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Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives of Western New York

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April 1998

Buffalo Belles

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Dear Sisters:

Hello to all! I hope this crazy up and down weather we've been experiencing lately hasn't been driving you batty like it has me. It really gives your wardrobe and health (I'm laboring through a cold now) a workout, going from warm to cold to warm again. Oh well, we're used to that in Western New York at this time of year. Our winter friend, El Nino, tossed a monkey wrench into the usual weather patterns. Hold on, cause a warm spring can't be too far away.

I've been busy the past week shopping the Spring sales for some items to take to Toronto for the IFGE Annual Convention at the end of March. (I'll have a full report on this events in the next newsletter.) But the main reason to be shopping now is that the best selection is currently available, especially for some of us hard to fit ladies. So don't wait too long. The snow is melting fast and though it's only beginning to look like spring/summer if you wait too long, the right size/style may disappear.

Our March meeting on Saturday the 7th, was sparsely attended. And the mid month offsite meeting on Wednesday, the 18th, had one in attendance. What is happening ladies? Are you losing interest? Is the group not providing you with what you hope to find? Is it too 'social' for you? We need feed back from you. Do you think we need to expand what we currently offer? Some ideas we're working on include having experts address the group on gender and

relationships; the evolving feminine persona; developing a more feminine voice; wardrobe coordination and more. If you have an idea, I want to hear from you. Talk to me at the next meeting about what's on your mind. Or write me or call the hot line and I'll get back to you. It's your group, too.

On a sad note, the night of March 14th saw a devastating fire destroy not only anew TG firiendly establishment but also took the life of a 3 year old girl. The recently opened bar "Finley's" on Bailey Ave, in Buffalo, had to be demolished due to extensive fire damage. The apparent cause was electrical problems. The owner, whom Donna and I had spoken to just an hour before the fire, said afterwards that he could rebuild his bar but the loss of a child to the family living in the upstairs apartment was a heartfelt tragedy.

For those who like night clubbing in the Buffalo area, take note of two clubs I recently went to for the first time. Club 153 on Delaware Avenue is a high energy dance club that was packed right through to the last call. Come to dance or to be seen (standing) because there are only a few bar stools in the place. Worth a return visit. The other place was The Continental, on Franklin Street, near Chippawa Street. It has two personas. On the first floor there are live bands, mostly alternative/punk music. The crowd that night seemed young-blue-collar punkish. The four of us were mostly ignored. Upstairs caters to a crowd that favors

DJ music that runs toward a dense dance club mix of new and old "gothic" tunes. Even though The Continental is not known as a gay/lesbian bar, it is a place where one can go without being bothered about the way one dresses. Many of the women there tend to wear a gothic style of attire: lots of black, flowing garments and heavy on the makeup, black lipstick and black nail polish being very popular. It all makes for an interesting scene. Those of us who went that night agreed we should return, perhaps donning a 'gothic' mode of apparel.

One last thing before I sign off. The Imperial Court of Buffalo is having their 1998

Coronation on Saturday, the 25th of April. There are a few days of activity before that as well. I've never been to the Coronation before but I'm told it's a lot of fun. Hope to see you there. Hugs, Camille

KATHY'S NOTES: MEETING DATES: APRIL Saturday, 4th MAY FRIDAY, 8th

JUNE Saturday 6th

HOLLY: It was nice seeing Holly at our last meeting as she had just had her SRS a couple of weeks previously. She seems to be getting around quite well with the cane and before to long will be able to crack that whip with even more authority than before!! Oh, yeah, in this case SPS stands for Skeletal Reconstructive Surgery!!!! I'm hip. And her.

ANGELLA is no more!!!! But don't be surprised to see a girl at the meetings who bears a strong resemblance to her by the name of BECKY.

HOT LINE: Yes, we do have a new hot line number and it is 446-2661. Give a call and say hello or something!

WELCOME ROBEN: Our support group of one, for the last two years, has finally taken the big plunge and actually joined our little sorority!!! Now if we can ever get her to a meeting, maybe I won't have to stand in line for hours at the post office to pick up those care packages she sends our way!!! Then again, maybe not such a good idea, as I might loose first dibe!!!

