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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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JANUARY 1999

Sisters in Charge:

CAMILLE
JEAN
KATHY [REDACTED]
PATTI [REDACTED]

**THE JANUARY BELLES MEETING HAS
BEEN CHANGED TO JANUARY 9 !**

Hello, Ladies!

I hope you've been enjoying the holidays and the good feelings that accompany them. If you attended the Belles Christmas Party on December 5th, then you are aware of the wonderful time everyone had. Be sure to check out Jennifer's and Nancy's thoughts on that evening (page 3). Seeing sisters that I have not seen for awhile made me very happy. I was hoping to publish a few photos from the evening's festivities but with my hands full and a deadline to meet it wasn't possible. They will be in the next issue. That issue will also mark the debut of the new name of the newsletter.

The highlight of the evening was the honoring of those sisters who have contributed much to the success and continuation of the Buffalo Belles over the years. Recognized for their efforts were: Denise [REDACTED], Janice [REDACTED], Jean [REDACTED], Kathy [REDACTED], Patti [REDACTED] and Camille [REDACTED]. It is hoped their efforts will inspire others to step forward to pitch in the necessary work that keeps this organization going.

Well, I think I'll let some of our other members inform you of various goings on here at Buffalo Belle central. Have a happy and safe New Year.

Hugs,
Camille

HAPPY NEW YEAR



KATHY'S COLUMN

RENEWAL TIME AGAIN



Yes, the after holiday sales are about to get going. With all the money you'll be saving, paying your dues should be easier. On that very envelope that this missive arrived in is all the information you need. 1. How much? Easy one, look at your name, right next to it will typically be "R-25" or another figure.

That's what you owe. Of course, if you are one of the really good girls, you may have "PD-99" there showing you are already paid up. If you are having financial troubles and can't afford to pay, just request a variance with one of the officers.

As in years past, we'll keep everyone on the mailing list through the March issue of the Buffalo Belles Newsletter. If you are not renewing, we'd VERY MUCH like to know why. The loss of sisters each year is always a perplexing problem and we'd sure like to know why. OK?

As for a financial report, I'll try to have one for next month. I can give you a quick assessment: We've lost money in the last year. With the increase in rent, and a decrease in attendance, we slipped into the negative on our meetings. As in the past, our overhead of the newsletter, PO Box, and info-line phone was equal to the dues. We still have about three hundred dollars in the kitty, but having dropped about 200 in the last year, we could be heading into trouble next year. Now wasn't that simple. Don't you wish all your stock reports were as concise and understandable. So keep those checks coming! At least here, you know you receive love on your return!

LAST MONTH'S ADVERTISEMENT MAILING:

At least one member was concerned about whether we had given our mailing list away to the special mailing for *Newbury Street*. No, we did the mailing for them. They never saw our membership list.

DECEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE:

We had the largest meeting in over a year for our Christmas party. In attendance were the following members:

Denise, Joy, Cindy, Jean, Becky, Donna, Janice, Camille, Celeste, Patti, Susan, Jennifer, Holly, Crystal, Nancy, Dana, Vaughn, and a couple of past members: Melissa, and Kathryn. Plus a couple of guests: Karen from Tennessee and Brenda from Pittsburgh.

NOVEMBER ATTENDANCE:

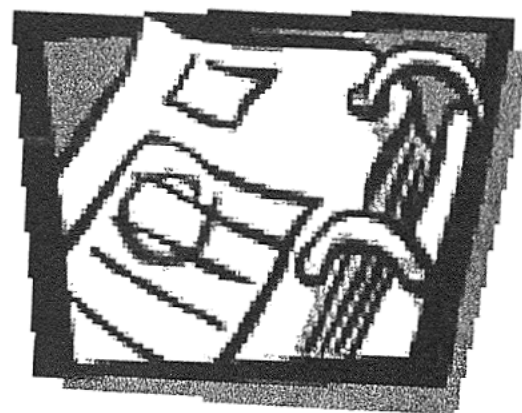
Oops, got left out last month, and knowing how much we all like to see our name in such a respectable journal as this: Janice, Crystal, Holly, Debbie, Patti, Robin (finally!), Becky, Kim, Camille, Nancy, Susan and old friend and member, Teresa.

