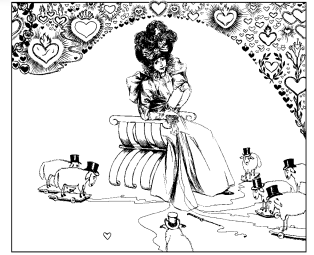


Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVII February 1998
Issue # 2

1ST ANNUAL QUEEN OF HEARTS PAGEANT



Happenings

by Rachel James

Hello to all! It is so nice to be another month closer to Spring. I have lots to share with you this month, so let's get to it.

First, a note of thanks to Riki Wilchens for being with us in January. She provided us with a very thought-provoking and humorous evening. Best of luck to her in her efforts with GenderPac. Thanks also to Miranda for arranging for Riki's visit.

February promises to be a fun month for us. The 21st we will hold our First Annual Queen of Hearts Pageant. The winner will be selected for inner and outer beauty to represent the ideal of what we as Chi Chapter want to be. As of the January meeting we have 8 contestants signed up. Anyone who shows up on the 21st and wants to participate may do so. Even if you aren't planning on being a contestant, wear your best outfit in case you become infected with "pageant fever" after you arrive. Please support this event so it can become an annual tradition. Don't forget, there will also be a professional photographer available to capture your beauty!

In March we will be visited by a wonderful man named Mark Werle. Mark is a counselor with lots of experience helping others deal with personal and relationship issues. Mark will speak on various topics including: finding yourself, coping with being "outside the norm", and relationships. I think you will find Mark to be a very interesting man with plenty of good things to share.

I have no clue what we are doing in April, so.....let's move on to May.

Ahhhh, Spring! When a young man's thoughts turn to sundresses and short skirts!?! And let's not forget our annual (almost) Spring Fling! Yes, our May meeting will be an evening of dinner and dancing for all. We plan to have a buffet dinner and a DJ providing dance music. More details will be forthcoming, but go ahead and mark the 3rd Saturday in May in bright red ink!

As always, please contact me with any ideas you have for programs you would like to see.

Love to All,
Rachel James

Presidents Podium

Thoughts

It's February already, time when the snows are about 3 feet deep and the temperatures below -10. Time to take down those Christmas decorations....yeah even those left up from two years ago....yikes... wonder what my roof would look like having reindeers up there for 24 months???? I'd need a shovel.

Hey wait, it's 46 outside, sunny and breezy, it rained yesterday, must be May....Already???? Where's the snow? I heard the groundhog stepped out this morning, saw his/her shadow and was promptly drowned in a flash flood. **What does that mean?** With all the rain we have had, Chicago is probably on top of a huge mud slide, slowing making it's way to the gulf.

Speaking of May (What a segway huh?) don't forget the upcoming SPRING FLING to be held at the Holiday Inn Express on May 16th... at this rate it should be about 95 out by then.

This is Your Last Chi Tribune

I noticed that the dues payments are flowing in, we are well over 100 so far for this year. We also have 5 friends members which is an increase of 3 over last year. Along with Rori and Fay Bass, Carol Rodgers and Miranda have asked to become 'friend' members. Our other 'friend' is Dr. Linda Wetherbe of Wildwood, IL who is a counselor and her # is 847-223-6123.

If you haven't paid your dues by March 1, you will be dropped from the mailing list.

Food

As you know, Norma & Joyce will unable to handle the food for the meetings after March. Kim & I have volunteered to handle the food supply after that We will need some assistance in this as for serving and setup, if anyone would like to volunteer, please let me know at the February meeting.

(Continued on page 4)



JANUARY RECAP BY KIKI

Since our distinguished president was down in Disney Land goofin' off with Minnie and Mickey Mouse, Candace Mahne, our VP/Membership opened the meeting at 8:16 sharp. She asked all those present to introduce themselves and state if this was the first time they had attended one of our meetings. Several rose and stated it was their first time and received a welcoming hand of applause.

After introductions, Rachel James, our new VP/Programs, rose and spoke about next month's Queen of Hearts Beauty contest which would be based on the contestants inner and outer beauty. She asked that those who wanted to compete sign up on a list she would circulate later. She also asked for volunteers to be judges. This writer signed up to be a judge. A professional photographer will be available for pictures. (All dressed-up TVs must have their pictures taken. That is rule No. 2 of the TV Code of Behavior. Rule No. 1 is wearing something fetching.) Also for the March meeting a speaker on relationships and gender will be presented.

