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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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VOL. III

NO. I

BUFFALO BELLES

JAN. 1994

Happy New Year Ladies:

We like to welcome Christine(Chris) M. to our little group. I wonder what she must think of us; just crazy group of ladies due to all the fun we had at the Dec. meeting. Well we were just having a lovely time. The Ladies present were Denise W. N, Denise A. M, Janice G, Frances Lee, Colleen, Jackie Z & Yvette, Renee K, Tammy Z, Holly I, Patty J, Dana D, Page and Frances from Rochester stopped by to say hello. They were most welcome and are invited to return any time their in the neighborhood.

OK lets get down to some important business. First of all I'll get the nasty part out of the way. Dues, yes girls we need you dues. We have some nice events approaching and can use any advanced payments as soon as possible, besides our regular cost for the room and newsletter etc., we must keep the money flowing. I would not want some girls to lose their information source. We thank the ladies who have already paid. We know December is a bad time, with all those presents that have to be bought, so as soon as you can send in your dues, Thank you. For the girls who lost their notice, the dues are: \$25.00 (Jan. to Jan.); \$15.00 after July. Associate membership (Newsletter/Notices only) is \$10.00.

We have a "Tag Sale" scheduled for the January meeting, that is still ON but we are also trying to arrange for the "Styles on Video" too. The girls arriving early should have first chance to experiment with the wig styles. It takes time to go thru the styles so come early.

Now if I have my dates right, a group of us ladies are planning to go to Toronto on the 4th. Saturday of January(22), They have changing rooms at Wildside, but no more Bed & Breakfast facilities so we'll probable make this an overnight trip and stay in a Hotel/Motel. If you are interested in going let Janice know your wishes by sending her a note to: J. Gnau, P.O. Box 1701, Amherst, N.Y. 14226.

That brings us to February, We have the Make-up session scheduled for any of the girls who are interested. Also, our Holiday exchange gifts went so well, that it was suggested we redo that again for Sweethearts Day. So bring a gift for exchange, value of \$5.00. We had a lot of fun and some real nice gifts in December, and I think the girls value their choice. For the girls who did not, this will be your chance to exchange them.

March is our spaghetti dinner. If you are interested in coming send in your reservations. Also a form is enclosed with this Newsletter, listing the dinner items, some of the items we have available and others we need to purchase or bring. Please review each item and if you feel you can do something to contribute to the event please sign up next to the item and return the form to me. The less we have to purchase, the better off we will be, and if everyone could do a little, we can all have fun without someone getting stuck with all the work. (namely me)

We are sending out a notice to our sister sororities about a "Night Out in Buffalo", Activities to be determined, Scheduled for The third Saturday of March(19), we will probably go in a car pool. If interested send note to me:
Denise Miller, 7954 Transit Rd. S197, Williamsville, N.Y. 14221.

April may bring some changes so you will have to stay tuned to any notices of meeting and date changes. I've checked with the place and so far their isn't any major conflict. We'll have to discuss this in February's meeting. We also scheduled a Dress up day in April. For the girls who have those pretty cocktail/ gowns hiding in the closet and would like to wear them, this is your chance, more to follow.

Nominations are now open for all position. Yes we have to consider a change in Leadership. Eventually some of the sisters will have to step up and take over the responsibility for the club. New Leaders will infuse new ideas into our club, maybe a new direction and hopefully more energy. The Officer do not intend to make running the club a life long experience. So if you have any desires or if you know of any of the sister who would like to take on this added responsibility please submit their names. I for one would most grateful.

Lastly, we would like to thank you all for the lovely comments you made to us. This has been a very sweet year for our sorority, we have grown and prospered. We have meet some lovely sisters and hope to meet more in the future. We are stable, not rich in money but in sharing of our love for each other. Speaking for Janice, Joan, Jean, Denise (and I don't mean to slight anyone) and all who have contributed in any way to our success we all deserve a big Hug and a Thank You. And in return we extend our Hugs and Thank You to each of our Sisters, for with out your support, sweet wishes, understand and encouragement we would not be where we are today.

Hugs to all, *Denise*

NOTES FROM THE STACKS-Kathy Lorraine* (See pg.9)

In last month's newsletter, I talked about forming a library. We got our first (and only) response, when she brought two books for our use. Danalyn brought DRESSING UP-Transvestism and Drag: The History of an Obsession by Peter Ackroyd. 1979 Simon & Shuster and Transvestites and Transexuals by Deborah Feinbloom 1976 Dell Pub. Also two issues of DRAG from early 70's. Also Jackie has offered to copy my video of TV talk shows, so I am trying to edit them abit by topic. I also picked up a copy of "Style is not a Size" by Hara Marano, 1991 which shall be available as soon as I'm beautiful! Can we have some input on this? We do have space available to us in the basement and I will put together a sign out sheet, but what do you have to share with your sisters?