1999 MEETING DATES: (Well at least half of them)

In the last couple of months, we have started using another area as our meeting room of choice. This is what is best described as the original living room in the original house that our site is using. For those who've been to meetings, you'll know this area: comfy couches and a fireplace. Plus warmer than our usual room. So if it looks real dark and unfriendly in our usual place, head on in to the living room. Our hosts have no problem with our using this room, as long as another group isn't scheduled to be there.

JANUARY 9 - A change from last months listing.
FEBRUARY 6- This will be in our alternative room, up stairs, by the fire escape.

MARCH 13
APRIL 3
MAY 1
JUNE 5



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Or E-mail to:
[redacted]@usa.net

JENNIFER'S THOUGHTS

Well it's the morning after.... The morning after the Christmas Party that is. *WOW* what a great evening. It was only my third meeting, but it was the best yet. Attending the monthly meetings is probably the thing that I look forward to most every month, a chance for some serious female bonding and meeting new people each time I am there. If my count was right we had 21 or 22 people in attendance. Two of the attendees coming from as far away as Pittsburgh, and Virginia (I think). Wouldn't it be great to reciprocate, and visit their groups meeting? I guess the reputation of the Buffalo Belles Christmas Party really travels!

A very significant part of the meeting was honoring the founders and the past and present leaders of our group. I myself will never be able to find the proper words that convey the thanks I feel for their efforts to keep our group going year after year so that it was here for me.

The evening had a Grande finale of Camille, Joy, and myself heading to the Marriott. It was while we were there that my foot ended up in my mouth by telling Camille that I would try my best to write a column for the newsletter. Well I can't speak for Joy or Camille but I really enjoyed the evening, the music the company, and closing the place down. It was a great experience, walking in and being greeted at the door with a "Welcome Ladies" and I even got a definite intense look from a real sexy hunk. Talk about a fantasy come true (the first of many I hope).

You see girls once we get beyond our fears; we are members of the general public just like everyone else out there. I still remember my first trip out in public, what a disaster. Not because I didn't look the part, but because I didn't act the part. I was constantly looking around to see if anyone was watching me, and the best way to get noticed is to act like you don't want to get noticed (you know, constantly looking around to see if you are being noticed. It's a dead give away). I think every person in the Eastern Hills Mall read me. It's a horrifying experience, but at the same time it was the best experience of my life. It was my first appearance as Jennifer and it was an experience I will treasure forever and never forget.

This is another first experience for me. I have never written far a newsletter before. I hope it is something that you will enjoy. If it is or if it isn't please let me know. If there is any subject that you would like to see, please tell me. You can do this when you call the Belles Info-line to check on the next meeting or current events or at my e-mail address:

[redacted]hotmail.com. Also if you would like to visit my Web Page the address is: [http://members.tgforum.com/\[redacted\]](http://members.tgforum.com/[redacted]). If you visit, there is a direct link to my e-mail account, along with many helpful links to some very interesting sites.

Next month column will talk about the transgendered people in history. Be sure to read it. I guarantee it will not be what you are expecting.

NANCY'S NOTES

Hi again, Girls!

Kudos to all for the super Christmas party. The huge turnout of lovely ladies in their holiday finest was a Kodak moment. Did anyone notice the pizza was disguised as cold cuts and cookies? Special recognition to Karen who flew up from Nashville to be my guest. She is a long time member of the Tennessee Vals, and told me she was very impressed with the positive attitude of everyone who was there. I hope everyone had a wonderful Christmas. May God continue to bless us all. The assurance of God's love makes the crossgendered experience all the more joyful.

Your sister,
Nancy

ROCHESTER TG FRIENDLY SHOPPING SITES:



Some of us feel a little uneasy about shopping in the local stores. There is always the chance that some neighbors, friend's wife, co-worker, etc., might spot us and question why we are buying that makeup, shoes or frock. Nancy has passed along a few gender friendly shops in Rochester that you

might want to consider, if one wishes to lessen the chances of being "caught".

1. Brunhilde's Consignment Boutique--Shoes, purses, jewelry, dresses, lingerie. (private dressing room available) 2933 West Henrietta Rd. (Rte 15)-716-475-9340
2. Belle Grande Shoes--sizes to 15-180 N. Winton Rd. 716-482-1876
3. Cassandra's Fashion Gallery--Evening gowns, wedding dresses, jewelry--tends to be expensive. Greece Ridge Center Mall-Rte 104 near I-390--716-227-7940

Quote of the Month

Prejudice

The tendency of the casual mind is to pick out or stumble upon a sample which supports or defies its prejudices, and then to make it the representative of a whole class.

