



GIRL TALK

Tenth Anniversary Edition, September, 1997 — Vol. 9, No. 9

The Powder Puffs of California

in association with

California Dreamin'

present

Powder Puffs' 10th Anniversary



On Saturday, September 20th at

the Burbank Holiday Inn the Powder Puffs of California will celebrate their tenth anniversary by holding a community-wide birthday gala.

"Has it been really been ten years?" muses Joan Goodnight, one of the founders of Powder Puffs.

"Must be," she retorts, "even the hair in my wig has turned gray!" How time flies when you're having fun.

And fun it just what is on the agenda at Burbank. No long, stuffy speeches. Instead, we will take full advantage of the Holiday Inn's marvelous Crystal Lounge.

The Crystal Lounge comes complete with a fully stocked bar (sorry, no-host) to go along with its spectacular view of the Los Angeles Basin. To ensure a good-time for all, Joan has order both hot and cold finger food, enough for a light meal (buffet menu on page 3).

Special room rates! Rooms \$79, Suites \$115. Call 818-841-4470. Remember, drinking and driving do not mix!

Tenth Anniversary Gala

Saturday, September 20, 1997

The not-to-be-missed social event of 1997 will be held at the Burbank Holiday Inn at 7:30 pm on Saturday, September 20th. Tickets are \$25 and can be purchased by writing to PPOC, P O Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92885 or at the door.

While the birthday bash is a formal-dress event, it will not be filled with long, boring speeches. It will be fun — Joan said so, so it must be true!

Budget tight? No formal outfit? Not to worry. Everyone is welcome !!! Just put on some lipstick and anything kinda dressy, and join us. No one needs to stay home and be lonely. Join us !!!

10th Anniversary Specials

Our friends in the private sector are helping us celebrate our tenth anniversary by offering a few specials to help us all look our very best. World of Wigs in Santa Ana is offering 10% off regular prices on wigs in stock. Also, they are offering 15% off one hour of electrolysis, body waxing, or Dermalogica products. Wait, that's not all. They will take 25% off European facials or one hour of reflexology

Please note: they do makeup also! So if you want to look your absolute best for the Gala in Burbank, contact World of Wigs, A Full Service Salon, 2305 E. 17th St, Santa Ana CA, 92701, 714-547-4461. Tell them you are from PPOC, they know all about us.

PHOTO OP !!!



The World of Wigs is again offering their makeover and photo package on the 13th of September (that is the second Saturday in September). Again, for further details, please contact World of Wigs, A Full Service Salon, 2305 E. 17th St, Santa Ana CA, 92701, 714-547-4461.



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Our Finest Moment

By Cyndi Silk

The 10th Anniversary of Powder Puffs has given me pause to reflect on Powder puffs and what it means to me and why I think it is important. During my reflection, I thought back to the memorable moment in my crossdressing life. It was the second California Dreamin'. I wrote an article about it which appeared in the CHIC Diary in June, 1994. I am reprinting here in Powder Puffs 10th Anniversary Edition with only a few changes — Cyndi

Rarely is one so fortunate as to be present at a seminal event which gives birth to new perspective which forever changes the way we view certain people or activities. One example of this, albeit in a much larger historical context, would be that memorable day when Rosa Parks made a stand for civil rights by sitting in the front of the bus, or when those four black college students sat down at the whites-only lunch counter of F. W.

Being in that hotel (the Burbank Holiday Inn), with . . . the California Highway Patrol officers dressed in their flak jackets and riot gear . . . brought us all much closer.

Woolworth store in Greensboro, North Carolina. Another example, more closer to our interests, would be the 1969 Stonewall Inn riots in New York's Greenwich Village. One common feature of these examples is that, at the time, the magnitude of these events was not readily apparent.

On a smaller scale, I believe that the second California Dreamin' convention may prove to be a seminal event for the crossdressing community, at least in the Southland. But if one considers the size and influence that Southern California has within the overall American culture, we may discover that the repercussions reverberate from sea-to-shining-sea.

So why is the second convention so important? Why not the first? Or the third for that matter? Or the fourth?

Well, that particular gathering took place amidst one of the worst riots in American history. Up until the very last minute, too very serious questions were being asked.