RETURN FORM TO:
Denise Miller
7954 Transit Rd. S197
Williamsville, N.Y. 14221

SPAGHETTI DINNER PARTY
MARCH 12, 1994

PLEASE PRINT NAME _____

25 SERVINGS
MENU AMT. PUR/PREPARE EQUIPMENT VOLUNTEERS TO DO--BRING--PURCHASE

PLEASE IDENTIFY BELOW HOW YOU WOULD LIKE TO HELP

SHRIMP 5 LB. NEED 5 QT POT
LETTUCE 1 HD. NEED
CATSUP 30 OZ JAR NEED
HORSERADISH 1/4 OZ JAR NEED
LEMONS 3 EA NEED

SPAGHETTI 10 LB NEED 5 QT POT
SALAD OIL 1 -8OZ JAR NEED
SAUCE 3 GAL NEED 5 QT POT
MEAT 6 LB NEED
CHEESE 1 LB NEED

BREAD 5 LOAVES NEED
BUTTER 2 LB NEED OR PURCHASE
GARLIC SMALL JAR NEED

LETTUCE 3 HD NEED
CARROTS 1 LB NEED
GREEN PEP 2 EA NEED
CELERY 1 STK NEED
ONIONS 8 EA NEED
CUCUM 1 EA NEED
SALAD DRESSING 4 - 8 OZ BTLS NEED

TOPPING SAUCE 1 -QT NEED
COOKIES 50 PA NEED
ICE CREAM 1 1/2 GAL NEED

COFFEE 1 LB NEED
SUGAR 8OX/IND NEED
MILK 1 QT NEED
SALT 1 HAVE
PEPPER 1 HAVE

POP 4 CS NEED

DISH TOWELS 10 EA NEED
DISH SOAP JAR HAVE
NAPKINS 150 EA NEED
SWRAN WRAP 1 HAVE
PASTRY BRUSH 1 EA HAVE

DISHES L 25 HAVE
DISHES S 25 HAVE
DISH CUPS 50 HAVE
COFFEE C 25 HAVE
CUPS 25 HAVE
TRAYS 6 HAVE
TABLE CLOTHS 5 - 8 x 10 NEED

FORKS 25 HAVE
SPOONS 25 HAVE
KNIVES 25 HAVE

HOSTESS FOR THE EVENING TO WELCOME NEW GIRLS ETC.

SET UP 1. ROOMS
2. BUFFET TABLE

DINNER PREP. 1. PRE PREP
2. COOK
3. ASSEMBLE

CLEAN UP 1. WASH
2. PUT AWAY
3. DRY
4. CLEAN ROOMS

ENTERTAINMENT 1:

OTHER ?

1994 CALANDER

JANUARY

8-BUFFALO BELLES- Tag Sale and poss. Styles on Video_40% chance we will have this as of 12/27. Check with Janice G. to confirm.

14-Rochester CD Network reg meeting-church *

17-Roch CD Makeup workshop flyer at meeting*

22-Toronto trip confirm your intentions with Janice G. ASAP

Febr 29-Italian Night Party Roch. CD *

February

11Roch. CD reg. meeting

12buffalo belles-Gift exchange and makeup session did u rsvp yet?

25-27- Texas T Party

26-Roch CD Cabin Fever night out

MARCH

12-20-IFGE Convention Portland Oreegon

12-BUFFALO BELLES-Spaghetti dinner party RSVP yet?

19-NIGHT OUT IN BUFFALO special event in planning

APRIL

9- BUFFALO BELLES- Dress up night-sequin city

MAY 31-Provincetown MA., Spring Outing

JUNE 8-12-12th BeAll You Want To Be-Pittsburg-group event?

Janice contact at Janice G. PO 1701, Amherst, NY 14226-1701
Rochester CD Network-call hotline 251-2132

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Pg 10 cont...

keeps on being referred to and activated every time "his" name is used verbally, regardless of the spelling? It becomes very difficult.

So my advice to any crossdresser just coming out of the closet and being faced with the need to select a femmename is to think of some woman or girl who really typifies the loveliness, gentility and grace that makes you envy her and then take her name. Thus every time you hear her name, now your name too, you are reminded of her feminine qualities you admire. And since you carry the same name, psychologically those qualities may rub off on you and you can become more like your model.

You are trying to find out what's in your beautiful china teacup (that is, develop your femininity), so pick it up carefully, handle it delicately, admire its beauty. Don't just grab it in your hands and take a drink, as you might from a tin cup on a picnic. In short, the feminine in you has a hard enough time coming to the surface through all the overlay of imposed masculinity. Don't make it more difficult for her by, in effect, emphasizing the very masculinity she is trying to escape from by referring to her by a name that has always meant "boy" to him/her. Pick a name that represents the best in womanhood to you, use it yourself and then try to live up to it. There is no masculine counterpart to names like Mary, Dorothy, Muriel or Catherine. Being called by names like this goes right by the masculine to the heart of femininity. I don't mean to suggest that you use these specific names; there are many more that are fragrant with femininity. Try them on for effect and see what makes you feel dainty, delicate, pretty, attractive and worth knowing. Then go out into the world and BE those things.

