Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVI December 1997

Merry Christmas

See you at the Ritz

Miranda's Last Writes. . . .

First of all, a great big thank you to Mary Anne Foster and Father Dennis O'Neill for a fascinating program on spirituality. For someone like me, who has neglected her spiritual side for too long, it helped to bring a little perspective to the world. I was particularly struck by one concept which Mary Anne mentioned. She described a drawing of a stick figure within a circle. You are the figure and the circle is everything else. Religion may define the circle, but spirituality is how you relate, connect, or interact with it.

I think as we move forward in life, it is important that the circle grows, and that our spirituality expands with it. We should connect with a larger universe, and bring more spirits into our sphere. Like ripples on a pond as the raindrops fall, each drop's circle expands and encompasses the others, so that eventually they are all connected. The connection is humanity, life, spirit.

I would like to personalize this a bit, since it is my last official column. Until I found Tri-Ess about 3 years ago, my circle was shrinking. I was slowly but surely cutting myself off from society and the larger universe. Being basically an open person, I found that it was easier to avoid people than to try to hide a very important part of my being, my gender duality. I didn't realize at that time that we as transgendered people (or however you want to describe yourself) have been given a gift from whomever or whatever you believe in. No... I was too busy trying to hide my dirty little secret, and feeling less than human because of it. As a result I had no friends except my spouse, distant family, lack of community, devoid of spirit.

Finding the transgender community changed that. Coming to

(Continued on page 4)

Presidents Podium

Ritzy <^>

If you haven't yet sent in your resevation for Puttin' on the Ritz, time is running out. The coupon is on the rear page, please send it in now. BUT DON'T MAIL IT AFTER DEC 11, it may not get here in time.....If you plan on coming, at least let Candace know at the Hotline. Leave a message with your name and number of people. 630-262-8707 Tickets are also available, over the counter at Headliner's, Rachel's Wigs, Transformations, Sally's Corsets, and Bonjour Madame in Niles.

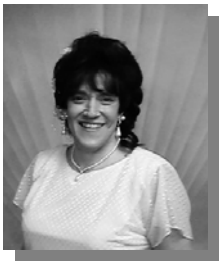
Welcome !!

I would like to welcome our incoming VP of Programming, Rachel James. She was the only non-incumbant in the line up of board members for 1998. She will take office on Jan 1, 1998.

As an ex-VP of Programming, I know how hard a job it is. After all, we wore out Miranda in only two years, but she did ten years worth of work what with 24 months of programs, a Be-All and a Holiday EnFemme.

Buddies????

The comedy, Bosom Buddies is back on TV. The show, starring Tom Hanks involves two buddies (Hence the name) who dress as women (Hence the name) so they can get a room in an all woman only hotel. (Hence the comedy). It can be viewed on the TV Land cable network, nightly at 8pm.



CHRISTINE'S CASH COUNT NOVEMBER 1997

EXPENSES

MEETING ROOM	$200.00
MEETING ROOM FOOD	$ 75.00
NEWSLETTER Printing	$140.00
PO BOX RENTAL	$104.00
POSTAGE ETC	$135.70
NATIONAL DUES	$720.00
TOTAL	**$1374.70**

INCOME:

INCOME FROM MEETING ROOM DUES, MEMBERSHIP DUES, & RITZ
$2,654.00

ADVERTISING FEES	$161.00
TOTAL	**$2,815.00**

ASSETS:

TOTAL IN CHECKING ACCOUNT	$3962.70
PETTY CASH	$ 310.00
PALS ACCOUNT	$ 427.00
RITZ DEPOSIT	$ 700.00
DUE FROM NATIONAL (DIR)	$ 682.00

November Meeting Recap

by Kiki

The meeting began at 8:32 P.M. sharp. Denise asked those present to introduce themselves by name and state if they were newcomers. There were several at one table. Denise then asked for the "officer's report".

