



Rosebuds

Volume VIII

Tiffany Club of New England

Issue #1

Remembering Chanelle

by Cally Nichols

The death of Chanelle Picket stirred something within people in the transgendered community. Regardless of the circumstances of her murder, which at this point are uncertain, we feel connected with Chanelle. So we came to the Arlington Street Church, shuffling in the bitter cold as the gray sky turned even darker. We huddled together walking through the Public Garden and Boston Common after the service, cold and dark, shielding our memorial candles from the bitter wind. The fragile flames flickered above the rim of the paper cups, symbolizing what hope we can cling to in the wake of such a senseless tragedy. We came to share our grief for a person some of us may not have known but as many said that day, "I feel I did know her". Her sister Gabrielle said she was surprised that so many came to honor Chanelle's memory.

I sat in the historic church as people spoke of their lost friend and others talked about the transgendered as victims of discrimination. Alicia Longstreet, a longtime member of the Tiffany Club, said it was time to stand for who we are and not allow this treatment for any member of the community, a sentiment which was repeated by others that day.

I cried, as much for Chanelle's family as the woman herself. I've known the grief of losing a loved one. It's a cruel pain that has no relief. It drains energy from the soul and body and by day's end the person will collapse in exhaustion. Many of us have to work through

this at some time in our life, but for Chanelle's family it's even worse. The cause of their grief is the hatred and stupidity of one person. I hope Chanelle's family has the strength to rise above that ignorance and focus on their love for each other. I hope we all resist the feelings of hatred and continue our vigil as justice takes its course.

The loss of a life prompts us to question the meaning of our own lives.

Some may ask what purpose did Chanelle's death serve. Was this God's will? I prefer the existential approach which says each person must find for themselves meaning in their life. I find Chanelle's loss a focal point for energy in a scattered community. Chanelle reminds us of the beauty in all our lives, perhaps more so, because of her surviving twin sister. I'll remember how a community came together: gay, lesbian, transgendered, transsexual and friends, all who gathered that day for Chanelle. I'll choose to think of Chanelle's life like the flicker of candlelight on that cold night in Boston, a flame of hope for us all.

Attend or Support the 2nd Annual
Gender Lobby Days
Washington DC - Oct. 1996

Anonymously Yours

by Stephanie Robin

For a while, the world was white. The blinding flash erased the past and he swam in the pool of radiance. With no understanding of where he was, nor how long he would be here, time stood still. Life stood still.

Then, the color green came into his view. It was a rich, full green, that of a leaf coming to life on a warm spring day. The color filled his world and formed into the shape of an oak. Mighty, tall, it stood on the top of a hill, alone, surrounded by green grassy plains that stretched off into the distance.

On the horizon, he could see the mountains. Snow-capped, looking majestic even though miles away, the ragged peaks pierced the heavens through the clouds that nestled them in the bright blue sky.

He sat for a while. The warm air washed over him. He watched the clouds take shapes. He watched the birds fly into and out of the mighty oak. And his attention gradually drifted to himself.

There he felt his long hair bounce on his shoulder. With one slender hand, he lifted it. It was a rich auburn, full, thick. Then, he noticed his hands. They were more slender than he remembered. His long nails were expertly sculptured into perfect ovals and painted a light pink.

His attention then went to his wardrobe. He slowly stood in awe of what he was wearing. There, hanging loosely over his breasts was a fine silk dress. It draped his body in soft folds down to his knees where his feet wore light leather sandals. His toenails, the same color on his hands.

He reached up and felt his chest. Never did he remember having these. He again touched his hair, and his face. His face. No beard. Soft, supple skin. Delicate cheek bones. And then he spoke.

Only two words, but they floated from his lips like a song, high, soft and feminine.

"Oh my", was all he said and those two words were enough to shock him to drop back to the ground in an unceremonious 'Plop'.

His head began to spin. He thought, daring not to speak, in fear of the voice, "What is happening? At least my internal voice is normal. Or is it?"

It sounded normal, but was similar to his speaking voice. Yet, he could not escape it. That somehow, he was not a man. That it was a dream of sorts.

Then, another voice, coming from outside his head. A man's voice. Deep, low, yet a voice that spoke in tones of sympathy and understanding.

"Not very ladylike," it said, amused.

"What? Who are you...what's going on?"

