

Inside this issue....

- ; Amanda Lynn's Notes 2
- ; Abby's Road 2
- ; Where do we come from? 3
- ; Program Notes 3
- ; P.A.L.S. 4

Prez Stuff by Denise

Spring-- Again?

Just when you thought it was safe to go outside, you have grown accustomed to the cold weather and the frozen fingers, etc. NOW, they go and bring on warm weather....Geeze what will they think of next? And just who the heck is "They"?

If "they" wanted to make us happy, "They" would give us unlimited charge cards at the local boutique, Rachel's, Roar's, Sally Ann's, Judy's Headliners, Skyscraper Heels and Sally's Mary Kaye. Leave us alone and give us the card!!!!

Newsletter Mailings Cease

Mailings of the Chi Tribune have Ceased, at least for of the 62 groups/chapters we have been sending them to. More information inside.

Transgender's are Queer.....????

How would you like to check out your e-mail and see this as a head line ?

"Transgenders make up 1/4 of queer lobbyists at Ohio Statehouse"

Incoherent ramblings continued on page

Programs

April 17. Spring Clean out your Closet
Bring all those no-longer needed clothes and pawn them off on someone else. We will be serving Pizza....yum-yum.

May 15, Spring Fling, Dinner/Dance

June 19, Talk about the old times.

July 24, Garden Party Luau

August, Picnic

October, Halloween Karaoke party.

November, Turkey on the house

Chi Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# 38 April 1, 1999
Issue # 4

April Program

Clean out your closet and enjoy some Pizza

No Joke

Blabby Speaks Out by Rene'e

I want to warn everyone about some unscrupulous books that are being marketed to our community, obviously these books are leveraging on the good name of a respected member of our community.

An author going by the name of Pebble Tudd has written the following books, but we would advise members to stay away from them as they border on being extremely maudlin. The first book to be reviewed was **"My Husband Wears His Own Clothes."** dealing with the difficult issues of why these men, who spend so much time looking good as women, then turn around and go back to being the same slobs and chauvinist pigs that they always were.

There is also a trilogy in this collection with titles like **"My Wife Wears My Clothes,"** dealing with wardrobe theft and the common wife. How do you learn to cope with your favorite sweaters smelling like perfume. Who is actually responsible for washing it, if it is indeed your property, but while your wife is wearing it, your three month old child pukes on it. Is it her responsibility to launder it, or since you were equally responsible for bringing the child into the world and it is your sweater anyway, should you not be at least as equally responsible for the laundry of the sweater. Two chapters were dedicated to this subject. The second chapter deals with the reality that the laundry is in fact women's work and therefore she is ultimately responsible for the laundering of everything anyway, so you have nothing to worry about you stinking male, chauvinist pig.

Other titles to follow are:

* **"My wife wears her own clothes and I wear some of my wife's clothes and some of my own clothes. "**

* **"I have a friend who knows a man who once put on women's clothes. "**

And finally, to cap it all off, the well rounded title:

* **"If we could all run around naked, none of this would be a problem anyway."**


We also hear that Ms. Tudd also has a book called **"Cross Dressing with Spice"** and this is to be followed up with the inevitable **Spice Cruise**

Enjoy four drunken days dressed like a tart, somewhere out in the ocean, singing silly pop songs and imagining you are an idol to millions of little girls. We are sure that you will use your best judgment when confronted with such literature.

Borrowed from the Nov 98 issue of the "Southern Belle" of the Sigma Epsilon Chapter



Amanda Lynn's Notes



Spring. Have you ventured outdoors? Have you looked about you? Did you see the dark earth crack open with the green spears of life? Did you wonder at the promise of spring that keeps its word every year? Did you see buds starting to swell on the trees? Did you look up into the sky when you heard the honking of hundreds of geese migrating north? Were you warmed by the sun rising higher in the sky, yet comforted by the coolness of the breeze?

What wonders we experience in nature! How much a part of nature we are. Like a seed or bulb, inside our being at birth we possess many of the attributes of how we will grow. What our shape will be, our color, our height, which parent's looks might be dominant are all stored up within waiting to come to fulfillment. What will be our special attribute?

