

Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol # XXXVI Issue #2
February 1997



Cupid's Looking For You !

President's Podium

It's that time again.....

Time for nominations for officers. seems like we just did that last month???? Time sure flies when you are having fun. I guess. So, make your choice and let them be known. Remember, one must be a full member, in good standing in order to hold office. If you can't make the March elections you may pick up an absentee ballot at the February meeting.

The March program will consist of an "Ask the candidates" forum just prior to the voting.

January Meeting..

I have one comment on the January meeting. For those members and visitors who thought it was OK to discuss TS related issues with our guest in front of the entire room, wives and partners, all I can say is WRONG. Our meetings are NOT places to discuss TS related issues, our group is focused and such issues are not welcomed to be publicly discussed at the meetings. If you have a question, there are places where these types of discussions can be held, the side rooms

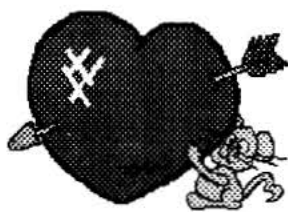
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NOTICE!!!!

The March meeting is set for the 4th
Saturday of the month

MARCH 22nd, 97

Miranda Writes....



A Valentine's Day Gift to All Chi Chapter Couples

Sometimes we get so wrapped up in ourselves that we tend to forget that the mission of Tri-Ess includes loving support for spouses and partners. We are dedicating our February meeting to all you forgotten loved ones out there, to reassure you that we cherish our partnerships with you.

The topic is "Making crossdressing part of a loving relationship." Dawn and Candace have assembled a panel of warm, supportive couples who will share with you their thoughts on intimacy in a transgendered relationship. Even if your spouse, partner or sweetheart has never attended a Tri-Ess meeting before, you may want to bring her to this one.

A Controversial January Meeting

On the one hand, last month's meeting succeeded in providing a stimulating and thought provoking repartee. On the other hand, it succeeded too well in

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Eve Burchert Honored

I.F.G.E. has announced that Eve Burchert has been named recipient of the 1997 Virginia Prince award to be presented at the California Dreaming '97, I.F.G.E. convention to be held April 15-20 in Long Beach California.

For more information on the Convention, write: I.F.G.E., PO Box 229, Waltham MA 02254-0229 (617) 899-2212

Who Was There?

Present at the January meeting were; Miranda, Wendy, Rachel, Eve, Laura, Kiki, Carole, Barbara Lee, Barbara Diane & Barb, Claudia, Jamie, Athena, Lori, Candace & Dawn, Amanda, Christine, Edie, Sandy, Carol, Janet, Dee Dee, Allanah, Jackie & Sandi, Christine, Karen, Colleen & Verna, Toni, Pamela, Toni, Vanessa, Rori, Rachel, Faye, Velma, Loraine, Sherri, Debbie, Beth, Rachel & Kate, Andrea, Amanda, Criss, Nichole, Denise, Bridget, Renee & Debbie, Jill & Kathleen, Michelle & Barb, Erica & Connie, Debbie & Laurie Ann, Julie, Anjelica, and some guy by the name of Suzy [redacted]??

We had over 5 first time couples show up. Seems the word is getting out.

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Why I Wear Heels By...?????

I started wearing them when I was about 15. I started and refused to wear anything else because I wanted to get used to them. After about a year it was difficult to flatten my foot so I just wore heels always instead. After about 3 years I couldn't wear anything lower than 4" or it would really really hurt. I've been in them since. I have tried to get help but nothing worked. Most doctors say to slowly wear lower heels. When I try anything lower than 4", my calves really hurt almost immediately and my calves will hurt for the next few days during which I have to wear 5" heels or so, or it will hurt. I guess I started wearing them when I was pretty young and still growing, and I grew into them, and can't change now.

I used to really hate the heels because I was so limited, but I have accepted it ok. Yes, I have shoes, I think they're called mules, that I wear at night sometimes and in the shower. I can walk on my toes if I have to, but my calves get tired real fast. Mules are heels, like pumps, but with nothing covering the heel of my foot, so they sort of slip on like slippers.