Would the convention be held at all?

If it were, would anyone attend?

Recall the beginning at a restaurant (now defunct) called the New York Company in the Silverlake district. I remember driving into Los Angeles along the 210 freeway nestled against the San Gabriel Mountains amid the smoke.

No, that was not a hill side burning, or excess smog created by an inversion layer. Rather that was the City, our City burning.

I particularly recollect that eerie feeling I had when I came to realize that I was alone on the freeway — the 210 Freeway on a Thursday during what normally would be rush hour! The only other cars I

saw were the local police who, by the way, deemed it necessary to travel in groups of squad cars. And there I was alone and crossdressed! It was as if I had just driven into some B-grade sci-fi movie. I remembering thinking to myself, "What the hell am I doing here dressed like this?!"

Miraculously, the show went on and crossdressing history was made. Being in that hotel (the Burbank Holiday Inn), with the riots going on all around us, and the California Highway Patrol officers dressed in their flak jackets and riot gear standing in the lobby next to all us crossdressers (gee, did anyone think to get a picture?) brought us all much closer.

Please see Dreamin', Page 6

President's Message

by Dee Grady

We're on the road to recovery, but we are not quite out of the woods, yet. I was really proud of those of you who made it to the August meeting. Not only did we raise \$150 for the battered woman's organization LAURA'S HOUSE, but a few people stepped up and contributed in one way or another to our own treasury. A few people took advantage of the yearly deal to pay in advance. Others paid their annual membership early, rather than waiting for the October meeting. A couple of people helped pay for the sandwiches and side dishes. In fact, we ran out of food for the first time ever and had to order a couple of pizzas.

We were not expecting a big turn out, based upon the June and July meetings. So, we decided to not get a changing room, to save the \$65.00 expense. Well, guess what? As it turned out we really needed one this time. So, I want to apologize to those who needed the room and were unable to change. One of our members has come forward and offered to help pay some of the cost for the changing room for future meetings, in exchange for letting her use the room to crash in after the meeting.

We still need some help. We are not expecting IFGE to reimburse us for the expenses we had for the UNITY Convention. I hope the rest of you, who could not make the last meeting, to do something in some helpful way to help us recover the lost.

Anyway, on to more happier topics. Like our 10th Anniversary Party and Reunion on the 20th of this month. The Board has been working hard to make this a major Southern California TG Community Event. Flyers have been made announcing the event. Visits to other organizations are planned, so the word gets out about it. The Party has even been put on the AMERICA ONLINE TG Community Bulletin Boards and INTERNET Newsgroups. Joan is sending out invitations to old members. Hope those old addresses are up to date!

Vendor Night is starting to come together with the help of Sue Simms. This has been one of our biggest meetings over the past 2 years. It should be just as big this year. Just remember one "minor" detail: VENDOR NIGHT is on OCT 4th. Sue should have a large array of vendors from beauty consultants to wigs. This is a fun night.

The Halloween Party! Lets not forget this, too. Can you say "BLAST"! That is what this is. Best dang Party this side of that Texas Spring BBQ put together by the Phillips' and a few of their friends. Food, fine beverages, dancing, costume contests, raffles, and smiles. What else can one ask for, in a Halloween Party anyway? Saturday October 25th, 7:30PM . . . BE THERE OR BE SQUARE!

I'm working on some quality speakers for the next few

meetings starting in November. I've already got speakers lined up through the February meeting. Maria from the LA Wig Bank is scheduled for November. In January, Kathryn Robbins will make a return visit. She came to our July meeting and was very helpful, so I've invited her back so those of you who missed her. She answered all our questions on makeup and skin care. For February, I've invited Lucy Silvey, a marriage and family therapist. Her topic will be "Dealing with Coming Out". Cyndi wants me to look into getting a speech therapist at a future meeting. Got any other ideas? Give them to me at a future meeting. Of course, I'll get you to help with the idea. That's what this is all about, helping out.

