Chi Chapter Tribune

Vol# XXXVII September 1998
Issue # 9

THE TROPHY COMES HOME

SEPT MEETING: ETHNIC FEAST

Presidents Podium

September Meeting

At the August meeting it was announced that we would have Dr. Alan Lanning of DuPage College as our speaker. Due to a change in his schedule, he will not be able to be here in September, BUT will be here at the October meeting.

In September, Rachel has announced that we will have a panel of wives/partners fielding questions from our membership. See Rachel's column inside.

We will also have a **"Pot Luck Ethnic Night Feast"** in September. Please bring a dish which is representative of your national heritage. Everything from appetizers to entrees to desserts goes on this night. BTW, anyone who brings a dish will get $5.00 off of the meeting fee. But a can of corn or a box of cereal, etc. doesn't count.

If you want, you may give a little presentation regarding the dish and if possible, try and wear an outfit which corresponds with the country of origin.

This is the only food to be provided other than pop. so grab those Hungarian Meatballs, pack up the Wisconsin cheese, (Is Wisconsin a country?), and fill your pockets with the Spanish Rice.....

Naomi's Rachel will be handling the organization of the food. If you plan on bringing an ethnic (Or any) dish please call Rachel at 630-893-0767 and let her know what you are

(Continued on page 2)

Reflections

by Candace

Several months from now are the Chi Chapter elections. It is a chance for you, yes YOU, to bring new ideas and new directions.

The best scenario for any organization is energetic members with new ideas. It is important that our leaders have our members' interests at heart. For the young have the energy and verve and a fresh, positive outlook on life. You will be the guides charting Chi Chapters' future.

In the past four years, Chi Chapter changed from a "club" to a "Support Group". The Newcomers Group, PALS, and two couples' groups serve the intimate needs of our members.

Past Program Chairpersons have brought visual programs to us. I recall a belly dancer, Marie, a modeling school director: Rori (use of scarves, make overs and voice lessons.) Hobby night, Halloween, swimming pool parties, etc. engaged us. Then there was the Living circle for our spiritual needs. We tend to disregard our relationship with the higher power.

(Continued on page 5)

LENORE

We must sadly announce that Lenore, a Chi member since 1985, passed away the third week of August.

A special Tribute may be found on page 4

(Continued from page 1) President
bringing. It's OK to leave a message if she is not there.

Picnic

On Sunday August 16th, Chi held their annual picnic at Sheila D's along with the CGS summer picnic. This year we were able to get a full team of six to fight for the return of the volley ball trophy, which CGS has had for the past few years. The teams played a best-two out of three games, but the third game wasn't necessary when CHI CHAPTER won the first two. Bringing home the trophy.
Hats off to our team member Janet T. who fought valiantly but managed to get injured numerous times.....and was ultimately replaced by Sheila D...That's the spirit....
Who else was on the team? Andrea, Carol Rodgers, Athena, yours truly.

Bookem Debbie!

We have a new librarian, Debbie B. has volunteered to take charge of the boxes which I am more than glad to move out of my basement. Shortly she will be running a list of available books, magazines and VHS tapes available for checkout. Debbie is a profession in the field of library science, and we are happy to see her take on this challenge.

Debbie

Elections...

Don't forget, if you would like to run for office, you can send in a brief article about yourself for the October Tribune. Full description of the positions were listed in last months Tribune. You don't have to send anything in, no requirement, it's up to you.

Something different

Did you notice that last months newsletter (and maybe this one) is slightly different from what you have grown accustomed to? Well, we have changed printers.
At the last minute we were forced to change boats in mid stream, the front page was printed on my color ink jet, the interior was done at a copy store and the color Garden Party insert was done by Robin, the CGS secretary who made enough for all our members. Hopefully, this issue is at its new home. For those groups we trade newsletters with, I need to apologize. Because of the change we were not able to send out the August issue to all the groups. If you would like an issue, I can run off a few copies more and send you one, just let me know.. It won't be in color though....

