



### Capt. Video~~~~~

I was sitting around thinking about my 'lost' youth...No, I didn't misplace my kids, MY YOUTH....remember 'Capt. Video' ? Every day after school I would watch it, Capt. Video would travel far and wide with his sidekick (Who, upon reflection was supposed to be only 16 years old but looked 25 and

what the heck was he doing in space at 16 anyway, flying a cardboard space ship, and Michael Jackson not even born yet?) Getting back to the point, I remember ordering the secret decoder ring and the glow in the dark message pad, or something like that. I would spend hours in a dark closet deciphering the daily message from the show. Usually it was something like "Buy Ovaltine" or drink Ovaltine every day, space cadet"

Those were the days, but really, are they much different than now? Most of us are still in that closet. Back then we did decoder rings. Back then the ring probably cost \$2.00 and a box top, (The decoder ring now fetches \$200 on the collector market).

When I was a kid, and when I got bored playing with the neighborhood Tyranosaurus, I liked being a space cadet or space ranger, I didn't ever want to quit. but eventually those days in the closet waned and were mostly forgotten. For me the change over from space cadet to "spaced" lady occurred in only 8 years. I was back in the closet, and stayed there for the rest of my life. Only now, instead of the decoder ring I have fancy clothes, heels and makeup, our rings now cost \$35.00 in size 13.

You tell me, **hey!** you're not in the closet, you are out at meetings, your family knows, etc. etc. Well, actually most of us are still in that closet, it's just that the closet got bigger, more people are in there with us. But there are still people we deal with that do not know and never will know. Anyway, this little story evolved into a point as to one of the reasons Chi-Chapter and Tri-Ess exists. To help those still in the closet. The person who would like to get out but can't, and in some cases shouldn't. Tri-Ess is here to make that closet bigger, let in more friends and still keep that door closed to outsiders who could bring the world crashing down on top of us. My closet didn't get bigger until I was in my late 40's. Why? Because I didn't know about the groups available or was just to scared to contact those I knew about. Why did it take me years to find out that my barber was a leader in the community? (Judy Simmons) or that Be-All's were being held only 2 miles from

## WELCOME

to our new officers

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**President - Denise Peters**

~

**Vice President  
Programming - Miranda  
Stevens**

~

**Vice President - Outreach -  
Candace Mahne**

~

**Secretary - Colleen C.**

~

**Treasurer - Bridget Morgan**

my house? Probably lack of communication, and fear of discovery. It wasn't until I logged onto a computer service did I learn answers to all these. My personal aim is to now pay back those who helped me and to help those who started off like I did. Our goal, as an organization, is to move those walls out further and a lot earlier for people so they can enjoy the closet, and not so big as to scare them off. Gee I like it mysterious like this and I don't want to come out, **"Don't turn on the light, it will spoil everything!!!"**





## Last Meeting Minutes

The elections were held on Mar 23rd at the Holiday Inn Express. At 6:30, the newcomers room opened and their meeting started with 10 people. Following the newcomer meeting, everyone mingled in the main room. At 8:30 the meeting was called to order and introductions made. Present were: Allannah, Amanda, Amber, Andrea, Anita, Aries, Athena, Barbara Diane & Barb, Barbara Lee, Bridget, Candace & Dawn, Charlene, Christine, Claudia, Colleen & Verna, Debbie, Dee Dee, Denise, Diane, Erica, Gloria, Jackie V., Jami B., Janet & Judy, Jennifer, Julie, Kiki, Kim, Kyla, Laura, Laurette, Lee, Lenore, Lois, Loraine, Lynn, Marsha, Michelle M., Michelle H., Miranda, Morrigan & Marilyn, Naomi & Rachel, Paula, Renee, Rori, Rose, Sandy, Sherri, Stacey, Sunny, Tess, Toni M., Toni C., Vanessa, Vickie, Wende and Faye Bass.

The turn out was impressive, considering that the meeting was on the 4th Sat rather than the 3rd Saturday. More than 60 attended the meeting which, due to the elections, was at times intense and enlightening. The second round of nominations was held with Naomi as coordinator. Christine was nominated for Secretary opposite Colleen, Already nominated were, Claudia and Candace and Bridget and Christine. Unopposed were Miranda for VP Programming and Denise for President.

A voice vote was taken on the unopposed candidates, then down to business with individual speeches from the contested candidates, followed by a period of Q & A from the audience and then a closing speech. Lest I say things really got down to the nitty gritty and were followed with numerous rebuttals, etc.

Naomi appointed Julie and Rori as the election committee and the vote was taken, The committee delivered the results to Naomi with the results as reported in Kiki's column.

