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Buffalo Belles Newsletters Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives of Western New York

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Buffal Belles

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Dear Sisters, Our annual picnic/meeting was a great success. The weather was just right for a summer's evening. We had to many delicious dishes to choose from. The girls really out did themselves in goodies department.

A sound system was provided by Holly. The caretaker offered us the use of his grill, already aglow with hot coals.

Cindy arrived early enough to catch a place in the receiving line of the wedding preceding our meeting. I don't know if she got to kiss the bride and groom or not. Nor who led if she got to dance with the happy couple!

We did have an unfortunate incident at the meeting. We had two visitors. Debbie of "Fingertips Salon" came to enjoy our company. She brought her delightful daughter Brianna with her. An



absolute bundle of joyful energy and love! It is often said"Terrible Two's", in Brianna's case it is "Terrific Two's". As does happen, falls occur. Brianna bit through her lip and had to be rushed to the hospital for repairs!

This led to a nice talk among the ladies of incidents with their own children. It was one of the few times I've seen the group let it's collective armor down at once.

They were parents. who had bean both of you! through these type of things before. So some war stories were told, for the purpose of reassuring us all, that it would be all right.

recovery and that she and her Mom will come pay us a visit real soon!

As this discussion progressed, it was suddenly noticed that as darkness had come upon us;, a Fox was passing bye, 60' away.

Now what that means, I'll leave to you. However, our next meeting is our fourth anniversary! Are we entering the year of the fox? What do your tea leaves tell ???

All to soon it was off into soon. the night for the girls. Some back home, others out for a drink or two downtown.

> . . COUPLES DINNER

Sept.21 circled on your calendar yet? Please make your part of the group. reservations with Patti at the next meeting or via the hotline requested a big sister. Would by the 15th.

This is a wonderful opportunity for the committed members to make a bridge over some of the chasms that our predilection causes in many relationships. Do it for the

RIVERSIDE WEEKEND

There was an error in the brochure sent to you in the We all wish Brianna a guick last newsletter. That rate shown for double occupancy was listed as per person, when it should BE PER PAIR. This should be pretty obvious to most. But, then again I'm the one in the last two years paid for three person rooms and only used one of them!

WELCOME

We would like to welcome our newest member, Tracey!! Hope to see you at a meeting

Also a welcome back to the fold to Michelle .

We ran the ad in the Buffalo News once more, and ran . one in the Niagara Gazette for ten days in July. We have had a half dozen inquires so far.

When you see a new face at Have you gotten the date of a meeting, go out of your way to make her feel welcome, and

> Some of the girls have you volunteer to help one out??

UPCOMING, MSC, ETC.

With the September meeting we will have rechecked our forth anniversary. And what a



fine four years it has bean !!! It will also mark the start of the new season on and for the TV in our homes. Hopefully we will see a return of some of our sisters who seem to take a summers absence from our little group. Girls who immediately come to mind are Rene, Linda, Michelle , Linda, Joan, Dana, Melissa, and Sharon.

Hopefuls they will all be rejoining us soon. And that we once more start having some programs for their enlightenment. What would like to see for a program? Your suggestions are most welcome. Patti is eager to get the

discussion group going. She is looking for suggestions for topics. There are certainly many things that are bothering all of us. Whether it be about appearance, relationships, or the big WHY. Come to the meeting with a topic ready. Rachelle has pointed out the need for a shopping guide.

I thin

k I have the right girl in mind for spear heading this project

t. Our two last attempts at such a guide were pretty poor. Still looking for a steel storage cabinet for our

supplies and library.

But in the meantime, let's not bury summer just yet. After all, I haven't lost all my

balls yet! There are still many hazards to cross and woods to traverse. But I'm working on it. How's your game going, whatever it is??

Huas,

Kathv



THIS CARTOON DOES NOT REPRESENT ANYONE OF OUR MEMBERS, INTENTIONALLY OR UNINTENTIONALY ------ PATTI



I'M WORRIED MARGE. MY WIFE AND I BOTH LIKE THE SAME DRESSES AND SHOES.



June 18, 1996

Dear Kathy and Jean.

I was playing around on the word processer and came up with the above. Im passing it along just in case you need a filler piece for the newsletter.