Happenings
by Rachel James

Hello to all. Sadly, I must begin this column with a farewell to one of our Chi family. I am told that Lenore, one of the elder stateswomen of our group passed away recently. While I did not know her as well as I would have liked, I will remember her as always conducting herself with pride, dignity, and class. May we all keep Lenore in our hearts and prayers, and learn the lesson that tomorrow may be too late to get to know our Chi sisters better.

In keeping with the idea of getting to know each other better, our September program will hopefully do just that. After our panel discussion where wives and partners asked everything they always wanted to know about crossdressing, many people commented that they found the program very interesting and enlightening. In September the tables will turn and we the crossdressers will get an opportunity to ask a panel of wives and partners everything we always wanted to know about their perspectives on crossdressing and relationships. There is no better way to understand than to walk in the other person's pumps for a day! I hope that all members will take advantage of this tremendous opportunity to examine what it is like to be on the other side of a transgender relationship. This is also the perfect chance to get your own spouse or partner to a meeting, especially those who are "on the fence".

October is nomination time. Everyone should begin thinking about any offices they may want to run for or somone else they would like to see on the ballot. No organization can survive without a contiuous flow of new blood, new ideas, and new energy. Chi Chapter can always become better, but only if each member takes an active role in making it better. Give of yourself. Be of service to your sisters in Chi Chapter. Its not just a job, its a reason to buy a new dress!

Here are some random thoughts about things we might hear if crossdressing ever became as socially acceptable as, say, childish behavior by highly overpaid professional athletes.
- " Sir, pull down your skirt and the doctor will be right in to see you."
- " Hey buddy, your slip is showing."
- " Folks, number 14 Polaski has a great arm, and I'm told he looks terrific in an evening gown."
- John: "Hey Bob, got an extra pair of pantyhose on you?" Bob: "You mean you don't bring an extra pair to work?"
- Newscaster: " Tonight we have reports that the President's blue dress has been sent to the FBI for DNA testing of a stain. The President has reportedly denied that he has ever worn a blue dress, saying that he has no purse or shoes to match one."

Till next time, love to all.

Stacey's and Teresa's Wedding

I realize now that that day belonged to the Bride and Groom.

I had my moment the day before the wedding as Don, Teresa, Kim and I spent the morning at the salon getting our nails and hair done (that is Don and Teresa's hair). It was the first time in a public salon for both Kim and I. I had anticipated a quiet four hours in a small private salon, but soon found out that I under estimated. We saw no less than 12 customers come and leave the salon during our time there. Our technician, Michele, chatted with us during the our time with the emphasis on the upcoming wedding. We made a new friend as we helped two women pick a nail color (one chose Don's dark purple color). Kim and I chose a silver polish that had a blue tint to it in keeping with the Bride's black and silver preferences. Most of the rest of the day, we ran through the final details of the big day. Kim and I made a quick trip to the local Walgreens to get wedding cards. Seems we both had our brains somewhere else that week.

The big day finally arrived. It was a rush to get everything done that morning. Her daughter and granddaughter arrived and Teresa got them ready (I helped wherever I could). They looked adorable! Teresa was happy to have makeup experts on-hand as she said she could never do it right. I drove Teresa, Kim and the two flower girls to the wedding arriving just 5 minutes before our due time. The bridesmaids wore black velvet dresses, ankle length with criss-cross straps. The groomsmen wore black shirts and black pants. The bridesmaids and groomsmen walked each other down the aisle, then the Best Man and me, Flower Girls and then the Father and the Bride. It was when Teresa walked into our vision that I lost my internal focus. I could only focus on her the entire time. The ceremony was gorgeous and just the right length of time.

I did not know it was hot until the end when we posed for pictures. I later learned that it reached 91 with a heat index of 98. We took more pictures in the greenhouse, then came back to Don and Teresa's house to relax and for Don to become Stacey. After loading up the cars with food, we took off for the long drive to the reception hall. The hall was beautifully decorated, but the air conditioning wasn't working well, so many people did not stay long. I had plans to be home early, so I bid my farewells at 8:00. I had learned that all of the personal challenges and goals I had set for myself that day were fulfilled, but still were only secondary to watching Don and Teresa become Husband and Wife. I wish them well now and forever.