Walter Lippmann (1889-1974), U.S. journalist. *Public Opinion*, ch. 3, sct. 10 (1929).

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

MOTHER AWARDED \$2.9 MILLION FOR WRONGFUL DEATH OF TYRA HUNTER

On Friday, December 11, a Washington, DC Superior Court jury awarded Margie Hunter nearly \$2.9 million in damages in the wrongful death civil suit she had brought against the city. Hunter is the mother of Tyra Hunter, born Tyrone Michael, who died on August 7, 1995. After sustaining critical injuries in a car accident, Tyra Hunter was denied treatment by firefighter and emergency medical technician (EMT) Adrian Williams when he learned that the transgender woman was anatomically male.

While Williams was not himself held liable, the DC Fire Department was, as were the DC General Hospital and its attending emergency room physician Dr. Joseph Bastien, who allegedly misread x-rays (which are now missing) and neglected to provide her with blood which was at that point available.

"The jury members obviously believed the material facts that were carefully presented in attorney Rick Silber's case," said Jessica [redacted] of Transgender Nation. "Moreover, I think they came to see Tyra as an ordinary human being, just trying to make her life work, when it was taken from her by the proven negligence of city health care professionals whose duty it was to treat her."

"I think there's an element of hypocrisy when people denounce the president because he lied about his private sexual affairs. Some of the people who are now attacking the president for lying about sex are some of the people who criticized me for telling the truth about it."

--Gay U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., addressing the International Network of Lesbian and Gay Officials Conference Nov. 21 in Cathedral City, Calif.

OREGON COURT FINDS FOR LESBIAN AND GAY RIGHTS:

In a decision issued Wednesday, December 9, the Oregon Court of Appeals found that the state constitution requires same-sex domestic partners of state and local government workers to be offered the same benefits as those offered to opposite-sex spouses.

While Oregon began to comply with this voluntarily last June, the decision in the case, *Tanner v. Oregon Health Sciences University*, makes the current policy binding. The judges found that "denial of insurance benefits to the unmarried partners of its homosexual employees" violates the "equal privileges and immunities" clause of the state constitution.

Beatrice Dohrn, legal director of the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund (LLDEF), which filed an amicus brief in the case, observed, "The court said that the state discriminates against gay people when it uses marital status to determine which workers are entitled to government-controlled protections and benefits." She continued, "This ruling should help us stop anti-gay discrimination in other contexts - from family law to the right to make medical decisions for a partner who is incapacitated."

Know of a news item and wish others knew about it?
Call the Info-line: 446-2661
Or e-mail it or the source to:

[redacted]@usa.net

FOR A BETTER YOU...



WALKING THAT WALK

One of the most likely ways to be "read" in public is in the way we walk, and a lot of that isn't just that we are not walking like a female! How does a female walk? Simply putting on high-heels is a great help, as the leg movements have to be different from those if you were wearing trainers, but if you are fairly tall like me and do not wish to look even taller than you already are, then it is more than "feminine" leg movements that will determine to the general public whether I am male or female. However, walking too much like a female can also be a big give away, and certainly wearing high heels and fishnet tights won't help your cause! Indeed we can often try to talk, behave, walk etc. etc. too much like what we conceive the female to do. Study women in the street. Study the clothes they wear. Often, indeed more often they look and act more masculine than we do! My trick is to walk behind a female of the same height and build as me. I copy them. They probably have jeans and trainers on, and probably walk faster than we expect, but the leg movements will not be as big as that of a man, and the arm movements will definitely be different - So before I look at every point I can think of separately let me leave you with one thought. If you are confident and you know yourself to be a female, it should all come naturally to you anyway! If I have terrible shoes on, look very unfemale BUT feel very confident out in public, I know I will not have any problems. It is a psychological interaction that is important.

SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:

- Women make smaller leg movements than men.
- Women walk slower than men.
- Women move their arms more than men and usually the back of the hand faces the front. The arm movements are

also not close to the body as their breasts get in the way!