We might be planted by a gardener who has set out hundreds of yellow tulips, yet somehow mixed in just one purple one. The spring rain will help us grow, the sun will warm the earth around us and we shall push forth to feel its rays. We will bloom however, a bit different from those around us. The gardener will say, "I planted just yellow tulips, where did that purple one come from?" We are still the shape of a tulip, but our color is different, but regal. We stand out, yet we sway in the breeze and feel the bright sun just as much as the other flowers. We hope that we will be able to survive within all the others of the yellow color, rather than be picked out and discarded.

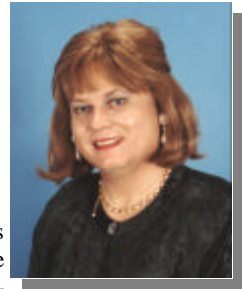
Perhaps we are like roses. We are beautiful at the end of a thorny stem. The thorns might represent our troubles, the flower, our great beauty. We long for the loveliness and fragrance of the flower, but to handle a rose hastily might mean the pain of being pinched by the thorns. Don't let the thorns hurt those around you. Let your flower be a joy to them instead.

Do we rooted in the wild, or do we have a gardener that nurtures us? Perhaps the gardener is a very close friend, a spouse or even our own way of growing a spiritual relationship with a loving creator. We need to be cared for in special ways. We are no ordinary plant. We need to foster friendships and communicative relationships. Perhaps some of us grow alone and wish and hope for more flowers around us. Maybe some of us only bloom for very short periods of time. Unlike flowers that are bound by their roots, we can get up and move about and take steps that can make our velvety petals longed for by those around us.

Are we happy to be in a bed of all the same flowers, or are we happy that our beauty blends together in a garden of blooms of many other colors and kinds? Have we learned that to be accepted, we must also accept?

It's time to bloom! It's time to enjoy spring! It's time to gather the special flowers in this world create a stunning bouquet of gender gifted persons.

ABBY'S ROAD



Well, its time to take in another track on Abby's Road. The purpose of these columns is to share the journey of one of Chi-Chapters newer members (me) as she begins to gain courage and confidence in herself as she steps out into a brave new world. Hopefully, the trials and tribulations I experience will help others in taking their own personal journeys.

This last month, Abby has been a little busier than normal, and a little gutsier. First of all, I participated in Shelley's outreach program at Rock Valley College in Rockford, IL. This required that I drive all the way to Rockford, en femme, alone. That's pretty safe and easy for me now. Walking around the College campus was a little queasy until I found the rest on our group, then I was fine (safety in numbers). We did the programs and had a great time. The professor (they never looked like that while I was in school) wants us all to come back and repeat the program in the Fall semester. We finished around 2:00, and Shelley wanted us all to go out for lunch together. Since I was somewhat familiar with Rockford, it was up to me to choose the restaurant. Great. How am I supposed to know where it would be OK for three tall women to do lunch? So I just pulled in to the Chili's parking lot, and held my breath. We were seated and waited on without any problem, but it sure like everyone was staring at me. Not at Shelley or Lorraine, just at me.

After lunch, Shelley and Lorraine headed back to Chicago, leaving Abby alone in Rockford. It was a beautiful afternoon, and I wasn't ready to drive home and get out of my Abby duds. So I drove over to Cherry Valley Mall, took a deep breath and walked inside. I have never done anything like this before. I walked the entire mall, both levels, but couldn't muster up the courage to go into any stores. I left there and drove to a strip mall, where I actually went into a Famous Footwear, and talked to a sales clerk. Unfortunately, they didn't really have anything interesting in my size (11D), so I didn't get to try anything on. Next I walked into a Marshall's and a K-Mart before deciding I had pressed my luck long enough.

Then came Saturday and a trip to Chicago for the Tri-Ess meeting. Terri and I drove in early so we could have some dinner somewhere beforehand in Abby didn't chicken out. We stopped at the Houlihans at Woodfield and ate in the bar. Most people were watching basketball and didn't pay us any attention. While Terri left to use the ladies room, I ordered drinks from the waitress. When Terri came back I asked her "How's the ladies room?" She said it was fine and completely empty. So I decided it was time for Abby to make her first foray into a public ladies room. Terri was right, it was completely empty when I entered, but as soon as the door closed behind me, it opened again and five ladies followed me in. I fled to the nearest stall and locked myself in. I took care of business, remembering to make sure my feet pointed in the right direction, and waited. And waited. And waited. Unfortunately, there were only three stalls in the ladies room, so others were waiting for me, too. I finally put myself back together and stepped out. By that time there was only one other person waiting for a stall, and she was so happy to get it she went right past me without a second look. Back at our table, and Terri said she was about to come looking for me. That would have really been embarrassing. Next time we're going together!