Hugs to all of you in the Community,

Dee

GALA IN BURBANK

Crystal Lounge

Le Menu Gourmand

Pour Commencer:

*tossed green salade
pasta salade*

Ensuite:

*oriental egg rolls
yakitori
chicken pineapple on a stick
fried zucchini
sliced ham, turkey, roast beef
assorted breads*

Les fromages:

*swiss cheese
amercian cheese*

Pour Dessert:

ambrosia salade

Burbank Holiday Inn, 150 E. Angeleno
St. Burbank, CA 818-841-4770



QUEENSPEAK

by Joan Goodnight

CROSS-TALK — THE FINAL CHAPTER

I wasn't going to write a column for this issue, but the announcement on the Internet and in last month's issue of this newsletter by *Cross-Talk* owner Kym Richards that she was throwing in the towel after many months of being on a self-imposed hiatus prompted me to change my mind.

It was October 1996, when the last issue of *Cross-Talk* was mailed out to its subscribers and the magazine was officially put on stop by its publisher. Ten months later the publisher posts an open letter telling us, in so many words, to kiss off for not supporting her magazine and computer bulletin board service. Business enterprises come and go and it's not unusual for a business owner to feel saddened when a long labor brings nothing but red ink and she is forced to close the doors. But I was mystified by the bitter tone of the farewell message, especially the taking to task of a community that has supported this publication for the past ten years and has generously offered to help her get back on her feet. What the publisher neglected to do is take any responsibility for the actions that led to this closure. The business failed because she didn't keep up with the times and technology, didn't upgrade her product to reflect the changing times, neglected to give her customers what they wanted in the way of a publication, and instead engaged in no-win senseless flame wars on the Internet concerning gender philosophy and doctrine.

Over the years *Cross-Talk* had evolved from a local monthly newsletter to a 50-page magazine that was distributed in major bookstores across the country. When entry into this market didn't bring the anticipated profits the publisher had hoped for she cut back on the content, trimmed contributing editors, and instead channeled the magazine in to a gender journal dedicated to expressing the views of an antiquated puritanical philosophy shared by her and one of her major contributors. While the publisher publicly proclaimed to follow the highest ethical standards she did just the opposite by breaching the contract with her subscribers and advertisers and diverted magazine subscription and advertising receipts to cover her personal expenses. To make matters worse, there was never an explanation issued until several months after the magazine ceased publication.

The dark tone of this farewell message with its hollow admonition to her readership for not spending their gender dollars on contributions and subscriptions is akin to Ralph Nader preaching about the dangers of the Chevrolet Corvair automobile

thirty-some years after General Motors ceased production of the car. In fact, the message reminded me of the parting missive of another infamous gender community troglodyte who resigned her directorship about a year and a half ago because the community would not adhere to her vision and antidemocratic persuasion. The two letters shared the similar tone of self-proclaimed martyrdom, i.e., "Look what I created for you and this is how you treat me." Obviously both parties were confused about the true definition of entrepreneurship. Since when is making a buck for a living considered community service?

They also attached a nonexistent global significance to their departure from the community scene, which in actuality, was nothing more than a one-handed self stroking of a bruised ego.

Times in genderland have changed dramatically in the past few years and it's up to the organizations and individuals in the community to keep abreast of these changes and adapt with them. If that doesn't happen; well I think you can figure that out for your selves. As far as *Cross-Talk* is concerned, we'll miss the magazine but certainly not the publisher — not with that attitude.

SHE'S BACK!!!

Yes, she's back! Just when you thought it was safe to go out again, that Human Hurricane, that Transvestite Tornado, that Christine Hochberg has returned (did she ever really go a way) to again present *Within the Hearts of Gender* on January 31, 1998.

I have only heard good things about this event which benefits the AIDS Hospices in Southern California. The *Version 1998* will again feature a dinner and beauty/talent contest. The info is as follows:

Within the Hearts of Gender

What: Dinner and beauty/talent show to benefit AIDS Hospices

Place: Burbank Holiday Inn

Time: Cocktails 6 pm, Dinner 7 pm

Showtime: 9 pm

Cost: \$30 per person for dinner, and additional \$20 to participate in the talent show

For more info: contact Michael Hochberg, 5259 [redacted], North Hollywood, CA 91607 or phone his pager at 818-327-3161



Future Meetings

Vendors Night

One of our most popular meeting nights is Vendors Night when we invite all our friends in the private sector to bring in their wares for us to buy. In other words, "Shop 'till you drop!"

