

## Judy Simmons Featured in June

### Presidents Podium

#### GOOF

I have a Typo in Judy's HEADLINERS AD. (That's why I put her name up in lights above) Seems I have been sending everyone to the SE corner of Oak Park & Irving Park. It should be the SW corner. Just a little East of the insurance office and on the first floor of the apartment building.

#### Support

Occasionally I will print an article regarding a non Tri-Ess group or organization. This is intended to enlighten you, the member, as to various activities and acquaint you with these organizations. I feel that if you are interested in said group/function you will contact them and support them directly by joining, and then reading their newsletter for continuing information. I do not feel it is fair to these other organizations to print their stories month after month causing them a reduced membership. As I run these articles, I

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### Miranda Writes....

By the time you read this column, Be All '97 will be just another memory. Whether or not it was the great success we hoped for, only time will tell. But it really doesn't matter. It's about having fun, making new friends, feeling free and comfortable in our chosen gender, and being ourselves in an open, accepting environment. I certainly hope that you took advantage of the fact that it was so close to find out what conventions like this are all about.

### June Program: Judy Simmons on Make Up Techniques

They say that making up is hard to do. Now you know, you know it ain't true. But do you know whether powder blue eye shadow is ever going to be back in style? How do I disguise a heavy jawline and caveman eyebrows? How can one achieve a natural look that will pass in the mall on Saturday afternoon? Are there really any good ways to hide a beard shadow short of electrolysis?

Learn the answers to all of these questions and more from one of our local experts as Judy Simmons from Headliners presents *Make-Up Techniques For The Crossdresser*. Judy has been performing her make-up magic on many of us for years and has recently moved to her new salon on Irving Park Rd. and Oak Park Ave. I understand she will be using some of us as makeover models. I already signed up. If you want to volunteer, give her a call. See the Headliners ad in this newsletter for her number.

### Ice Cream Social

Also in June, we are having our annual ice cream social. Norma and Joyce have told me that they are going to surprise us with all sorts of scrumptious goodies to top your own Sundae. I don't know how they can out do the surprise last time (remember the edible dirt and worms?), but we'll see. It's going to be a lookin' good and eating good extravaganza.

**JUNE MEETING INFO  
PAGE 4**

**Thanks For Making the Cabaret a Success**

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# A Butterfly Blossoms

by Jackie [REDACTED]

For many years I have contemplated why do I enjoy the feeling of wearing women's clothes? For many years I have wondered why I enjoy the smell of women's perfume on me? Also I have wondered why I love the sound of my bracelets jingling as I open my purse to find my compact. Well these and many other feelings have been locked in my mind since I was an early teenager. I'm sure my beginning in the experience of wearing women's clothes is a textbook classic of a crossdresser. Until recently I was unable to discuss this with anyone. It has complicated my thoughts, it has complicated my relationships with women. Since my divorce I have decided to pursue my femininity and explore its boundaries. I want to know where do I get these desires. I also want to know and experience the lifestyle of what a woman experiences. I also just want to express myself in a way that is genuine to me. What follows is a short story of my first experience of coming out in public as Jackie Ann [REDACTED].

As I woke up this morning to hear the purring of my kittens blackjack and Speed and feel their warmth surrounding my feet I could still smell the perfume I had worn the night before. Its lingering scent reminded me of the night before. My mind wondered back to the instant I sat in the chair at Rori's place for my first makeover. I was shaking like a cold kitten after a bath. Inside my stomach was turning flips, my face and neck were flushed, my sweaty hands trembled as I sipped some water. I wasn't sure why I was there.

As Rori began to apply some cleanser to my face she smiled and reassured me that this was going to be a wonderful experience. She progressed step by step and as she would stop her work allowing me to gaze at the mirror in front of me, I was starting to feel more at ease inside because what I saw on the outside was amazing. She was able to transform me into what I have yearned to do for many years. I just stared into my own eyes.....O' the eyes that was the most amazing sight for me. I was starting to look like a woman and as I did I began to feel like a woman. My smile seemed larger, my laugh seemed softer and my posture and mannerisms became feminine. It just happened.