Candace then asked our Secretary Kiki, (me) who came undressed if she had any thing to say. Kiki rose and said she didn't but she did mention a new computer program she had purchased called Cosmopolitan Virtual Makeover which enables you to import a picture of your face and then try different hair styles and makeup. Kiki reported that it was a gas playing with the thing and that it would be a wonderful aid for any girl or CD.

Christine, our Treasurer, next spoke about our dues being payable and—due.

Dee Dee, co-chair of the Newcomers/Membership Committee reported that our membership now was the largest it had been in some time.

Kate, of the P.A.L.S./Couples group, talked about the good meeting they had previous to the start of the Business Meeting.

Julie Ann made an announcement of Fem Night Out and encouraged all to try it.

Naomi even found time to say a few words on the upcoming Be All 98 this June in Pittsburgh.

Rori called everybody's attention the rather extensive schedule for things to do that was sitting on everybody's table.

Miranda then introduced Riki Anne Wilkins our featured speaker for the night. Riki spoke about the fight going on in Washington for the rights of gays and lesbians and how those who are transgender will get short shift if we don't help them. She frequently quoted from her book, Read My Lips, which among other things was about her transition from male to female and kept all the Tri Ess members mesmerized from start to finish. She pushed the term "gender variance" rather than transgender which I totally agree with. All 20 of her books were sold after she spoke.

If any one wishes to contribute to Riki's cause and deduct it, you can send a check to:

IFGE

What a Byte!

By Athena



Website of the Month:

Yes, the story of Clinton's alleged relations with the alleged ex-White House Intern Monica Lewinsky was first broadcast on the Internet. Newsweek's reporters had sat on the story for a lengthy period of time agonizing about publishing it. Apparently someone got sick of waiting and leaked the story to **The Drudge Report** (what a great name). This internet-based rag is rapidly becoming the primary outlet for all the scandalous gossip that Washington can dredge up. So if you are like me and love to gorge on the latest tasty Washington scandalous tidbit You can dredge up Drudge at <http://www.drudgereport.com/>. This Web page has hypertext links to columns by all of the heavy hitters of the political commentary field as well as links to the all major news services throughout the country and around the world. For political news junkies like myself it is a true nirvana.

Need an anonymous, free e-mail address?

<http://www.netaddress.com/tpl/Door/Login?> is the site for you.

Two transgendered webpages of note are:

Our very own Amanda Lynn Richards <http://www.mcs.net/~mandy/>

To get basic information on all aspects of our lifestyle try the **Transgendered FAQ website:**

http://www2.wintermute.co.uk/users/snuffles/The_Plaid/FAQs/FAQ1.html

Got any suggestions for articles? Drop me a line at Athena13@usa.net

Box 229

Waltham, MA 02254-0229

Please make a note on the check that it's for Gender Pac, also check, and this will help a lot, to see if your company will make a matching donation.

The following 68 attended the meeting:

Christine, Miranda, Dana, Paula, Naomi, Laura, Kiki, Ruby, Sheila D, Barbara & Barbara Diane, Lenore, Pamela A. & Martine, Rose, Jamie, Athena, Lori, Candace & Dawn, Amanda, Edie, Lee, Carol, Dee Dee, Allannah, Samantha, Norma & Joyce, Rachel, Vickie, Pamela M., Vanessa, Stacey, Rori, Judy, Shelley, Aries, Kimberly, Laura, Andrea, Amanda, Renee, Nicole, Jill, Jackie Ann Crystal, Diana, Lisa Anne & Bessie, Julie Ann, Pam, Sara, Lisa & Janice, Debbie & Laurie Ann, Collette, Greer, Eileen, Robin, Marsha, Michelle, Misty, Cassie, Misti, Jennifer, Sloppy Joe was also seen and looked marvy.

PRICILLA QUEEN of the SEAS

By Dr. Peggy Rudd

The open hand holds more love than the closed fist. We all know this, but when transgendered behavior is introduced within a marriage or committed relationship, most of us are inclined to fight back. Recently I met a group of women who chose to open their hearts to love rather than retaliation. The demonstration of their love had a far-reaching effect, not only to themselves and their relationships, but to 1400 other people who were to observe their unconditional love in action during the days to follow.