I don't sleep in them often but I have many times. Sometimes after I have been wearing them all day it hurts when I try to take them off. I guess my foot gets used to being in such a tight shoe all day that it can't handle being pulled out of the shoe too fast. So I just wear them to bed and usually the next day I can take them off, but sometimes it takes even longer. It usually just happens with my new shoes. I have a ton. I have about 50 pair of 4" and higher heels, and about 5 or 6 pair of boots with 4"-5" heels. Most of them are black, because black goes with everything. I have about every color though! In the winter I wear my boots mostly. The beach? Well, I don't do that too much but I would just wear an old pair of pumps, but it's hard for me to walk on sand or anything like that because my heels tend to sink into the sand and that causes my foot to try to go flat, and it hurts when I let that happen. I work in a professional setting, so heels are almost required, so I'm ok thank goodness.

I started wearing them because I liked how they looked and I really wanted to get used to them so that they wouldn't bother me when I wore them. I thought that if I just wore them all the time that I would get used to them and they in them all day long.

I am 24, 5'7" in my heels (that was another reason I started wearing them and wanted to get used to them. I was only 5'2"). My problem doesn't seem to bother anyone really. I get foot massages all the time because I need them so much.

I don't discourage women from wearing them. In fact, I think I almost encourage people since they see me wear them always and have no trouble with them.

I have mixed responses from people. I usually don't really care what people think though. I just wear what I want to wear.

Yes.. I drive a lot, but if it's only a few blocks I'll walk. I probably walk just as much as everyone else does. I can handle it. The only problem with walking too much in heels is that the heels wear out fast.

I only have a few pairs higher than 5". I have 4 or 5 pair that are 5 1/4 I think. My foot is already somewhat hyperextended when I wear those though. I only wear a size 7, so 5" are quite high already. I find 4 1/2" to be the most comfortable.

(Continued from page 1) Presidents Podium

or at other groups who support those situations. Please consider the feelings of the wives and partners present.

Finances.....\$\$\$\$

Bridget reported to the meeting our present financial status. One thing that has not been in balance is the cost of publishing the newsletter. The current cost of postage and envelopes, etc have exceeded \$14-\$16 per member. Because of this, the chapter is losing approx \$3-\$4 for every Associate member since they pay only \$12.50 a year. Associate membership is for National members who live further than 150 miles and go to less than 3 meetings a year. Since distance and number of meetings have nothing to do with the amount of dues, and is mainly a newsletter subscription, the classification is meaningless.

Therefore, I have asked the board to consider the abolition of the Associate membership classification. Beginning in 1998, existing Associate members will be automatically changed to Full status with full voting privileges.

Tupperware's a Drag.....

Ever hear of Pam Teflon?? Pam is one of Tupperware's top saleswomen and sales are anything but a drag.

See, Pam is a crossdresser who, being an out of work actor, started selling Tupperware as himself two years ago, but sales were flat. He needed a hook and his mother jokingly gave him the idea to dress up as a housewife.

Joke or no joke, Sumner did just that—and hit pay dirt. Pam does four or five parties a week with at least \$2500 in sales each week. She is rated in the top 10 on the West coast. Tupperware management says "He's tops", He does Pam very tastefully and with no obscenity."

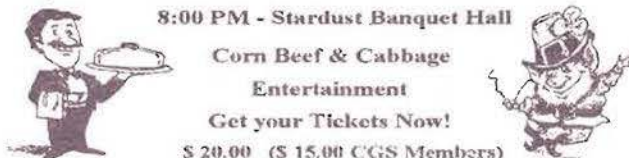
Not Here.....

Norma & Joyce were unable to attend the January meeting due to a death in the family. The couples group extended it's sympathy on behalf of the chapter and sent a nice arraignment.

Location, Location, Location.....

Due to security concerns and the fact that this newsletter does get out to non members at times, it was decided that the location of the monthly meeting will no longer be mentioned here. Instead, if a change of location is made, a notice will be sent along with the newsletter to all members.

Chicago Gender Society
St. Patrick's Day Party
Saturday, March 15th
8:00 PM - Stardust Banquet Hall
Corn Beef & Cabbage
Entertainment
Get your Tickets Now!
\$ 20.00 (\$ 15.00 C/GS Members)



(Continued from page 1)
generating controversy.

Dr. Michael Bailey, Associate Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, began the program by stating that transgendered individuals with gay orientation are nothing like their straight counterparts. To put this into context, you must realize that Dr. Bailey's research has dealt almost exclusively with the gay community, and has little contact with us. Therefore the initial discussion questioned the validity of that statement. The distinctions which he drew between gay and straight in age of onset and extent of involvement in cross-gender behaviors did not correspond with much of our group's personal experience. That led to a beneficial discussion. After all, we invited him in to become better acquainted with our community.

