

The Chi Tribune



Vol # XXXV Issue #10

Hotline (630) 262-8707

October 1996

National Cross Dressing Month

Miranda Writes....

Wow, September was quite a month! First our outing to Tony & Tony's Wedding and then the Chi Chi Coffeehouse Night. The Wedding was a blast! We had two tables at the reception for our party of 14, and we definitely could have won the prize for the best dressed wedding guests. What a lot of fun, everything that could go wrong, did go wrong. And we were all part of it. We danced with the cast and schmoozed with everyone.

And the Chi Chi Coffeehouse! A great big hug and thank you to all who helped make it such a success. First a special

thanks to Amanda for the sound and lights. Amanda, you
(Continued on page 4)

OCTOBER MEETING

This month we celebrate National Cross-dressing month. Come in your finest costume. Dig out those items you have been dying to wear. .

- 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.

(Continued on page 4)

1996

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President's Podium



Who Was There?

Well we had a crowd at the last meeting. Present were: Miranda, Paula, Barbara, Lois, Jenee, Alicia, Deanna, Gloria, Carole, Sheila D, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Pamela, Kiki, Rose, Athena, Amanda, Christine, Bridget M., Denise, Sandy, Carol, Janet, Dee Dee, Norma & Joyce, Karen, Colleen & Verna, Toni, Vickie, Pamela, Vanessa, Velma, Stacey, Rori, Dana, Janie, Kyla, Sherri, Kelly, Rachel, Pamela, Shelley & Linda, Jackie, Renee & Debbie, Tess, Aries, Heather, Fay, Vicki, Andrea, Ellen & Laurie, Beth, Jamie, Nicole & Vangie, and first timers; Bobbie & Sandy, Laura, Jennifer Marie, Renee, Ann, Amanda, Diane, Laura, Sean, and Bridget

Dumb.....

Goof up, stupid-stupid-stupid....big mouth...Me that is.....

Last month I stated that we would hold an election at large for the Chi-Chapter award to be presented at the Ritz. Well, past policy on this award is that it is voted on by the board. The reason being is that the award should be secret until the actual award is made. ...hard to do if we hold an open election... But I have received several nominations for the award and the selection has been made from these nominations by the board.

TV Season

In reviewing the upcoming TV shows I have noticed that there will be a Cinemax *REEL LIFE* show October 8, featuring and I quote "The colorful and flamboyant world of cross-dressing...". A new RuPaul Cable show and of course a Dennis Rodman talk show on MTV. A new series on CBS is called *PUBLIC MORALS* (from the creator of Hill Street Blues, NYPD Blue, LA Law) and the first show is to feature a crossdresser..... aannnnddd., *THE BIG EASY* recently featured a crossdresser..... BTW, was that Naomi on the Rosanne show on Oct 1st?

Food

Norma & Joyce our new food facilitators, have requested that anyone planning on bring food/beverage to the meetings please check with them. Their number is: 555-555-5555

Life....

I always said I needed a life, well I am adding Miranda to that list...She must wear out a couple of keyboards a week...Keep up the good work.

Also, look out for Kiki, she just got a new scanner and will be keeping us up to date with happenings and comments on the other groups around the country.

See you at the HOLIDAY En FEMME!

Couples Group

The next Couples meeting will be on **Saturday, Nov 23rd** 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 September meeting brought forth the following wives/partners: Verna, Sandy, Norma, Vangie, Linda and Laurie.

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.

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Holiday roommate assignments.

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Miranda Why Did She Wear THAT T-Shirt? by Miranda Stevens

I expected to take a lot of good-natured ribbing, which I did. And that was fine, I loved it! I was surprised at the genuine curiosity about what it really meant, the hidden message. And that was fine too, although I was too hurried to give an adequate explanation at the time. What I really didn't expect were the few (very few) hostile comments. And that wasn't fine at all!