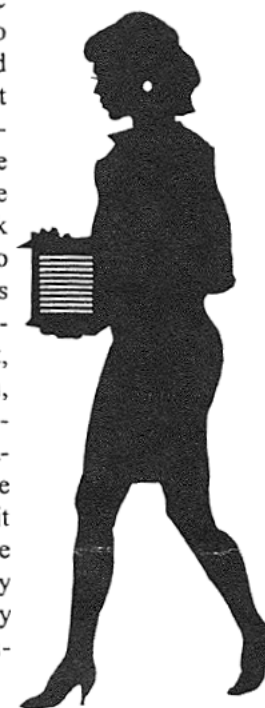
- Women jump off and onto the curb rather than lifting the legs high.
- Women often cross their legs when sitting. They do not have them splayed out wide apart, though if there are packages on their laps they are likely to have both legs on the ground but touching.

SOME DO'S AND DON'TS!

- DO walk upright, not bowed down. It looks unconfident and unfeminine. Head up, go for it!
- DON'T walk or act too much in a hurry, as it can give you away. You'll get hot and sticky, and if you are like me running to catch a train, will look too masculine, your voice will deepen when you ask for a ticket, and probably be shaking (not nerves, but the effect of running there)!
- DON'T slow down as you see a group of pedestrians approaching you. Or, as is most likely, DON'T speed up.
- DON'T start fiddling about with keys, purse, handbag, tights etc. nor look at the time to try to take attention away from "you" when people approach you. You actually raise attention, and you probably do it without thinking as it is nerves!
- DON'T cross the road! This actually brings you more attention, and they will then see your side movements which may not be too feminine anyway!

- DON'T overdo the clothes and especially the makeup. It's a give away. Wear what is suitable for the occasion and time of day. Remember, genetic women have learned over the years what is correct, and are therefore likely to have more experience than you!

From Janine's Page



FOR A BETTER YOU...

How To Handle A Read

by Angela Gardner

You've just spent hours shaving, putting on make up and slipping into your nicest conservative daytime outfit. You've primped, plucked and powdered. You top it off with your sexy new lipstick, take a final look in the mirror at the gorgeous, passable woman there and climb into your car. As you drive to your objective for the day, perhaps a trip to a friendly store, a walk through a distant mall or dinner with a friend. You feel confident and feminine. The jangled nerves of getting to the car and out of your neighborhood are beginning to settle down.

Then, as you wait at a red light with your hands on the wheel in your most graceful pose, you hear an ominous sound. A strange cackling and hooting is coming from the car next to your or behind you or across the intersection. Yes... you've just been read.

At this point, most of us are more than a little red at being read. No one likes to feel that she wasted two or three hours of preparation time spent that day, not mention the hours and hours of perfecting her feminine ways in the past years just to be read by the first carload of cretins to drive by. How do you deal with being read? What should you do and what shouldn't you do.

You should try not to hide. Get away from the area certainly, but don't hide. That only draws more attention to yourself. Lying down on the car seat or jumping behind a bush may seem like the only thing to do, but it is not something a real woman would do. The act of hiding will only confirm the reader's assessment of your gender. Move away from them with dignity. As for their derision, take it until you can move away.

The words "take it" really sum up what your attitude must be. If a group of immature jerks were laughing and pointing at a woman, she might wonder what they were so excited about, but she would not do anything other than ignore them. There is nothing you can do to convince your tormentors that you are a real woman or that they should pick up a dictionary and learn the meaning of the word "tolerance." If they decide you are a man in drag, all you can do is not react and hope to leave them with some doubts. Try to appear as if you don't know they even exist. Look straight ahead, play with the radio or study your manicure. Don't get aggressive yourself. Don't make obscene gestures or tell them what you think of their manners or parentage. That type of response could make you a candidate for plastic surgery, even if you didn't need it before. Of course, you could adopt a belligerent attitude if you packed a .357 Magnum in your purse, but we get enough bad image

stuff from TV-killers in the movies. Besides, it isn't ladylike!

To some, it may sound sexist to insist on your acting passive. Passive worked for Gandhi. Give it a try. Granted, there are women who would not take the kind of harassment you might be subjected to, but one of them is not there to help you out. Violent responses will not help you or change your tormentor's attitude. It's a lot more embarrassing to be in the emergency room of a hospital with a ripped dress, torn stockings and fat lip than it is to take a little abuse while remaining dignified and demure.