I consider myself very open minded, but I was quite uncomfortable when the discussion turned to sexual orientation following reassignment surgery. A passing question would have been OK. But I did not feel that an in depth analysis of the subject was appropriate.

We really need to remind ourselves that we are a social support group for the heterosexual cross-dresser and his family. More importantly we need to be sensitive to the needs of all those who are attending our meeting for just that support! And specifically those who are visiting for the first time, perhaps with spouse or partner, who are not as familiar with the whole community, and who are seeking some validation for their own feelings.

We all agreed to support that mission when we joined Tri-Ess. I personally feel that anyone who supports the mission is welcome in Chi Chapter. Let's try to keep it in mind. For my own part, I will try better to facilitate future discussions so they don't stray too far from the mission.

Future Programs

In March, CGS has asked us to join them in a St. Patrick's Day celebration on March 15. This will be a wonderful event, a dinner/dance with live entertainment, including the 'Anda Sisters (Amanda and Miranda). You won't want to miss this event.

Our March meeting will be on the 4th Saturday, March 22, and we will hold elections for officers. The program will be the "Great Debates of '97." It will be an opportunity for you to ask the officers anything you want, and to get to know all the candidates better.

In April, our own DeeDee, Amanda, and Christine will be conducting their "Lookin' Good Clinic." This is a workshop which received rave reviews at the Holiday En Femme, and we are fortunate to have them repeat at our meeting.

In May, we are going to open up the Chi Cabaret. We'll set up

(Continued on page 4)

E-Mave

To Chi Chapter:

I was working out of my home, since my regular office workspace was being completely gutted and remodeled, when Denise unexpectedly appeared at my door. I invited her in, and she gave me a 'package.' Upon opening it I found a CHI Chapter 'Resolution' plaque for my wall, which recognized my service as Secretary/Treasurer for many years and awarded me a Lifetime Membership in the Chapter. I told Denise that I REALLY appreciated this gesture from CHI, since I've spent the last 25+ years in support of both the Chapter and Tri-Ess in general. Although I never assumed any 'duties' in expectation of reward, this acknowledgement was a most pleasant surprise!

After Denise left, I began reflecting over the multitude of experiences I've encountered since the early 1970's. In my 'early days' CHI Chapter consisted of only 4-6 members, and our monthly Chapter meetings were held in various cut-rate motels in the Chicago area. Our 'meeting room' was always a one-bedroom "Cheepie," and we conducted those meetings with about one-third of our membership sitting on the one double bed since there weren't enough chairs! We just wanted to get together, 'dress,' and socialize in comfort and privacy. The 'times' were completely different in those years, unlike today, and Wives/Partners were neither recognized nor allowed to attend. And, we were subject a multitude of local 'laws' which made us subject to arrest (or, if 'lucky,' just harassment) simply because we were crossdressers out in 'public.' God help us if we were stopped for a simple traffic violation while dressed (some of our members were!).

In the 1980's, following the merger of F.P.E. and Mamselle into what is now known as Tri-Ess, CHI Chapter both supported and encouraged my foray into "National" work which resulted in my appointment to the position of National Membership Director which I have now held for over 14 years.

Since those earliest years, CHI Chapter has 'grown' in so many ways. Times change, and I feel it is for the better. I won't "name names" as I don't want to overlook anyone, but from then until now various Chapter 'Leaders' have stepped-forward and the Chapter has grown to the point I almost can't recognize it. From the 4-6 original members we have now grown to hundreds in CHI, Wives/Partners are now recognized as full and equal members, there are annual gatherings (Holiday en Femme, Spice, etc.), and the general public is becoming more accepting of us although still with reluctance.

Thank you, Chi Chapter, for your Resolution and award to me of a Lifetime Chapter Membership. You can never know how much I respect this unexpected honor, and what it really means to me to be recognized in this manner!

/s/ Donna Martin

(Continued from page 3) Miranda Writes

the stage and the candlelit tables like we did for our coffeehouse night, and give all of you Be All Gong Show hopefuls a chance to strut your stuff before a live audience.

Be All Convention Needs You!