The man was tall. His hair was dark and curly, cut low on his forehead. Deep wrinkles coursed his face, yet they were not unattractive. Instead they showed wisdom. He stood for a minute. His tall body was still full with muscles, cloaked in a tunic, and bound with a golden belt. He looked to be in his late fifties, or maybe sixties. But his smile brought youth to him and tiny lines formed by his eyes showed how much he loved to laugh. He sat down.

"It took you a while to get here". He said.

"Get? Get where?"

"Why, Here, Stephanie". He spread his arms wide as if to engulf the world.

"Why do you call me Stephanie?" asked Stephanie.

"That is your name. You can call me, Paxon. We have met. Yes, but it was so long ago and so far from now. And you'll remember it, soon," answered Paxon.

"Now tell me, Stephanie. Tell me a little about

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what happened to you. After all, you were a cross-dresser, a transvestite. "

"But I'm not really a man now? How did this happen?"

"All in good time. Tell me about what happened when you were a child."

Confused, and bewildered. Stephanie began.

"My early life? My childhood... It was filled with..." He paused to think. He looked up into the morning sky, and the clouds, far in the distance, were forming thunder heads. A violent storm was brewing along the horizon.

"Well, it was filled with sound. Yelling. It was filled with..." and for the next hour or eternity, the clouds crossed the sky in violent rage, lightning striking the ground in tremendous thunderbolts as Stephanie told his story of turmoil, confusion and pain.

Finally, exhausted, the storm abated. A drizzle covered the land and Stephanie grew silent, still panting from the exertion of energy needed to tell the story. Tears flowed from his eyes yet no marks were left.

"Stephanie?...It's OK now, let your anger go...it's over." And with that, the clouds began to break. Stephanie's sobs slowed to deep slow breaths.

"Stephanie, we need to keep talking. That was your childhood, but it is a small part of your life even though it shaped you. Sit with me, let the sun warm you now, and let it cross the heavens as you tell me the rest of your life.

Stephanie sat with Paxon as the sun crossed the sky. She talked about her life as a crossdresser. Her life was difficult for the first 25 years. She was man living in a world she did not understand. She felt little connection with the male world. And little connection with the female world. As the years drifted by, slowly she become more comfortable with being a cross dresser. Her life changed into a realization that it was not the clothing, but rather the attitude, the way she felt. She let her hair grow, kept her body rather clean of hair, and kept her figure slim. Although she never did hormones, she became comfortable that she could physically pass as a woman.

She married a woman, and they had two children. Both of whom grew into fine young men. Upon learning about their father's life style, one rejected it completely and the other felt a sympathy for his

father. Both men came to an understanding later in life and dealt with their father.

Finally, after years of living in both worlds, she choose to return to her born identity. At the age of seventy-five, she realized that make-up, hair style, and clothing no longer mattered. She was comfortable with herself as she was. The gender identity was lost as she took on the 'male' role of an elderly gentleman. One that his wife appreciated for the remaining twenty years of her life.

"Stephanie, time is getting short now, the new day is coming...you have to make a decision."

Stephanie looked up. The sun had set and the stars were shining bright. A radiant moon lit the land. But the eastern sky began to glow as the sun was beginning to awaken again.

"What do you mean, Paxon. Make a decision for what?", she asked.

"What have you learned by being a cross dresser?" Paxon stared deep into her eyes.

(What was Stephanie's reply? To be continued in the next *Rosebuds*.)

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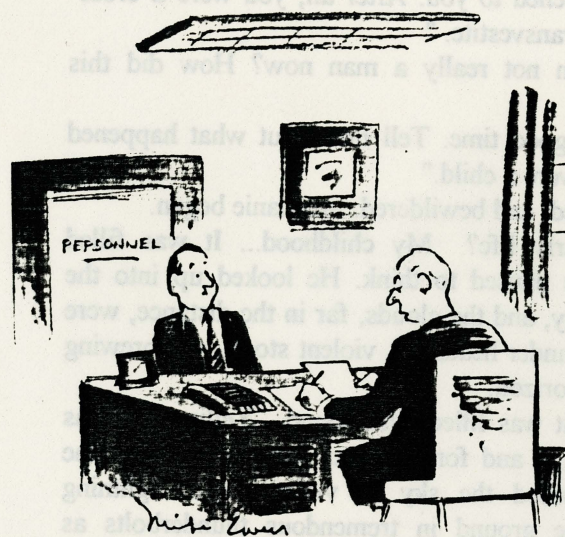
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BUST	36.5	38	39.5	41.5	43.5
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HIP	38.5	40	41.5	43.5	45.5

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LINDA DEFUSCIO is a Registered Electrologist, Aesthetician and Instructor at Boston Electrology Training Center. She is a lecturer, educator, freelance writer and contributor to Tapestry, Rosebuds, Dermascope, Archives of Dermatology, Advanced Dermatology Newsletter and electrology journals.