PRECISELY FROM PALS

We had eleven in attendance at our March PALS meeting with one newcomer. Our topic was, "How much is too much and Respecting each others space." We were able to share much feeling, emotion and laughter. At our April meeting the phone/email listing will be available to PALS members to assist them in reaching out for needed support.

PALS presented the program for the Tri-Ess general meeting. A question and answer panel of both spouses and cross-dressers answered questions submitted by Tri-Ess members. Questions were picked randomly out of a box and after the panel member presented their answer, the audience was encouraged to participate by asking further related questions or adding their own comments. Preceding the question and answer panel, Abby, Terri and I presented a skit, which also portrayed a scenario for the evening's topic. A roaring Hip,Hip, Hooray for Abby who wrote the entire script. Needless to say, the evening was a great success and much fun for everyone.

I hope the following information will help the transgendered community in gently communicating their needs to their partners. Sensitivity, gentle nurturing & love are the key to communication about cross-dressing.

Linda

Tools & Strategies for Partners

When & How To Tell

The longer a partner is kept in the dark about cross-dressing, the more negative their reaction after they are told. Therefore, it is important that a partner be informed as early as possible in a serious relationship, and most certainly *before* marriage. However, that is easier said than done. Fear of rejection runs high in cross-dressers. No one likes to be rejected.

There is really no "best" time and intuition plays a big part in deciding when to tell your partner. The cross-dresser needs to be extremely sensitive to his partner during this disclosure process. Remember, most women, in general, have been socialized to reject cross-dressing. The cross-dresser's goal at this time is to provide only information about the behavior and his need to express it, not try to force acceptance. The setting should be intimate and private. The annual company picnic is definitely *not* the time or place for such discussions. A quiet evening at home is more appropriate. Be prepared to spend as much time as necessary answering questions and do not expect this to be resolved or understood in a single session.

Once the initial disclosure has been made, if the partner seems understanding at all, future conversations will be much easier. Above all, *honesty* is required in response to all questions. If the woman ends the relationship because the cross-dresser has been honest with her, he may be better off without her and she without him. Before telling your partner, be completely sure you realize the very real possibility of losing her.

Some Guidelines for Telling Your Partner

Don'ts

- Don't overwhelm your partner with too much information. Stop long enough to let her ask questions and be prepared to stop immediately if her reaction is one of shock. Don't retract anything that was said up to this point. Sometimes, her reaction may be delayed by days or weeks. Be prepared to deal with this situation over a period of time.
- Don't describe cross-dressing in negative terms; don't say you have a "problem." Cross-dressing is a part of you, for better or worse, and it will never go away. So, why make it more difficult to deal with by giving it a negative connotation?
- Don't surprise your partner by showing up cross-dressed. Let her ask to see you cross-dressed. It is a good idea to show her a photo first. Later she may ask to meet your "other-self" in person. Be prepared for another possible shock reaction. What may sound like a fun or neat idea at first can take on a totally different meaning when confronted face to face.
- Don't rush your partner off to a cross-dressing support group meeting until she's seen you dressed in private or unless she requests it. The sight of a room full of cross-dressed men may unnerve her and do more damage than good. Your partner may never choose to see you dressed and may never want to attend a group meeting. Be prepared to compromise. She may wish to attend a PALS Support Group meeting by entering through a private entrance rather than through the cross-dressers meeting room. This can be arranged.
- Don't assume that your partner's response today will be the same as it was yesterday, or the same tomorrow. People have feelings and emotions that change on a day-to-day basis. Ground rules negotiated last month can change next month, depending on how you behave and how your partner responds, either positively or negatively. That's why it is so important to keep talking to one another about feelings. That way there will be no surprises.