Miranda, our VP/Programming, gave a run down on events coming up, Candice, our VP/Membership, talked about the couples group and the new comers and was followed with more information by Dawn [redacted], the committee chair for PALS. Christine, our Treasurer, read the financial report, Kiki (me), your Secretary, was asked for a report but she declined thinking that there was nothing but gossip she could report on and therefore graciously declined.

Rachel, our new VP/Programming, announced a "Queen of Hearts" Pageant that would be held at the February meeting. It was reported that this would not in any way replace the Queen of the Trailer Park which has not been contested for ages and has since achieved emeritus status.

Norma and Joyce, our chairpersons on the Hospitality Committee, announced that they would be giving up their chairs on the committee this coming February. I guess that means we will have to start brown-bagging it or have pizza sent in. Hum.

Olivia, one of the Vice-Presidents of CGS made an announcement for their party coming up at Ann Sather's on Saturday, December the 6th.

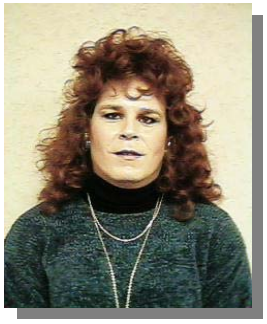
Naomi announced details of the upcoming ‘Puttin on the Ritz’ Dec 20th, after which Denise called for voice approval of the nominations for officers which were uncontested. Miranda and Sunny objected strenuously and demanded a debate before the voice vote on an obscure section of the By Laws which had been resolved back in March. Denise responded that that debate had been debated previously and any more debate was not debatable. That too, was debated.

Finally, the new officers were unanimously elected with a resounding "Yea", well, maybe not resounding but loud enough.

Any resemblance between Chi Chapter and the local Teamsters Union elections is regretted.

The program for that night was "Spirituality" by Mary Ann Foster and Father Dennis of the Living Circle interfaith spirituality center.

The following attended:
Lois, Rachel & Naomi, Laura, Carol R., Gloria, Kiki, Carole, Sheila D, Kim & Denise, Barbara Lee, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Lenore, Olivia, Pamela, Athena, Robyn, Candace & Dawn, Amanda, Edie, Lee, Carol, Janet, Dee Dee, Allanah, Sunny, Toni, Vickie, Pamela, Miranda, Robin, Bobbie, Loraine, Sherri, Shelley, Linda, Aries, Beth, Rachel & Kate, Kimberly, Laura, Bonnie & Liz, Criss, Jeri, Nicole, Kathleen & Jill, Diana, Jackie Ann, Julie Ann, Sara, Velma, Kathrine, Terri, Nina, Norma & Joyce, Cheryl & Christine, Bridget and newcomers Janice & Lisa and a few others.
Hercules was not seen.



Happenings by Rachel James

Hello all. As the incoming VP in charge of Programming, I thought I should let everyone know what they can look forward to in 1998! I would also like to thank everyone who supported me in running for this position, especially my wonderful wife Kathryn.

In January (BRRrrrr!) Miranda has scheduled a speaker named Riki Anne Wilchins. Riki is the author of a book titled "Read My LIPS!". I haven't read the book, but judging from the author's bio I'm betting it's not a biography of Ronald Reagan. It should prove to be an interesting evening. Arrangements are not final yet, but a backup plan will be in place.

Our February meeting should be very exciting! We will be introducing the First Annual Queen of Hearts Pageant. The pageant is open to all members, so start picking out those evening gowns ladies! Please notice this will not be your garden-variety beauty pageant though. No talent or swimsuit competitions. The judges will select the winner based on inner and outer beauty. So, beautiful spirits are just as likely to win as beautiful faces. To discover those beautiful spirits each contestant will answer randomly selected questions designed to reveal the contestants' inner qualities. Of course, it is also a great opportunity to put on your most elegant outfit! (And a great reason to go out and by a new one!) The winner will be crowned the 1998 Queen of Hearts and will be given special recognition throughout the year. Next year the lucky winner will crown the new Queen. At the December meeting there will be sign-up sheets for those who wish to participate as well as those who would like to be a judge. Please support what I hope will become an exciting annual event.