Laura Smith

Tricks of the Trade to a Better Image, Kinetic Incongruities & "Getting Read"

by Melanie Yarborough

The following is offered for those planning on spending any time in public as a female. It is based on advice from other T's, female friends, and my own observations.

Females have better posture and stand up straighter than males This is because they have breasts to support. Don't slouch!

Men tend to look away from each other when talking, or at the wall. Women look each other in the eyes when communicating.

Breast placement: Ideally, they should be 3 " below your armpits. The nipple should be even with the midpoint of the shoulder. When you use breast forms, place a shoulder pad underneath for support. And make sure they're not crooked.

Hips: To simulate a woman's "hourglass" figure, you have to simulate a higher waist. A wide belt helps the illusion. Also, pull blouse out a little over the belt to "billow" it.

Do you find pantyhose too hot and restricting especially when going to the bathroom? Consider thigh-highs with an elastic band. Many stores carry them.

Black stockings are better for a dressy outfit or evening wear. They don't necessarily work as well with casual dress.

Do you rip your nylons when putting them on, due to rough or broken nails? Some TV's use an old "test pair" to run nails over, before putting on the real pair.

Can't get dressed at home and have to do it somewhere else? Then invest in a full length garment bag: the kind you can put over an outfit and hang in the back seat of your car. Suitcases and roll bags are not good enough. They often leave outfits hopelessly wrinkled.

Women never. never leave the toilet seat up!!!

(Continued on page 5)

Reminder ! ! !

If you are a new prospective member, you are expected to join by your third meeting, if you have not then we ask that you not attend meetings until you have applied and been accepted in membership. Likewise, if you are an ex member, we ask that you reapply for, and be accepted for membership prior to attending further meetings. Only vendors who currently advertise with the Chi Tribune are invited to the meetings. Remember, our meetings are for paid members and their wives/partners, and paid advertisers.

REMEMBERING LENORE

A Tribute to a Special Friend!

Several weeks ago, our long time member Lenore, sat down to watch television and quietly passed away in her chair. She was 76 years old. Her survivors include three loving sons, four adoring grandchildren, and many nieces, nephews and good friends. - But that hardly tells the story!

For Those of you who didn't know, Lenore was an ordained Lutheran minister. Reverend Bob (as we shall. call him) was not just an ordinary church minister. He was a well known historian and theologian in his church community. He was an author and scholar who was sought after as a speaker and preacher at church functions. In addition, he frequently appeared on Sunday mornings television worship programs.

Rev. Bob graduated from a major university and its seminary. His first assignment was as minister of a church in Iowa. He then moved to a large downstate church and was the Chaplain for one of the largest hospitals in Southern Illinois. This led him to become the Chaplain for one of Chicago's largest hospitals. More recently he was the Chairman of the Chicago Chaplain Corps., an organization of chaplains of all religious persuasions for all of Chicago area hospitals.

Lenore first came in contact with Chi Chapter/Tri Ess when she called the chapter hot line back in 1985 or 1986. This was the beginning of a long and close relationship between Lenore, Naomi, Barbara Lee, Eve and a few others who knew of her status. She became a regular at Chi Chapter meetings, dinners and events always looking her best. She loved going out shopping and for dinner with her Chi Chapter friends.

Lenore and Naomi became good friends. They had dinner together quite often. Even though Lenore preferred to keep her status discreet, she also looked forward to going with Naomi to make class visits at the College of Dupage and at Manchester College in Indiana. At these events she would describe herself as being a 'marriage and family counselor" which she was, indeed.

Lenore had a wonderful sense of humor. Naomi tells the following story: “Lenore and I always looked forward to our dinners together. They became interesting discussions on a wide variety of topics from current events to religion to crossdressing. Lenore had studied comparative religion and knew more about my Judaism than I did about being a Lutheran, even though we came from entirely different backgrounds; we almost always agreed on moral guidelines, prohibitions and pronouncements. We also frequently discussed the Biblical pronouncement of Deuteronomy. Our talks also included more mundane things One dinner a few years ago Lenore disclosed that she had received a letter from the Ill. Sec. of State and that because other age she had to take the drivers test as part of her drivers license renewal. At the same time I told Lenore that I had received my license renewal and I had to take the eye exam. Several weeks later, at dinner, I asked Lenore how the drivers test turned out. Lenore told me she had done something she wasn't proud of, she had worn her minister's collar when she took the drivers exam when I asked bow she did she said she had passed with flying colors-no problem! Lenore then asked me how I had done at my renewal and I told her I hadn't gone yet She then responded: "Would you like to borrow the collar?”