Do's

- Do have quality-printed information for your partner to read. Avoid cross-dressing fantasy literature and "adult" TV magazines. They do not truly represent the transgendered community. Additional suitable material would be any newsletter from one of the many cross-dressing support groups such as PALS.
- Do suggest talking to a qualified professional counselor for impartial answers to questions. Almost every support group in the country has information about counselors and therapists in their area of influence. Contact a group to find a professional who has had experience in dealing with transgendered issues. Don't waste time educating a therapist who has only textbook knowledge of cross-dressers. Also seek out a psychologist rather than a psychiatrist. You're looking for help and support, not a "cure," because there is no cure.
- Do suggest your partner join a Partners or Significant Other support group, such as PALS, where she can find peer support from the partners of other cross-dressers. If there is no such group in your area, an alternative is a newsletter specifically aimed at the wives and partners of cross-dressers. Such a newsletter is published by S.P.I.C.E. (Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education.) P.O. Box 24031, Little Rock, AR 72221. (Free with a Couples membership). S.P.I.C.E. also produces an annual conference for wives and partners at which no cross-dressing is allowed. This may be exactly the kind of support your partner needs. She may also get information from the Tri-Ess web page [HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/trisss/chimain.htm](http://users.aol.com/chitriess/trisss/chimain.htm).
- Do discuss limits and constraints on your cross-dressing activities if your partner seems understanding of your need. Some topics might be: where and when cross-dressing is acceptable, both privately and publicly; the role of cross-dressing in the bedroom; and whether to tell others, including children, other family members and friends. Discuss the extent your partner is willing to participate in your cross-dressing activities.

17th BE ALL

NO, this isn't an April Fools joke, and it sure isn't funny. Unfortunately it is real, and stated in an E-mail newsletter by well known attorney, TG rights advocator and Tri-Ess member Phyllis Frye, who for some reason believes that ALL TG's (yes, that includes us...) are "Queer". In this day and age of misinformation, I think this goes down as an all time high next to the "Manhattan Project". The GLBT rights people have decided to adopt the 'queer' label for the 'in the face' rights campaign. That means all the hetero crossdressers in Tri-Ess are now labeled and expected to identify themselves as queer. Sorry, but all the labels are confusing enough, we don't need to further confuse the public. What the GLBT movement is forgetting is that there is a difference between Sexual orientation and Gender identification, and why should we be mislabeled just to clarify things? Every one I have spoken to and the entire Chi Chapter board are all in agreement with my position on the situation. I believe that it's time we made our voices heard, please let me know your feelings on this. At the April meeting we will have a petition available which I will present at the July National board meeting, asking that Tri-Ess take a public position on this matter. If you would like more information, please see any of the officers at the next meeting.

Spring Fling

Every person who purchases a ticket to the Spring Fling is automatically entered in the drawing for a 13" Color TV (Television). Additional raffle tickets will be available at the dance. Amanda has set up some great entertainment and the evening should be a great time for all.

Newsletters

I have ceased snail mail delivery of newsletters to approximately 45 other groups. This was done as a cost saving measure. This will save \$705 over the next 12 months. Further cuts are planned. I surveyed all 60 groups on the list to see if they would take our new E-mail newsletter but only received one reply. I then contacted each group via E-Mail, there I received about 20 responses so we have a start.

I also want to extend the offer of the E-mail newsletter to any member who would like to receive it. We use the popular Acrobat PDF format and software to read the file is available at no cost. Please let me know if you would be interested, it will help cut down costs and there are even colors in that issue.

Drew Carey

We have in our library a copy of the recent Drew Carey show where his CD brother has a date with Mimi. A must see tape. Included on it is the Wild Chicago show featuring 'Transformations' and Rori.

Denise

Join your sisters and brothers for what's developing to the best Be All Convention - ever (and the BeAll Conventions are one of the oldest and best).

Cleveland Rocks - and so will you!!

Great organized parties, guided tour of the Rock I Roll Hall of Fame great programs and presentations. and much-much more.

Drew Carey was invited, maybe his brother 'Steve' will show up, who knows.

Where: Radisson Inn (near Cleveland Airport) Middleburgh Heights 7230 Engle Rd. 440-243-4040 (Reservations 800/333-3333) **When: June 2-6, 1999** The registration desk opens at 11 AM on the 2-n--. Room check in at noon (with assured room availability before 3PM).