Finally, as she was finished with her work and I placed the wig on my head and she then styled it. That is when it was like I was completely calm inside. Wow! I cannot completely describe the emotions or the feelings I felt then and for the next twelve hours but I will say that it is a feeling I hope to have again and again.

I was in the company of three other lovely crossdresser's. Andrea the beautiful brunette, with a dazzling smile and a warm and gentle personality who doesn't yet realize how beautiful she really is. Diana the fabulous red head whose witty and comical personality kept us all in good spirits and Heather the very quite and timid blonde who had a tremendous smile. Now after all of us "ladies" had our makeovers and completed our outfits for the

(Continued from page 1) Miranda

I just wanted to thank everyone who participated in the first Chi Cabaret for helping to make it a truly memorable and fun evening. Mandy worked hard to set the stage with her original music and innovative ideas. Who can ever forget Christine's hilarious version of *Stand By Your Man* (Stand in you heels). And Edie's little puppet friend was really cute and touching. Thanks also to Laura for a little impromptu poetry reading. That poem was so good it should be published in the *Femme Mirror*.

Thanks also to all of our contestants in the Harriet Carey contest. There were some very clever parodies of *Take me out to the ball game*, and I was particularly pleased at how readily our newcomers became involved. I do hope that they had so much fun that they come back to future meetings. This parody was left at my table:

*Take me out as a doll please  
Take me out a la femme  
Dress me in panties and high heels, my dear  
I don't care if I fall on my rear*

*So let's root, root, root through the closet  
I know I'll find something right  
For it's one, two, three dresses, wait  
And they all, look, great!*

And thanks to Naomi, Denise, Christine, and Laura for being game enough to compete in the *Don't Cry For Me Argentina* contest. I think Madonna is going to have some real competition if she ever does a sequel to *Evita*.

As Bob Hope used to say, "Thanks for the mammaries," or something like that.

## Future Events

Coming in July, we are planning a pool party and picnic. This will be a great opportunity to model that bathing suit you have been too shy to wear on Oak Street Beach. We'll be providing all the hamburgers and hot dogs you can eat, as well as soft drinks. You will be providing your favorite picnic fare. Think about what dish you would like to bring, then sign up with Norma and Joyce at the next meeting so they know who's bringing salad, desserts, side dishes, fruit, or whatever.

The pool party and picnic will take place on our regular meeting night in July (3rd Saturday) at the usual location, and it will probably start a little earlier, around 6:00 p.m. We are going to ask the hotel to hold a block of rooms for us on the ground floor with direct access to the pool.

So you may want to think about sharing one of these rooms with a few friends, to change out of that yellow polka dot bikini before going home.

Luv and

Miranda



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*(Continued from page 2) Butterfly*

night. We said our good-byes to Rori and her assistant Holly and a very admiring and complementary customer who was a genetic woman. Ok, now we had to open that door and believe me it was a big step, had it not been for the company I was in I'm sure I would have ran right back in.

As we walked towards the car which was about 100 yards away we could see a group of men and woman coming towards us. Awwwww!!!!.....the first encounter with the people, I'm very sure we were read immediately. As lovely as we all looked and felt we were still not 100% passable. Interestingly for me I was not in a panic or was I fearful. I was able to continue walking and as we approached the group I wanted to make eye contact so I glanced at the group and smiled. I only registered one smile in return : ) That was enough to give us some reassurance.

The next encounter was when we reached our group meeting. This again was sure to involve a meeting of "normal" people. As the four of us walked up to the lobby doors of the hotel another small group was walking out. This time I again smiled and glanced to all of them. No smiles : ( Oh well. Walking through the lobby and down the stairs was again filled with glances and believe me stares. Overall a very interesting experience.

The evening was just getting started. We met many other crossdressers and chatted about previous meetings and future ones. The conversation was pleasant and very informative. I got a chance to meet many "ladies" who I have chatted with over the last year. The meeting was a bit odd for me. I'm not sure yet how or where I belong in a group like this. I feel I need to continue meeting with this group though in order to better understand myself and other ladies like me.