What does it mean to be read? Not all reads are as raucous as the example I've just used. Sometimes you will be in a public place and you will see someone's lips move in the "That's a man!" pattern. What do you do about that? Well, you're most likely not facing any physical danger so what's the big deal. You've just entertained a bored housewife or an accountant whose idea of excitement is a new calculator. Ignore them. Go on about your business and continue to act like a woman. You will stop being a novelty if you just continue to do what you were doing. If they absolutely won't stop staring, try staring back and smiling! Most likely they will turn away and try to ignore you.

If you're going to be read at all, the nicest way is to hear someone whisper, "That's a man?" The question in their voice lets you know that all though they suspect you're not exactly what you appear to be, your beauty and poise have left large doubts in their minds. Of course, any read, even the nicest ones, can be a pain. What should you do afterward? Do you drive home, rip off your wig (if you are wearing one, please check beforehand), wash off your make-up, and vow never to indulge in this humiliating behavior again? Of course not! That impulse, like the urge to hide, will get you nowhere. For every read you detect, there are a few you are not aware of at all. There are also hundreds of people who see you on your public outings and have no idea that you are anything but what you appear to be. Don't let being read discourage you. No one passes all of the time. As long as we only cross the gender line a few times each month, there will always be something masculine about us that, from the right angle, in the right place, to the wrong person, will give us away.

What's important is your attitude. You have as much right to be where you are, dressed as you choose, as anyone else in the place. Ninety percent of the time, if you look and act relaxed, as- if you belong there, you will pass. don't worry about the other ten percent. As long as people who notice don't think it's their duty to rearrange your body parts, then don't let their attention bother you.

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(The following commentary is by D. McKay, the founder of Travelers Express. Although I do not endorse many of the ideas that he expresses, I am presenting it in its entirety in order to encourage thought and dialogue among members of the transgendered community. - Camille)

A VERY SPLIT AND CONFUSED COMMUNITY

Dear Community Member:

I am not only the founder of this Central Pennsylvania Club, but am also a person who is public about myself and what I do. Being "GENDERED", I take a realist point of view about people in this community and what they promote, and can place myself as a person could who would be OUTSIDE of this community of ours. In so doing, it's easy to see just how confusing the agenda is. My observation comes from meeting hundreds of individuals at large conventions I have attended over the last 6 years here in the East, meeting many of the top community leaders, belonging to 3 other Pennsylvania clubs, and reading loads of information and quarterlies from several sources, both locally and nationally. I have a background of television appearances and University talks, but as of late, Glen Midgley (from Toronto) and I have been giving presentations on a more believable standpoint at these conventions over the last 2 years. When our "Overlapping Role Behavior" talk is given a spot to present, however, it's usually arranged so that we are gotten out of the way early on, so that the "I'm an opposite" type of seminar is what gets prime time. This is not so much a complaint, but it goes to show exactly what the main agenda of this community centers upon. WHICH IS THE SPLIT. That is to say, TRANSitioning, TRANSforming, SECOND self, etc... Every time I get Newsletters and Quarterly journals, it too promotes this "PASSING" or the desire to be accepted as AN OPPOSITE of your birth gender. Yet, at the same time, they also promote the idea that they are NON-SPLIT and a uniquely different segment of the population. NOW WHICH IS IT?? Let me explain further.

Over and over and over again I read how people want to not only Dress as their opposite sex, but also promote physical alterations to place THEMSELVES as "TRANSING" or "CROSSING" over. Lots of books describe "My Story" of how people went or want to go from one sexual identity to the other with their personal stories or dreams. They want to put away their birth composure and adopt another that is more like the opposite as much as possible. Yet, in doing so, they still are only moving to a mid-ground in a blending of the two. Well that doesn't make any sense at all to the average person to believe. People are not that stupid. Either you are splitting yourself as a "Cross" or a "Trans" over person, or you are integrated with the harmony of your FULL potential just as you are. In the latest Fall '98 Issue of Tapestry, #84, on page 10, there were 2 short articles on the center of the page which exemplifies this inconsistency. The "Menace" (Transexual Menace) was involved in picketing 2 locations that centered their work on mak-

ing Either/Or choices for young children. OK, that sounds legitimate. However when you stop and think a moment, why don't they picket those physicians that perform SRS which also dictates Either/Or choices for adults? Don't they call SRS a "sex change"? The very people who want to stop the idea of splitting people, are the exact same ones who SPLIT THEMSELVES. It appears that the "Menace" simply wants exposure irregardless of any issue, so long as there is a gender link. It just plain doesn't make sense. Cutting things off or surgical alterations and "Passing" as an opposite is simply NOT integration. Doing so is actually REINFORCING the Either/Or structure that is maintained all along. Are you "Trans", or are you integrated? Are you "Crossing" over, or are you complete? Which is it? Anybody knows you can't be 2 people in the one body.

