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Denise's Trivia

February Program

At least 62 members showed up at the February meeting and from the reactions to the Gender Bender Trivia contest, everyone had a great time.

The evening's program was a contest in which six contestants vied in an elimination to find the 1999 Miss Queen of Hearts

Our VP of Programming, Abby came up with some really strange questions, well after reading a full years issues of all the major women's magazines in search of questions, it's a wonder she survived.

The panel of judges eliminated five of the contestants resulting in the crowning of our new Queen: Pamela Musk, who, interestingly enough was also the queen for 1998.

Attendees

Paula K & SO, Abby & Teri, Lois, Dawn A., Sara, Laura B., Lois, Gloria, Carole, Sheila D, Barbara Lee, Barbara Diane & Barbara, Olivia, Jamie P., Lori, Debbie & Laurie Anne, Amanda R., Christine & Cheryl, Denise & Kim, Carol R., Dee Dee, Karen, Vickie, Pamela A., Loraine K., Shelley & Linda, Edie, Marlene, Jennifer, Amanda S., Jeri, Carolyn L., Julie Ann, Pam Musk., Pam M., Collette, Amy Marie, Karen, Nancy, Amy R., Janice, Steffie & Donna, Kelly & Connie, Monica Anne, Diana L., *Maureen, Lori & Denise*, Diane S., Marie, Rori from Transformations, Sally from Mary Kay

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Ch Chapter TRIBUNE

Vol# XXXIX March 1999
Issue # 3



Program Notes

Our program for March will be presented by the PALS group. I believe the theme will involve dealing with crossdressing issues in a family or couple context.

For April, we're going to try and hold a "Spring Clean Out Your Closet Night." Please bring any outfits, shoes, wigs, jewelry etc. that you are tired of, don't fit any more, or just never looked like it was supposed to. All items should be clean, in good condition, and marked with your femme name, size, and how much you would like for it. We will have extra dressing stalls available for trying things on, and the PALS will be available to act as fashion consultants for those who want assistance. Also, be sure and bring some extra cash along you can pick up a couple of additions for your wardrobe. The PALS will collect money and conduct the selling so you'll all be free to shop till you drop. They will keep track of who is owed what and will distribute money at the end of the night. The exact logistics of how that will work are still being worked out. Stay tuned for further details.

I want to thank everyone who participated in Gender-Bender trivia, and congratulations to our Queen of Hearts, Pamela. And thanks to everyone who got their red outfits out of the closet for Valentines Day. You girls all looked terrific!! Anyone interested in green outfits for the March meeting (St. Patrick's day or spring, take your pick)?

ABBY

In February we welcomed new members Teri and Dana
Both from Northern and SE Wisconsin



Amanda Lynn's Notes



In this month's column I'll share with you some of the responses I received to the college student questions I published in January. The thoughtful sisters who responded provided some very good answers, and presented here are some of their condensed comments. It would have been good to include all the responses, but that would take about 12 pages! Thanks to Kathy, Laura, Kim, Gloria, Janice, Wendy, Susan, Clare, Angela and Sarah. Some are Chi-Chapter members. Others responded from distant places via the internet.

Do you experience feelings of the opposite gender even when you are not crossdressed and how so?

Any woman will admit she does feel an extra glow when dressed in silk and lace.

I don't need special clothes to express my femme side as I am a very feeling, caring and sensitive person anyway.

How has presenting as a woman changed your male ways?

I feel an inner sense of well-being that I don't feel when I am dressed as a man. I can be openly caring and emotional without worrying about what others think of me.

When I first came out my male persona did not change but within a month or so it did. I was no longer the arrogant person I used to be.

My feminine thoughts, emotions, mannerisms and the repulsion for 'guy macho' attitudes has increased drastically in recent years. However now I must be on constant guard not to let the real me affect what I say or how I move.

I have learned more of what a woman feels like and desires in her relationships by focusing on the feminine thought process.

When in a relationship should a person tell a significant other of their crossdressing?

The only surprise a gentleman should give a lady is an engagement ring. Another surprise is a potential problem in a new relationship. To pledge one's self to another, then later introduce 'the other woman' is a surprise and betrayal.

If you're hit on or being picked up by a guy, let's say in a bar, when/how do you let on that you are not a genetic girl?

I would love it as a complement on my presentation, but would be honest and hint that what he sees may not be what he wants.

This happened to me once. If you maintain your true female persona, you can find a way to cool him off. I said "Hi," thanked him for the drink and then I just avoided talking to him or looking at him from then on. He eventually realized that I did not want him and left. I suppose that if you wanted to be with him, you should tell him right away in the presence of others - for your own safety.

I would tell him that I am pregnant and the father of my child is going to do the right thing. I might even ask him if he would like to attend the wedding.

Why, amidst all the scorn and rejection of society, are you still happy to be transgendered?

