



Holiday EnFemme

Souvenir Issue

WELCOME!

We at Chi-Chapter welcome our sisters from around the world who are attending the Holiday EnFemme. We hope you enjoy the programs and parties and have a great time. If you have any questions, etc please ask any Holiday EnFemme staff member. The ones with the large red STAFF on their name badges.

Miranda Writes....

November Program (November 16)

For our next meeting we are fortunate to have Vernita Gray from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. Ms. Gray is with the Victim Witness Unit, and specializes in both Hate Crimes and Lesbian and Gay cases. She has prosecuted numerous cases of hate crimes against transgendered individuals in recent years. She will be discussing the role of the State's Attorney's Office in protecting our rights, and she will be sharing her experiences with the TG community. It should be a fascinating program!

And the Winners Are...

We were all winners last month at the Chi Chapter Halloween Party! What a variety of gorgeous and/or scary costumes (some were both). Rachel (of Rachel's Wigs) was the scariest. She was the Bride of Frankenstein, complete with the straight-back hair with those lightning bolt of white. I wonder where

(Continued on page 4)

President's Podium



What is Chi-Chapter???????

Interesting question.....

Some will say; a support group for heterosexual crossdressers. Some will say; a social group for TV's, CD's etc. or a place to go once a month, dress up, have fun and visit.

Well you're all right.....we are all these and one more important thing.....**Chi-Chapter is a local group of Tri-Ess members.....**

"What?" you say "Isn't that understood?????"

Well most of us do, but there are a handful of members who have forgotten this. What I am trying to get at here is that amongst our 174 members there is a handful who **ARE NOT Tri-Ess** members.....either letting their membership lapse (for a few years) or never joining in the first place. Since we are a Tri-Ess chapter and since we all receive support from the national, we expect and require all chapter members to be current with the national. I will be glad to work with that handful in establishing or Re-establishing your national membership. (Don't worry, nothing retroactive).

Check. your mailing label and if it has the red word NAT above your name, you are not doing your best for Tri-Ess, so lets change that around.. Our chapter dues are due by 1/1/97 so when you send in your chapter dues please include \$35.00 for your national dues. (\$45 couples) This applies to those who are not current with National. **Chapter dues received from non-Tri-Ess members, will be returned.**

Chi-Chapter is a local group of Tri-Ess members.....

BTW.....1997 dues, local and Tri-Ess are tax deductible.....neat huh??

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ATTENTION NEW MEMBERS!!!!

I just discovered that the Directory Profile Info sheet mailed to you by National may have my address incorrectly listed..... Please note it should be PO Box 1138 NOT 138... Thank you for your interest.....

Where o where??????

Ever wonder what happen to a CD you may have known a few years ago or who was to a few chapter meetings and just dropped out and disappeared.....

I may have the answer.

The other day I watched one of the Presidential debates and Pres. Clinton mentioned he has been taking measures to stop China from pirating our CD's.....Makes one wonder.....

Directions....

A new membership directory will be published sometime in February. If you would like to update your profile or photo, please send it to me ASAP. I am also including E-Mail address's but only if you authorize it, but beware, many E-Mail address's are your real name. Deadline for changes is 12/15/96

October Meeting:::~::~:

Our annual Halloween party managed to gather the following members and guests; Miranda, Lois, Laurette, Alicia, Naomi & Rachel, Gloria, Carole, Marcia, Pamela, Lenore, Jackie, Amanda, Bridget, Debbie, Lee, Denise, Janet, Dee Dee, Elisabeth, Barbara, Norma & Joyce, Karen, Colleen, Verna, Toni, Vanessa, Stacey, Kyla, Sherri, Shelley, Renee, Tess, Aries, Heather, Debbie & Laurie Ann, Jamie, Rachel & Kate, Diane, Andrea, Amanda, Alicia, Jesse, Jennifer, Liz, Bonnie, Velma, Faye, our first timers, Bonnie & Liz, Linda & Shelly. Special guest, Mariette Pathy Allen, and our guests from Crossroads in Detroit, Rachel, Susan, JoAnn, Laura and Juliet.