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M2F ESTROGEN USE MAY REDUCE ALZHEIMER'S DEATH RISK

Recent research indicates that taking estrogen may cut a genetic woman's risk of dying from Alzheimer's disease by 40% or more. And, the longer they took the hormone; the lower the risk. That's the gist of a press release from Sheila Kirk, MD, Director of Medical Liaison and Research for the IFGE.

Previous research has revealed many benefits for genetic women from taking estrogen, including reduced risk of heart attack and osteoporosis.

It must be kept in mind, Dr. Kirk cautions, that this is a preliminary report. Larger studies must be carried out to know the precise effects of estrogen in protecting an individual from the development or progression of this debilitating disease."

Dr. Kirk reports that there is "strong belief among researchers" that estrogen will confer the same benefits upon M2F transsexuals as it does in genetic females and may be of value against prostate disease. With more study, it may be that the risk of Alzheimer's deaths may also be reduced in TG males who take estrogen.



THE DISH by Brenda

This winter's already been something else! Ever since that great Christmas party earlier in December, it's been snowstorms and holidays non-stop. Of course, the Club hasn't been open either for many a Tuesday. So what do we have once again to start 1996? At least 6 inches of the "stuff" (to be ladylike I've avoided any stronger word) before the Club opens up later tonight! For some of us, who may not have had the chance to dress since the Christmas party, I can tell you're aching to try on your new clothes for everyone—maybe even splash on some of that eau de toilette you got from your "Victoria's" Secret Santa!

Got a chance to go to Christmas on the Cape on the 15th. What a classy event! Our hosts were the ladies of Investments, a Cape Cod group that meets every month at the same venue that hosted the holiday fete—the Holiday Inn of Hyannis. The staff there deserves a big hug as well. In addition, I was among the chosen few who waltzed off from the raffle with a fruit cake. Luckily for the baked good, it wound up in more abler hands than mine—which were probably still shaking a bit after helping out Carol Anne with the fashion show.

First Event 1996 is on our doorstep! Get in touch with Nancy Cain ASAP with your reservations right away! Make this the year you can confidently say I AM! Keep in mind one thing—you're there to have fun, but go in with an open (and feminine) mind. One of the keys to passing en femme in public is to pass to yourself, that is, to think of yourself as a woman. It'll let you react to situations in the unscripted, sometimes chaotic everyday world more naturally.

New Year's Resolutions for *Rosebuds*: Number One is to shoot for a wide range of articles. One such area that I want to cover in greater detail next year is wives and girlfriends. Input on the wives' support group, advice for the crossdresser coming out to his wife or girlfriend are two examples of possibilities in that regard. Something you'd like to see more (or less) of? Write me, or call me, or leave a message for me at the Club, or even at the IFGE (Jean's my roommate!)

-Ciao!

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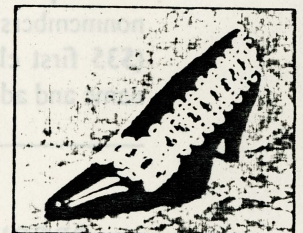


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Carol Ann Gillard

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Vendors of products and/or services may demonstrate their wares to the Tiffany membership in several different ways. You may arrange for a Tuesday night presentation at the facility (7-10 PM--Open Meeting Night); you may present at the Tiffany office on a Monday, Wednesday, or Thursday evening; you may present as a vendor at our annual First Event in January. Please contact our programs committee (TCNE-Pgms., PO Box 2283, Woburn MA 01888-0483) or call (617) 891-9325 to review the options or to make other arrangements.