An I.F.G.E. brochure gives 11 categories of people in this community. Of these, I can narrow it down to a basic 4.

1. TRANSVESTITE: Whether closeted or public, to these people, their desire is based mostly on sexual pleasure.
2. CROSSDRESSER: These people have the desire to "Pass" themselves off as their sex opposite from time to time.
3. TRANSSEXUAL: The extreme permanent lifestyle desire of their opposite sex pursuing the ultimate means to do so.
4. "T" GENDER: Those that don't feel the need to Pass as either, may feel they are neither -or both-, and simply live their lives as THEY choose, having the bodily characteristics of whichever, YET integrating their full potential as HUMAN BEINGS.

The first 3 seem to be what the "TRANS" community promotes based upon what I read through community literature. The need to "Trans" or "Cross" over in reinforcing the social SPLIT. Instead of celebrating our uniqueness, it is instead being masked in a pursuit to "Trans" over as much as possible to the SPLIT of Either/Or.

Even the descriptions of F to M and M to F says EXACTLY what this is all about. A SPLIT, It is an automatic surrender that we say we are NOT doing. The community wants to embrace the "IT" Gender ideology as a hallmark, but falls extremely short of what it really stands for. The "T" Gender does NOT signify a "Trans" over, but rather a TRANSCENDING BEYOND the Either/Or concepts. It's not unlocking yourself from one gender box and then locking yourself into another, TRANSCEND is to "Rise above in excellence or degree", or to, "Overstep or exceed a limit" as my dictionary defines the term. "T" Gender doesn't just "Cross" or "Trans" over from one side to the other. The "IT" incorporates qualities of BOTH. The SPLIT is what the older generations of Professionals are entrenched in, and that is what is being

(Continued on page 8)

(Continued from page 7)

"SOLD" to us as well. However Glen and I are working with the younger crowd of broader thinking people who can readily see the freedom that both genders are expressing. They DON'T define behaviors as exclusively either male or female. So why in the world is this bunch in our community still maintaining the dichotomy???

This community has too many scattered fractions going off into all sorts of inconsistent directions. One of which is the "Menace", yet they expect to sit down with government leaders and listen to them" as if they weren't radical. They want to appear as women in many instances, and even be accepted as "New Women but yet still ride on the coat tails of the Gay community. Talk about confusing...

Over the last 70 years., the women's movement has made great strides into the male dominant world., but never took on a male identity in doing it. They had DEconstructed their image and REDEFINED what it is to be a Woman. They never took on names like Harry, Frank or Pete, and they retained their sexual identity. This community wants to reject their true sex and completely SPLIT their combined being into a "Crossover". Some of us may realize that we are more comfortable in a mode and presentation which is not strictly associated with our birth sex., but that doesn't mean that we are automatically to belong over into an opposite either. So it's really up to us to become self integrated to whatever degree without splitting ourselves. one can symbolically present themselves as THEY choose., wearing THEIR- cloths doing what THEY wish to do. Cloths have no gender. If woman owns a Corvette, it's HER Corvette. If a man wears a skirt, it's HIS skirt. So why do we make distinctions for certain items to be associated with one sex only? Women have done away with that years ago.

Our communities directive should be to break down the whole Either/Or structure, and begin accepting EVERYONE as equals. Anything else is a continual affirmation of a SPLIT. I don't think this confused community understands that basic point yet, so how can it be up to the task in going anywhere. In book after book and article after article, it is "Passing" or "Transing" or surgeries to reject your created being which is promoted. An affirmation of the SPLIT. I read very little about self harmony JUST THE WAY YOU ARE. People in this community change themselves to fit into a social construct, but want society to accept diversity. Now if that doesn't sound like a self defeating agenda, what does?? Either this community wants to be SPLIT or it does not. This whole confusing platform has a lot of us just throwing up our hands and walking away from it all. It promotes one thing, but its leaders exemplify something completely different.

