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Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,  
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### January 1996

Buffalo Belles

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# BUFFALO BELLES

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NU PHI CHI

Pres. Denise Miller  
Tres./VP: Janice Gnau  
Newsletter: Kathy Lorraine  
Helper Wench: Jean H.

JANUARY, 1996

Dear Sisters,

*A wonderful time was had by those whom attended our annual Christmas Party. Although we didn't have a white snowy night; there was still a cold sharpness in the air. The seasonal spirit held us all in it's blanket of warmth and caring.*

*We had a nice turnout for the event. Sharing in the holiday cheer were three guest: Cheryl, Christina and Pam S. It was especially nice to see Pam once again, as she hadn't been able to make a meeting since October'94.*

*seasonal favorites was wonderful touch to the meeting.*

*The highlight of the meeting was our annual "give a gift, receive a gift" exchange. Although we try to set a five dollar limit, The quality and appropriateness was often exceeded, or we have some really good shoppers in our midst! I know of only one swap made, and that was simply because of size. Most also brought gifts for the needy children. We had to make sure that Cindy put back the basketball before she left, it was amazing to see her doing those slam dunks with 4" heels on!*



*Louella sent along some delicious home baked goodies to augment our usual pizza. It was indeed a wonderful night. Before to long it was past eleven and we had to go off into the night.*

*Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on January sixth. This is an important for all of us to make. Denise has resigned as our president. See her letter elsewhere. We are finally faced with the long threaten election. Who, how, when etc. will have to be decided at the meeting. Please attend if at all possible, or make your feelings known.*

*Replacing Denise will be a near impossible task. Her leadership and drive is what got us here. Without her, there probably wouldn't be a Nu Phi Chi/Buffalo Belles at all. We are her baby, she nursed and guided us to the point we are today. Thanks Denise!*

*My call for volunteers to be 'big sisters' has been heard! Holly and Cindy have said that they*

*With Nancy's presence, we were assured of getting a special treat. Her playing of the organ for much of the meeting was fantastic! her renditions of the*

## ATTENDEES

JEAN H.	PAULA C..
JANICE G.	DENISE M.
PATTI J.	CINDY H.
HOLLY I.	
DANA D..	GUESTS:
KATHY L.	CHRISTINA, SHERYL,
FRANCES L.	PAM S.
MELISSA H.	
NANCY M.	

would like to help.  
So any of you girls  
who need that  
special friend to  
encourage you,  
sympathize with you  
, advise you etc.



there is someone waiting to be there for you.

I know where many of you are at.  
Even though I was an original member of  
this group, and a member of our predecessor  
attempt, I didn't attend until our sixth  
meeting. Couple of times, I drove into the  
parking lot but didn't dare venture forth.  
Finally Holly took me under her wing.  
Talked with me. Met with me and gave me  
the encouragement to finally come. And I've  
only missed two meetings since!

For those of you who need that  
special someone, give the hotline a call or  
write a letter and we'll connect you up.  
Thanks Holly and thanks Cindy.

We all know what the end of the  
Holiday season means. It means it is time to  
pay our dues! As in the past, full membership  
is only \$25.00 and associate dues are \$15.00.  
The difference between the two is that full is  
welcome to attend all meetings, will be able  
to vote in any elections held and receive a  
special mailing for last minute news. (Only  
done once). Associates are welcome to the  
occasional meeting and receive the  
newsletter.

We are keeping our cost constant. We  
are growing nicely. We now have 35  
members. The treasury report will show that  
we are in the black and have a small surplus.  
We now have a "hotline". The couples group  
is up and running and about to have another  
meeting. Our meetings will be more  
interesting with the reinvigorated programs  
coming. The Big Sisters is ready to start. All  
in all, we are doing very well. I hope this  
merits your continued support and  
participation.

While making out your check  
("Buffalo Belles" is fine, or made out to

cash), check your mailing address to see if it is how  
you want it. Any comments, suggestions, etc. are  
always in order. Hope that you renew! Otherwise,  
your newsletter will stop with the March issue.

Don't forget, the next regular meeting of the  
Belles is **January 6th**. See you there!

The Niagara on the Lake, Xpressions, outing  
on December 1st was attended by Patti, Janice, Jean  
and I believe Dana briefly. I understand that there  
were about two dozen ladies taking part in the  
festivities.

This is a lovely facility. Attendance at one of  
the events there can be a real joy. Your next chance  
is the 2nd annual Spring Fling. I, along with seven  
other of the Belles, attended this last year and had a  
grand time!