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TIFFANY CLUB OF NEW ENGLAND CURRENT EVENTS

Important Note: The following is subject to addition, change, and deletion without notice. You should contact the information hot line (617-891-9325) or the Tiffany Electronic Bulletin Board (617-899-3230) for the most current schedule information. The hot line is updated routinely each Sunday and whenever necessary, and answered live on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7:00 PM to 9 PM. Unless otherwise noted, event location is the TCNE facility. Facility hours of operation are 7:00 PM to 11:00 PM NP/FP is a new person/first person designated event.

Event rules of conduct: It is important to TCNE, Inc., that all encounters with the general public reflect positively on yourself and on the Club. Therefore, we would ask that people dress and act in a way that is appropriate for the event. Call in for latest updates for snow days.

JANUARY 1996

- 9 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting
- 16 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting--Model's Resale & Blue Buffalo, Framingham
- 19 Fri. 7:00 Board of Directors meeting
- 23 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting

24-28 FIRST EVENT '96 CROWNE PLAZA, WOBURN
26-27 Fri. & Sat. 6:00-8:00 Tiffany Open House Club open for people to get ready for First Event. (Change at hospitality suites when leaving First Event)

- 30 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting--Mary Kay night

FEBRUARY 1996

- 2 Fri. 7:00 Wives' support group meeting
- 6 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting
- 8 Th. 7:00 "Exploring Womanhood" class. Conducted by Donna
- 13 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting
- 16 Fri. 7:00 Board of Directors meeting
- 20 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting
- 22 Th. 7:00 "Exploring Womanhood"
- 27 Tu. 7:00 FP/NP Open meeting--Mary Kay night

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★ **Who May Attend**

★ Anyone. Non-members and members alike are warmly welcome to attend this event. As always, participation in any TCNE, Inc. sponsored event requires that all attendees exercise good manners and common sense. Moreover, everyone is expected to recognize the ambiance of the event and to protect the security and peace of mind of others.

★ **1st Event '96** will be held at a **new location**, the Holiday Inn Crowne Plaza, in Woburn, MA, off Washington Street, just a few miles from the junction of routes 93 and 95.

★ **To Attend:** Complete the registration form and return it with your payment to the address listed on the form. Hotel arrangements are to be made directly with the hotel (see registration form).

★ **Your Hostess:** The Most On-High Supreme Goddess-Type Being of First Event **Nancy Cain**

★ **For further information,** call the Tiffany Club of New England, Inc. at (617) 891 - 9325, or write us at P.O. Box 2283, Woburn, MA
01888-0483

★ ***Mark your calendars
for the
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★ **Dates:** Wednesday, January 24 to Sunday, January 28, 1996.

★ **New Place:** Crowne Plaza
2 Forbes Road
Woburn, Massachusetts
(617) 932-0999

★ **Planned Activities:** Pool Party, Cocktail Party, Awards Banquet, instructional classes, vendor displays, fashion show, makeovers & more!

★ Alison Laing, the new Executive Director of IFGE, will be the Keynote Speaker at the Banquet.

★ Dr. Sheila Kirk, Linda DeFrusco, Diane Elleborn, Donna Cognac, Needra Sahr & Kate Reilly, Lady Di, and Ariadne Kane are just some of the speakers who will be talking about image, electrolysis, therapy for the transgendered, hormones and general health issues.

★ Jim Bridges will be there to conduct his transformational magic.

★ Some of the vendor services & displays include cosmetics, nails, clothing, jewelry, and skin care, as well as color & image analysis.

★ **Planned Schedule**

★ **Wednesday January 24, 1996**
New Person/First Person Orientation
Shopping Trips to Local Stores
Dinner a la Carte

★ **Thursday January 25, 1996**
New Person/First Person Orientation
Instructional Classes
Vendor Displays
Makeovers
Shopping Trips to Local Stores
Dinner a la Carte

Pool Party

★ **Friday January 26, 1996**
Instructional Classes
Vendor Displays
Makeovers
Shopping Trips to Local Stores
Dinner a la Carte

Cocktail Party

TCNE Open House - Waltham
IFGE Open House - Waltham

★ **Saturday January 27, 1996**

Fashion Show & Brunch

Vendor Displays
Makeovers
Shopping Trips to Local Stores
Transsexual Support Group
Significant Other Support Group

**Awards Banquet & Dancing
with live entertainment**

★ **Sunday January 28, 1996**

Brunch a la Carte

★ **Goodbyes**

★ ***Come and enjoy, with
style, grace, dignity, and
fun! See you there!***