Our basic fight should center on being able to symbolically present ourselves in whatever manner we choose as freedom of expression and leave it at that. That takes the whole ex-

treme from looking amazingly like your sex opposite, or a complete mix of a person with a bald head and a beard wearing a skirt and pumps. The choice is ours and the focus should be as simple as that. If a person wishes to attempt a "Crossover" and join the SPLIT with surgical means, that's fine too. They should embrace the identity as a TRANSSEXUAL and face up to it as such. They are not New Women or New Boyz. They are TRANSSEXUAL. The sole base here is NOT TO BE SPLIT. Fighting for use of specific bathrooms, job specific recognition as now being WOMAN, or aligning with men's or women's issues, is only reinforcing the split. If that's what some people in this community want to do, then they should leave it and join the SPLIT. That is NOT what Gender Deconstruction is all about. We must REDEFINE OURSELVES as UNIQUELY VARIANT in Gender diversity

Either the community leaders get a hold of their objectives in a consistent format, or they can FORCE their confusing agenda upon the public with Menace tactics that turn a lot of us OFF. TRAVELERS EXPRESS promotes being 100% public in our personal presentation choice. We are neither "Cross" nor "Trans". We are being OURSELVES. People accept us for WHO we are as HUMAN BEINGS, and life goes a lot smoother when we are honest about ourselves, remaining positive in a dignified manner. "Passing" then becomes a NON-issue and true outreach can begin. Now if the rest of this community could put away their shame and own up to who they are as a person showing their full potential, this continent would flood with people LEAVING THE SPLIT, and joining our ranks. So which way do we go?

If you wish to contact the author he can be reached at: Travelers Express, PO Box 150, Falls Creek, PA 15840

IT'S GETTING CLOSER TO WESTERN NEW YORK



THE BUFFALO BELLES COUPLES DINNER

MISS...CELLANEOUS FILES



TRANSGENDERED DISCUSSION GROUP

With so few options available to transgendered persons, whether in professional service or in social activities, a group is forming to discuss creating new programs. All transgendered persons are invited to attend and to suggest plans for future activities. Ideas for social events, whether parties or other entertainment, or support programs are all welcome. The Saturday, January 23rd planning session is an informal coffee klatch sponsored by AIDS Alliance of Western New York. It starts at 11:30am. Location: 367 Main Street, Downtown Buffalo. For directions or other information, call 881-7751 or email: aawnytrans@juno.com

(Editor's Note: I am planning on attending. (non-dressed). This is a chance to let others know what our various needs are. I would like to have a TS sister attend as well so we can cover more aspects of the Transgendered Community. Those wishing to attend please call the info-line and leave your number. I'll get back to you this about the meeting. It's scheduled to last about 2 hours. - Camille)

THE FINE PRINT... by Robo



JOHN'S YOUTH POTION HAD WORKED. HE WAS NO LONGER AN 80 YEAR OLD MAN. HE WAS GOING TO SOON FIND OUT THAT LONG HAIR WASN'T THE ONLY SIDE EFFECT THOUGH.

How To Handle A Read (continued from page 6)

Another component of passing that is hard to gauge is the 'getting away with it' factor. Many members of the general public are perceptive enough to notice that there is something wrong with this picture, but they have manners, breeding, style or they're just too apathetic to care.

The point is, don't worry about what they think. Project the image you want to the best of your ability and enjoy yourself. Use discretion about where you go and how you dress. Look appropriate and stay relaxed. It's up to you to make your outings a fun time that can help you grow personally. Try to remove the anxiety from the experience and enjoy!



COMING EVENTS



JANUARY 9, '99	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
JANUARY 23	TRANS COMMUNITY MEETING 11am at AIDS ALLIANCE, 367 MAIN ST, BUFFALO
FEBRUARY 6	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm (upstairs)
MARCH 13	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
MARCH 18-21	IFGE ANNUAL CONVENTION, LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY
APRIL 3	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
MAY 1	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
MAY 13-15	TRANS AMERICA CONFERENCE CHARLOTTE, N. CAROLINA
JUNE 5	BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
JUNE 2-6	17th ANNUAL BE-ALL CONVENTION CLEVELAND, OHIO



Well, Darlings. I certainly hope you make it to our re-scheduled meeting on the ninth. I want to discuss some upcoming events with YOU.

Do try and attend. It is going to be fun and informative! Of course, if you don't come, you'll miss the class on "How to Gossip". And you just might be the subject of the evening! So be there and prevent 'dirt' from being flung all over the place. Ciao.