Please don't feel obligated to use it. though. I know it's not very hard to solve.

> yours truly. Danalyn

THANKS DANALYN, WE NEED MORE SUBMISSIONS FROM OUR MEMBERS!





We have brought to you in this issue what we feel is the Best of the best! A Readers Digest, if you will of a diversified newsletters on cross dressing and its many tangents and forms, we have tried to have a little something for everyone, as we all have specific interests. These all all taken from other clubs Newsletters and are articles you would not normally see. They all used with their permission. We hope you enjoy them. It was fun to put together.

Special Thanks to the many authors of the articles contained in this edition. without whom this product would not be possible. They deserve full credit for their courage, humor and caring and sharing attitudes. This compendium verifies that we can all make significant contributions to an evergrowing body of knowledge about interesting and marvelous people who constantly struggle and survive within

the

TS friend of mine remarked to me that she just doesn't understand TV's nor do they understand her. I've heard TV's, complain about the attitude of TS's. Meanwhile drag queens don't understand TS's or TV's, and neither probably understand drag queens either. What a mess we have here within our community, then there is the general public. The fact is that to the general public we are all the same, while in reality we have little in common beyond the fact that we all dressed as women despite our physical sex. There are many different

reasons that cause males to dress as females, and I have yet to see a researcher truly ferret out and make sense of them. maybe it is because there is no sense to the reasons, at least to an



By Terri

outsider. Researchers like to make a few nicely labeled psychological boxes and then squeeze all of us into these boxes whether we fit or not. They don't like exceptions, that makes their jobs more difficult, yet most of us are exceptions. The truth is the common traits are few and often the exceptions may be the rule. A further problem is that many professionals make their judgments based on the people who come for help in with their dealing activities. crossgender Those seeking professional help don't represent us as a whole anymore than those not seeking professional help represent all of us.

So who are we? We all know ourselves and our own desires, but how do they relate to the whole? Once, transvestite was the term or

| WRITTEN BY TERRI S. SCOTT |
|---------------------------|
| COLUMNIST FOR THE |
| TV-TS CONFIDENTIAL |
| JULY 1995 PG. 6 |

classification for all of us and it is still used by some, but in reality, transvestites are a part of the spectrum rather than the whole. The term cross-dresser is more appropriate to cover all of us, TV, TS, Drag Queen and whatever. No matter what the motivation if you dress as a woman, but are physically a



male, you are cross-dressed Note, when I am referring only to the condition prior to sexual reassignment surgery. Once a TS has surgery, she is a woman

Continued on Page 5

LOOKING OUT MY WINDOW

Editorial by Christine

During the course of our lifetime we are subjected to many thoughts and situations that others try to put upon us with varying degree of force; some are enjoyable and readily accepted, some are foreign and strange but sound like fim, and others just aren't agreeable no matter how much you think about it from what angle you look at it.

Our scope is widening and various publications pass across my desk from all over the world and many arenas of alternate lifestyles. We have a golden opportunity to make life better for ourselves ver we seem to mire ourselves with demarcation lines and go out of our way to alienate each segment from one another. By and large the majority of the CD community is considered upper middle class, their employment and education positions when used positively could affect change in the conditions in general of alternate lifestyles and peoples. Instead it appears that it's always "us" against the world syndrome and,"I'm O.K. but I'm not sure anyone else is because of their dif-

ferent attitude."There is the lack of acceptance of the TS woman by genetic women: The Hetro-TV vs. the open policy TV Club shown by the Tri-Ess Sorority vs. the others. While I'm at it, I'm not sure why there always seems to a be a pecking order and why some people feel they are higher up on a the totem pole than others in the gender continuum. Why does the person who wears panties and a bra for self gratification considered less than one who dresses up totally and stays home in front of the mirror. Then you have the person who goes out to support clubs who is perceived as higher than previously mentioned people but who isn't as good as one who is out on the town, who isn't as good as the person who lives her life crossdressed, who isn't as good as the pre-op TS, who isn't 2 isn't as good as a genetic female, who isn't as good as anywhere on the male continuum.

