



SEPTEMBER MEETING

At the next meeting, we are going to convert the meeting room into a Beatnik Coffeehouse. We already have a few acts lined up but we need more. Do you write poetry, play a mandolin, do dramatic readings? Think about what you would like to do, and sign up your act at the next meeting.

- 5:00 pm Changing rooms open
- 6:30 pm GG/Wives meeting in room 118
- 6:30 pm Newcomers meeting in room 120
- 8:15 pm General meeting begins

Those changing in the changing rooms are reminded to bring a towel(s) for makeup removal.

The location of the Holiday Inn Express is on Riverside drive just off RT83 in Elmhurst. RT 83 is reachable from I-290, North Av or St Charles Rd to RT83 then South. Or take Roosevelt Rd to RT83 then go North.

It is advisable when making a room reservation, to make it at least a month early, we have been experiencing many FULL houses at the Inn. Reservations are available at (708)279-0700. Please mention Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess. **YOUR RATE SHOULD NOT EXCEED \$65.00....**

AUGUST MEETING

Denise called the meeting to order at 8:25pm. Self introductions were made and we welcomed three newcomers, Holly and Michelle & Maureen. along with; Amanda, Andrea, Aries, Athena, Barbara, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Barbara Lee, Beth, Bridget & Debbie, Burnice, Candace & Dawn, Carole, Christine K., Christine & Colleen, Claudia, Colleen & Verna, Dee Dee, Denise, Ellen, Eve, Jamie G., Jamie P., Jamie K., Janet, Jennifer, Karen, Kay & Fran, Kelly, Kimberly, Kyla, Laura, Lee, Lenore, Lois, Loraine, Lori, Lynn, Lynne, Miranda, Naomi & Rachel, Norma & Joyce, Pamela, Pamela, Paula, Rachel & Kate, Renee, Sheila D, Shelley, Sherri, Simone, Sunny, Toni, Vanessa.

Denise announced that the Board had recommended the raising of first timer fees from \$0 to \$10 and a \$5 charge for use of the changing rooms. A vote was taken and the newcomers fee failed 16-15 while the changing room fee passed 18-13.

BE-ALL The formation of a Be-All planning committee was announced, Bridget and Miranda will serve as Co-Chair and Naomi also be on the committee. A request was made for anyone else who would be interested in serving on the committee to contact Denise.

HOLIDAY EN FEMME As for the Holiday EnFemme, Toni M. and Sunny have volunteered to work as Co-Chair of the Vendors committee.

Also, for those who are only able to attend the evening events at the Holiday, special pricing is available. Please drop a note as to what is desired.

Bridget announced that we finally have our new bank account. Hopefully we will have all the funds transferred over by Sept 1.

Following announcements, the meeting was turned over to Miranda for the program.

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President's Podium

Board Meeting

The board met briefly, on Aug 17th and discussed the upcoming 1997 Be-All, awards to be presented at the Holiday EnFemme and various ways to increase income to offset the cost of the rooms at the Holiday Inn.

Cost

A vote was taken to present to the membership a change in meeting fees for first timers. from \$0 to \$10 and to charge those using the changing rooms \$5. (The membership voted Nay on the first timers fee increase by 16-15 and Yes on the changing room fees, 18-14.) (NOTE: I have decided to table this for further study.)

'Puttin on the Ritz'

The awards which Chi-Chapter and it's officers present at each 'Puttin on the Ritz' will be split up this year. The awards by officers to various members will be given at the December Christmas party and the Chapter award which is awarded to someone, not necessarily a member of the chapter for their special guidance, support or encouragement. If you have any nominations for this award, please send them in to me ASAP. The nominees will be announced at the October meeting and a vote taken for the final choice. (NOTICE: Regarding voting, only Full Chi members who are also current with their national dues will be allowed to vote.)