It all began when these women joined their husbands on the **Seventh Annual Dignity Cruise** to Bermuda in September. Each woman felt their husband deserved an opportunity to enjoy fine dining, pampered service, sightseeing and shopping while fully dressed as a woman. Each wife knew the emotional pleasure their husband would experience when pictures were made with the captain of a luxury cruise ship, when waiters in tuxedos helped with their chair, and when the doormen called her "Lady". Each woman knew the potential enrichment for their relationship. What they did not expect was the wave of acceptance from the other passengers on board, and the most tremendous outreach opportunity of their lives.

Acceptance was not evident on the first day. In fact most people didn't even notice we were there. Perhaps it was because the other passengers were feeling the ultimate pleasure for themselves. They were too caught up in the atmosphere to notice a small group of very tall women. A few may have wondered if the Canadian Women's Basketball Team was on board.

I believe we began to be noticed soon after Carol, Babs, Jody and Char bought a horse to be entered in the races later in the week. I use the word "horse" loosely, since she was only a stick pony without even a hint of a costume. Very soon the pony had a name, PRICILLA, QLJEEN of the SEAS, which she wore proudly wherever she went, and she went EVER RE! Very soon thereafter she also had a costume, and what a costume it was! Everyone noticed the glamorous horse with long, brunette hair, the red shoes with four-inch heels attached to wooden legs by ankle straps, and a pair of sunshades to protect her delicate eyes. Carol made sure Pricilla was usually "fashionably late."

The waiters really got into the spirit of pricilla. I heard one waiter whisper, "by golly, if a horse can wear a wig and sun shades, I can too!" He transcended an initial shyness, and came boldly to our tables. "Could I try on Pricilla's wig?" Permission was granted, despite the fact that Pricilla seemed a bit annoyed. Some even swear they heard a faint, "NEIGH", Translated "NO!" in English. The waiter took the wig anyway and smiled broadly as he served our food, long dark hair flowing. We never knew if the waiter was among the 10% of men who have an interest in exploring the feminine, thought the idea was a funny joke, or actually wanted to participate in the camaraderie he had observed at our tables.

By then the positive mood had begun to spread. Several other waiters came to our tables and asked, "How many wigs can you round up for the wait staff" As you might expect, there were several available, so the next night the passengers experienced the parade of Baked Alaska carried by waiters with beautiful hair. Most managed to keep the hair away from the flames!

Meanwhile at the other end of the dining room there were two other groups- the staff from a dental office and a golf team. The two groups began to affectionately call us "the group having all the fun." They also noticed that we were the group bonded by a rare form of unconditional love!

The next day the golf team was searching frantically for us. They had an urgent request and time was running out! It seems one of the wives in the dental group had a birthday the next day. Her husband mused, "what if I dress as a woman and surprise her? What better gift could I give her? She will see that I am not afraid to express my softer side." He didn't expect what happened next! When he was half way between a masculine and a feminine persona, a second member of the group asked to have a transformation also.



The mood was set, and the plans were made. Just a few minutes after dinner began the two men entered the room, each dressed to the nines, both wearing broad smiles, and one carrying a beautiful birthday cake with an undisclosed number of flaming candles. Our group was already in place in a circle around the table, ready to sing, "Happy Birthday." The crowd joined in with laughter when the husband of the birthday girl pushed his right sleeves up to show a tattoo which had been painted on to his muscular upper arm. His message came through loud and clear. "Hey you guys out there! I am all man, but it is ok to show a softer side."

Something magical began to happen. A wave of support spread through the dining room. Passengers stood to their feet to **give** an ovation. The staff turned on the music, and dancing broke out all across the huge room. We felt the inhibitions drop like a giant thud clearly heard throughout the formal atmosphere. The music in the air was not chamber music which on would expect in an environment in which the mood is set by candlelight and roses. We found ourselves rocking to the sounds which screamed out, "Move away from stereotypes. Join in the fun. Life is too short for inhibitions!" Dancing continued between the tables, and smiles were broad and contagious.

By then our group was tightly bonded to the dental office and the macho guys from the golf team. We even joined in when they bellowed, "Macho, macho, macho man! " About this time a plan started to form. All three groups would come to dinner, in mass, dressed in toga.

The next night, about an hour before dinner, we gathered in one of the cabins to get dressed in the flowing gowns made of white bed sheets borrowed from the cabin boys. Observers watched our wives as they demonstrated love and support for their husbands. Each of us made sure the robes were beautifully draped, all hair was in place under the headpiece, and no bra straps were showing on the bare shoulders.