The meeting ajorned at around 10:30 and everone made a dash for the food table. Laurie brought in some home made soup which was quickly devoured. She has promised to bring in some next month also.

# Wanted

We Know There's Talent Beneath Those Girlish Curls

Our Spring Fling on May 18th will feature live entertainment coordinated by Amanda Lynn Richards. You may recall that Amanda entertained us with her original crossdressing tunes at last year's Prom, and has released an album of tunes that was featured in articles in Transgender/Tapestry and the Femme Mirror. Well this year, she is putting out the invitation to all you ladies who have a little show biz under your wig to come and be a part of the program. Can you sing (for real, not lip sync), do comedy, magic, read poetry, dance, play an instrument, etc., etc? This year's program that will hopefully include a variety of entertainment and we need you can help make it happen. Amanda plans to keep the selections simple and the rehearsal time to a minimum. She'll even supply practice tapes for the musical numbers, so you can rehearse the selections at your convenience. We need to get this going right now, so get your response in to her ASAP. Several persons have already responded at the March meeting, and now you can too by dropping her a line: Amanda Lynn Richards, PO Box 426, Western Springs, IL 60558; or via the internet: isingtoo@mcs.net, or a message with Candace at the hotline. Don't be shy. It's fun to perform crossdressed!

**Chi Chapter/TriEss**  
P.O.Box 40  
Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

#### Officers

**President: Denise Peters**  
**VP/Program: Miranda Stevens**  
**VP/Membership: Candace Mahne**  
**Secretary: Coleen C.**  
**Treasurer: Bridget Morgan**

#### Commitees

**Special Events: Naomi Owen**  
**Newcomers: Amanda**  
**Dee Dee Bolden**  
**Member retention: Christine K.**

TRI-ESS is a not-for-profit social and educational support group for crossdressers and their spouses and partners. Meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month.

**Chi Chapter Telephone Hotline:**  
**(708) 262-8707**

# OUT OF FOCUS

by Kiki Carmichael

## DEMOCRACY REIGNS

We had our elections last month and what a difference from two years ago!! If you recall, Naomi announced her decision to withdraw as president at the last minute due to health problems and the elections had to be postponed for a month. Tri Ess was thrown into confusion and almost had a heart attack. Gloria stepped in at the last minute to run as president and was elected because everybody else was afraid to follow in Naomi's footsteps.

There was hardly any competition for the other officer positions too.

Gloria resigned in mid-term and Deanna Johns took over as President and vowed never again to run for anything when this latest term was over.

This year was a different story and Gloria paved the way! I'm sure people thought, If she can run, anybody can run. Denise, our very active Secretary who is literally a sponge for work was nominated as President and ran unopposed as was Miranda, nominated as Vice-President in charge of programming. Miranda has her work cut out for her following the wonderful job Rori did with the programs

We had hotly contested positions for Vice-President Membership/Outreach, Secretary, and Treasurer. I am particularly delighted that all were worthy candidates and for me, it really was a problem deciding who to vote for.

With Naomi acting as moderator, the candidates actively gave speeches on why they should be elected. Then a question/answer period followed each speech and then of course we heard more speeches by the candidates. It was great. The best election yet at Tri Ess.

We didn't have any screaming or yelling, darn it, but it came close at times. . Our new Board which I'm sure you already know is:

Denise, President  
Miranda, Vice-President  
Candace, Vice-President  
Colleen: Secretary  
Bridget, Treasurer.

The thing that impressed me the most this year is that there were several other members lurking around in the background who would make wonderful candidates for office. The only problem now is who will be able to fill Denise's shoes (hee hee).

If there was one suggestion that I could make to the Board it is this. I always see a lot of girls who have been at the meeting an hour or so without name tags. Somebody should be appointed a Sergeant of Arms and go around and make sure they have paid and are wearing their name tag. It so easy to do and there seem to be more all the time. I would even volunteer.

I could get dressed up as a Cowgirl in high heeled boots, a flared mini skirt with tassels at the bottom, a western blouse with tassels and unbuttoned as far as legal, a ten gallon hat (I love hats) and double six shooters around my hips. Oh, and a badge.

If a lot of girls are not paying or forgot to pay for whatever

reason, it makes those of us who do pay feel stupid.

.....

As you all know the election meeting was postponed a week so CGS could have their St. Patrick's Day Party without interfering with the Tri Ess meeting. A lot of members of CGS are in Tri Ess or is it a lot of members of Tri Ess are also in CGS?

It was held at the Stardust Banquet Room on North Milwaukee Avenue in Chicago. And there were a lot of members of only Tri Ess that attended.