Be-All

I have established a Be-All planning committee with Miranda and Bridget as Co-Chairs. Naomi as special events coordinator & Be-All founder, will serve on the committee along with Amanda, Dee Dee and (Secret**) This committee will be meeting with members of the other groups who have been running the Be-Alls since Naomi created it way back when.... (** Pending notification of next of kin.)

Picnic....

The picnic was held on Aug 18th with a total of 18 attendees.... Norma & Joyce arraigned for the food and set up the kitchen facilities. I want to thank them for their tireless help with this and the food at the meetings.

I was disappointed at the low turnout and the fact that this is a family event and no kids showed up.... Is this an indication of

waning interest for the picnic? We did get a call from a

Couples Group

The August meeting was canceled due to a low participation, due to vacations etc. The next Couples meeting will be on **Saturday, Sept 28th** and the location will be at Denise's. Please phone the hotline for information and please let us know you are coming so we can have enough chairs.

Remember, this is a NON-CROSSDRESSED meeting. PLEASE DO NOT wear any feminine article of clothing, jewelry or decoration (Lipstick, nail polish) which can be seen. Also, no children will be allowed at the meeting for obvious reasons.

P.A.L.S.

P.A.L.S, (short for Positive Attitudes Living Side by side) is a women's group set up for wives, girlfriends and significant others whose partners are cross-dressers.

The August meeting brought forth the following wives/partners: Verna, Kate, Fran, Debbie, Gail, Deb, Maureen, and Dawn who are partners of: Colleen, Rachel, Kay, Bridget, Brenda, Margaret, Michelle and Candace.

P.A.L.S. will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month coinciding with the Tri-Ess meetings. our meetings will run from 6:30 to 8pm in an adjacent hotel room. When you check in make sure you receive a name tag and an index card. In keeping with confidentiality you will have an opportunity to reveal a concern without disclosing your true identity by writing it on the index cards. The particular needs of each individual will be addressed in a positive manner.

member regarding dressing for the picnic (NO!) but this does get my curiosity going. Would there be any interest in a 'dressed' picnic which could be held on one of our meeting days, in a secluded area which would have changing facilities???? Let me know..Give me some input.

Kiki has just acquired a page scanner and will be digesting the news from the newsletters of other groups. Hopefully she will have some chewed up news for us in the next issue.

The Great Lakes Gender Leadership Conference has two new members; IME of Michigan and CTA (Chicago Transsexual Advocacy). This brings membership up to 8 area groups.

Out Of Focus

By Kiki [REDACTED]



ON THE NOSE!

Awhile back my next door neighbor rang my bell and asked if he could borrow my post hole digger. After giving him the usual smart remarks like, "Why don't you go over to Sears and buy a couple. They come in different sizes", we proceeded to the garage and much to my surprise, we couldn't find one.

"Damn!", I wondered. "Whatever happened to the post hole diggers. I had two of them."

A week or two ago, I was reading my journal and discover that I had loaned one of them to a gal by the name of Helen. It was on June the 28th of last year, the same day as the Gay Pride Parade. I was dressed as Kiki and getting ready to leave then Helen called looking for one. Since she knew all about Kiki, I said, "come on over, but I'm not here, Kiki is". She said just like the Polish do, "No problem" and she came over and borrowed it.

A Saturday ago, not having anything planned for that night, I decided to call her and see what she was up to because she's always doing different, interesting things. I used the excuse to ask her about the post hole digger when my real reason was to see what was what.

We talked awhile, then I brought the post hole digger up and she informed me that she had returned it. She said she was going to an early movie with one of her girl friends, and then asked if I would like to come along. I said, "Thanks, but no thanks", and hung up.

No more than a couple seconds later the phone rang. It was Helen. "What are you doing tomorrow?, Would you like to go to the Arlington Million? I've got free tickets!", I hesitated, then said, "Ah, I don't think so. I've been there done that". Then as an after thought and in a kidding way, I said, "But as Kiki, it would be gas!"

Well, much to my surprise, she said, "Wonderful!" I'll be by your house before 11. We want to get there early because it will be crowded and the first race is at 12". I told her, "I haven't a thing to wear", and she laughed.