APRIL ROAD TRIP: Although we can't say that we have been exactly snow bound this past winter, with the coming of spring, it was decided to take a little jount down the turnpike to join our sisters in Erie for their monthly meeting and dinner out. Their meeting is scheduled for April 25th. We will meet at our usual location and car pool down the I-90 to join them for the feasting. That is of course, if anyone of you are interested!! Please contact us to let us know of your interest.

BUFFALO BELLES WEB SITE: Thanks to Crystal and Tanya, we are now making our presence known on the World Wide Web. Stop by and take a look at:

http://geocities.com/westhollywoood/village/3339

March meeting attendance:

Janice G. Patti J. Holly I. Dana D. Kathy L. Colleen R. Camille H. Crystal & Tanya Vaughn Debbie C. Donna

March special meeting attendance: Camille Jean

Buffalo Belles budget

MONTHLY EXPENSES (based on '97 figures) for the "overhead" of our group.

Postage \$27

Printing \$28

Phone \$24

Bank svc \$7

PO Box +\$3.33

total = 89.33 X 12 = \$1072 overhead and newsletter for year.

MONTHLY EXPENSES for our actual meetings.

Foods \$29

Rent \$25

Gifts + \$86yr

total =54x12=648=150= \$734 for meeting expenses

CHARITABLE GIFTS-

313

TOTAL SPENT 97 = \$1956

INCOME:

Dues

Meeting fees 14 X\$5=\$70 x 12=

\$840

msc50/50(for year)

\$923 +\$34.

TOTAL INCOME =\$1797

Cash on hand as of March 24, '98=\$740.

Projection for year, with 9 meetings left, and expenses modified by loosing approx 20 members, we will have balence of \$153 left at years end.

Obviously we have a problem that must be addressed. Number one is the loss of so many members. Last year we lost 12. With past patterns, some of the missing will return to the fold, once they realise they are no longer receiving the newsletter, I assume.

I Do IT Mr Way

Hello my dears.

If it please you I would like to introduce myself ... (bow) ... I am Mistress_Tanya. but you may call me Tanya ... (Hold out hand for you to kiss) ... Oh my you do that rather well ... (clear throat & come back to reality). Now on to the substance of this dissertation.

I am a member of The Buffalo Belles & The Rochester CD Network ... (all right the significant other of a member, geez). It has been suggested to me by Camille of the former group, that some of you may enjoy a few of my girl tips.

BTW. (by the way) have I mentioned I am a GF. (genetic female). Oops, well dear. it has reached the time in our relationship that you should knew ...(sniffle)... (sigh) ... I am a girl. Do you hate me now? Of course not, I knew you were above all that, s with all good relationships a few things simply must be said, so here they are in no particular order.

As always I will attempt to be kind & gentle but if some of what I say smarts, it is my frankness, openness & desire to help that motivates me. So please, dear, forgive The Mistress any transgressions. You do know the best things in life are a mixture of pain & pleasure. So if it smarts it is good for you, don't whimper but take it like a good girl.

I am aiming this elaboration at serious TG's. (Trans-Gendered), well not too serious, who desire to be like & do it like us GF's. II, what is IT? IT is simply being female. These musings in most cases are how I do it or how I know other women do it.

Herein are contained my opinions & mine only. Although, at times, I will shamelessly pilfer whatever I wish from wherever & whoever I wish including other CD's so be careful what you say around me. Yes I did say other CD's. I do CD female to male at times but shhhh don't tell anybody, let it be just our little secret.

I am not suggesting that what I say herein is the only way to do it or that you have to do it this way or that it is even the best way to do it. I am saying I know it works this way. If I offer a guess I will try to always, plainly say so.

I think that is about all I have to say to lay the foundation for my discourse. Now that wasn't so bad was it. Of course not. Now on to the subject at hand.

Au Toilet

Now before you blow a gasket I am not going to talk to you about the girly need to have the seat down. Au Toilet is French for the dressing table or all the normal things you do daily to get ready to present your self to the public.

The most wonderful & sensual of these is the bath or shower. To me there is something very special about the body in water. Whether soaking my body in a tub of hot water or feeling the water flow over myself while showering nothing is quite as quietly erotic as the bath.

About now you are probably thinking I am way off the deep end here but trust me. Just once take the time to relax in a tub of hot water. Now don't just lay there like a lump.