I am still not 100% happy being transgendered, but Tri-Ess and my sisters have helped me a better person within for the 3 years I been with them. I am getting there the more I go out in public and the more I accept myself for who I am.

I am finally at peace with myself and I am completely at ease with whom I now am. To live any other way would be a disaster.

I am finally the person that God created. Why would I want to change from what I am to something I am not, just to satisfy society. I have never ever been happier than I am now.

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Chi Chapter

Spring Fling

May 15, 1999
Holiday Inn Express, Elmhurst

Music Entertainment Dinner
Door Prize
Cash Bar

Tickets \$35 per person, available at:
Rachel's Wigs
Transformations
By Mail



Me, My Wife & MS

By Barbara Beers

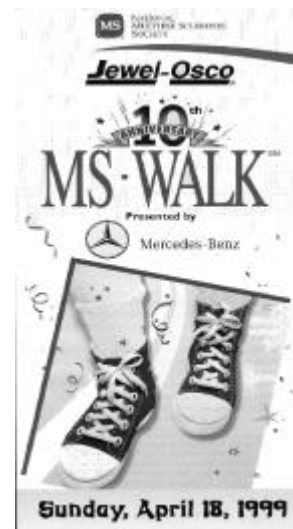
When I first joined Tri-Ess in Sept. of 1987 I always hoped to find a supportive wife of my crossdressing. In October of 1989 I met my wife Barbara and about seven months later told her about Barbara. At first she was nervous about my crossdressing but over time and without any pressure from me to accept it she eventually started to accept Barbara's a friend. I seemed to have the perfect life until she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis. If any of our members who were there on that warm July evening in 1990 when barb came to her first meeting remember she had no trouble walking into the meeting. You have watched her since that time and as I am sure you have noticed she has gotten progressively worse since then. Today when she comes to a meeting she needs the help of a walker to keep her steady on her feet so she won't fall. Over the years we have still gone camping every summer like we want to but some day I know we will have to give this up because of the MS. This year for the first time when we go camping over memorial day weekend we will have to rent a camper from the campsite that we go to instead of using our tent. Every year for the last five years we go camping at the end of august up in Wisconsin and we always go to the beach at the state park where we stay on that Monday as Barbara and Barb. Since the kids are back in school the beach is not crowded with people and we can have a fun day together. I know that we some day will have to give this up to. This is where you as my sisters can help barb. I am for the third year in a row going to walk for her in the MS-Walk on April 18th in Busse woods forest preserve. Last year with the help of the members of Chi-Chapter I doubled what I collected the year before. With your help I raised over \$1000.00 dollars so I am asking for your help this year again. With your pledges to the walk we can end the devastating effects that MS does to someone. All you need to do is look at how barb is now compared to when she first came to our meeting to see what MS does to someone. I will be collecting pledges for the next two months at the Tri-Ess meetings so any thing you can pledge would be appreciated. Barb needs your help so won't you help her with your pledge to this years MS-

Couples Group

The next couples group will meet on
Mar 27th 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 Chitriess@aol.com

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



E-Mail

From Tri-Ess National

To all Tri-Ess leaders;

Around Feb. 26 there appeared an Ann Landers column in which she advised the wife of a crossdresser to learn more about crossdressing by seeking out information at the public library. Becky of Chi Epsilon Sigma Chapter had the idea that this column might help dispel the reluctance of some libraries to stock literature on crossdressing. (You have been made aware of the difficulty Carol and Marlene have had with our Library Project.) It would be wonderful, and certainly in keeping with our 501(c)(3) status, to be able to send our books to many more libraries.

We can do this on two levels. First, each of you could approach libraries in your area, with an introductory letter about our Library Book Donation Project and a copy of the Ann Landers column. We could probably reach many more libraries, and thereby satisfy the hunger of many more people seeking knowledge about crossdressing. This would be relatively easy to do.

On a larger scale, it would be very helpful if we could target our outreach to every public library on the rolls of the American Library Association. To do this we would need a grant, both to do the mail out and to pay for the books. If any of you are aware of someone in your chapter who is *experienced* and *knowledgeable* about grant-writing, would you please have them get in touch with me?

Love to all of you,

Ann Landers column from the Houston Chronicle 2/26/99

Husband who repressed feelings now wants to cross-dress

Dear Ann Landers: My husband has been clinically depressed for most of his adult life. A while back, "Herman" began seeing a female therapist who focused on my husband's early years to see if something in his childhood caused his depression. His therapist discovered that during adolescence, Herman had been a cross-dresser. He apparently had worn women's clothing in his early teens but repressed it as an adult. Now, Herman wants my permission to express this part of his personality around the house. He says he would not go out in public.

This disgusts me, Ann. The thought of my husband in makeup, wig and high heels makes my skin crawl. His therapist told me I need to be more tolerant. She doesn't seem to think his behavior is abnormal or sick.