Well, I could hardly sleep that night thinking of what to wear and finally decided in a white float summer dress that came down below the knees, bare legs, white sandals, white purse, and a short blonde wig.

I was dressed and almost ready to go at 9:30, the earliest Kiki has ever been ready! I had extra time so I painted my toe nails and instead of clear polish on my finger nails, I painted them too.

I had one problem, my right shin was banged up getting into Mary Ann's pontoon boat in Michigan the weekend before and it looked awful. It had a big red spot on the lower part and a couple big gouges near the knee. I tried to cover it with makeup and then blend it in. It looked better but was still yuk.

When she came over, she said I looked great and when I pointed out my strange looking shin bone, she said, "No problem, its fine. Nobody will notice", and off we went!

She wore a greenish, low cut summer dress, flats, and a large black floppy hat. She looked great!

We drove out in my white convertible but we didn't go topless, it would be too windy.

She loves the races and has her own system to win. She adds up the weight of the rider and the odds. Then she bets the lowest resulting number to show. You don't win much, but you win something.

The place was packed and the only way we could sit down was on steps. The place is beautiful. Absolutely beautiful!

PRESS RELEASE

Kymberleigh Richards, Publisher of *CROSSTALK* magazine has announced that *CROSSTALK* will be available by subscription ONLY, due to problems with her distributors.

One exception will be in the Chicago area, where *CROSSTALK* will STILL be available off the shelf at:

ONE TO ONE BOUTIQUE
2875 N. ELSTON
CHICAGO IL 60616
(773) 342-4626

Of all the thousands of people who looked at me, walking back and forth from the betting windows, or going to the food court, I had less than a handful of quizzical looks. I ignored them completely. Its the only way. If they had any doubts, by ignoring them, they are still in doubt. Hee hee. And this was in bright daylight! Yikes.

As the day wore on, I developed my own system and started betting to win. I would go up to clerk and say in as feminine a voice as I could. "Oh, number one please, to win". As I got more nervy, I was finally able to say, "Number one please---on the nose!"

When we got back to my house, I undid Kiki, dressed up as Bill and took her out to dinner! It was a most unusual day for both of us.

She had tried for a couple days to get a girl friend to go to the races with her, and then Kiki said yes. I told her, if she ever had any trouble getting a girl friend to go out with her on the crazy things she likes to do, call Kiki, she'll go. She said she would!

Beats Hunters
Bye. Yikes.....

TOP TEN REASONS FOR ATTENDING *HOLIDAY EN FEMME*

- 10 To dress in full feminine finery for four full days; stay at a fine hotel and attend classes, lunches, dinners and parties all en femme.
- 9 To meet crossdressing sisters and their spouses or partners from all over the country.
- 8 To learn how to maximize your feminine appearance and to pamper yourself by having a manicure, facial make-over or comb out by the best professional cosmeticians, hair and wig stylists.
- 7 To polish your toe nails, wear lingerie, shave twice a day and to change your clothes four to six times a day, if you so desire.
- 6 To learn how to use an eyelash curler and the difference between winter white,- off-white, light beige and eggshell.
- 5 To pretend you are Dolly Parton, or Madonna, or Pocahontas, or RuPaul, or a cheerleader, or Princess Di, or a french maid, or a mom-to-be, or a ballerina, or a nurse, or a majorette, or a cowgirl, or a gypsy, or Elvira, or to otherwise dress your fantasy at a Halloween Ball.
- 4 To attend a real wedding and a fancy dinner dance in an elegant evening gown or fancy dress.
- 3 To dance the "Macarena".
- 2 To go to a real "ladies" room without repercussions or worry.
- 1 To make an old lady (Naomi) happy!



Dearest Denise and all the lovely and caring Chi Tri Ess members who helped change my life with your compassion and friendship at the June 15th meeting--- Thank You!!