Though we are all saddened by Lenore's passing we can rejoice in the life she led. She was a good person. A person of courage and strength in chasing her dream. We have lost a good brother, a dear sister and a wonderful friend. We will miss you! wonderful friend. We will miss you!

(Continued from page 1) Candace

This year for the first time, in my memory, a program chair (Rachel) had brought forth programs bringing out our feelings and bringing us together on a deeper, personal level. The Queen of Hearts Pageant and the panel discussion brought individuals' feelings, personal views and opinions to the chapter as a whole. And dialogs - happened.

More of this type of open, directed dialogs is, in my opinion, building self-awareness and inclusiveness. And helps us to realize we are all similar under that stiff masculine veneer.

The panel answering questions; posed different feelings and opinions, without ridicule from anyone. I believe the health of any group is measured by the active participation by its' members in open dialogs. And that means, for everyone to hear and be heard.

For the shy and the new comer, just listening may be sufficient. Fertile images and thoughts, not otherwise brought from the depths of ones being, may not have been brought to one's conscious thought. It is the self reflective thoughts, spoken and exchanged in an open meeting that brings out our true feminine self.

The feminine self is more than clothes, wigs, lipstick, high heels and nail polish. It is building relationships. Again - IT IS BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS! It is nurturing.

It is guiding and encouraging others to be all they can be.

I realize some may have difficulty reconciling their feminine with their masculine. It takes help from others. It takes self courage to "be real". For many of us, our feminine self is in it's infancy. The male (testosterone)reigns.

In my opinion, there are some in Chi Chapter, who are really interested in integrating the masculine and the feminine. For example - total "control" (male) for "natural consequences" (female); harsh and heavy handed (male) and nurturing (female); boisterous loud and demonstrative (male) to subliminal, quiet, and gentile (female).

Chi Chapter, the support group, encourages change and loving relationships. Many of our members are changing, becoming whole; integrating and becoming family centered. The cross dresser is not the only one who benefits. The cross dressers' whole family benefits.

And believe it or not, Chi Chapter is a family based organization.

"LONG LIVE OUR SUPPORT GROUP, CHI CHAPTER"

Candace Mahne

(Continued from page 3)

The best way to get "read" at a lesbian bar is to wear a dress. Lesbians dress casual, even slightly masculine: say, jeans and a top. If you try to look too feminine, you'll be out of place. Think hutch!!!

Be careful going out alone. It has never been safe for females, and crossdressers have to live with this. Horror stories abound of TV's being beaten and raped.

Wonderful as it is to meet another sister, please be careful about indiscriminately giving out your male name and phone number.

Call it "Gender Kinetics." It's about how women touch each other. How close they stand in relation to other women and men. How they smile and laugh. How they hold things. How they eat or sit. Passing isn't just about objective things like beard cover and breasts. It's also about subjective things like motion. The best made-up TV can give the game away with inappropriate movements.

Noon, downtown San Diego, near 5th and C St, where there's lots of pedestrian traffic. She had wavy blonde hair, a black long sleeved sweater top, a 16" clinging flowered skirt, opaque black hose. Miniskirts draw attention, no matter who's wearing them. Now dial my interest was piqued, I noticed there was something different about her. Then it dawned on me: "She was a guy!"

At first, I could not define what led me to this. She gave off a certain indescribable "radiation of incongruity."Then, I realized: her movements. She had a tense, clipped stride, the way men walk. There was none of the comfortable, loose, fluid motions that women have. Now, being crossdressed in public is nervewracking. I know, but that nervousness transmits itself to body language, and this uneasiness is transmitted to the casual observer subconsciously, if not consciously.

Now that I was examining her closely, I saw her lack of hips, and broad shoulders, which clinched it Let me say that she was not necessarily an obvious read, however, she gave off certain kinetic inconsistencies.