Herman is artistic and sensitive, a gourmet cook and an avid sportsman. More important, he is a terrific father to our two sons. I used to think he was the most masculine man alive. Now, I don't see how I can ever look at him the same way or stop wondering if he is gay. I don't want to break up our marriage, but if anyone found out about the makeup, wigs and high heels, I would be devastated. I need your advice. - N. Carolina

Dear N. Carolina: You need to have a better understanding of your husband's cross-dressing. Herman is a transvestite. Some transvestites are gay, but many are not. They get their thrills from dressing up in women's clothing, but that's as far as it goes. Please go to the public library, and read up on the subject. The more you know, the less you will fear it

Holiday En-Femme 1999

The 1999 Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme will take place from Nov 11th through Nov 14th 1999. The location is the Westchase Hilton & Towers in Houston, Texas.

Houston's Tau-Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess presents:

"WHERE WE'VE COME FROM AND WHERE WE'RE GOING"

The agenda for the Holiday is as follows:

Thursday - A day trip to the museums of Houston -A dinner with cash bar.- Vendor area open all day

Friday - three sessions during the day -Lunch -Dinner this evening -A trip to the theater -Vendor area open all day

Saturday - three sessions during the day, including a wives session. Lunch -Vendor area open all day -Awards Banquet and Dance with cash bar

Sunday - Farewell breakfast

FOR DETAILS WRITE TO:



ABBY'S ROAD

The invitation read "Mardi Gras Party". Masks required and costumes strongly recommended!! Saturday Night at the clubhouse of the local golf club. HMMMMM.

You know Terri, Mardi Gras is the second most popular cross-dressing holiday in the country. Do we dare? Nobody in our small rural Illinois town has ever seen ABBY before, and I'm not yet ready to face the consequences of what would happen if they did. Still, these opportunities don't come along very often. What's a girl to do?

The ANSWER? I took the opportunity to dress, but not be ABBY. And it worked out great!! As I had lived in New Orleans for 3 years, I had a huge stash of authentic Mardi Gras beads and stuff to make it more of a carnival costume rather than a cross-dressing costume, and it came off just fine.

I wore a bright yellow silk shirt that was tucked into a black swirly skirt that came to just above the knee. Under that I had on off white stockings and black flats. I wanted to wear heels, but it would have been hard explaining why I was able to walk so easily in them. So Terri got to wear the heels that night. I had no wig, make-up, breasts or jewelry other than the Mardi Gras items. It turns out I wasn't the only guy there in a skirt. One guy had a red skirt and matching jacket worn over big fake boobs, an ugly ill fitting wig and a butcher make-up job. Along with that outfit he wore black combat boots. That hurt because I'm a "shoes girl", and try to be able to wear feminine shoes whenever I can, especially if I'm in a skirt!

What surprised me is how big a hit I was with the women. Many of them wanted to know where I acquired my outfit, how come my legs looked better than theirs, and how come I looked so naturally comfortable in what I was wearing. (Beats me). None of the other women there (besides Terri) had ever danced with a man in a skirt before, so I was somewhat in demand. When the ABBA song "Dancing Queen" came on, a dance circle formed around me in the center. One of the women in the circle tried to lift my skirt to see what I was wearing underneath. Luckily, I was able to escape before my lingerie was exposed and would have to be explained. The evening ended all too soon.

However, that wasn't the end of things. At our local civic club luncheon the next week, I was heavily fined by the club for "cross-dressing in public and enjoying it". Oh how little they know!!

Continued from Page 1, Denise

Tinky Winky is Gay? Are Crossdressers Transgendered?

My observations and comments on things seen and over heard over the past three weeks.

Parallels per Jerry Falwell's measurements

Tinky Winky is Purple so he's Gay

Tinky Winky has a coat hanger on his head, so he's gay

Tinky Winky carries a purse, so he's gay

Crossdressers carry purses, so they are Gay?

My neighbor has a coat hanger replacing his car radio antenna, so he's gay?

My buddy from high school wears a purple suit; is he color blind?

Don't Ask – Don't Teletubbie??????

What is that all about?

What is this all about?

Overheard at a current gathering.

During an announcement of the various tracks at the upcoming BeAll, the four tracks for, CD's, CD beginners, TS's and Wives-spouses were being explained.

A prominent gender rights group leader made a comment, "you are not Crossdressers, you are TG's"

My question to that person is, when we hold the BeAll, do you want two tracks, TG's and wives? Wouldn't that be confusing?

Who are you to say someone is a TG? Who are you to say that I can't be a crossdresser? By what right do you class others, or label me? As far as I am personally concerned, I have one gender. I don't want to be a female, I just like dressing as one.

How can a person who is prominent in the rights movement completely ignore my right to call myself a crossdresser?