These notions of pecking orders and climbing to the top of the

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pile, being better than the others person, your way or the highway, such male attitudes are ones frankly that are non-productive particularly when one is supposedly concerned with emulating the feminine qualities of life. Maybe our acceptability is suspect simply because a large segment of our population haven't aspired beyond the men in dresses headspace and deservedly are looked upon as odditiies. Each segment of our population can't seem to accept the other. One should rejoice in similarities and learn from our differences. If each of us can increase our acceptance level of others who are different from ourselves and leave our judgemental attitudes in the closet perhaps we can affect some changes. Please try to do your part in the education of others towards our lifestyle and if you hear unjust comments about anything don't let it slide as good as as a post -op TS, who 📱 byl, because the next one could be directed at YOU.

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clothes are of utmost importance to them and many fetishes are evident in TV cross-dressing.

By contrast, the TS's gender identity is female. The motivation for crossdressing is to wear the appropriate clothes of the sex she feels herself to be, female. Her male idenity is not only weak or nonexistant, it is usually avoided disliked. or eliminated.A TS usually recognizes her gender discomfort at a very young age prior to entering school.

Thus, we have two male individuals dressed as females, but their gender idenity and motivations for cross-dressing are entirely different. They have nothing in common in these two crucial gender-areasgender ID and motivation. Their commonality, crossdressing, is really a coincidence of their individual situations rather than the overriding factor.

Our two examples are easy to figure out, what about those gals in the gray area? The gray individual area has characteristics of both, such as a TV whose gender identity is male but questioned. A TS who has trouble with her gender identity but not to the extreme of those TS's that require surgery to survive. In fact the TS may never really want SRS, yet she may live as a woman. She is then known as Transgendered.

Let's try to understand each other. Let's realize that we are in this life together, the cross gendered versus the rest of the world and work together despite our difference.

are people who have different perspectives on the the world from most. People, who like all people , deserve respect and the right to pursue our individual lifestyles.

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Hair removal - the laser's plan of attack

By James Schuster, M.D.

"Laser Epilation" seems to be the new "hot topic" in electrolysis today. Everyone from electrologists to equipment manufacturers to suppliers and even to electronic tweezing companies have taken notice. But is the laser something we need to spend so much time wondering and worrying about?

The laser is not new to electrolysis. As early as 1981, Lasetron was using an argon laser in an attempt to destroy the follicular regeneration apparatus. Since that time, however, there seems to be a lot of misinformation and hysteria associated with laser technology. We need to step back and take a more informed look at the process and how it relates to the electrolysis profession. What is a laser? And what is its potential for actually destroying hair follicles and competing with standard electrolysis methods?

A laser is simply an electrical apparatus which produces light. Laser light is different from the light we encounter every day in two special ways. First is that laser light is monochroman. This means that it has only one color, unlike white light which is composed of all colors. The second way is that laser light is coherent. If we define light as electromagnetic radiant energy which produces a visual effect, light is basically a vibrating electromagnetic field. The term coherent means that all the vibra tions are in the exact same direction and not in all directions, thereby causing the "perfect" beam of light.

What happens when laser light hits human tissue? It produces heat, similar to our own thermolysis. Where the laser produces its heat is dependent solely on what tissue absorbs the particular light. When speaking of human skin and hair follicles, there are essentially only three substances which can absorb the light energy and be heated up: water (found in all tissue), blood and melanin. You could also introduce a non-tissue substance to the skin which would absorb laser light, as well. This approach is being utilized by one laser method now in development. Considering these facts, let's 100

compare thermolysis to three of the dozen or so laser methods currently being discussed.

Thermolysis, when using an insulated probe, is capable of heating all watercontaining tissue in all directions from the exposed part of the probe. How far you heat is dependent on timing and intensity. What you heat depends on how well you have inserted the probe. You also have the advantage of using an inexpensive, thin, pointed probe that facilitates good insertions. Compare this with the thicker, probe-type laser being developed, which is inserted into a follicle using an expensive. delicate and questionably pointed laser probe that can only shine light in a very narrow, cylindrical pattern in front of it. To destroy the dermal papilla would require much more accuracy than thermolysis, which, as we've mentioned, has a broader heating pattern.