TRANSVESTITE TEAM WRAPS UP THAI **VOLLEYBALL**

by Sue Montgomery/Gemini

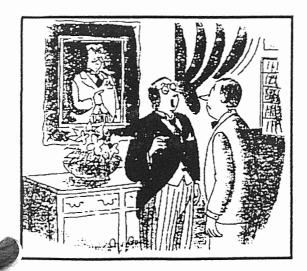
The Iron Ladies are going through their usual ritual to prepare for their next volleyball game. Team members slip fuchsia shorts and shirts over their slim hips and flat chests, touch up their mascara and lipstick and tie back flowing black

One player places a manicured hand on hip and jokes: "We accept anyone on the team as long as they are pretty. We like to distract the referees."

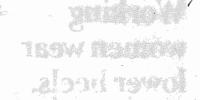
The Iron Ladies are not in fact ladies, or even women. They are transvestites who form the best male volleyball team in Thailand. To the surprise of many and the disgust of some, they recently defeated a team of national players and won the country's top amateur volleyball prize, causing a huge stir in sporting circles about whether it is ropriate for

i. Insvestites to represent the country. Most team members played for amateur clubs around the country until they formed the Iron Ladies four years ago. Their first priority is the game, which in Thailand ranks second in

popularity only to soccer, their second priority,



NO!! I DID NOT SAY THAT DAD WAS A CROSSDRESSER! I SAID THAT DAD WAS INTO C.D.'S



they say, is to show that transvestites are people and can play as well -- if not better than -- anyone INCT MALLERS

"We can't make this statement as individuals, but maybe we can as an international team," says 24-year-old Danupol Nuengchang, the team's founder. Since being crowned the top team in the country, they have appeared on talk shows, been featured in newspapers, drawn more fans to their games and may have lured a top Thai pharmaceutical company as a sponsor.

A spokesperson for the Thai Olympic Committee says there is no reason why members of the Iron Ladies should be prevented from representing the country in the future. "We have nothing against transvestites or queers or whatever," says Danny Kirdsiri. "But it's the first time we have ever seen a team like this one. Everyone likes them because they are guys trying to look pretty and act in a feminine way."

Transvestites, called katoeys in Thai, are largely tolerated by most citizens. It is not unusual to be served in a major department store, bank or government office by someone wearing trousers and a tie but with beautifully manicured nails and full make-up. One member of the Iron Ladies is a teacher; another a

civil servant. Also on the team are four non-transvestite players who have adjusted well to the team spirit.



Before I ask the little filly to join you for a drink, you might now this is a gay bar, and that little filly

Working women wear lower heels, survey says

NOT WALKING

TALL: Younger women are favoring shoes with a 1-inch heel or less.

By Janet McConnaughey

The Associated Press
NEW ORLEANS — Working women are walking away from high heels.

According to a survey taken for foot and ankle surgeons, the younger women are, the more likely they are to work in flats — or even athletic shoes.

"Twenty percent of all women now wear sneakers to work," said Dr. Michael Bowman, chairman of the American Orthopaedic Foot and Ankle Society's shoewear committee. And that's to work and for work — not just wearing sneakers on the street and changing to heels in the office.

As a result, Bowman said, he is seeing fewer young women with serious foot deformities.

For decades, women have had the vast majority of foot operations for problems such as bunions, hammer toes and pinched nerves.

The reason: high-heeled, pointy-toed, narrow shoes with a soul of fashion rather than a sole of comfort.

"That's why I'm developing a bunion now — years of abuse to my feet," said Madeline Bobbin, a secretary at IBM's New Orleans office.

Nicki Cain, a 38-year-old information technology specialist in the same office, wore a shoe with a wide 1½-inch heel and round toe. Dressier outfits call for different shoes. "But that only happens once or twice a year, because none of the clients are dressing up anymore."

Thirty-eight percent of the 499 women surveyed wore the same sort of shoe as Ms. Bobbin; pumps with a heel up to 1 inch high. Twenty-one percent wore pumps with a heel of 1 to 2½ inches, and only 14 women — 3 percent — said they wore higher heels than that

The survey had a 5 percent margin of error.