Am I required to class myself as a TG because you are fighting for my rights and it's easier that tacking on Crossdresser to the equation? Fine, but don't tell me what to call myself. I am sure that if I walked up to you and asked what you are, you would be offended and say it's none of my business.

I have heard all types of definitions of TG's, TS's, CD's TV's etc and most are wrong, who's to say what is what.

The problem is that some people want to stick us all in a bowl, stir it up mold us and pour us out as a TG.

Just don't say I can not call myself a CD...

What is this all about?

Dina Amberle, a columnist in the Renaissance Newsletter recently inferred that Tri-Ess groups will probably have no right to have rules of conduct at their meetings once the TG rights laws are passed. Seems as though a TS visitor to a Tri-Ess chapter meeting in an Eastern state decided to discuss her SRS in front and loud enough so all could hear. She was asked to take her discussion private or leave.

Perhaps Dina and her wife should join Tri-Ess and see what we are about and why we have such policies.

Give me a break.....

C G S
St. Patrick's Day Celebration

It's that time of year to be "green" and celebrate. Enjoy a fabulous traditional meal of Corned Beef and Cabbage plus all the extras. Special guest star entertainment, DJs for music and dancing and the Chicago Gender Society's special award presentation for achievements in 1998.

Come and celebrate with your friends

Date: March 13th Saturday evening
Time: Cocktails 6:30 to 7:30 Dinner 7:30
Place; Stardust 5688 N. Milwaukee Ave. Chicago
Cost; \$30.00 per person
Mail your reservation to:
Chicago Gender Society, PO Box 578005, Chicago, IL 60657



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

- Officers**
President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Abby Adams
VP/Outreach: Shelley Hartt
Secretary: Amanda Richards
Treasurer: Sara Fenwick
- Committees**
Newcomers: Amanda Richards
Outreach: Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S and Couples: Linda
Hospitality: Kim, Laurie Ann,
Barbara & Barbara
Library: Debbie B.

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:
(708) 383-1677**
E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com
**Home Page:
HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/
chimain.htm**

Articles are welcome in all formats. Via E-mail or Snail mail.. Please note that snail mail articles must be on PC disk, or scannable (Typed, not handwritten or hand printed).

The comments and opinions expressed, within, are those of the respective authors and do not reflect those of Chi Chapter or the So-

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GREAT LAKES GENDER LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

MAR APR 1999

March 1999

Tue 3/9 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust 708-863-7714
 Sat 3/13 CGS St. Patricks Day dinner at the Stardust
 Sat 3/13 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 3/20 Chi Chapter Meeting, Elmhurst 708-383-1677
Sat 3/27 Chi Chapter Couples Group

April 1999

Tue 4/13 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust 708-863-7714
 Sat 4/10 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Sat 4/17 Chi Chapter meeting, Elmhurst 708-383-1677
Sat 4/24 Chi Chapter Couples Group

Upcoming:

May 15 Spring Fling, hosted by Chi Chapter
 June 2-6 Be-all, Cleveland 330-923-3413 E-mail host@beall.net
 June 3-6 Summer Frolics 99, Sanibel Island FL, Hosted by Gamma Chi Beta 941-481-1410
 E-Mail: Mindbody@pegnet.com, www.mindbodycenter.com

Minneapolis, MN JULY 14-18, 1999



Feeling up the creek? Lost your paddle? Not even sure you have a canoe? Come to S.P.I.C.E.VII. Out-fitters supreme for CDSP's on the Journey of their life.

A Wilderness Adventure

Discovering that one's husband/partner is a cross-dresser is somewhat similar to being cast unexpectedly into the Wilderness and made to navigate oneself back to the normal and ordinary place one had always been. but in an unsteady vessel you don't know how to operate, over un-known waters in uncertain weather, ill equipped and quite unprepared for such a wilderness adventure. Metaphorically, the discovery of his crossdressing is somewhat like finding yourself in the middle of a Boundary [less] Wilderness without a paddle or a guide.

At S.P.LCE. VII, you will find yourself in the company of experienced guides who will help you find your way through your wilderness adventure. They will help you learn to paddle, to find the portages, how to shelter yourself in the storms and how to navigate your way back to civilization.

COSTS: Registration for the full three day conference is \$147 per person which includes all programs and entertainment and six meals. Two day conference is \$115 per person with four meals. Registration for a single (specify) day is \$80 (two meals). Individual lunches: \$20.00. Individual dinners: \$40.00.

REGISTRATION: Complete the registration form, clip, and mail with check or money order payable to SPICE or you may charge on your credit card to:

SPICE Registrar: Beta Gamma Box 8591 Minneapolis, MN 55408

For additional information, call: (918) 343-1953 Mary Jane

If you have found yourself on such a wilderness adventure without a guide come to S P I C E VII and learn how to make your experience benefit your life and relationships.

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 spice@tri-ess.com