Registration Costs (5 days/4 nights):

Before May 99 - \$280.00
\$ 100.00 minimum deposit.
After May 1, 1999 - \$305.00
 Thursday through Sunday - \$255.00
 Friday through Sunday - \$185.00
 Saturday only - \$95.00

Hotel Charges: A large block of reduced rate rooms are offered by the Radisson for preregistration at \$99.00. This rate will only be available to persons, or double occupants, that are registered for the convention (your convention registration number will be required at check in). You can reserve your room at these special rates by calling early to the Radisson Hotel @ 440-243-4040 or the Radisson reservation line @ 800-333-3333.

Special Hotel Offer: The Radisson Hotel will offer the special reduced convention room rate for two additional days preceding or following the convention days, for those of you that want to stretch your experience. This is a friendly hotel that has provided our Cleveland Club with excellent dinner meeting facilities for a long time.

Terms: The Convention Registration Cost includes all expenses, including gratuities, for all scheduled group meetings and events, to include lunches 6/3 thru 6/5, dinners/buffet 6/2 thru 6/5 and lavish brunch 6/6. *Complimentary morning fare will be provided close to meeting room and programs. The Hotel, and other miscellaneous expenses will be born by the registrant and arrangements for such will be made by the individual. **Payments by check** will be accepted up-to, but not after, May 15, 1999; payments after May / 5 will be accepted by cash, Master Card or Visa. Refunds will be made based on a full refund prior to May i, / 999, an 80% refund with notice between May 1 and June 1, and a 50% rebate with notice during the convention.*

Mailed in registrations and inquiries shall be directed to **Be All, P.O.Box 281 Cuyahoga Falls, Oh 44222. E-Mail registration and inquiries** to the appropriate addresses on our web site www.beall.net You are registering for a very friendly hotel, organization and convention, but the **Be-All Committee and the Radisson Hotel request that you maintain a reasonable deportment** during your stay at this convention. You are expected to dress in a non-offensive female or male attire. **Of your choice.**

Host Organization:

Paradise Club of Cleveland (the oldest transgender support group for CD/TS in the Ohio Valley - 22 years in "99")

G.L.G.L.C .

Activities Calendar

APR 1998 - MAY 1999

April 1999

Tue 4/6 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
 Sat 4/10 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
 Sat 4/10 Chicago Gay Men's Chorus "Men In Musicals", Athenaeum Theater, Call Rori for Details 708-383-8338
 Mon 4/12 Miss Jezi Belle "Sometimes Comedy Can Be A Real Drag, Honey", Red Lion, 2446 N. Lincoln \$2
Sat 4/17 Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst
 Sat 4/24 T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details
 Sat 4/24 6:30 p.m. Road trip to Tommy Guns Garage, Call Rori at 7608-383-8338 for details. Reservations must be in by April 12.

May 1999

Tue 5/11 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
 Sat 5/8 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 5/15 "Spring Fling" Chi Chapter, Elmhurst 708-383-1677
 Thur 5/20 SkyScrapper Heels 1st Anniversary Party, Golden Flame, Higgins & Nagle, FREE 773-477-8495
Sat 5/22 Chi Chapter Couples Group

UPCOMING

June 2 -6 17th Annual Be All, Cleveland, Ohio
 July 14-18 S.P.I.C.E., Minneapolis, Minn
 July 24 Chi/CGS Garden Party, West Chicago
 July 24 Tri-Ess National Board meeting, Elmhurst
 Nov 10-14 Holiday En-Femme, Houston, Texas

"COME KICK OFF YOUR HEELS WITH SKYSCRAPER"

We're having our 1st Anniversary Party on May 20th, '99 at The Golden Flame (Ruby Room) 6417 W. Higgins Ave. in Chicago. Free admission and a free raffle ticket, more can be purchased. Just our way of giving back, to the community for supporting us this year. I'll be giving some great prizes, like a corset, shoulder length leather gloves, ankle boots, platforms, heels, and many more great surprises. At the Tri Ess Meeting in April, I'll be passing out free tickets, otherwise you'll have to come in to the store, to pick up your ticket.....cash bar of course.....live entertainment..... have seven girls, from four different clubs, that will entertain you.....see you there!