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June 10-14, 1998

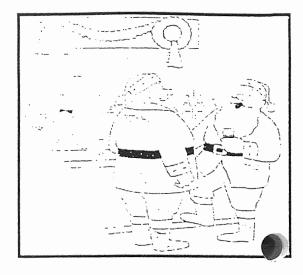
Pittsburgh, PA For more information write to:

BE ALL '98
P.O. Box 15408
Pittsburgh, PA 15237

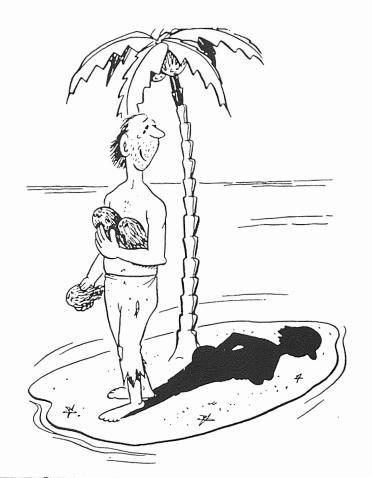
Professional seminars and workshops, vendors, fashion shows, river cruise and great nightlife.



FOOD HECK, I WISH I HAD MY GIRL CLOTHES AND I WOULD GET DOLLED UP RIGHT NOW!



THIS SUIT IS NOT SO BAD. I HAVE ALL MY GIRL THINGS ON UNDERNEATH. HO, HO, HO !!!



Notice how it feels. Enjoy it. Or stand in the shower & let the water make you tingle. Breath deeply & let yourself feel. Now isn't that just wonderful.

AND AND TO PAGE

I know that few of us have the time to do this daily but please my dears try it once & a while. I just bet you will like it more & more as you learn to let the everyday ritual of the bath transform into something special.

Now for girl secret #1, & I must swear you all to secrecy. A lot of wonderful things happen in that bathtub. I will try to touch on a few of the most important but I am sure you will discover more.

One of the things I do in my tub that makes me feel all special & girly is shaving. Yes I said shaving makes me feel girly & special. I bet you thought it only made you girls feel that way because, well, you aren't supposed to shave anything other than your faces & maybe your backs. Perhaps you have heard women complain about shaving as a chore, many men do. Well, I can't help it if those women feel it a drudgery done only to please men, I love it. So go ahead & enjoy a good shave.

I have heard some of you complain about shaving, not because you don't want to but because you are having one sort of trouble or another. There are many ways to shave; using shave creams, in the shower under running water, or in the tub. Any way that is comfortable & does the job for you is OK but as I said here is how I do it.

First I get naked ... OH MY GOODNESS ... she said the "N" word ... Oh be quiet, listen & grow up. I start the water running while I stand there, boy does that feel good on my feet. I pour in a goodly amount of some type of moisturizing bubble bath. I never use the recommended amount it is simply not enough to shave with. I find the Avon line of Bubble Baths .. (the ones in the bumpy bottles) .. best for me, especially the vanilla one, has a very silky feeling.

A word of caution, however, is needed here. When you are done with your bath & shave, rinse well under the shower using a good natural soap such as Ivory to clean your personal areas. Bubble bath is not known for being kind to the genital region. I am not sure how this affects male parts but it can be very nasty to female parts causing yeast infections or other irritations.. (for you other GF's who may be reading this). While I am not sure if TS's..(Trans-Sexual) are subject to these nasty little creatures I would advise caution anyway.

That all being said, let's shave. After there is a few inches of water I sit down. I turn the water up to as hot as I can stand it. This is purely personal preference & you pick the temperature you like best. Fill the tub as full as you would like it, turn off the water, lean back & relax. When your skin has settled down & there are no more goose bumpies, it is time to start shaving, but don't wait too long or the skin gets too soft for a good shave. You'll just simply have to practice until you learn when it is right to start. Nicks are the most common sign you started too soon & long gashes mean you started too late.

Most of you have been shaving a goodly portion of your lives & I am sure no instruction is needed other than these few things. Keeping whatever I am shaving in the

water, I start at the feet & work upward in sections from one leg to the other, going as high as, well you decide how high to go. No fair asking how high I shave, but please, ladies. make sure you shave high enough that when you sit that little bit of skin that shows above your hemline isn't orangutan flesh. Especially be careful around the ankle bones, the Achilles tendons, the shin bones & the knee caps.

I also start at the fingers & work my way up until I see no more hair. Arm hair is a personal preference so do or don't as is appropriate according to your hairiness & the clothes you will wear, but don't forget your armpits. I simply lift my arm & put my hand behind my head. I shave upwards then from back to front. I find however the bubble bath is not sufficient here since I have to do this sitting up & not under the water so I simply work up a lather with my Ivory & that does it for me.