TV again???

David Foley, formerly one of the 'Kids in the Hall' takes up wearing dresses again on the halloween edition of 'NewsRadio' on NBC. Can't quit???

Advertisers

Encore Fashions has opened up a second location in Chicago. Please check out their ad for the location. Remeber to frequequent our advertisers. They perform an important service to our community.



Couples Group

The next Couples meeting will be on **Saturday, Nov 23rd** and the location will be at Denise's. Please phone the hotline for information and please let us know you are coming so we can have enough chairs. We need to know who is coming in case of last minute changes, etc.

Remember, this is a **NON-CROSSDRESSED** meeting. PLEASE DO NOT wear any feminine article of clothing, jewelry or decoration (Lipstick, nail polish) which can be seen. Also, no children will be allowed at the meeting for obvious reasons.

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.

The October meeting brought forth the following wives/partners: Verna, Norma, Laurie, Bonnie, Dawn, Debbie, Kate and Shelley

P.A.L.S. will meet the 3rd Saturday 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.

Articles are welcome from all.
Please send to:
Denise Peters
PO Box 1138
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-1138
Articles can be in any computer file format or
typewritten. Hand written articles may take longer to
appear.(Like a year or so unless really short)
Notes and letters always accepted.....



THE BEST OF THE REST

by

KIKI CARMICHAEL

The "BEST OF THE REST" is devoted to reprinting articles from various newsletters about our culture from around the world. Hopefully you will find them interesting and sometimes provocative.

The following is from the August 1996 Girl Talk Newsletter of the Powder Puffs of Southern California.

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QUEENSPEAK

by Joan Goodnight

We're Making Great Strides!

The community national and regional weekend events, the majority of which are totally funded and sponsored by your average red-blooded American crossdressing organizations, were recently singled out for just being an opportunity to play dressup. It was also implied that the crossdressers value their anonymity and security too much to be involved in the hottest topic in Gender Land -- the political action committee known as GenderPac (the commentator actually referred to it as "paranoia"). It should be painfully obvious that the majority of the transsexual/transgender segment of the community plainly just doesn't understand the importance and the impact that these weekend events have not only on our community but on society in general. Nor do they understand the need that the majority of crossdressers have to remain anonymous. While it's true that society currently views crossdressing with great curiosity and fascination, great harm and conflict can arise when it turns up within a family or in the workplace. Unlike the ts/tg person who has nothing to lose now that they're living their elected lifestyle, the crossdresser can't afford to take that kind of risk. This is really an act of responsibility, not cowardice.

These weekend events serve as a much-needed educational and much-needed social outlet for community members, from newcomers to the more experienced, and they serve as a public relations vehicle. During these events the community is interfacing with the general public and this is an opportunity for us to show them at our best ... acting as responsible citizens by displaying dignity and respect for others. It has been my personal experience from managing six consecutive years of California Dreamin' events that our community is at its finest during these events, and our reputation with the hotels that have hosted them is sterling -- they want us back!

I'm not down-playing the importance of the GenderPac by stating that the national and regional events are just as important, if not more important, than having a lobbyist. You can pass all the legislation in the world concerning gender rights but unless the general public is educated by us through the outreach that these events provide then they're only words contained on a printed page. Legislation, no matter how wonderfully worded or carefully crafted, won't change peoples attitudes. Our actions and comportment in society will have a far greater impact. This isn't a perfect world and there will always be those that hate us for no better reason than they believe they have to hate something, but we can go a long way in dispelling fears and doubts by acting responsibly and these events give us that golden opportunity.

The commentator also suggested that, "If every CD opted to skip one weekend event and instead sent as a contribution to GenderPac the money they would have spent on airfare, hotels, meals, registration, and new clothes for that weekend, we would likely form one of the largest wazzu political action committees on Capitol Hill -- probably enough to hire a full-time lobbyist or two.

