



The Phi Journal



ISSUE 20

Editor - Wendi Beeman

JANUARY 1987

GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLISHER

First some housekeeping:

* If you were at the October meeting and were not at the November meeting, please drop a card to Wendi with your mailing name and femme name. No address required. This is needed to extend your "subscription" to this newsletter.

* If we are not sure of your attendance or non-attendance at the November meeting, you will find a 3 January "Dear Reader" insert.

* If you have not attended a meeting recently and not contributed to postage costs, there is a 4 January insert.

* If you need Wendi's mailing address, here it is:

D. Beeman

P.O. Box 2512

West Chester, PA 19380

* No insert? Not to worry.

Jane [REDACTED]

GREETINGS FROM THE EDITOR

Since there was no meeting in December, the Phi Journal takes this opportunity to wish all you lovely ladies a very Happy Holiday Season. And may you have a very healthy, prosperous, and beautiful New Year!

SPEAKING OF NEW YEAR

Couple of things to keep in mind. If you took in the Mummers' Parade, Philadelphia's traditional way to welcome in the New Year, did you look for the Female Impersonators in the parade? Some of them are very good. Most of them appear with the Fancy Clubs.

And speaking of the Mummers' Parade, you might check out the beautiful costume exhibit at the Port of History Museum celebrating Rio's Carnival. The 40-costume exhibit runs through 18 January, and the only way to describe it is dazzling.

Brazil's carnival is much like the Mummers' Parade, although it ushers in Lent. Like the Mummers' Parade it has working class roots and often features men parading in dresses.

The Port of History Museum is open 1030 to 1640, Wednesday through Sunday. It's located at Delaware Avenue and Walnut Street on Penn's Landing. Admission is \$2.00.

WORTH REPEATING

Lynda Frank's comments in Issue 49 of *Tapestry* magazine on "A TV Shopping Guide" are worth repeating.

The article tells you how to go about shopping and has some very pertinent information if you are among the adventuresome and like to do your own shopping while dressed. It sure beats shopping out of a catalog for several reasons. First, you are assured of a proper fit, meaning no exchanges (which can be costly, time consuming, and perhaps embarrassing). Second, there is no pleasure like shopping dressed. Believe me. I know. (I am putting together the shopping list, promised earlier. Will let you know when I finish it.)

Here are Lynda's rules, which I heartily ascribe to:

1. First and foremost, familiarize yourself with the surroundings. Go there once as your male self. Take note of entrances, parking lots, and store layouts. Check out areas you will want to avoid.
2. Make sure you are relaxed. Try a glass of warm milk to relax or try some antacid tablets or a long, secluded walk. Do NOT use drugs or alcohol to relax. You have to be able to handle any situation that might arise. If you need drugs or alcohol, you are NOT ready to shop.
3. Dress and makeup should be the best you can do. A neat appearance will go a long way in helping you. Dress for the occasion. Don't dress for Saks Fifth Avenue if you are going to K-Mart. Consider the time of day you will be shopping. Remember it is a shopping trip, not a cocktail party! It's a good idea to dress a "half notch" down so as to avoid attracting undue attention.
4. Be aware of and practice feminine behavior. This relates to posture, walking, sitting, and general mannerisms. For example:
 - * Women walk more slowly than men (heels, if for no other reason);
 - * Women never look back or over their shoulder when accosted by someone's comment;
 - * Women walk straight down the center of the aisle and do not make way for oncoming male traffic.There are others, but the key is observation, awareness, practice, and mental concentration.

Your objective is to minimize the risk of being read. We said *minimize* because you must expect to be read by some of the people some of the time. You must realize that it is a salesperson's job to watch customers closely, both from the standpoint of helping them and of preventing shoplifting. When buying something you will be face-to-face with a salesperson, and unless you are exceptional, you will be read.

Here is a plan for "doing a mall", based on our expecting to be read by sales clerks, and using that fact to our advantage:

1. Enter the mall via a store entrance rather than a main entrance. Too many people mill around at main entrances, and they're likely to check you out.

2. Go directly to the women's department.
3. Make sure you are in the correct size area. A 5' 10" woman does not belong in the petites.
4. Browse through the racks. Don't worry about the lady on the other side. She's too busy looking at the clothes. Be concerned about her husband, who is probably checking out all the girls.
5. Notice the salespeople.
6. If a salesperson notices you, don't run and hide. Instead, smile, nod and make eye contact, make friends, then slowly move on.
7. After this phase leave the store without buying anything.
8. Walk the mall or visit another store.
9. Now return to your first store, noting any change in the overall situation. You now have an advantage; you've been there before, the salespeople recognize you and have gotten over their initial shock, you are more comfortable.
10. The sales clerks' attitudes will indicate if you are welcome. If so, stay and shop. If not, leave!

In general, we have found salespeople to be sympathetic, welcoming, and helpful. Via our "water testing" first appearance, we have been able to ascertain the sales clerks' degree of acceptance.

In summary we say, "Act confident!" No one is going to jump down your throat. In fact, you'll find that most (almost all) women will be helpful, interested, willing to talk, and - above all - friendly. Try to deal with women salespeople as much as possible, as they seem to be more sensitive and open to crossdressers.

Don't be afraid, however, to approach a male salesperson in a store that caters to big/tall women or which carries large size shoes. These men have probably seen more CD's than you have ever met.

FAMILIAR FACES

A couple of familiar faces appear in the same issue (49) of *Tapestry*. In fact, Pam Van Buren is featured on the cover in living color. Pam lives in New York state but has made a number of Phi Chapter meetings.

Our Angela Gardner graces page 118.