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Dear Sisters,

I am reprinting Virginia Prince's article from The Femme Mirror. It really hit home with me when I read it, as it was an issue I've grapple with for some time.

I never really liked my male name of Dennis. Heard to many Dennis the Menace references growing up. And those who really wanted to cut deep called me Denise, which always caused real pangs of panic-"Do they know of my big secret!?" After all I had been dressing up since about 4 years old. Did the usual purges, reading anything available, denial, etc. that so many of us share. Kept The Big Secret safely hidden away in the attic (like Ross Perot's crazy aunt in the basement). But then one Sunday morning I read Joan's story of forming a Triess chapter here. Wow! a chance to meet others like me. A national organization with convention etc. As they say, the rest is herstory. Joined Triess, started to correspond with others. And then last summer the letter from Denise Miller wanting to get a local chapter going again. Sounds great, but who is this Denis Miller? That's me after all. Now I want to say Denise has been extremely gracious about this. But the problem had been in my mind for quite awhile and this just added to the confusion.

Virginia's article was what it took for me to make this decision. But what name to choose? Finally decided to "honor" two women-my exwife and an old girlfriend. I also know what they would say to this "honor"- "COOL"

Thankyou,

Kathy Lorraine

The Significance of Femmenames

Virginia Prince CA-1015-

Names are like handles on a teacup -- they make it much easier to pick up the cup. A cup with no handle can be picked up, of course, but it is not as comfortable or as convenient and it might be difficult to drink from.

Names of individuals given them at birth make it easier for other people to deal with the individual. Of course as babies they don't know their own names, but as they get to be two or three years old, "Betty" learns to know that sound refers to her and she begins to pay attention. She is being "picked up" by her handle as it were. It is not by accident that radio hams refer to the call letters of other amateur operators as being their "handle", that is, the signal by which they are identified.

All that isn't new to anybody, as far as their birth name is concerned. But then we come to femmenames. People select these more often than not by naming themselves after some female relative, girl friend or other female they admire. So we come up with the whole gamut of feminine names from Ada to Zelda and that is fine -- be whomever you wish.

But there is something important about name selection for those who are just coming out of the closet and have not had occasion to stop and think about femmenames. I would like to suggest that such people not just convert Joe to Joanne, Dick to Dixie, George to Georgia, Harry to Harriet, and so on. It seems the simplest and most logical thing to do, but it is not very conducive to the growth of the femmeself.

Not only does everyone know their names, but it has been shown that even where there is so much noise or conversation that you can hardly hear yourself think, if someone

speaks your name, even without trying to override the noisy background, your brain will extract the name from all the rest of the cacophony and you will look around to see who wants you. So names are not only the handles for other people, but they become a sort of internal handle, too. You react appropriately every time your name is spoken, whether it was directed to you or was incidental to some other conversation. How often have you almost unconsciously heard your name and then turned around and said, "Did somebody call me?"

Your name is an internal identification which fortifies your self identity. You react to it differently than to any other word in the language. Now if Joe becomes Jo-Anne, the masculine name is included in the femmename. Likewise with Bob to Bobby and many more. That means that every time you hear Jo-Anne or Bobby you hear Joe or Bob first and those names activate the self concept that IS Joe or Bob. That doesn't help you grow, enlarge and develop your femmeself.

Stop and mull over the psychological investment Joe and Bob have in their names -- their personalities, their sense of being recognized as a man and an independent person by other people and in their own self concept. Then realize what a courageous and liberating step it is for a boy or man to take a girl's name. All his life he has been trying to project masculinity in various ways and to deny that there is anything feminine about him at all. But here he is considering taking a girl's name and applying it to himself. The trauma seems less if he picks a name like the one he is used to. The internal admission that there is something feminine about himself after all is in direct opposition to

everything he has done all his life to make himself recognized as a boy among boys. True, he might have worn girl's clothes on occasion over the years, usually by himself, and he has generated the usual guilt complex because "boys just don't wear panties, stockings, and bras." But those are all external and don't really impinge on his own self concept of who and what he is.

But identifying himself to himself by the name of Betty, Jane, Carolyn, Diane or whatever is quite a step to take even if it doesn't seem to be such a big deal. But one tends to lose a lot of the liberating benefits of being brave enough to allow people (and yourself) to call you by a femmename when the name activates the masculine self concept of "Joe" on the way to "JoAnne"; "Bob" on the way to "Bob-by" or Carl on the way to "Carl-ene". And of course taking one of the bigenderal names like Carol(e), Tony(i), Sandy(i), Terry(i) and the like are even worse because even though the spelling is different the sound is not. So who is being asked for when someone calls out Carol, or Caroll? Obviously the brain of the individual is going to hear the masculine name first. If he is trying to get out of his masculinity when dressed and find out about the other side of his total self it is going to be difficult if he keeps activating the automatic masculine response, even though at the time he is trying to be his femmeself.

One of the nicer aspects of crossdressing is that the clothes help you escape from the everyday masculine world of Joe and Bob and discover that there is a different "you" inside. Not physically different, of course, but psychologically different. How you discover, recognize, and explore this new persona when the old one