Being a member of Tri Ess and CGS, I would like to thank the Board for postponing the Tri Ess meeting a week.

They had a great dinner and the Irish music they played during dinner was delightful.

The Stardust is owned and managed by a Polish couple, Roman and Teresa. I went to it a little concerned about what kind of food they were going to serve--green corned beef and extra green cabbage? Yuk!

But these people had a lot of class. They didn't try any tricky things or cute things but served what they knew how best to make. . Dinner was served family style with platters of different food brought to the beautifully set table that we passed around. It worked out great.

It wasn't very Irish but I think we had Warsaw Pot Roast, Chicken Gnask, Krakow Lasagna, boiled vegetables, Poznan mashed potatoes, and a salad. It was all very delicious.

The only objection I had to the food was there weren't enough lumps in the mashed potatoes. I mentioned it to Teresa who cooked it all and she promised the next time to leave some lumps in them. The wait staff was great and several, I suspect were immediate family members. We didn't freak them out at all. I get the feeling that Roman told all of them about us and that we were nice people.

There was a boy about 10 who was running the coat room. Some of the girls were teasing him and he was obviously curious about us.

He asked one of the gals, "Why do you dress up as a girl? This gal answered in as simple a way as possible, "We're weird!"

Then somebody said to him, "You would look great in a dress!", and he ran out of the coat room.

It was a great party.

.....

What in the world is going on with the Femme Mirror? It seems like half the articles were about living full time or transitioning. Yikes!

Speaking of which, I've decided I'm not

A transvestite,

A transsexual, or even

Transgendered.

I'm just a little

Transposed. (Do I make a cute number?)

Which, upon thinking about could be compared to being a little bit pregnant. Its only a hobby, its only a hobby... only a hobby.....

Bye.

**April**

Apr 9 CGS Meeting Elections  
 Apr 13 Gemini Gender Group  
 Apr 20 **Chi-Chapter Meeting**  
 Apr 21 Dance Class  
 April 23 **T.O.N.I. Meeting**  
 April 25-29 California Dreaming '96 San Francisco (714) 779-9013 PPOC@AOL.COM  
 April 27 FEMUnderground Transformations

**May**

May 1 South Side Girls Players 9:00pm  
 May 11 Gemini Gender Group  
 May 14 CGS Meeting  
 May 18 **Chi-Chapter Spring Fling Dinner** Holiday Inn Express

**June**

June Be-All Detroit (See Enclosed Flyer)  
 June 28-29 Tri-Ess National Board Meeting Chicago

**July**

July 24-28 SPICE Philadelphia, PA

Nov ?? **Holiday En-Femme** Chicago

**Locations:**

Holiday Inn Express  
 Riverside Dr  
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Temptations  
 10235 W. Grand Av  
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The **Indiana Gender Group** has been renamed the **Transgender Organization of Northern Indiana (T.O.N.I.)** They meet the 4th Tuesday each month, at 7pm sharp. If you wish to attend, please R.S.V.P, 219-929-8533

**COUPLES GROUP**

The next couples meeting will be held on Friday, April 26 at Dave & Joy's home in Elk Grove. All couples interested in attended are invited to talk to one of the members at the next meeting. Couples Club members can be identified by their blue name tag signifying " **The Couples Group** ". For more information, please call Dave or Joy, evenings between 7:00 and 9:30 at: 708-228-6124.

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## Miranda Writes....

Since this is my first official column as your VP Programming, it may tend to get a bit wordy but I want to give you a little flavor of my philosophy as well as report on the upcoming programs. First the program...

### April Program: It's story time!

Think back to when you were growing up. Everything was fresh and wonderful. Little things which may have made no difference at all to your mom or dad, which may not have been worth remembering to them, may have become a major influencing factor in your subsequent development. For instance, some of the stories you were told or read may still be with you today because they were so important to you. And these stories all had some element of crossdressing in them, didn't they?

I particularly remember a story by Mark Twain, about a little boy who was disguised as a little girl to run away from home, and how he was subsequently discovered. We all know stories like that which we can share.

For the April Meeting, you are the program! Those of you who remember stories from your childhood with transgender themes, come prepared to tell them! If you have a personal story which affected you when you were a little girl, that's OK too. But please, not a life history. Plan on no more than about 5 minutes. Drop me a line to let me know if you would like to tell a story, or let me know before the meeting starts so we can get you on the program. My address is: Miranda Stevens, P.O.Box 662, Arlington Heights, IL 60006-0662.