These types of events are a great way to get  
out in the 'Public' but still be the relative safety of a  
friendly environment. This beats the bar scene any  
day, in my opinion. Then again, this is being said by  
someone who was the last out of the bar each night  
at Riverside! Mark your calendars for the last  
weekend in March. It isn't that far off. If enough  
interest is shown, we could book a club suite for  
changing, etc. Let us know your intentions by the  
end of the month.

You don't have to wait until March to make it  
out, for the next Buffalo Nite Out is upon us!!  
January 20th we will be reserving the upstairs  
lounge area at the Stage Door bar on Allen St. for  
our get together. We will have exclusive use from  
6pm till 10pm, There is a lavatory upstairs for our  
use as a changing area. Many details to be worked  
out yet, but should be jelled by the next meeting. If  
you can't make the meeting, let me know and I'll  
keep you abreast.

While I've got you thinking of future events,  
the weekend of Feb. 10-11th Virginia Prince and Jo  
Ann Roberts will be in Toronto, participating in a  
few events. More details to follow.

For those who have premium channels on  
their cable TV, "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" has  
been on Showtime. Anyone who can make a copy for  
our library, please do. I now see that the Movie  
Channel is carrying this flick.

## Dolly Parton to Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show":

"I've always said if I hadn't been a woman, I'd have been a drag queen. I think I would have because I love all the fancy hair... I have a lot of male impersonators. In fact, it's great here in California. Every year at Halloween, I can go right down Santa Monica Blvd. and nobody even knows it's me. There's about 40 of me walking around - Dolly's everywhere".

## TOP TEN LIST OF HOW TO TELL IF YOU'RE A CROSS DRESSER!

by Diane P. of Alpha Omega:

10. You can operate the self timer on your camera.
9. You know Virginia Prince is not a pipe tobacco brand.
8. You can actually buy clothing for your wife that fits.
7. You have two closets, one public, one private.
6. You know what Dermablend is.
5. You keep pulling up the straps of your 'undershirt'.
4. You know "pluck" is a four letter word.
3. You have several filled fishing tackle boxes, but don't fish.
2. You look in the mirror at work Monday morning for leftover eyeliner.
1. You tell stories of "getting into her pants" - Literally.

## WHAT DO DRAG QUEENS WANT?

by Tim Denesha  
(Re-typed from QNEWS)

What do drag queens want? This question has fascinated me since a good friend became one several years ago. Through him I've seen into their complex and paradoxical world. Perhaps simplistically, I always assume that people do what they do for love-either to give or get it. (which I come to the same thing, they say). So I look at the choices drags make, and ask, "What's this got to do with love?" The answers are sometimes clear, sometimes not.

These are gay men who want to become, at least part of the time, glamorous women performers. This distinguishes them from women and men of all sexual orientations who cross-dress simply to pass as the other gender, and not to perform. Drags are also distinguished from straight male performing transvestites, most commonly seen in England and Australia, Dame Edna being a prime example.

Drag is performance art... a form of self expression. By transforming themselves into hyper-real, larger-than-life women, drags embody aspects of femininity... some would say it is caricature. Unlike gay men who are content merely to form cults around pop goddesses like Bett, Joan, Judy, and Brabra, DQs worship by becoming the adored ones, adopting their style if not their very identity. So they are gay men, only more so.

And these queens are literally royal. Their fantasies is the international Imperial Court system, seriocomically modeled on European monarchies.

Being "girls," drags just want to have fun... and it's true much of the time. They frequently satirize themselves and each other quite delightfully. look at the names some of them choose, like Patsy Decline, Bertha Vanation and Virginia Hamm. DQs create alter egos for themselves. As a technique for freeing oneself from inhibitions, I think drag is much more positive and creative than substance abuse, although the latter as prevalent among drags as elsewhere in the gay community. Drag is a mask. Any true mask is created from within oneself and thus it both hides and reveals. As a woman, my friend seems a different person, yet on a deeper level, he seems more truly himself, as if he has isolated and brought forth certain parts of himself. It involves both safety and risk - serious fun!

DQs also want sex. Costuming is a large part of queer sexuality. Looking and feeling gorgeous is sexy, perhaps more so for a man who feels quite plain unadorned. For some, clothes themselves are erotic. "The sound and feel of my legs rubbing together in nylons is a real turn-on," my friend tells me.

However, attracting sex partners can be dicey. Some straight men want sex with drags. Decades ago in Bufffalo, drag was apparently about attracting hetero men. Some gay men want drag sex, too, but they are usually "masculine" men who never cross-dress, for sex between DQs is

apparently rare. Most gay men though, want "men," which is why many of us adopt leather/clone/muscle drag. All in all, dressing as a woman can be, Sexually, both adventurous and costly for a gay man.