I'm referring to the Transsexual Menace T-shirt which I wore as part of my outfit at the Chi Chapter September meeting. If you were one of the unfortunate few who missed that meeting, you might not know that it was a '50s-'60s coffeehouse theme program, complete with folksingers and poets. The spirit of protest against the establishment pervaded the '60s, and I felt that wearing my Menace T-shirt made an appropriate statement, entirely in line with the evening's program.

For those of you who were genuinely curious, I owe a better explanation. The Transsexual Menace is a nationwide web of transgendered activists who boldly face society and let them know, in no uncertain terms, when the human rights of transgendered people have been violated.

When one of our community has been killed, you can bet the TS Menace will be holding a public vigil to draw attention to trans-violence. When your civil rights are denied, you can bet the TS Menace will be knocking on the door of your Senator or Representative. When professionals abuse children in the guise of treating their "gender disorder", you can bet the TS Menace will be protesting it.

But what does the TS Menace have to do with Tri-Ess? Well, the answer to that is "Nothing and everything!" There are no ties, official or otherwise, between our two organizations. So that is the nothing part. On the other hand, the abuse of rights and discrimination which is being addressed by the Menace is something which affects all of us.

Several people asked if I was coming out as a transsexual by wearing that T-shirt. Well, no, it was not a personal gender identity statement. I'm hetero and a crossdresser, just like (most of) you. But when people read us on the street, what they see is a transsexual. They don't have the knowledge to recognize the fine distinction between a CD and a TS. We're all the same to most of society. For that matter, they don't distinguish between gay and straight. To the rest of the world, we're transsexual, gay, and a threatening menace to the foundations of their society.

So when the TS Menace demonstrates for transsexual rights, they are demonstrating for your rights. And when gay activist groups, like Queer Nation, stands up for gay rights, they are standing up for your rights! Because that is how you are perceived by the rest of the world!

Back in the '60s, I was active in the civil rights movement. I marched in Washington DC and in New York City. I was there when Martin Luther King spoke to the assembled masses and told them of his dream. Some my proudest memories come from knowing that I, in a very small way, was part of changing the world for the better. I didn't have to be a black man to know that this was the right thing to do. I felt just as alienated from society as they did, and I wanted to make the statement that everyone, regardless of ethnic origin, beliefs, or gender (in the broadest

(Continued on page 4)

A Letter to a pen-pal from first-timer Bobbie;

"Dear *****,
I must tell you about my first night "out" en femme. I attended my first Chi-Tri-Ess meeting along with Sandy, my "significant other", and we had a wonderful time. It was "touch and go" for awhile as to whether or not I was actually going to go at all. First I was going and then I wasn't going and then I was going again...I vacillated all day long on Saturday and when it finally came time to go I asked Sandy what I should do. She said "Don't ask me sweetie pie, this is YOUR life, not mine". At the last moment I decided that we really should go and I am sooooo glad that we did.

When we arrived at the Holiday Inn and located the meeting room there were only a few people there but they came right over and welcomed us and made us feel right at home. I changed into my femme outfit and Sandy helped me with my make-up. As more and more people arrived many of them came right up and introduced themselves and welcomed us to the group. I even met some people who lived in the same area of Chicago where I grew up and we had a kind of old neighborhood reunion and "catch-up-on-gossip" session. Needless to say it was a very friendly atmosphere. About 6:30 there were two separate meetings held in rooms adjoining the main meeting room. One was for newcomers which I attended and one was a P.A.L.S (short for Positive Attitudes Living Side by side) meeting for spouses which Sandy attended. The newcomer's meeting was very nice. I met about 12 other people with experiences similar to that of my own and we got to know each other a little bit.

The main meeting started about 8:15 or so and after the necessary announcements and regular business the entertainment for the evening began.

The theme was "Beatnik Night" and several people went up on stage to entertain the crowd. Now get this... I was one of them! The entertainment director, Miranda, who is a truly lovely person inside and out, had gone around before the meeting asking for help because they had been a little light on volunteers. I said that in a pinch I would volunteer to do something if they needed another act. Well, to my amazement I was "pinched" and I got up on stage with my knees knocking to say the least and did a little skit based upon a popular little Robert Frost poem about ants.