After the meeting it was girls night out! Look out world here comes a pack of blood thirsty transvestites. :) Lusting for contact and attention. Longing for acceptance and understanding. Eager to express our own personal sexuality. Sorry, I got a little carried away. We all decided to go down to a nearby lesbian bar and have a drink..... or four. I had no idea what to expect. When we first walked in some heads turned but only for a glance. A few lingering stares assured me that we were again read. Well , who cares at this point I'm just eager to mingle and join in. We all gathered in a corner it was like we took over this spot and kinda kept to ourselves. It was still exciting to be "out". We all ordered some drinks and we began to gossip and stare at all the lesbians :). This also was the first time I had ever been in a lesbian bar.

After a while the group divided, some went to play, some went to watch the dancers, some left. I decided to stay right there. I really wasn't sure what to do. So I sat and talked to Pam and Heather. I noticed some repeated glances from a guy down the bar from us. He was talking to another cd'er. Hmm he's kinda cute. He had long brown hair tied in a pony tail. He was about 50, What was I thinking! I actually glanced back a couple times and sure enough he was checking us out. Honestly, it was very flattering. Then

*(Continued on page 5)*

## Velma Ad

### June Meeting Info

- The meeting is on June 21
- The meeting will be held in the lower level banquet room.
- There is an entrance to the lower level room by going around the North side of the building and entering behind the hotel. or you may go thru lobby, to the left and down the stairs.
- We have arraigned for two changing rooms, room# 101 which is next to the lobby and adjacent to the stairs to the lower level. Also room# 117 will be available. This room is next to our normal meeting room and has an outside door. Those who wish may park in the normal South lot and enter thru room # 117.
- Schedule:
  - 3pm Changingmg rooms open # 117 & #101
  - 6:30pm changing rooms close.
  - 6:30pm P.A.L.S. meet in room # 101
  - Newcomers meet in room # 117
  - 8:30pm Meeting begins

## A Personal Reflection on the 2nd GenderPAC National Transgender Lobby Days

by Miranda Stevens

On May 4-6, Toni Monzo and I traveled to Washington DC to participate in a truly remarkable event, the 2nd GenderPAC National Transgender Lobby Days. Reminiscing about the week, I can say that I had some good experiences, and some great experiences. It was about educating those who make the laws of this nation about a minority that has remained invisible for too long, a minority that is time and time again is singled out for ridicule, discrimination, and violent hate crimes. By the time it was over, Toni and I had visited the offices of every congressman and senator from Illinois. We left copies of GenderPAC's national transviolence survey with most, and It's Time, Illinois' report on discrimination and violence with all. And I felt that we made some real friends on the Hill.

The most emotional experience for me was our meeting with Congressman Jesse Jackson, Jr. From the start, this meeting was handled with the greatest respect and courtesy. I had been working for about two weeks getting the meeting set up. Hillary West, who set up the meeting, met us at the door and introduced herself. She was anxious to meet me after we spent so much time on the phone together. She is a lovely woman, and I felt some sort of bond with her. Then the legislative assistant, Rodney Emery, came out and introduced himself, and said that he would be participating in the meeting as well. A few minutes later, Congressman Jackson came into the reception area to greet us and we all went back to his office for the meeting.

This is where the magic started. I had been going through a set routine with the other congressmen's staff people. But this was not a speech or a routine. We immediately clicked and entered into a dialog the likes of which I never thought myself capable of doing. His mind is so quick, his logic is so clear, he was immediately making connections that should be made. We discussed Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and the fact that US Courts had ruled that we are not covered in that Act. And he was right with us. This was personal to him. This was the connection to the civil rights movement of his father, and he understood our struggle. It was magical, and it was emotional.

We talked about the hate crimes. Rodney participated in this discussion. He knew about the overkill murders of transpeople. He knew about the mutilation killings. And we talked about the ones in Chicago, specifically the ones documented in our report. In the end Congressman Jackson asked what he could do to help us, and we requested a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno to help us document hate crimes. Of course he agreed, he put his staff on it immediately.

