



The Phi Journal



ISSUE 29

Editor - Wendi Beeman

JANUARY 1988

GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLISHER

I hope you all enjoyed a great holiday season. For me, the joint Phi Chapter/ Renaissance dinner on the *Moshulu* was a fabulous beginning.

President Tina Louise has arranged for the "Seasons" color consultants to be at our January meeting at Selma's on the 23rd. They will present a program on accessorizing, i.e. how to optimize your total look. Those of you who were at our meeting last March will remember the magic performed by Lois, Jean, and Cynthia. I am looking forward very much to learning from them more about the selection of accessories.

Come to the January meeting to enjoy the program and to socialize. More importantly, come to "vote with your feet" for the continuation of the Phi Chapter. Selma's letter, which follows, explains why. *Jane*

LETTER FROM SELMA

5 January 1988

Dear Members,

First I want to wish you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous New Year. I want also to thank my wig customers, as I really appreciate your business.

I am writing this letter because I am disappointed in the attendance of the group. At the October meeting we had only eight members attending. I realize it was the week of Fantasia Fair in Provincetown, but we have usually had more than that. In November we only had four members attend. I realize that we met on the third Saturday instead of the fourth Saturday, but the group knew this in September.

The meetings have been held in my home since October, 1984. It takes a lot of effort to have a party. I get calls all month that have to be screened. There is the shopping and preparing before the party. That evening there is the serving of the buffet, and then there is the clean up afterwards. And don't forget the thrift shop clothes that have to be stored and sold. So when only a handful of people show up, it's not worth all the effort. Maybe you are no longer interested.

If you are interested, come out and attend the next meeting. Give the group some input, and tell us what you want from the group. If you don't come out, it doesn't pay to have a party for four people.

See you in January!

Selma

WHAT'S PLAYING AT THE MOVIES

There's a new "drag to riches" movie making the rounds. It's called *Too Outrageous* and stars Canadian-born impersonator Craig Russell and Hollis McLaran. The film was showing last month at the Roxy Screening Room on Sansom Street.

You may recall that Russell starred with McClaran in another movie a few years back titled *Outrageous*, which got fairly good reviews if only for his impersonations. Russell, who does a wild Betty Midler among his impressions, played a gay hairdresser who befriends a very schizophrenic, pregnant young woman (McLaran) before landing a job as an impersonator in a down and nearly out New York nightclub.

The reviews for *Too Outrageous* were pretty much the same as for *Outrageous*.

Another new movie, *He's My Girl*, was reviewed by Tri-S Alpha Chapter's newsletter. It's about a midwestern song writer who wins a trip to Hollywood to show off his music. A condition of winning is that he must take his best friend to Hollywood with him. And the best friend must be a girl.

You guessed it. His best friend is Reggie, who entered his name in the contest in the first place. So Reggie becomes Regina, and the fact that Regina is black adds to the turn of events. Much of the story line is predictable, according to the review. Regina gets high marks, however, for passing.

Look for Ted Danson, the star of *Cheers* now that Shelly Long is no longer around, to do his drag bit in a new movie, *Three Men and a Baby*. The movie got lukewarm reviews after opening in this area. The movie is based on a French production, *Three Men and a Cradle*.

DRIVEN TO CHANGE

According to a newspaper article, a Detroit man was awarded \$1 million in damages after he was struck by a soft-drink company truck. In his suit, Joe Pickens told the court that after the accident his sexual orientation had changed. He preferred to be called Tiffany instead of Joe.

SOME THINGS TO CHECK OUT

Cross-Port, a Cincinnati support group, says there's a great place in Newport, KY (41071), to buy sexy clothes at rather modest prices. The shop is called The Thing and is at 811 Monmouth Street. It is advertised as "Newport's Undieworld." The telephone number is 606 431 4469. The shop caters to show girls and to crossdressers.

According to Cross-Port, custom-made leather skirts are sold for \$50. Owner Mary and her assistant, Bob, design many special gowns for female impersonators in the area. Mary told Jane that she can make almost anything. If you send her a picture of the dress you would like, indicate what material you want, and give her your measurements and phone number, she will call you with the price, and you can go on from there.

As an indication of her prices, she told Jane that her floor-length sequin gowns go for about \$120. Sounds reasonable.

The *Emerald City News* reports that the Hollywood Illusion Studio in Hollywood offers two very good yet inexpensive devices to further your illusion of femininity. One device, called a gender bender, helps to tuck it in down below. It sells for \$22 in red or black. The other device helps to create cleavage. It reportedly can be used with silicone breast forms to create quite a figure. It sells for \$20. See the card on page 4 for address and phone number.

MOTHER EARTH DISCOVERS DRAG

There's an article in the Fall issue of *Mother Earth* magazine on "Drag and the Male Image." Some comments by the author on how he imagined he would look in a drag, and how he actually looked, are all too familiar to anyone who crossdresses.

The magazine is expensive, about \$5 an issue. It is noteworthy to see an article on drag, gay drag at that, appearing in a magazine which is not devoted to female impersonation but rather produces articles on a wide variety of subjects for a rather broad audience.

PLANNING TO FLY TO THE IFGE CONVENTION ?

American Airlines is offering special Meeting Saver Fares to the IFGE's second annual convention, scheduled for 24-28 February in Chicago. For details on the discount fares, call the airline's meeting service desk, toll free at 1 800 433 1790. Ask for star file #S-81959.

POCONO GET-A-WAY WEEKEND SLATED

Creative Design Services is sponsoring *Paradise in the Poconos*, a four-day, three-night event for TV's, TS's, and TG's on 2-5 June, 1988. The cost for the weekend is \$225 per person. This includes meals and accommodations. A deposit of \$50 (fully refundable up to 30 days prior to the event) is required when you book, with the balance due by 31 March.

The brochure says that the event will offer clinics on makeup and hair-styling, photo services, a costume party, clothing sales, and a Pocono Princess contest. For more details or to send a deposit, write to Creative Design Services, P.O. Box 1263, King of Prussia, PA 19406, or phone 215 640 9449.

Wendi

QUOTES OF THE MONTH

"Why not? I looked better in dresses than he does." *Milton Berle*,
(claiming that he was Boy George 30 years before there was a Boy George)

"You only pass (no pun intended) this way once. Why not pass in as dignified manner as possible? If people laugh at you, laugh back at them. Learn to be happy with yourself!" *The Window*, a publication of Window to the World Services, Inc.

TREASURER'S REPORT

| | |
|---|----------|
| On hand after 24 October meeting | \$53.00 |
| 28 November receipts | |
| attendance fees - 4 x \$15 | \$60.00 |
| total | \$113.00 |
| 28 November disbursements | |
| Selma - 4 x \$12 | \$48.00 |
| Balance forward after 28 November meeting | \$65.00 |

Emily

FUTURE MEETINGS

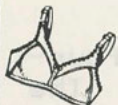
| <u>Date</u> | <u>Program</u> |
|---------------|---|
| 23 January | Accessorizing, by Seasons color consultants |
| 27 February * | Open |
| 26 March * | Show, by Doris of Shelly's Tall Fashions |

* Check with Selma (609 [REDACTED]) to confirm meeting.

Since I expect to be away from home in February, I'm planning to publish the next Phi Journal in March.

Jane

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