Apparently the crowd liked it or so they indicated by their clapping. It probably would have been a flop in front of a regular crowd but these people are so polite that it doesn't take much effort to get their applause. I think that is because we appreciate each other so much. Well, anyway, my ears are still ringing with all the compliments and it goes without saying that this doesn't hurt in boosting one's self esteem. The other acts were much, much better than mine by the way. There was a poet named Stacey who recited some of her works and a musician named Amanda who performed a duet with her teenage son and did a medley of hit songs from the sixties and seventies. These are verry talented people! I was just a fill-in.

The evening just flew by. There were refreshments and lot's of good conversation with new friends. Then all too soon it was time for this shining little diamond to turn back into an old lump of coal and hop back into the pumpkin for the trip back to the barn. In the afterglow of the evening as we drove home we decided that the venture had been a smashing success and when I told Sandy that I would like to do it again she quickly

chimed in, "me too!". As I reflect back on my experience I

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 1) (Miranda)

transformed the room and transported us to a place and time far, far away. It was magical! Thanks to Staci for her touching poetry, to Rori for accompanying me on Puff, to Amanda and Joe for their trip down memory lane, and especially to Bobbie for that marvelous dramatic poetry recitation on the plight of the ant. This was Bobbie's first time out to Tri-S, and what an impression she made! The refreshments were great, and also in the coffeehouse theme, thanks to Norma, Joyce, and Karen, the newest addition to the hospitality committee. Thanks girls.

Halloween Party!

October is National Transgender Month, and you know what that means. Halloween parties galore! And Chi Chapter is no exception. Wear your finest, your scariest, your most girlish, or your most ghoulish. But whatever costume you decide to wear, come to our Halloween party on October 19 prepared to have fun. There will be games, goodies and prizes for all.

Want some other opportunities to wear that mummy outfit? How about the CGS Halloween social at Temptations on Tuesday 10/22, the Ghost and Goblins Party at the Femme Underground on Saturday 10/26, or the Procrastinators Costume Party at the Holiday En Femme on Friday 11/8. Your costume will sure get a workout this year!

Future Meetings

What do we have lined up for the next few months? Well in November, after all the fun at the Holiday en Femme, we are fortunate to have Ellen Meyers from the Cook County State's Attorney's Office. She is the official liaison to the gay and lesbian community, and the *ex officio* liaison to the transgendered community. She will tell us how her office deals with hate crimes and discrimination. December is our awards meeting and exchange of gifts. And in January, we've invited Dr. Michael Bailey, Professor of Psychology at Northwestern University, whose research has dealt with various aspects of the transgendered community.

Bye now, gotta go work on that costume!

Miranda



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(Continued from page 3) (Bobbie)

can't help thinking about how intelligent and self assured many of my new friends are.

More than any other group I have ever been with these people seem to "have it all together". The conversations were very witty and clever and most of the attendees seemed very intelligent. I was impressed and at the same time I felt very at ease. It was a great feeling. Several people expressed the fact that they felt fortunate or even "blessed" to have a transgender persona and I feel the same way. Instead of there being something "wrong" with us I think that there is something "right" with us."

Bobbie

(Continued from page 1)(Next Meeting)

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....**

(Continued from page 3) (Miranda)

sense) is entitled to human rights and dignity.

I support the Transexual Menace. These are my rights that I am demonstrating for this time. And I support Queer Nation, because these are my rights also.

I know what I am, and I am comfortable with my gender identity. And I support the mission of Tri-Ess, which is to be a focused social support group for the crossdresser and his family. It should stay that way because the need is there. But we need to acknowledge that we are all part of a larger community. And that community includes gays, lesbians, bisexuals, transsexuals (both M2F and F2M), drag queens and kings, etc. When one of us is denied our rights, we all are.

The '60s was the decade for civil rights. This is our '60s. Let's made the '90s the decade for gender rights. The decade for freedom of expressional and affectional orientation. And I hope that when all of this is achieved, you will look proudly back at the '90s and say, "I helped do that!"