One important twist this year.

This year's Vendors Night is on OCTOBER 4th.

Yes I know it's the first Saturday of the month. But the third Saturday (our regular meeting night) was booked. Through a very mutual agreement with the Holiday Inn we got the October 4th date!

So save your pennies and get ready for Vendors Night. Sue promises to have everything from spare hair, to jewelry, to makeup. Please note that a few vendors take credit cards.

Join us at our regular watering hole, the Placentia Holiday Inn, 118 E. Orangethorpe, Placentia, CA just east off the 57 freeway (exit Orangethorpe). You are advised to arrive early for the best selection — of food that is. Last month we ran a bit short and had to send out for a couple of pizzas.

Halloween Party

After taking into account the considerable success of last year's Monster Mash, the Board of Powder Puffs

voted to again hold a Halloween Party. This year's Bash will also take place at the Fullerton Holiday Inn — same as last year. No, not the Burbank Holiday Inn (that's the place for our 10th Anniversary Gala). No, not even the Placentia Holiday Inn (that's where we hold our regular meeting. Rather, we will be at the **FULLERTON** Holiday Inn in — surprise! — Fullerton (222 W. Houston).

We are planning to have prizes for best overall costume, best halloween theme costume, and best couples costume. Also, included will be food, fine beverages, dancing, and raffles. Julie from Complete Music has generously volunteered to supply the dancing sounds. The Party will take place on Saturday October 25th at 7:30 pm. Ticket prices are \$25 in advance, \$28 at the door. Tickets may be obtained by writing to PPOC, PO Box 1088, Yorba Linda, CA 92885.

All Hallow's Eve Special

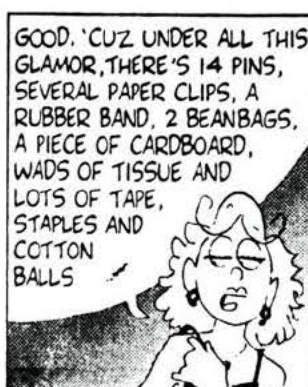
Kathryn Robbins Skin Care in Yorba Linda is offering a special for our Halloween Party! Many of you either know Kathryn or met her at our July meeting. Kathryn has been a friend of Powder Puffs for many years and wants to help us celebrate the crossdressers' unofficial national holiday — Halloween.

Kathryn is offering a very special makeover for Halloween. Those who are interested are asked to call 714-692-2747 for your makeover appointment. Ask for an appointment with Wendy Olson who will be there on October 25th. Cost will be about \$60. The makeover should take about one hour. Maybe longer for Ms. Hochberg — just kidding Christine.



Looks like Luann's going to the Anniversary Gala — and why not, she knows all the crossdresser's tricks!

Luann



By Greg Evans

The following article is taken from the May, 1994 (Vol. VIII, No. 3) edition of *Gender Euphoria*, The Journal of the Boulton and Park Society.

Reaching Out to Others

By Dave Nurmi, N. S. Products

Reprinted from *Gender Euphoria*

I receive many letters each day, week, month, and year and none has ever touched me like this one did. I have tried over 10 years, to reach into the closets and reach the person that is feeling alone and unworthy. This came to light again this month (March 94) when I was following up on an old mailing list. I was using the mailing to update and attempt to contact old customers and persons that I have not heard from in quite a while. I usually get back a large percentage of 'box closed' or 'move-forward expired', but when I opened this letter, I was devastated. I only share this letter with you because I feel that WE ALL need to attempt to reach the people like the one described in this letter I received. I have omitted some information for privacy of the family, and I have changed the name of the family involved. Most of you already know me and understand this is an honest effort to open your eyes and take that extra step through what ever means you have. Computer BBS, letter to the editor, letters to "Dear Abby" or any or those other publications, adult or regular.

Here is the letter. Please read it slowly and soak up all of the feelings. It will never leave your mind once you have read it.