There will be more news on upcoming events in the next newsletter. Anyone with programming ideas should always feel free to discuss them with me. This is OUR Tri-Ess chapter and it can be as great as we are willing to make it.

Love to All,
Rachel James

(Continued from page 1) ***MIRANDA***
grips with myself allowed me to start accepting the world into my circle. Getting rid of the self-loathing gave me permission to love others. I will always be grateful to Tri-Ess for providing that first contact.

After the first tippy-toe steps into the gender pond, I quickly found myself splashing around like some crazed mallard duck. At first all the other ducks came out to play, then the geese and swans and great blue herons and on and on. You get the picture. It's rather chaotic, but, oh, what fun! How can one go back to being a solitary mallard duck, or just allow other mallard ducks into my circle, after that kind of excitement!

You've taken the first step out of your solitary closet. Throw wide the doors, accept yourself, love yourself. You're not just OK, you're a unique gifted person!

So it is with considerably mixed emotions that I sit here writing my last official column. Over the past couple of years, I have tried to give back something to Chi by bringing you interesting and entertaining programs. "Something for everybody" has been my motto. For the most part, I have been pleased that this has worked out well. That is why I find it so puzzling when a highly respected senior member of Chi Chapter was overheard remarking that she will be glad to "get back to regular programming."

What have we had over the past two years? We've had panel discussions with partners and senior members. We've had talks or demonstrations on make-up, voice, personal safety, and psychology. We've even had a visit from a representative from the Cook County State's Attorney. We've had parties and fairs, picnics and socials. We've gone out to dinners, plays, concerts and movies. We had a coffeehouse and a cabaret. And we had some quiet times when we could sit around and discuss our own stories.

The members of Tri-Ess are not a homogeneous bunch. Even within the narrow definition of our membership there is considerable room for variation. There's the happy couple who look forward to each meeting to renew old friendships; and the one whose spouse who begrudgingly lets her out once a month. The macho guy who insists that wearing women's clothing in no way implies he may have a feminine side; and the gal who's femininity is an accepted integral part of her being. The single crossdresser questioning her sexual orientation; and the one who is so certain she is only attracted to women that she avoids any contact with gay men. The rank and randy bisexual; and the sweet and loving bisexual. The spry octogenarian who's been a member since the 60's; and the young lady who was just a twinkle in her daddy's eye back then. The confident experienced crossdresser; and the one who breaks out into a cold sweat at the thought of walking into the hotel lobby. The shy transgendered gal, who hopes she won't be thought of too harshly if her true self just happens to be transsexual. Yes, Virginia, there is even room for you, the founder of Tri-Ess who discarded her last pair of jockey shorts over 20 years ago and has lived ever since full time as a woman.

So what is "regular programming?" How do you make sure that the needs of all those who have sought out Chi Chapter for support are being addressed. You can't! There's not enough meeting hours in a year to do that. You can only try to make the programs and activities as diverse as the members from whom you've accepted membership dues. I guess "regular programming" is whatever the individual who made that comment thinks it is. I wonder how many others would be included in her circle?

I know this is getting rather lengthy, so I'll try to wrap it up. In the spirit of the season, with open minds and hearts, and goodwill toward all, may you all be blessed with a safe and warm holiday, full of love and cherished memories.

See you at Puttin' on the Ritz!
Love,
Miranda

P.S. Please be sure to come to our January meeting. We will be fortunate to have one of the most fascinating people I have ever met, Riki Anne Wilchins, Executive Director of GenderPAC. She will be reading and signing her new book, "Read My Lips." This is the book that may take the discussion of gender and sex over the top. Part personal experience, part Transexual Menace politics, and part theory, "Read My Lips" -- by turns outraged, outrageous, sad, and hilarious -- will change the way you think about gender: yours and everyone else's.