Chicago Area Transgender Activities October 1996

Week of October 6-12

Tuesday Oct 8, 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee (708-863-7714)
Saturday October 12, Gemini Gender Group, Milwaukee Area, call (414) 297-9328
Saturday October 12, T.O.N.I. Social, call 219-929-8533 for info

Week of October 13-19

Thursday October 17, C.A.T.S, 4751 W. Touhy, Suite 203, Lincolnwood (708-266-8626)
Fri Oct 18, Dunes Get-A-Way (thru 10/20), Saugatuck, MI. 616-857-1401 for reserv.
Sat Oct 19, 10:00 a.m. TS Menace rally APA Convention Chicago (847-394-9293)
Sat Oct 19, 8:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Tri-Ess, Holiday Inn Exp, Elmhurst (630-262-8707)

Week of October 20-26

Tues Oct 22, 8:30 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park
Thursday October 24, 7:00 p.m. T.O.N.I meeting, call 219-929-8533 for info
Saturday October 26, 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, Ghost and Goblins Party, Femme Underground, Oak Park (708-383-8338)
Saturday October 26, Chi Chapter Couples Group, call 630-262-8707 for info

Week of October 27-November 2

Thurs-Sun, Oct 31- Nov 2, Fall Harvest 96 - The Homecoming, Cedar Rapids, Iowa

COMING IN NOVEMBER!

Wed-Sun, Nov 6-10, Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme, Hyatt Lisle, call 630-262-8707

TS Menace Action to Protest GID Misuse

Gender Identity Disorder (GID) Classification is being misused by members of the American Psychiatric Association (APA) to "treat" non-complaining gender-variant children as young as 2-4, including young crossdressers whose parents simply fear the stigma of queer offspring. Treatment runs the gamut from basic psychotherapy to round-the-clock reward-punishment regimes of behavior modification, to forcible institutionalization in a psychiatric ward, sometimes complete with thorazine, haldol or other psycho-active drugs.

A peaceful demonstration has been called by members of the Chicago, Connecticut, NYC and Boston chapters of the direct action group the Transexual Menace to protest this abuse. It is to be held outside the APA's national meeting in Chicago on Saturday, October 19 at 10:00 a.m. at the Chicago Marriott Downtown at 540 N. Michigan Ave. All members and friends of the Chicago area TG community are invited to participate.

Debbie Johnson of It's Time Wisconsin, which is joining in the protest, points out it is important to distinguish legitimate from illegitimate uses of the GID classification. "We are not protesting the right of informed individuals to seek for themselves the classification for obtaining medical and psychological care and reimbursement. We will be protesting the misuse of the classification to enforce gender norms and to pathologize gender variance which merely makes people uncomfortable."

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The annual Douglas Dunes, Michigan Get-A-Way will be held October 17-20th at site of first Be-All

As usual, the Chi-Chapter meeting is also scheduled for that weekend. Grump-grump Brunches, dinners, everything to make you happy for 4 days. and private too. Reservations can be made by calling the **Douglas Dunes (616) 857-1401**..make mention of IME/CGS Normal cost is approx \$100 for 3-4 days includes-food and housing.

Chi Chapter/TriEss

P.O.Box 40
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Officers

President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Miranda Stevens
VP/Membership: Candace Mahne
Secretary: Coleen Conner
Treasurer: Bridget Morgan

Committees

Special Events: Naomi Owen
Newcomers: Amanda
Dee Dee Bolden
Member retention: Christine K.
P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn
Hospitality: Norma & Joyce

TRI-ESS is a not-for-profit social and educational support group for crossdressers and their spouses and partners. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month.

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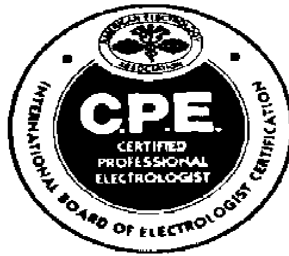


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