I am surprised that more Pennsylvanians, Delawareans, and Jerseyites do not take advantage of the personal listings. *Tapestry* is certainly a quality magazine and reflects highly on the phenomenon of cross-dressing. All publications should be as classy. For more information write to *Tapestry*, P.O.Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778.

TIDBITS FROM OTHER NEWSLETTERS

In a recent issue of the Educational TV Channel (ETVC) Newsletter, the group reported that the mother of one of its members had attended a meeting and had even won a raffle prize. (ETVC is a California-based group, and the mother had come all the way from the East Coast.

When asked what she thought of the group, the mother replied: "There's no reason to be judgmental; we ALL have something in our closets." She called support organizations like ETVC and Phi Chapter "lifesavers."

Who could have said it more beautifully or succinctly? Thanks, Mom!

NOVEMBER MEETING

I understand the November meeting was highly successful. There were some 19 CD's, including 3 new girls. One of these was Alison, who had just been elected Miss Congeniality at Fantasia Fair. At least four "partners" (spouses/significant others) attended, several for the first time. Jane reports that guest Barbara Anderson's discussion was very well received. We look forward to seeing you all again, real soon.

Most heartening was the interest and involvement of the partners and talk of starting a support group just for them. Personally, I think it's great. Other CD organizations have found partner support groups to be very helpful to all concerned.

As we go about satisfying our own desires and fantasies, no one can be more left out than our partners. It is important that we share with them our feelings, and more important, that we listen and consider their feelings, too.

TREASURERS REPORT

Here is Emily's report through November:

On hand after September meeting	\$28.00
Net proceeds of October meeting	\$25.00

22 November receipts

attendance fees 19 x \$15	\$285.00
donations	21.00
thrift shop	3.00
total	\$362.00

22 November disbursements

Selma - 19 x \$12	\$228.00
Barbara - honorarium	75.00
total	\$303.00

On hand after 22 November meeting	\$59.00
-----------------------------------	---------

Thank you, Emily!

JANUARY MEETING

Saturday 22 January is the date of our next meeting. Let's hope the weather is clement. Our featured guest is Dr. Reinhardt (Bud) Heuer, an associate professor in speech pathology at Temple University. Bud was the speech consultant at the last three Fantasia Fairs. He has had extensive experience and success in helping CD's achieve a more feminine speech pattern. He will not make us into coloraturas, but he will suggest a few easily-remembered things we can do to help improve our voices. Many of us know how to achieve the gorgeous look, but we spoil the illusion when we open our mouths. Come and learn. Please give Selma a call at 609 428 8448 to help her plan for the evening.

Another important item of business is to make definite plans for our banquet in May. See next heading.

MAY MEETING

May meeting? Yes. The month of May may seem like a long way in the future, but we are planning for an event that requires advance commitment. Plans are underway to hold a banquet in May at the end of our season. It's something we have talked about for several years, but have never gotten around to doing until this year.

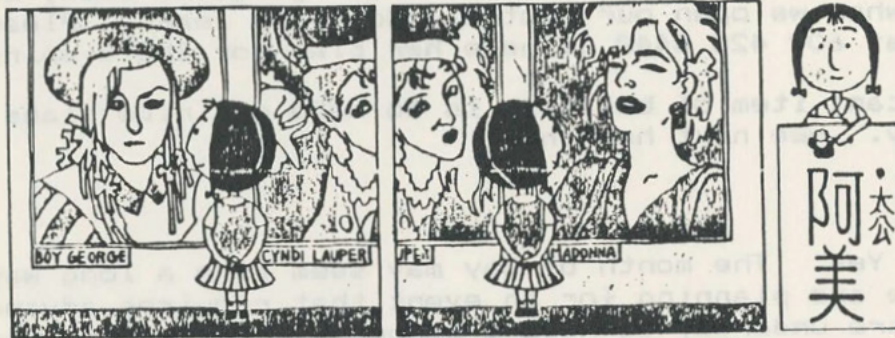
Tina's beautiful daughter Sheri, a real friend of Phi Chapter as many of you know, has located an establishment in the Lindenwold area that will welcome us and take care of our special needs, full security, etc. She has a hold on Saturday evening, 23 May 1987, the regular date for our meeting. This will be an opportunity to wear your dressiest outfit, a long formal if you wish, to enjoy a good meal, and to socialize on a more "public" basis. We don't mean public-public, but a private room at a nice dining place.

The cost, including an open bar, will be between \$30 and \$35 each, assuming that about 40 persons attend. We must know by the end of January how many persons will want to take advantage of this unusual opportunity. Obviously we need money up front to reserve the date. To be specific, \$20 per person. If you want to be a part of this, please bring your deposit to the January meeting. If for some reason you will not be at Selma's on the 24th, mail your deposit to me so that I will have it BEFORE 24 January. No plastic money. Cash or check payable to Beeman Associates. (Address: D. Beeman, P.O. Box 2512, West Chester, PA 19380.) The balance will be collected at the door in May.

Mendi

"AH MEI" COMIC STRIP

FROM: CENTRAL DAILY NEWS (CHUNG-YANG JIH-PAO),
TAIPEI, TAIWAN, 22 NOVEMBER 1986.



"IT'S OVER! IF THE MASCULINE ALL HAS BECOME
 LIKE THIS, THEN FROM NOW ON HOW CAN THOSE
 OF US WHO ARE FEMININE BE 'CONFUSED' ? "

(TRANSLATED BY SUZANNE N. CHAN,
 RAINBOW GENDER ASSOCIATION,
 SAN JOSE, CALIFORNIA --)