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Great Lakes Gender Leadership Council Activities Calendar DECEMBER 1997

Week of November 30-December 6

Wed 12/3 9:00 p.m. South Side Girls, Clubhouse Players, 13126 S. Western, (708) 389-6688.
Thurs 12/4 7:30 p.m. It's Time, Illinois, Transformations, 146 N. Oak Park Ave.

Sat. Dec. 6, CGS Christmas Gathering, 6:30 p.m. at Anne Sather's , 929 W. Belmont. Tickets: $30 members, $35 nonmembers, $40 at the door. Call CGS Hotline.

Week of December 7-13

Tues 12/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Meeting, Stardust, 5688 N. Milwaukee
Sat 12/13 Rachel's Wigs Open House Call 773-528-6960 for details
Sat 12/13 Forge Meeting. Topic: Parents, Families and Holiday Stress. Call Forge hotline.
Sat 12/13 6:30 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. Christmas Party/Social

Week of December 14-20

Tues 12/16 Femme Night Out with Kelly St. Cyr (847) 746-4707

Sat. Dec 20, Chi Puttin' on the Ritz, Ramada O'Hare, Rosemont. Tickets: $36 individual/$64 per couple. After Dec. 12: $41/$69 couples. Call Chi Tri-Ess Hotline.

Week of December 21-27

Tues 12/23 CGS Social at Temptations, 10235 W Grand, Franklin Park.
Sat 12/27 7:00 p.m. CGS/Femme Underground Above Ground Social, New Year's Bar Crawl, starting at Transforma tions, call CGS for more info.

Special Dates to Remember in 1998

Sat 1/17 Riki Anne Wilchins, Director or GenderPAC, Author of "Read my Lips." Book reading/signing at Unabridged Books, Pride Agenda, and Chi Tri-S meeting
Sat 1/31 Chi Chapter Couples Group Call 630-262-8707 for details.

I want to thank Miranda for setting up the 'Gender Leadership calendars for the past years. She has decided to take on other duties and has announced she will be unable to continue. Rachel James has volunteered and will be taking this over in Janurary.

Rachel & Naomi will be hosting a hospitality room at the Ramada, on Dec 20th, from Noon to ????? Watch the hotel TV system for details and room number.
Wig and all makeover services will be available as well as a small space for changing.

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Couples Group

The couples group will meet on Janurary 31st. 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 was held at 6:30pm on Nov 15th just prior to the regular meeting. Present were; Kate, Kim, Linda, Dawn, Sue, Laurie Anne, Joyce, Jan and Kathleen.

December meeting schedule December 20

Have a blast at the RITZ

See you back at the Holiday Inn on Janurary 17th

Dues are now being accepted for the year 1998.

Chapter Dues are $24.00 for all members.

****

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

(Two years available at $60 or $80)

(If paid before 1/1/98 then only $35/$45)

Please remit direct to Chi Chapter at:

Chi-Chapter
PO Box 40
Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

Chi Chapter Tri Ess

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

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

Commitees
Newcomers: Amanda
Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S./ Couples: Dawn
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/trisss/chimain.htm

All I Want For Christmas

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 National

24 35

Jane Doe
PO Box 3622
Weston IL 60177

You Are Cordially Invited

PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ

the Chi-Chapter / Tri-Ess Annual Awards Banquet and Christmas Party Honoring

DAWN

featuring the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus and George the D.J.

Saturday Evening December 20, at the Ramada Hotel O'Hare

Cocktails:

Dinner: 7:30

For those of you who wish to make early **tower room** reservations, our guaranteed price is $78 Call the Ramada at (847) 827-5131 Mention Tri-Ess

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

DON'T MAIL AFTER DEC 11, 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 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ on Saturday evening, December 20, 1997 at the Ramada Hotel, O'Hare. 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 12/10/97: $36 per person, $64 per couple**
Payment received after 12/10/97: $41 per person, $69 per couple