Make sure anything that is going to show is fairly hair free. Most women, even us hairier ones do not have gobs of hair on our cleavage or popping out of the top of our pants. Shave each edge back quite a bit farther than you know will show so when you move or stretch or bend someons doesn't run for the caterpillar killer. Experiment with shaving. You are going to have to learn your body & how to shave it best.

Another method I use is shower & shave gels. I like either "Avon Skin-So-Soff". "Soft & Sensual Shower and Shave Gel" or "Freeman Sea Lavender & Kelp (I think it's kelp) Shower & Shave Gel", both give good lubrication & smell wonderful. For these however, I only run a few inches of water & only lather & shave a section at a time.

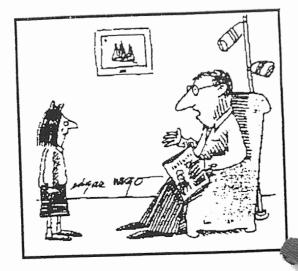
I have heard of problems like lots of little nicks on the back of the thighs causing great discomfort. My next writing should help with these types of problems. So tune in next month for the next installment of Au Toilet or Oh Mommy. Do I Have To Take A Bath?

XOXOXOXOXO Mistress Tanya

Privacy in the workplace may be a thing of the past. According to the Associated Press, almost 37% of companies keep a record of the phone numbers dialed by employees and how long calls last. Some 15% store e-mail and computer files for review. And nearly 16% go as far as to videotape employees' work. •



I TOLD YOU, DEAR, THAT ONE DAY YOU WOULD BREAK YOUR NECK WEARING THOSE 5-INCH HIGH HEELS OF YOURS



SON, I THINK IT'S TIME WE HAD THAT SPECIAL TALK

Maybe The Objective Is Not To Pass by Vicky Anne

We all have spent a lot of time and money trying to pass as women. Every crossdressers dream is to blend in, to be seen as a women, to pass, to be able to go anywhere as a women. When dressed I make every attempt to look like a women of my age. My clothing is what would be classified as business or professional attire. The look that I want is to appear as if I just came from the office. (Sally tells me that I dress like a school teacher.) I would like to think that I pass well enough that I can at least go out in the evening hours, but I do not pass well enough to go out into the bright daylight and be taken for a women. Since it is a lot more fun to get all dressed up and go out. rather than just sitting around the house or hotel room, I have always thought that passing was of up most importance. Lately I have come to realize how wrong I have been about the objective being to pass.

The image that the general public has of crossdressers comes from television talk shows. movies or the press. These images are usually of drag queens, performers or those that run foul of the law. Even though drag queens and performers have done much to get the idea of men wearing dresses out into the public view, these groups do not represent the views of a heterosexual males that likes to dress in feminine attire. Even though I came out to my spouse sometime ago, the Drag Oueen image of me dressed is what she has maintained for sometime. Because, even though I have given her all kinds of literature, this is the media that she has used for her education about crossdressing. Every time a drag queen or crossdresser makes the news, she makes sure that I hear about it and how bad crossdressing must be.

At present, only a very few crossdressers are brave enough and have the social situation to come out into public view. These few have the responsibility of telling the world about the rest of us. Like most other crossdressers, I am one of those that are not prepared to go completely public. To address a university class, to go on television and radio talk shows, or even to be

interviewed by a journalist is beyond where I am in my coming out of the closet. So what can I do as a crossdresser to tell the world about who we are, what we do and why we do it.

SIG MOON OF WORLD

I write articles for our newsletter and reach the membership of our sorority. If the article is really good, maybe, it will be picked up by other newsletters and maybe even by a national magazine or publication. But, for the most part I am only reaching those in the crossdressing community and their significant others. I have come out to members of my family and told them that I am crossdresser. In this manner I have been able to inform them about crossdressing. Even in all of things that I have done, I have not reached any of the general public.