A second type of laser being developed to destroy hair shines light from the surface of the skin down along the hair follicle to the root. It will be very difficult to accurately and repeatedly hit the dermal papilla, or bulb area, which is only one to several thousandths of an inch in diameter. In most cases, you will end up destroying significant amounts of tissue all around the follicle, and only occasionally hit the dermal papilla. In essence, the ratio of normal tissue to follicular tissue will be quite high and a significant amount of pain will be experience.

The third method of laser epilation being developed requires a carboncontaining lotion to be rubbed into the hairy skin, hoping that the carbon particles will coat the hair/follicle with carbon. The skin surface is then scanned with laser light which heats the carbon particles around the hair and upper follicle. The problem with this method is that the carbon particles cannot penetrate the follicle any deeper than the follicular infundibulum, and most will not get much beyond the skin surface because of the hair shaft and other cellular debris filling up the infundibulum. As a result, some of the hairs will be singed off to create an effect not much different than that of chemical depilatories and certainly will not be permanent. This is a rather expensive temporary means of epilation.

In the space of a short article like this, we can only touch the surface of laser epilation. It is my feeling that lasers have

Terri's Thoughts.. Who Are We? (continued)

We have a subculture that has been over defined and justified by some in an effort to make us more acceptable and palpable to the general public. Their motivation was admirable but has only added to the confusion of who we are. Not only who we are but the differences between us that lead to divisions between us because we do not understand each other. This is a most unfortunate dichotomy, that we don't even understand each other

and as a result question the motivations of others who are different from us.

Ladies, we all have to understand and accept that we are different from each other, and understand and accept those differences. TV's are not TS's nor vice versa. There are more TV's than TS's, and many TS's start as TV's. Not really it just seems that way because when a TS lady comes out it is within a support group activity or at a place such as a gay bar where so eather. As a result, she is quickly labeled a TV, but she will quickly realize that she is not and seek out otherTS's. Many TV's will consider

her a TV, who has gone TS, but she never really was a TV to begin with. such situations are what causes misunderstanding within the gender community and sometimes unfortunately, hostility,

The basic difference between TV's and TS's, in my opinion, is gender identity. TV's first, last and always have a male gender identity. They may fantasize about being a woman, but their gender ID is male. A TV's motivation for dressing is entirely different from a TS's. Most TV's dress their sexual image of a woman in a very sexual provocative style. The

Who Are We? We

some significant inherent problems when used for epilation, considering today's technology. There is no doubt that laser epilation will evolve as another modality for both permanent and temporary hair removal. However, there appears at this time to be more disadvantages than advantages, compared to current standard electrolysis techniques. As methods of hair removal evolve, it will be important to keep the public honestly appraised of what they are getting for their hard-earned money.

Dr. Schuster is a board-certified dermatologist with training in electrical engineering. He has been involved in laser research and is responsible for most of the basic research conducted in electrolysis over the last 25 years.

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CERTIFIED CLINICAL ELECTROLOGISTS

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COSTS NOTHING, BUT GIVES MUCH... IT ENRICHES THOSE WHO RECEIVE IT, WITHOUT MAKING POORER THOSE WHO GIVE IT...IT TAKES BUT A MOMENT, BUT THE MEMORY OF IT SOMETIMES LASTS FOREVER. NONE IS SO RICH OR MIGHTY THAT HE CAN GET ALONG WITHOUT IT, AND NONE SO POOR THAT HE CAN BE MADE RICH BY IT...A SMILE CREATES HAPPINESS IN THE HOME, FOSTERS GOODWILL IN





IT BRINGS REST TO THE WEARY, CHEER TO THE DISCOURAGED, SUNSHINE TO THE SAD AND IS NATURE'S BEST ANTIDOTE FOR THE TROUBLED...<u>YET, IT CANNOT BE</u> BOUGHT, BEGGED, BORROWED OR STOLEN...FOR IT IS SOMETHING OF NO VALUE TO ANYONE UNTIL IT IS GIVEN AWAY...

BUSINESS AND IS THE COUNTERSIGN OF FRIENDSHIP.



SOME PEOPLE ARE TOO TIRED TO GIVE YOU A SMILE...GIVE THEM ONE OF YOURS. AS NONE NEEDS A SMILE SO MUCH AS HE WHO HAS NO MORE TO GIVE.





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