As genetic and social males. we tend to look at the material things, while woman look at the more spiritual and intangible ones. This attitude carries over into our crossdressing. We focus on type of beard cover/electrolysis, size of breasts, hormones, length of skirt, and height of heels. But little attention is paid to the ethereal aspects of femininity, such as body language.

You can't "assemble" a female image, the way some male engineers would have it. You have to create it in a truly female way. Woman is as woman does.

Born Free Newsletter.
November 1997

Observing... by Olivia

Years ago when I was active in buying and selling homes, I purchased a house that looked to be very sound. The building was old and not maintained over the years. Did it need updating?

Sure, that was a given. In the inspection however, I did miss the fact that the rear foundation was weak because of a drainage problem. The tiles were wrong and the gutters were missing for years thus causing a. great deal of damage and certainly weakening the foundation.

What does this mean to you, the members of Tri-Ess/Chi Chapter?

It's simple. What I see is weak support to Tri-Ess/Chi Chapter a group that certainly serves a large segment of the spectrurri of the gender community. I take nothing away from those who are currently and actively the backbone of Chi Chapter, but it's pretty much impossible to expect one,two or three people to be there constantly to serve your needs month after month.

For those of you who attend the meetings regularly and enjoy the security of knowing you won't be hassled, imagine if there was no monthly meeting. What would you do and where would you go?

Would you be more of a creep at home because now you have no where to go dressed?

I know for those of you who attend the meetings regularly and maybe a Christmas dinner or a spring dance that these opportunities give you great pleasure and serenity. It's part of it.

Am I writing this article to be the savior of Tri-Ess? Absolutely NO! I'm writing this article to make you aware that you can't expect Denise to do everything for you. When one person does everything, it becomes a burden and no one person should be expected to carry that load in a group the size of Chi-Chapter.

You've got an election coming up. Keep in mind if your going to run for an office, it is a commitment for a year. If you are not going to commit, then do not bother running. Lip service is easy.

Support your group, it's yours and no one elses. Take pride in maintaining so your foundation does not weaken.

NOVEMBER MEETING
Saturday November 21st

Rori
"From Daytime to Evening Glamour"

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

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

Commitees
Newcomers: Amanda Lynn
Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S.: Dawn & Kate
Couples: Denise
Hospitality: Kim, Laurie Ann, Barbara & Barbara

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

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.

SEPTEMBER MEETINGS
Saturday September 19th
Newcomer/PALS meet at 6:30p.m.
Business Meeting: 8:00 p.m.
Pot Luck Dinner
Panel Discussion

OCTOBER
Saturday October 17th
Dr. Alan Lanning
of DuPage College
"How he views the crossdresser and their community"

G.L.G.L.C .
Activities Calendar
Aug-SEpT 1998

September 1998

Sat 9/12	7:00 p.m. Gemini Gender Group Meeting in Milwaukee. 414-297-9328
Tue 9/8	8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust...
Sat 9/19	**8:00 Chi-Chapter meeting, Pot Luck Dinner. At the hotel (630) 262-8707**
Sept 24-27th	Paradise in the Poconos, Poconos PA E-Mail poco@cdspub.com
Sat 9/26	**7:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Couples Meeting...Location to be announced.**
Sat 9/26	T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details
Sept 30-Oct 4	Southern Comfort, Atlanta, 404-633-6470

October 1998

Sat 10/10	Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
Tue 10/13	8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
Sat 10/17	**Chi-Chapter Holloween party w/Dr. Alan Lanning at the hotel (630-262-8707)**
Sat 10/24	T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details
Sat 10/24	**7:00 p.m. Chi Chapter Couples Group See Denise or Kim**

PLAN AHEAD

Oct 19-26th	Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA
Nov 5-8	Fall Harvest, Minneapolis
Nov 8-13	Holiday at Sea, Dignity Cruise #10, Cruises, Inc 1-800-621-6699
Dec 19	**'Puttin On The Ritz' Ramada Hotel, Rosemont**
1999	Holiday Enfemme, Houston, TX
1999	Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, WI

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