both. Second, I enjoyed very much receiving the copy of the newsletter that you sent and to this point, some of the most complete coverage of this year's fair that I have yet seen. The fair was good for us except for trying to cram too much into the 9 days of it. Each year we come home tired and each year it takes us a little longer to get rested up from it. Thanks again and we hope that you and Judee have a good and warm holiday season.

Maureen

(Ed: Maureen was awarded the Miss Fantasia Fair 1988 honor, and it was my and Judee's pleasure to be seated at the same table with her and her lovely spouse, Barbara, for the Final major event of the fair. See you at IFGE Maureen.)

National News

Tri-Ess/Tri-Delta Responds

During the past month Alpha Zeta/A Rose News received a reply from the Tri-Ess segment of the Tri-Delta group in Houston. In this letter Carol Lynn [redacted] clarified a few issues she felt were misinterpreted in the letters this newsletter had previously received from Tri-Delta. Briefly, here are the points her letter, dated Dec. 12th, covered.

- 1)The list which was sent to Carol Beecroft was not a membership roster of Tri-Delta, but a mailing list. She states that the majority of the names on the mailing list are not members of Tri-Delta, nor do they attend regular Tri-Delta meetings.
- 2)The Article title, "Tri-Delta Told to Reorganize" was, as she explained, somewhat incorrect. Apparently, The Tri-Ess segment of the group had contacted Carol Beecroft a few weeks before and asked her to write the letter to the chapter to be used, as she puts it, as ammunition to "...help us fight that trouble, if it should occur."
- 3)Lastly, she admits that there was more than one member of the old organization that, although a good person that would be a credit to the group, had to be extricated due to the fact that they were truthful and have admitted that they have had male partners or are contemplating sex reassignment surgery in the future. Tri-Ess National is very strict on these subjects. Her closing statement on this point is "...one exception, then you have set a precedent that will start you down the road that eventually will bring you back to the same place you just left."

She goes on to say that the presence of two transexual individuals at a group function, in one case, was the reason why one member's wife has refused to attend any further events. This apparently, confirms the Tri-Ess argument that the presence of non-heterosexual crossdressers will drive away those people that are important to Tri-Ess, the wives of crossdressers. Apparently, she feels that it is better to ignore views that are somewhat different from one's own or shun those that do not have goals or desires which are in line with our own.

Later on she states, "...I can not say why they [those who have been asked to leave the chapter] have not chosen to join Tri-Ess Personally, I find it difficult to understand how anyone could feel that way unless they truly do not understand their own femininity."

(Ed: This newsletter would appreciate comments to this article/editorial and also last month's article. Especially, from the other splinter group in Houston. Are there any comments from the other side of the fence? If so please send them to this newsletter. The issues discussed here are obviously on the minds of many other individuals and groups around the country and this newsletter would like to provide more information to all those who have an interest to the outcome of this subject.)

A Rose Update

During the past month a letter was sent to approximately 50 individuals, inviting them to contact the group, if they would like more information and might possibly like to join. The response has been good so far with about 8 replies which were favorable. The response from old Spectrum members has been strong and several Alpha Zeta members have shown some interest in the group. Alpha Zeta members are welcome to join, since these two groups are in close cooperation.

The First regular meeting of "A Rose" is now being scheduled and tentatively will be the second Saturday in January, possibly, at the Best Western Suites in Tempe. This has not yet been finalized, so contact Wendi after January 1st to confirm it.

The constitution and by-laws of "A Rose" have been drafted and copies are available. If you are a prospective member, please contact Wendi to get a copy. Read them carefully and if you have any comments or suggestions please bring them up at the January meeting.

The group will have three classes of members: regular, associate (significant others) and professional associate (therapists, counselors, etc.). Dues will be \$20 per year, social gatherings will be monthly, and all TVs, TGs and TSs are welcome to apply for membership. If you were not included in the first mailing and are interested, contact Wendi for more information.

Alpha Zeta Update

by: Terri ■

The November meeting was held at Terri ■'s apartment. Squeezed in side by side were Diane, Terri ■, Wendi & Judee, Lynda & Jackie, Omer, Mae, Tiffany, Jackie, Vanessa, Shanna, Ericka, and Tamie. We welcomed first timers Norma, Anita and Sandy. Later in the evening we were joined by Joanna and Monica. It was a wonderful turnout, and



members were entertained by two videos: a taping of Geraldo Rivera's show featuring female impersonators and "Christie Brinkley's Guide to Basic Makeup". The meeting also featured photos and reports from Fantasia Fair '87 and the Holiday En Femme.