What else could he do? We talked about ENDA (Employment Nondiscrimination Act) and our non-inclusion in the bill. He turned to Rodney and asked, "Do you mean they are not covered in ENDA?" Rodney could only shake his head and inform him that we are not. He asked what could be done about that, and I just happened to have a proposed amendment to ENDA, for gender variant people, just looking for a sponsor. We discussed the political realities of the 105th Congress, and the fact that such an amendment may not be the best thing to introduce now. But he was definitely interested.

We left that office on an emotional high. Joy from finding such a strong supporter and friend. But for me, the most powerful feeling was the tie to the entire civil rights movement and the struggle for freedom. As Jesse Jackson, Jr. said in that meeting, "As long as one person is denied human rights, none of us can be really free."

(Note: On May 5-6, about 45 transpeople from all over the USA converged on Capitol Hill in Washington DC for the 2nd GenderPAC Lobby Days. At the end, nine congressmen had signed on to a letter to Attorney General Janet Reno urging her to have the Dept. of Justice track hate crimes against gender variant people. The letter was presented to the Attorney General's staff in a meeting on May 13. This was the first time any members of congress had gone on record supporting transgendered people.)

It's Time Illinois PO Box 33, Oak Forest IL 60452  
Phone: 708-535-1506

(Continued from page 4) *Butterfly*

Heather left to join the other girls and that's when he walked over and said hi. He introduced himself as Al and asked for my name. Hi, my name is Jackie I heard myself say. We chatted for a bit about trivial topics and eventually we were alone. Just the two of us standing and talking. He was very polite and was a perfect gentleman. He lit my cigarette and actually bought me a drink. Wow two more new experiences for me. Again I felt so feminine when he lit my cigarette and I thanked him.

Eventually the conversation turned towards our mutual interest in crossdressing and he wondered If I had ever been with a man while dressed. The answer was no. When I told him this was my first night "out" he didn't believe me he honestly thought I was kidding him. Well it was very stimulating conversation and I was flattered that he wanted my phone number but I couldn't do this. A girl has to keep a good reputation..... right? ; ) I politely said that I wanted to join my friends and I hoped we could meet again some time. We said goodbye. And as I was walking back to my friends I was walking on air. I was amazed at how I felt. I was happy, I was excited, I was thrilled. I was a woman.

Jackie :--)

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# GREAT LAKES GENDER LEADERSHIP COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

## CALENDAR

### JUNE-JULY 1997



#### Week of June 8-14

Tues 6/10 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)  
 Program: Dedicated and Safe  
 Thurs 6/12 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois 146 N. Oak Park Ave. (call 708-535-1506)  
 Sat 6/14 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting (call 414-297-9328).  
 TONI social (call 219-650-2142)

#### Week of June 15-21

Thurs 6/19 C.A.T.S., 4751 W. Touhy, Suite 203, Lincolnwood (708-266-8626)  
 Sat 6/21 2:00 p.m. FORGE, Ann Sather's on Belmont, Topic: Transgender Pride. Contact C. Michael Munson (414-278-6031)  
 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-S, Elmhurst (630-262-8707). Program: Judy Simmons, from Headliners, on Make-up Techniques for the Crossdresser

#### Week of June 22-28

Tues 6/24 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park  
 Thurs 6/26 7:00 p.m. TONI meeting (219-650-2142)  
 Sat 6/28 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, at the Femme Underground (146 N. Oak Park Ave.)

#### Week of June 29-July 5

Sund 6/29 Join CGS at the Gay Pride Parade and Rally - Starts at Halsted and Belmont  
 Wed 7/2 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, Blue Island (708-389-6688)  
 Thurs 7/3 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois 146 N. Oak Park Ave. (call 708-535-1506)

#### MARK YOUR CALENDARS

December 20, 1997  
**Puttin' On The Ritz**  
 Christmas Party/Dance  
 Ramada O'Hare

August 17  
**Chi-Chapter Picnic**  
 Sheila D's  
 (crossdressing allowed)



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