February 28, 1994

You say it has been a long time since you have heard from my son. Well, I guess it has been. You say you would like to have him back with you. Well, so would I. We found him dead ** - ** - **. Your letter opened a lot of wounds again. My husband did not know of our son's crossdressing until we found him dead. In a wedding dress no less. I really feel sorry for the young and old who find the need to crossdress and the erotic sex that goes with crossdressing. Please don't send anymore mail to our home.

Thank you
Mother of 'John Smith'

Well, there it is. My hands still shake every time I read it. What could I have done differently to stop this tragedy? What could YOU have done differently to stop it?

I am not trying to point blame on any of us, but maybe, just maybe, one of us, you or I, could have said one sentence to him to help him understand that he is not alone. He is not a deviant.

He is not strange or alone. We are a community, and it is important that we all reach out, touch each other, and say, I am ok, we are ok, you are ok.

Well, enough of my preaching. Please, do not destroy this

letter from where ever you obtained it from. Place it in a place where you can read it, see it, remind you about where you were as a young man, how you felt. Did you feel alone, different, maybe even suicidal? Not everyone is strong enough to stand up through that kind of pressure.

DREAMIN'

continued from Page 2

What the heck, we couldn't go anywhere so we made our own fun. People started talking with each other, sharing problems, hopes, dreams. In short, it brought the community together in a way that could not have been otherwise achieved.

If there was one moment which crystallized the entire event it would be Saturday night's performance by the then "Steppin' Out" (subsequently renamed "Movin' On"). What many expected as the curtain went up was your usual amateurish song-and-dance routine with the acts separated by polite applause. But what we got instead was a slick, polished, professional-looking show complete with high-tech lighting and sound showcasing the enormous talent in the community. Even a few officers were intrigued enough to sneak a peek inside to get a glimpse of what was going on.

It reminded me to the time I went to the 1976 Rose bowl. At halftime the gutty-little-Bruins from UCLA were down 3-0 against a powerful Ohio State team. Yet, when you talk with people afterward, it seemed that everyone in the 100,000+ crowd had a shared realization — UCLA was going to win!

Similarly, after that performance by Steppin' Out, a lot of those who gushed out of the banquet room spilling out into the lobby and eventually commandeered the Crystal Lounge had a shared realization; the realization being that we are not a bunch of deviates or psychopaths suitable only as butts of jokes, or subjects in abnormal psychology studies, or rating boosters for sagging television talk shows. But rather, we're creative people with special talent and a keen insight. Seeing the energy and talent on stage caused many to look within themselves where they were shocked to find their own special talents and worthiness as individuals. For the first time in their lives, some people were actually *proud* of what they are and do. Ah, such is the value and power of art.

Now if you stayed with me this far, I would direct your attention to the article at the top of this page (Page 6). Here I've repeated a very tragic story. One which will, unfortunately probably be repeated by someone else in some other place. When I read that story, I couldn't help but ponder what "John Smith's" decision regarding his life would have been had he seen that moving performance by "Steppin' Out" at California Dreamin' at the Burbank Holiday Inn, or attended one of the many, many classes speakers from various crossdressing clubs throughout the United States do of colleges and universities, or spoken to volunteers on various Hotlines. It's time we realize Powder Puffs, and other clubs like it, do play a positive role in the community, one that needs to continue (and expand?).

***Powder Puffs of California
10-Year Anniversary Gala & Reunion***



Saturday, September 20, 1997

at the

Burbank Holiday Inn

150 E. Angeleno Street

7:30 pm to Midnight

Buffet Dinner

No Host Bar

\$25.00 per person

OR \$40 PER COUPLE

COME AND JOIN US TO HELP US CELEBRATE

MAKE NEW FRIENDS

RENEW OLD CONTACTS

For more information call 714--779-9013

or e-mail PPOC@aol.com or Dreamin96@aol.com

Powder Puffs & Pathfinders'

4th Annual Halloween Party

Saturday, October 25, 1997

at the

Fullerton Holiday Inn

222 W. Houston St.

7:30 pm to Midnight

\$25.00 pre-event / \$28.00 at the door

Buffet Dinner, Dancing, Costume Contests, No Host Bar, Raffles



For more information call 714-779-9013

or e-mail PPOC@aol.com or Dreamin96@aol.com