A more equitable statement would have been to include our Ts/tg sisters along with the crossdresser and state something like, "If every ts/tg opted to skip one month of electrolysis, or a couple of months supply of estrogen, or put aside \$ 1,000 of the money they're saving for SRS, and every CD opted to skip one weekend event and instead sent as a contribution to GenderPac we would likely form one of the largest political action committees on Capitol Hill - probably enough to hire a full-time lobbyist or two."

I find it interesting that the great majority of our ts/tg sisters don't wish to commingle socially with the crossdresser, because they believe they have ascended to a higher plateau on the highway to womanhood, but they're the very first ones in line to chide the crossdressing community for not supporting their elected lifestyle. If they would stop and take an examination of why this is happening I'm sure they'd reach a far different conclusion. The crossdresser, as opposed to the ts/tg is, nine times out of ten, employed in a meaningful occupation and therefore doesn't personally have a problem seeking employment. It's a sad fact of life but the average ts/tg looking for employment is faced with social barriers based on their physical appearance. With rare exception these people are not passable enough in their elected feminine role to warrant an employer hiring them. They don't fit the standard mold for social acceptance because of their cosmetic appearance, i.e., a guy in drag, and therefore their presence in the workforce would be too disruptive a risk for an employer to take. Unless a Ts/Tg is

(Continued from page 3) (Best of the Rest)

financially independent, or a medical/legal professional, their chances for finding meaningful employment in the workplace are next to zero because they usually don't have the qualifications for the position for which they're applying. They usually wind up in some minimum wage job or become totally unemployable and have to rely on family and friends for subsistence. So rather than face the reality of the situation they'd rather scream that they're being discriminated against. Get real. With one exception, I'm not personally aware of any ts/tg that has made a 100% transition and found acceptance on their present job. Most companies are very reluctant to immediately dismiss these people, but when a downsizing does happen the ts/tg is usually the first to go. Is it discrimination? You're damn right it is, but it's also next to impossible to prove. Discrimination exists in our nation and all the legislation in the world isn't going to eradicate it. People will retain their prejudices and find a way to work around the law.

GenderPac is important, but for God's sake, don't throw the baby out with the bath water. The regional and national events are just as important. I hate to think of where this community would be without them. The crossdressing segment has labored mightily to consistently bring well-rounded programs for the benefit of the entire gender community and to cast aspersions on their integrity is totally irresponsible. If our ts/tg sisters would forget about playing martyr and instead try to assimilate into the crossdressing community we could build an effective team to tackle the discrimination problem. But as long as they wish to remain by themselves and take cheapot shots it's not going to happen.

.....

Kiki's comment: Fortunately we don't have that problem here in the Midwest. (BTW, the picture in the byline is really an old one, a real old one.) (Editors comment: I didn't think they had cameras way back then, Kiki.)

Where's the November meeting????

The location of the Holiday Inn Express is on Riverside drive just off RT83 in Elmhurst. RT 83 is reachable from I-290, North Av or St Charles Rd to RT83 then South. Or take Roosevelt Rd to RT83 then go North.

It is advisable when making a room reservation, to make it at least a month early, we have been experiencing many FULL houses at the Inn. Reservations are available at (708)279-0700. Please mention Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess. **YOUR RATE SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$65.00....**

(Continued from page 1) (Miranda)

she got the wig? If she was the bride, what does that make Naomi? Kate was the most original with the cutest Dorothy outfit you can imagine. Toto, I don't think we're in Kansas anymore. (In case you had any doubts.) Laurette was the most glamorous, in her red striped saloon girl outfit, with a wonderful peacock feather fan. Thanks to all of you girls who came in costume. You made the party a lot of fun.

Our first ever pumpkin decorating contest turned out much better than I ever dreamed. With a little paint, paper and glue, and a whole lot of imagination, you created a Dennis Rodman look-a-like, a purple eared elephant, a glamorous Jackie-o-lantern complete with shapely legs, a his-and/or-her transgendered pumpkin, and something really strange from the officer's table, and on and on.

A big thanks to Faye, Velma, and Rori who donated the prizes for the costume contest. Another big thanks to Faye who donated a fantastic framed painting of a gorgeous set of legs and high heels (was that you, Staci?), which we raffled off along with the decorated pumpkins.