I had never before met another CD face to face "en femme", and I almost turned around and went back to my room rather than walk in to the Elmhurst Room. Thank God I didn't!

You may take for granted the monthly meetings you are able to enjoy. But I was overwhelmed by the acceptance and caring I encountered as a newcomer and - - as I quietly discovered - - the ugly duckling of the gathering. I shall never forget your kindness - - and I hope someday I can return.

Special thanks to Dee Dee, Candace and Amanda for the newcomer welcome.

And special thanks to Karen and Sunny for helping out with us newcomers. And special love to Brenda and Jamie, my fellow new comers. I will never forget you! HUGS!!!

Lacy Lee

Treasurer's report		
By Bridget		
July Meeting		
	INCOME	EXPENSE
42 paid attendees	\$ 530.00	
Side room Sublet	\$ 60.00	
Food		\$ 75.00
Room Rent		\$ 450.00
Door prize		\$ 10.00
Balance (Loss)		+\$ 55.00



Building a Strong Gender Family

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Much has been said about the gender community and whether it really exists. We have a wide variety of people with significantly different views that sometimes leads to bickering and fragmented actions. The best of families bicker, but they also have strong, common bonds that unite them and like any family we share powerful ties.

Society has created a firm but arbitrary connection between sex and gender. That link is the source of many of our problems but it can also be a unifying force. Our greatest common bond is that each of us in our own way is trying to bend, shift, stretch or break that culturally enforced link. That situation ought to provide ample incentive to build our family.

I believe there are three levels at which we benefit from integration rather than separation, and this principle is the core of all my messages -

1. Many of us have split our lives into distinct gender compartments and we would be healthier if we became a complete person.

2. Our community exists outside of the mainstream, and we gain greater freedom to be ourselves if we are an integral part of society.

3. Individuals and organizations often act independently, and we would achieve more if we cooperated fully on joint issues.

Who am I to say these things? I am a heterosexual, male cross-dresser whose feminine side began emerging at age five and has been a significant part of my personality ever since. In addition to a strong desire to wear women's clothing my softer side is also manifested in emotional sensitivity. Society tells me that a man shouldn't indulge in these things and doing so indicates something is wrong. The positive attraction of cross-dressing coupled with societal disapproval taught me to hide my true self by creating my feminine alter-ego Rachel.

At first this appeared to be the solution to my dilemma as it enabled me to express my other side but trouble soon returned. Constantly feeling unacceptable caused such stress that I could not continue to live that way. That trauma finally overcame my fear of self-discovery and lead me on a quest to find answers.

I came to understand the various facets of my sexual and emotional makeup and that society was wrong in labeling men with feminine tendencies as defective. With that

discovery came acceptance of myself exactly as I was. In time Richard and Rachel merged, and I found the happiness of being at peace.

While this gave me internal peace it didn't help others. I felt compelled to emerge from my closet, share my story and educate society. My wife Marsha encouraged me to record my thoughts and I wrote a book to share these ideas about change.

Especially today, change is an important aspect of business. One of the primary factors in successfully changing conditions is our perspective or point of view. I design computer systems to improve business processes and would often say, "Boss, we have a PROBLEM!" He insisted that it was an opportunity for improvement. I thought it was a word game until I saw that this view allowed me to concentrate on finding ways to make the situation better. Seeing our tremendous opportunities I decided to focus on solutions.

To heal our pain and suffering and prevent it from entering the lives of the next generation, we must change. None of us can do it alone but each of us can do something. We can all participate because we have common goals that transcend our differences.

Where does the journey of integration for our gender family begin? Here!

When does it begin? Now!

Who makes it happen? Each of us!

"I am only one;
but still I am one.
I cannot do everything,
but still I can do something;
I will not refuse to do the something I can do."

Helen Keller

Marsha and I will participate in a panel discussion with Dr. Peggy Rudd on understanding cross-dressing for wives and partners at the Holiday en Femme in November in Chicago. I will give a talk on the bliss of becoming a complete person and will autograph copies of my book, "The Bliss of Becoming One!"