Elections are coming up at the end of the year, (*Ed: actually in January*) so get ready with your nominations for first lady, second lady and secretary/treasurer. Remember that all nominees must also be members of Tri-Ess National and we need at least 2 nominees for each office. The voting will be held at the January meeting if we have a quorum, otherwise we will use the tallying by phone method.

It was proposed and agreed upon at the meeting that a prospective member, once screened, will be allowed to attend three chapter meetings on a look-see basis. After that, they will be required to show proof of having joined Tri-Ess National in order to continue to attend local meetings. National dues are \$30 per year, Alpha Zeta dues are \$15 per year, payable to the secretary / treasurer.

Alpha Zeta is pleased to be sharing the production of this newsletter with "A Rose", an open group that has been organizing during the past few months. "A Rose" has been recognized by the IFGE and is presently at work formulating it's constitution. "A Rose" is sharing the costs of the newsletter with Alpha Zeta. On the subject of the newsletter, make sure Wendi has your current mailing address, so that you won't miss an issue. Many back issues are still available. Contact Wendi or inquire at the next meeting to get any back issues you have missed. See you there!

Alpha Zeta Monthly Meeting

This month we are having our annual Christmas party. The event will be on Saturday, the 19th of December at the Best Western Inn Suites & Resort. The address is 1651 W. Baseline Rd. at the I10 freeway. The Inn is next to a Waffle House restaurant, left on Baseline off I10. The room number is #197, a suite at the rear of the complex next to the tennis courts. After entering the Inn proceed to the rear and then left to the courts. The name of the room is "The Pinnacle Peak Room".

The festivities will begin at 7:30pm until 1:00am. There will be a buffet dinner, Lynda and Jackie are bringing a turkey, and you all are requested to bring some sort of dish, salad, bread, desert etc. Please contact Wendi at ■ to find out what is needed. There will be wine and mixers provided but if you desire anything else, it's BYOB.

There will also be an optional small gift exchange as we had last year. Please limit your gift to \$5-\$10. Spouses and others are also welcome to participate in the exchange.

The evening will be subsidized by chapter funds but there will be a \$5 per person/ \$7.50 per couple charge to cover some of the costs. Please contact Diane or Wendi as soon as possible, so that we may know how many to expect. See you all at the party!

Alpha Zeta Treasury Report

Balance as of 10/31/87.	381.90
Paid out	192.00
Income	55.00
Interest	2.20
Balance as of 11/31/87	907.10

National Events

"1988 I.F.G.E. Convention"

Work is progressing on the next I.F.G.E. convention to be held in Chicago next year. The dates will be February 23rd to March 1st 1988. The excitement about this event is starting to build. It's getting good coverage in all the newsletters around the country and from the comments we've heard, Just about every group in the country is going to have representation.

While in Provincetown, Wendi had a meeting with Merissa Sherrill Lynn, the coordinator of this event, and was informed that this year the I.F.G.E. is trying to get as many professionals as possible to attend the convention and participate in the workshops.

There is also a good possibility that continuing education credits will be forthcoming for these workshops. If you know of someone or are seeing a counselor who specializes in gender related issues, please inform him or her of this event and contact either Diane or Wendi to get a brochure to pass along.

Look for more information on the I.F.G.E. convention in this newsletter, or write to:

I.F.G.E.
Po Box 19
Wayland, Mass. 01778
(617) 358-2305

Food For Thought

Here's a snack or horsd'oeuvre that is sure to be a hit at that holiday party you'll be at or having.

Mini Magic Meatballs

- 1 lb. ground beef
- 2 cps. torn bread (2 slices)
- 1 egg (slightly beaten)
- 1 pkg. onion soup mix
- 1 tbsp. parsley flakes
- 1 2/3 cps. "Magic Sauce"

Combine all ingredients except sauce. Shape mixture into 1" balls and arrange in glass baking dish. Prepare "Magic Sauce" and pour over meatballs. Bake in 350 Deg. Oven about 45 mins. makes about 4 dozen meatballs.

(Ok, here's the rest of the story; Judee finally gave in. "Magic Sauce" is: 1 cup catsup, 1/3 cup grape jelly and 1/3 cup lemon juice blended together. sounds a little strange, but boy are these things good!)

Personal Adds

Room to Rent: TV has room to rent in large Scottsdale home, private bath, share kitchen, would prefer TV or TS individual, contact Anita or this newsletter.



NWGA

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4928
Portland, (503)
Oregon 641-6736
97208

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Cross Gender Living



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