And I hope you all take the time to thank Norma, Joyce and Karen for the outstanding job they are doing with refreshments every month. Better still, volunteer some of your time to help them out. They need you!

Future Meetings

In December we are going to try something different. Typically we have a formal dinner/dance, but we are doing that at Holiday en Femme. Instead, we are planning a cozy little holiday party, with gift giving and home-baked goodies. I know many of you like to bake, and have your own special holiday treats. This is your chance to share them with your Chi sisters. Bring in some cookies or hors d'oeuvres, or whatever you wish to share. And bring in a little gift (\$10 limit) for a grab bag. We'll give out our chapter awards and exchange gifts, and have a great time opening them!

In January, we've invited Dr. Michael Bailey, Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, whose research has dealt with various aspects of the transgendered community.

See you at the Holiday en Femme

Miranda



(Slightly modified by the Editor)

Chicago Area Transgender Activities

NOVEMBER 1996

Week of October 20-26

Tues Oct 22, 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park
Thursday October 24, 7:00 p.m. T.O.N.I meeting, call 219-929-8533 for info
Saturday October 26, 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, Ghost and Goblins Party, Femme Underground, Oak Park (708-383-8338)

Week of October 27-November 2

Thurs-Sun, Oct 31- Nov 2, Fall Harvest 96 - The Homecoming, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

Week of November 3-9

Wed Nov 6, 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, Blue Island (708-389-6688)
Wed-Sun, Nov 6-10, Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme, Hyatt Lisle, call 630-262-8707 **Nov 6, Red White and Blue Dinner Party**
 Nov 7, Dinner Theater Outing to Drury Lane
 Nov 8, Procrastinator's Halloween Ball
 Nov 9, Putting on the Ritz Formal Dinner/Dance
Saturday Nov 9, Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee Area, call (414) 297-9328
Saturday Nov 9, T.O.N.I. Social, call 219-929-8533 for info

Week of November 10-16

Tuesday Nov 12, 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)
Thursday Nov 14, 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois 146 N. Oak Park Ave. (call 708-535-1506)
Sat Nov 16, 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Holiday Inn Exp, Elmhurst (630-262-8707)

Week of November 17-23

Thursday Nov 21, C.A.T.S, 4751 W. Touhy, Suite 203, Lincolnwood (708-266-8626)
Saturday, Nov 23, CGS TS Support Group at Femme Underground, call 708-383-8338.
Saturday, Nov 23, Chi Chapter Couples Group, call 630-262-8707 for info

Week of November 24-30

Tuesday, Nov 26, 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park
Thursday, Nov 28, 7:00 p.m. T.O.N.I meeting, call 219-929-8533 for info

COMING IN DECEMBER

Saturday, Dec 7, CGS Holiday Dinner at Harvey's Prime Rib. Get your tickets early. Call (708) 863-7714 Today!

Note:

Chicago TS Advocacy (CTA) has no date/location set. Call Anjelica at 708-788-3364

CGS INVITES ALL CHI CHAPTER MEMBERS TO THEIR HOLIDAY DINNER

The Chicago Gender Society is holding their annual Holiday Dinner on the first Saturday in December (12/7) at Harvey's The Prime Rib in Westmont. This is an excellent opportunity to share the warmth of the holiday season with our sisters from CGS. The Prime Rib is a wonderful restaurant, and CGS the banquet hall downstairs for their private party. Besides the dinner of prime rib or chicken, there will be spectacular holiday show, the annual recognition awards presentation, dancing to your favorite oldies, and a raffle of wonderful items. All this for \$25 if you are a CGS member, or \$30 for non-members. But act early, the price goes up to \$35 after 11/15. Call the CGS hotline to reserve your tickets, (708) 863-7714.

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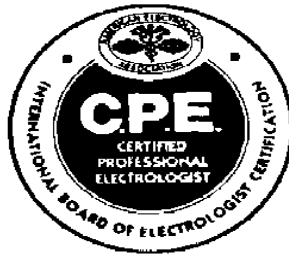


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