A free flyer is available by Email from NAIP@aol.com. The book is also available through bookstores (ask for ISBN 1-56825-031-2), by credit card at 1-800-356-9315 and by check/money order for \$15.95 postpaid from Rainbow Books, Inc. PO Box 430, Highland City, FL 33846-0430.

September

- 3 Gender Leadership Meeting Transformations 7:30 p.m. 146 N. Oak Park Ave. (708-383-8338)**
- 4 South Side Girls, 9:00 p.m. Clubhouse Players, Blue Island (708-389-6688)**
- 10. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)**
- 14 Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee Area, call (414) 297-9328**
- 15 It's Time, Illinois Fundraiser/Pizza Party, 6:00 p.m. La Villa Restaurant, (708-535-1506)**
- 16 Outing to Tony n' Tony's Wedding, 7:30 p.m. Pipers Alley, call Miranda (847-394-9293)**
- 19 Paradise in the Poconos, Canadensis, PA (thru 9/26)**
- 21 Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Holiday Inn Express, Elmhurst (630-262-8707)**
- 26 T.O.N.I meeting, 7:00 p.m. call (219-929-8533) for info**
- 28 Chi Chapter Couples Group, call (630-262-8707) for info**

October

- 17-20 Dunes Get-A-Way Reservations can be made by calling the Douglas Dunes (616 857-1401)**
- 31-Nov 2 Fall Harvest '96 Cedar Rapids IA**

November

- 6-10 Holiday En-Femme**

Protest Planned for American Psychiatric Association Meeting in Chicago

(The following is taken from a press release from TS Menace. The diagnosis of Gender Dysphoria is routinely being misused to justify "treatment" of children and noncomplaining crossdressers. The goal of the Menace protest is to point out the abuse of gender-variant individuals in the guise of treatment, and to call for de-pathologizing gender dysphoria. If you agree with these objectives, please plan to participate in the protest on October 19. More details will be available within the coming month. *Miranda Stevens*)

The peaceful demonstration, to be held outside the APA national meeting in Chicago on Saturday, October 19, has been called by

Editors Note: Last year APA did drop cross-dressing and crossdressing fetishism from its list of pathologies or mental disorders. There are pro and con's on this, one CON is that funding is no longer available to colleges and universities to study crossdressing.

It's Time, Illinois! Announces Fund-raiser

It's Time, Illinois, the Political Action Group for the Illinois Transgendered Community, proudly announces its first anniversary fund-raiser. These folks have worked their little tails off over the past year trying to gain basic human rights for you and all members of the transgendered community. They have been remarkably successful in gaining visibility and acceptance in the larger community in a very short period of time. The event will be held on Sunday, September 15, from 6:00 - 9:00 p.m. at La Villa Italian Restaurant. The restaurant is located at 3638 N. Pulaski, which is just off the Kennedy Expressway in Chicago. There is plenty of free parking.

We have a fantastic line-up of guest speakers including Rick Garcia, Executive Director of the Illinois Federation of Human Rights (IFHR) and Lana Hostetler, IFHR's Chief Lobbyist. Over the past year, the IFHR has become one of the transgendered community's strongest allies, and we are proud to have them at our fund-raiser to tell us about their efforts to gain gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered inclusion in the Illinois Human Rights Act.

We are also proud to have as guest speaker Ellen Meyers, from the Cook County's State's Attorney Task Force on Gay/Lesbian Issues. Her office prosecutes cases of hate crimes perpetrated against gay, lesbian, or transgendered individuals.

ITI has accomplished a great deal over the past year. We have prepared a report on discrimination against transgendered, and presented it in City Hall to the Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues of the Chicago Human Relations Commission. We have drafted an amendment to the Oak Park Human Right Ordinance which includes gender identity, and plan to present it very shortly to Oak Park City Council. Our alliance with the IFHR has resulted in TG inclusion in the next draft of the gay rights amendment to the Illinois Human Rights Act.