Because of my size, mannerism, voice or gestures I am not able to pass close scrutiny. But maybe the fact that I can not pass is not all that bad, has a good side to it and can actually have a hidden benefit. I have only realized lately that one of the best ways of meeting the general public and educating them about crossdressing is to not pass. To meet them on a one-on-one basis. On many of the occasion when I have been out and read as a crossdresser, it has lead to a discussion and, hopefully, an education of those that are open minded and willing to talk to with me. For just about everyone that I have talked to, I was the first crossdresser that they have met and talk with. They did not necessarily want to know personal facts about me, no name, address or phone numbers required. I talked with them about crossdressing. Why I do it, how it feels to get dress up, where I go and what do I do when I get there, and if there our others like me. If I was able to pass really well, I would have gone right through the stores, restaurants and cocktail lounges and no one would have ever been the wiser and known that a crossdresser was even near

Last week I stopped at macy's to shop on the way home from the office. I found a three piece blue suit on the sale rack that I thought would fit me. The three pieces of the suit consisted of a jacket, slacks and skirt. Now the questions rose up in my mind. How would I try the suit on? Should I purchase it now and bring it back later if it did not fit, or should I just take it down to the men's Department and try it on there? As I looked the suit over, a young sales lady approached and asked if I needed any help. Taking a deep breath and swallowing a lot of pride, I explained that I was interested in purchasing the suit. But first, I would like to try it on. I have to give a hand to the sales lady as she didn't blink, stutter or react in any Either macy's trains their negative manner. employees very well or the sales lady, Rebecca, is very open minded. She asked me to wait a minute, while she went to check the fitting rooms. Since it was a week day evening, the store was very quiet and the dressing rooms were unoccupied. She put me in a large dressing room that had a full length door. It was a bit of a shock to me, as I had entered the store in drab attire and was now changing into a women's suit. In order to do this I had just identified myself to the sales lady that I was a crossdresser. I hadn't given her any excuse that the suit was for my wife, who just happened to be about my size, or that I needed the suit for a play. I had just told Rebecca that I wanted to try the suit on before purchasing it. When I came out of the dressing room with the suit, Rebecca pointed out several other items on the sale rack that she thought would look good on me. She even suggested that I should also try these items on for size. I did finally end up purchasing the suit and several pairs of slacks. I even found several items in the lingerie department that I brought down to Rebecca is area, so I could try them on before purchasing. As I pulled my wallet out of my shoulder bag, I realized that I had several pictures of me crossdressed and I took the opportunity to show them to Rebecca. remarked that I looked great and had very nice legs. Even though she was already open minded. by coming out to Rebecca, I was able to educate her about crossdressing. Even though this was only one person, I hope that she will tell others that about crossdressing. In this store I was treated perfectly fine, perhaps the next time a man wants to try on feminine clothing they will also be

What this shopping trip made me realize is that whenever I have done a good job of passing I haven't been able to educated anyone about crossdressing. By not doing a successful job of passing, I have come out to those that I met and allowed them to meet a real live crossdresser. By meeting and seeing me out in public, they have had the chance to find out that I am not a monster or pervert. That I am not going to attack their women and children and that crossdressing is not a contagious disease. In addition I am sure that I was a topic of conversation long after I parted their company.

So maybe the objective is not to pass, or at least don't worry so much if you don't pass really well. If you can look and present yourself as a women, then it just might be that you can do a lot more about informing the public about crossdressing by being read. Let the public see that there are their community, crossdressers in crossdressing is not just the subject of talk shows. movies and comedians. That crossdressers are just doing their own thing and having a good time doing it, that there isn't any threat to them or their love ones and we can be very interesting people once they get to know a little about us.

Summited by Jane and Mary.....We are submitting an excellent article that appeared in the latest issue of the Fiesta Chapter newsletter. Not only is it well written, but it seems germane to issues recently discussed in the Forum.

[&]quot;Boy and Girl Differences"

Little Johnny comes home from school with a note from his teacher, indicating that "Johnny seems to be having some difficulty with the differences between boys and girls," and would his mother, "please sit down and have a talk with Johnny about this."

So Johnny's mother takes him quietly, by the hand, upstairs to her bedroom, and closes the door.

⁻ First, Johnny, I want you to take off my blouse... Johnny unbuttons her blouse and takes it off.

⁻Ok, now take off my skirt...

and he takes off her skirt.

⁻ Now take off my bra... which he does.

⁻And now, Johnny, please take off my panties. and when Johnny finishes removing those, she says, "Johnny, PLEASE don't wear any of my clothes to school any more!"

^{* *} Submitted By Sara Day