Something else drags want is to make the world a better place. Organizations such as the Imperial Court, through public performances and internal functions like coronations, rise many thousands of dollars annually for charity, especially related to AIDS. This seems to me a healthy balance between having a ball helping out. Benefiting others isn't unique to contemporary drag. In many ancient, traditional cultures, cross-dressing males who may be sexually active with other males are often medicine men, shamans and healers. The Native American berdache is one example.

But what DQs seem to want most is to define and express a sense of womanliness they feel in themselves. In writing Kiss Of The Spider Woman, Naniel Puig said he wanted to explore what it meant to be a woman. Puig based his central character on a DQ friend because he felt none of his female friends knew as much about being a woman as this man did.

This extraordinary statement may say more about Puig, a gay man, than it does about anything else, but one branch of psychology would concur in a general way. Gay-friendly followers of Carl Jung believed gay men are more aware than straight men of the female element in the male psyche, which is called the *amima*. This would explain supposedly female traits of

sensitivity, creatability and emotionality attributed to gay men.. as well as our media-goddess cults.

In this sense, drags submerge their masculinity to external an archetypal woman within. There can be great power in tapping into such an energy; we saw it at Stonewall. But all subconscious forces have their world can be quite sharp of tongue and nails.

But I still insist it's all ultimately about love.. having fun, having sex, feeling sexy, helping others and expressing who you are. I believe drag queens know a lot about self-acceptance. Maybe that's why so much of America has embraced La Cage, RuPaul, Priscilla and Wong Foo. They show America a face of love they have never seen before. We all have closets we need to come out of, whether they're full of sequined clothes or not.

The End,

(mabe not)



Hi,

Enclosed is a letter that I sent to the Stage Door concerning renting their upstairs room. There will be the regular \$5 meeting fee for this event. This is in response to the Belles members who said they wish a second meeting during the month. In the past several months we have had: Attending members in ( ): October - Halloween get together (7), November - Riverside (6), December - Xpressions Xmas party (3), and for the future: January - Arts Attic (?), February - ??? (?), March - Xpressions 2nd annual spring gala (7 last year). Two from the Belles has made all three of the last events. Any guess on who these two were.

Enclosed is a Treasury report from 4/15 to 12/12/95 and a cash receipts/disbursements summary for 1995. This is primary because the treasury report was long, long overdue (my full responsibility) and partially due to 1996 fast approaching and yearly memberships are due once again. As you can view from the summary we finish 1995 slightly ahead in our cash situation. However the reserve of only 4% over expenses (not counting the extra donations) doesn't seem to justify any decrease in the dues or meeting fees.

This will keep the yearly membership at \$25 for full members, \$15 for associate members and the regular meeting fees at \$5.

The membership fee is now due and payable, it can be paid either at the next meeting or by mail with checks or money orders made out to either Buffalo Belles or cash. I caution about sending cash through the mail.

Any disagreements, comments or questions would be gratefully appreciated, if only to show you are reading the financial report.

The toys that were donated at the Christmas party were turned over to the agency where I am working full time as Janice (this was approved by the members at the meeting). This agency is a non-profit agency supplying various programs and services to the learning disabled and neurologically impaired individuals and their families. A portion of these programs includes family support services and a inner-city outreach program for children ages 6-18 and their families. A number of these children receive few if any toys due to their family financial situation. Your gifts were very gratefully received and distributed at the agency Saturday Recreation Christmas party for these children.

JANICE

# TREASURY REPORT

BALANCE FROM 4/15/1995					\$448.00
Yearly Dues	7 at \$25.00	\$175.00			
	1 at \$15.00	\$15.00			\$190.00
Meeting Fees	May 10	June 13	July 8		
	Aug 8	Sept 13	Oct 14		
	Nov 15	Dec 12			\$465.00
				Total	\$1103.00

Month	Printing	Stamps	Pizza	Refreshments Supplies	Other
Mar.	\$21	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Apr.	\$19	\$16	(paid prior to 4/15)	\$35	\$0
May	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$0	\$35 Phone
Jun.	\$16	\$26	\$26	\$0	\$30 Box Rental
July	\$11	\$18	\$0	\$16	\$57 Phone
Aug.	\$19	\$18	\$28	\$3	\$80 Room Rental
Sept.	\$19	\$16	\$28	\$22	\$30 Box Rental
Oct.	\$18	\$18	\$28	\$43	\$56 Phone
Nov.	\$20	\$18	\$28	\$6	\$80 Room Rental
Dec.	\$0	\$0	\$28	\$8	\$0
Totals	\$159	\$147	\$156	\$136	\$368 \$966