### Sidetracks II: The Hangover

Don't forget our next outing is April 13 to the Athenaeum Theater for the Chicago Gay Men's Chorus production of Sidetracks II. For those of you who missed this event last time, it was certainly the most delightful outing of the year. On the stage of the Athenaeum (it worth the trip just to see this grand old auditorium) the Chorus produced extravagant musical numbers from Broadway and Hollywood, while the videos of the same scene played overhead. Move-for-move, they reproduced the videos before your eyes, with the men of the Chorus playing all of the male and female parts.

We reserved a block of seats this year, but you had to purchase your ticket before April. For those of you who already bought tickets, you can pick them up from Rori at Transformations before the show, or meet me in the lobby of the theater before show time. The curtain is at 8:00 p.m., so please get to there before that time to get your ticket. If you are late, you can pick up your ticket from the box office. Just identify yourself as Tri-Ess. If you haven't bought your ticket yet, you may be out of

luck. Call the box office to see if they have any tickets left. Their number is (312) 525-0195.

Some logistics... The Athenaeum is at 2936 N. Southport in Chicago. There is street parking around the theater, but it is very tight. Better to go to Sidetracks (the bar) at 3349 N. Halsted and use their valet parking. There is a shuttle bus leaving from the bar to the theater, but be sure to leave yourself enough time. Last year Amanda and I missed the bus and were late for the show. There are plenty of restaurants in the area which are transgender-friendly. So get there early, catch a bite to eat, and head out to the show. After the show, we're heading back to Sidetracks (the bar) to do our own singing and carousing.

### Coming up in May: Chi Chapter's Spring Fling

It's not too early to plan your ensemble for the Spring Fling on May 18. This is the Senior Prom you always dreamed of attending in your strapless sequined gown, but somehow wound up going to in a boring rented tuxedo. Elsewhere in this newsletter, you will find the reservation form. Clip it and send it in. You're not gonna want to miss this event. It'll be a blast.

### Some passing thoughts...

First of all, I would like to thank all of you for the confidence you have shown in me by choosing me for this office. I will try to live up to your expectations. But please don't think too badly of me if I occasionally slip up.

Just after the election, I asked for volunteers for the Program Committee. I did this for several reasons. We need more opportunities for the membership to participate in planning and carrying out events. I know several of you who have said that you wished you could do more. Here's your chance. Besides that, I personally have never functioned very well in a vacuum. Getting ideas from diverse sources, and having people to bounce these ideas off of, will insure a steady stream of new high quality programs and activities. I am delighted to inform you that the Chi Chapter Program Committee now consists of Christine, Toni M., Rori and myself.

My philosophy in programming is very simple: interactive participation. Both Rori and I have felt that the best programs are those which incorporate input from you, the membership. We are going to try something different this month with the story telling program. I am asking for your help to make it work! It could lead to having something very special in Chi Chapter. One thing I can guarantee... the programs over the next year will be fun and varied.

In my nomination statement, I also proposed a regular first

*(Continued on page 7)*

(Continued from page 6)

Saturday event. The Athenaeum outing can be considered the first in this series. OK, it's on the second Saturday, but Easter sort of preempted our regularly scheduled program. My thoughts behind these regular outings are to give the newcomers an opportunity to be out in the safety of a small group, and to get more comfortable with their femme-selves among others. Of course we need you more experienced gals to be the big sisters. Let's keep these outings simple and inexpensive. In May, we could all go out to a movie. The Birdcage comes to mind. That's one movie I would love to see again. And it would be great fun in a group! We'll finalize the plans at the April meeting.

Finally, we all owe a great deal of thanks to Rori for the job she did as VP Programming over the past few years. Events and programs contribute to the personality of an organization. The vivaciousness and warmth which Rori brought to Chi Chapter will be part of its personality for a long time to come. When I originally thought about taking on this job, I did so only with the provision that Rori continues to act as my mentor. So she will continue to influence our chapter's direction over the next year. Thank you, Rori.

**Deadline for May Issue  
April 28th**

## The Chi Tribune



**Editor:**  
**Denise Peters**

**Printer:**  
**Regal Press - Schaumburg**

*The Chi Tribune* newsletter is published monthly by Chi Chapter TRI-ESS. Please send all news, information, contributions, comments and suggestions to:

**Denise Peters**  
**PO Box 1138**  
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Upload your article-etc. to:

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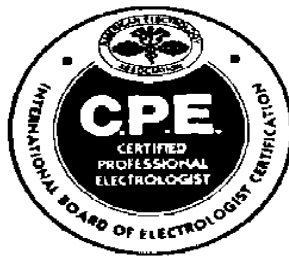


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Room reservations available at \$65 (708) 279-0700



Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess, Dinner, PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

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