Then at the appointed time all three groups entered. There were no distinct lines separating the transgendered from golfers and the dental staff. the groups had bonded, and we moved as one. *(Continued on page 4)*

(Continued from page 3) Pricilla

other people on board were moved as well, and the "ice" was broken. Laughter replaced the more subdued mood of formal dining, and support continued to grow.

The following morning the Purser's office told us they had been swamped with requests from passengers in the first sitting to be changed to late sitting. Word was out that the "neatest folks on board were in our group."

Our experience reached a climax on the night of the talent show. Jody had entered a few days before. What we did not know, however, was that the entertainers on board had given Jody an extra measure of coaching. Other contestants preceded her, and sang in average voices center stage, with little animation. Then it happened! Jody was announced by the Cruise Director, the curtain lifted, and Jody appeared like a beauty queen. Standing within a beautiful backdrop of stars, she gracefully moved before us. The stage crew released the smoky fog from beneath the floor as she began a sultry lip synch to full orchestration. She moved through the audience, gently stroking the bald heads she found within her path, and perched upon a lap or two. The crowd roared, and when the song had ended everyone was standing in a romantic voice of approval.

At the conclusion of the act, Jody led everyone in "Happy Birthday" as one of the entertainers approached the front of the auditorium. Our group gathered around as a tee shirt was presented to honor her special day. The inscription read, "I was born a boy, but I really want to be a girl!" Then the truth came out - When the entertainer joined the crew she had very short hair, so the other entertainers gave her a masculine name. "So!" Jody explained. "We have just made you an honorary member of the transgendered community." The entertainer blushed, the crowd roared, and everyone in our group felt a rare form of satisfaction and joy!

A still silence fell over the crowd as Jody took her place center stage. Her voice dropped into a mellow baritone as she spoke. "As you already know, I am Jody but I am also John. I am a man who was born with a very large feminine side, and I express the feminine side with clothing. Our group would like to say, "Thank you," to all 1400 of you who have opened your hearts to us. You have accepted us and you

have shown us that you are capable of moving beyond the social mores which sometimes control our lives. We love you for this. The group joins me in gratitude.

If there had been a dry eye in the crowd, they were no more. Slowly the crowd rose to their feet, wiped the tears from their eyes, and started to move toward us. The comments warmed our hearts. Some said, "you taught us much about life." Others said, "When we get home we are going shopping for large sized dresses."

The next day it was time to pack for home. Pricilla, Queen of the Seas, was returned to the Drop room, but her red high heels and wig went back home with Jody and Char. Oh! by the way. Pricilla was not a winner, she only showed in the second race. But let me tell you, our community was a winner. Many people will view us differently in the future. This all happened because a group of women chose to share the experience with their husbands. It is true! The open hand holds more love than the closed fist.

(Reprinted from the April 97 issue of The Femme Forum of the Tau -Chi Chapter)

Rachel Ad

(Continued from page 1) Denise

Holiday EnFemme

The 98 Holiday EnFemme has been canceled. Seems the scheduled time and place were in conflict with an existing event "Fall Harvest". My suggestion was to have a combined affair, sort of a "EnFemme Fall Harvest Holiday"...a gigantic affair in keeping with the Mall of America theme.....guess it didn't float. Chi's next job at hosting it will be in 2001....can't wait.

Meeting Room

Each month I attempt to announce the location of the upcoming meeting room. Be it the upper level room or the lower level room, I usually check with the hotel just prior to going to press so everyone will know what room we are in. Well, as you have noticed, this doesn't always happen...Even though the basement room costs more to rent than the first floor room, they offer it to us at the same price, however if they get a customer for that room they do bounce us. So that is why we sometimes find ourselves moved.... FYI, Our current cost for the room is \$200 with additional charges of \$69 each for the side rooms, plus tax..

Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council Activities Calendar FEBRUARY 1998

Weeks of February 7-28

Sat 2/7 6:30 p.m. CGS Social, ULTIMATE OZ (Upper Level) 7301 W. Roosevelt, Franklin Park
Sat 2/7 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328
Tue 2/10 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee
Sat 2/14 9:00 p.m. Sweetheart Ball, ULTIMATE OZ
Thurs 2/19 7:30 - 8:30 Shake Your Booties, Beauties Class (Lower level of Transformations) -
Call to register 708-383-8338

Sat 2/21 8:00 p.m. Chi-Chapter meeting Elmhurst , 1st Annual Queen Of Hearts Pageant

Fri-Sun 2/ 20-22 Across the Fruited Plain Conference UIC - a discussion on gender issues

Tue 2/24 8:00 p.m. CGS Social, Temptations
Sat 2/28 7:00 p.m. T.O.N.I. meeting, 219-650-2142 E-Mail: toniltd@aol.com
Sat 2/28 Chi Chapter Couples Group Call 630-262-8707 for details.