Of course the biggest upcoming program is the Be All Weekend coming June 4-8. As the host chapter, everyone in Chi Chapter has the opportunity to get involved to ever extent you want. We are getting unteers, but we still need plenty of ple to take ownership of events, help registration desk, or provide support the workshops. Call me at (847) [redacted] and we can discuss how you help out.



Love, and Happy Valentine's Day

Miranda

Top Ten List

Top Ten Reasons to be Married to a Crossdresser

- 1) Satin and velvet are more snuggly than denim and wool.
 - 2) He understands the need for quality cosmetics.
 - 3) You have even more excuses to go shopping, and he will even carry the bags.
 - 4) You can borrow his jewelry & clothes!
 - 5) He understands why you go through so many pairs of stockings.
 - 6) He no longer expect you to get ready for a night on the town in 15 minutes or less.
 - 7) The world needs more feminists in lipstick.
 - 8) You can take the Cosmo quizzes together.
 - 9) You can ask him how an outfit looks, and get an intelligent response.
 - 10) His new friends don't spend all day watching football.
- Aunt Babs

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Chi Chapter Tri-Ess

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President: Denise Peters
Vice President, Membership & Outreach:
Candace Mahne
Vice President Programming: Miranda Stevens
Secretary: Colleen [REDACTED]
Asst Secretary: Samantha [REDACTED]
Treasurer: Bridgit [REDACTED]

MEMBERSHIP:

As Chi Chapter is a closed Tri-Ess chapter, membership in National is not an option. All memberships expire Jan 1 with a 60 day grace period. After which all mailings cease until dues are paid up.

MEETINGS:

General monthly meetings are open only to contributors, invited first timers and invited guests. The meeting fee of \$10 WILL BE COLLECTED AT THE DOOR.

First timers will be allowed their first meeting free. They are expected to join by their third meeting.

MEETING LOCATION:

Ha ha caught you....the same place as usual...If you forgot, give Candace a call at the hotline and get refreshed...

MEETING DATES:

Unless otherwise notified the Chapter meetings are held on the third Saturday of the month.

TIMES:

4:00pm Room opens for changing
6:30pm Changing rooms close
6:30pm Newcomers & P.A.L.S.
meetings start
8:30pm Business meeting



Treasurer's Report Fiscal 1996

OPENING BALANCE 1/1/96	\$3,188.00
	0
INCOME	
Tri-Ess National Directory	\$900.00
Tri-Ess National Memberships	\$2,617.00
	0
Local Advertising, Meetings and Memberships	\$10,288.18
Tri-Ess Holiday Seed Money	\$1,000.00
	0
Tri-Ess Holiday Profit	\$4,922.00
	0
TOTAL INCOME	\$19,727.18
EXPENSES	
Food (not including May Prom)	\$916.00
Hotel (meeting and side rooms)	\$4,014.21
Envelopes, Postage, Etc.	\$2,466.87
Misc (awards, materials, prizes, etc.)	\$469.39
Printing National Directory	\$900.00
Printing Chi Tribune	\$1,723.00
Telephone Ameritech	\$436.72
Telephone AT&T	\$93.62
Tri Ess Holiday seed money return	\$1,000.00
Tri Ess Holiday National Share of Profit	\$2,461.00
Tri Ess national Memberships (See income above)	\$2,617.00
May Prom (food and room)	\$1,694.00
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$18,791.81
ENDING BALANCE 12/31/96	\$4,123.37
Yearly Profit (loss)	\$935.37

Couples Group

The couples group held an evening out on January 25th. Several couples went to the Zanies at Pheasant Run and had a laugh filled evening followed by pizza at Pizza Hut.

The next couples group meeting is on February 22, 1997. Full details will be available at the meeting. Information regarding the couples group is NOT given out over the phone. The couples group meetings are NON-CROSSDRESSED and children are not allowed.

P.A.L.S.

P.A.L.S. (short for Positive Attitudes Living Side by side) is a women's group set up for wives, girlfriends and significant others whose partners are cross-dressers.

P.A.L.S. will meet the evening of the month coinciding with the Tri-Ess meetings. Our meetings will run from 6:30 to 8pm in an adjacent hotel room. When you check in make sure you receive a name tag and an index card. In keeping with confidentiality you will have an opportunity to reveal a concern without disclosing your true identity by writing it on the index cards. The particular needs of each individual will be addressed in a positive manner.

Robotman

FROM BARBARA #1



By Jim Meddick