LUCI of SkyScrapper Heels

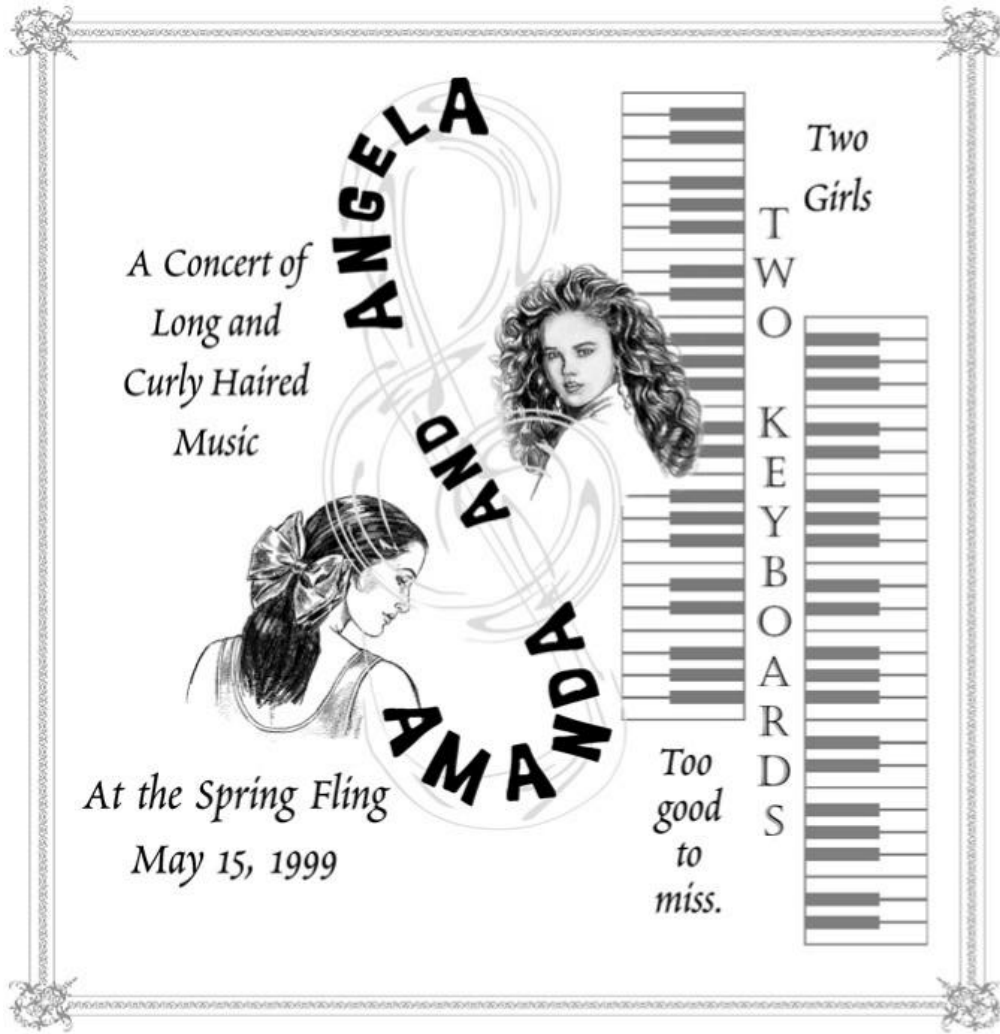
So please, come dance the night away with us.....doors open at 7:30p.m.....till 1:00a.m.

Couples Group

The next couples group will meet on
April 24 at 7:00 p.m.

Please call the Helpline at 708-383-1677 and let us know if you would like to attend.. Or E-Mail to Chi-triess@aol.com

Remember, there is no crossdressing at this meeting. This meeting is open to members only.



Dancing, Dining, Entertainment and the chance to win a 13" color Television.

Spring Fling TICKETS

Also available at Transformations and Rachels Wigs

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

For more information: call the "helpline" at **708-383-1677**
Room reservations available at the Inn 630-279-0700

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for 'The Spring Fling' on Saturday evening, May 15th at the Holiday Inn Express, Elmhurst. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$_____

Please print your femme name and last Initial _____

Membership # (If a member) _____

COST: Payment received by 5/14/99 , \$35 per person
At the door: \$40 per person
Please **DO NOT MAIL** after May 8th

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Sizes 7 to 15



- Sizes 7-15
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