Weeks of March 1-14

Sat 3/14 7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. (Riki Wilchins) 414-297-9328

Feb 26 - March 1 Texas Tea, San Antonio, 830-980-7788 E-Mail tntp@flash.net

March 24-26 IFGE Convention "Crossing Borders" Toronto, 781-899-2212 E-Mail: XBorders98@aol.com

April 30-May 3 California Dreaming (714) 281-0271 E-Mail PPOC@aol.com <http://www..flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

May 16 Chi Chapter SPRING FLING Dinner E-Mail Chitriess@aol.com

July 15-19 S.P.I.C.E. Atlanta E-Mail: spice@tri-ess.com

November 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis

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Couples Group

The couples group will meet on February 28th. We will announce the location at a later date or you may call the helpline for information. We welcome all newcomers and first timers.

NOTE: There is NO crossdressing at the meeting.

P.A.L.S.

The P.A.L.S. meeting will be held at 6:30pm on Feb 21st just prior to the regular meeting. Watch for signs to the correct room.

February meeting schedule February 21st

Lower Level Holiday Inn

Newcomers and PALS meet at 6:30
Business meeting starts at 8:00

Dues are now being accepted for the year 1998.

Chapter Dues are \$24.00 for all members and couples.

National Dues are \$36.00 for individual and \$48.00 for couples

(Two years available at \$60 or \$80)

National Dues for Friends \$24.00

Commerical Friend \$48.00

Please remit directly to Chi Chapter at:
Chi-Chapter
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040



P.O.Box 40
Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

Officers

President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Rachel James
VP/Membership: Candace Mahne
Secretary: Kiki Carmichael
Treasurer: Christine Adams

Commitees

Newcomers: Amanda
Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn & Kate
Hospitality: Norma, Joyce & Donna

Chi Chapter is a not-for-profit social and educational support group of Tri-Ess members and their spouses, partners and friends. Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month.

Chi Chapter Telephone Helpline:

(630) 262-8707

E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com

Home Page:

[HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/chimain.htm](http://users.aol.com/chitriess/triess/chimain.htm)

Check your mailing label. The label will give you the amount of your Chapter and National dues. All dues amounts are calculated for an expiration date of Jan 1, 1999. You may also take advantage of a substantial discount on your national dues by paying just \$60 for a two year membership. Adjustments for prorated amounts will show a reduced amount.

Local (red)

National (blue)

24 35

Jane Doe
PO Box 3622
Weston IL 60177

Wanna Have A Party???

Here's your chance!! At Chi-Chapter's

SPRING FLING

'The Celebration of Spring'
Buffet with a cash bar, dancing and surprise
entertainment

May 16th 1998 Regular Meeting Night

Holiday Inn Express-Elmhurst

Located 1 Mile south of North Ave. on Route 83 (Kingery Hwy-Busse Road)

at Riverside Dr. (opposite Wal-Mart) Elmhurst

(It's only 10 miles directly south of the Midway hotel on Busse Road/Rt 83)

**Cocktails 6:30 PM Dinner 8:00 PM Menu: Inside Round of Beef, Baked Chicken,
Mostascioli Oven Brownd Potatoes, Green Beans Almondine, Dessert, Tossed
Salad, Rolls, Coffee / Tea, Cash Bar**

All Tickets are reserved and must be purchased by May 12 to insure seating.

We cannot guarantee seating/food for "At the door tickets" Door Tickets \$36 each

Total cost per person \$29.00 / Room reservations available (630) 279-0700

TO: Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

DON'T MAIL AFTER May 5th, IT MAY NOT ARRIVE IN
TIME. In that case, please call in your reservation to the hotline
630-262-8707, leave your name and number of tickets desired.

Enclosed is my paid reservation for
_____ person(s), for the 'Spring Fling' on Saturday evening, May 16, 1998 at the Holiday Inn Express, I
am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$_____ Tickets will be
retained at the door.

Please print your femme name and last initial _____

Member #(If a member) _____

COST: Per Person \$29.00 At the door: \$36.00 @

**NO RISK....MONEY REFUNDED IF YOU CANCEL BY 6 p.m. FRIDAY MAY 15th
BY LEAVING A MESSAGE ON THE HOTLINE....PLEASE PRE-PAY**