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### January 1997

Buffalo Belles

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# BUFFALO BELLES



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JANUARY, 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:  
JEAN H.  
PATTI J.  
KATHY LORRAINE

*Dear Sisters,*

*Our Christmas meeting was a wonderful affair. We had a good turnout braving the above normal warm weather and dry roads. Hopefully we didn't miss to many of you due to having to change the meeting date to such a late date in the month.*

*We had the pleasure of welcoming two new sisters, making their first appearances with our group- Alicia and Sharon C.. Hope they will be able to return many times in the future. They both came from about a hundred miles away. I guess showing we are becoming more regional than local.*

*Also joining us were two wives, Lillian with Joy, and Tanya with Crystal Lynn. How nice it was to have these*

*ladies with us. Remember wives/S.O.'s are always welcome to our meetings.*

*So many treats were brought, that we had no need to go out for our usual Pizza! Hopefully Santora's stock didn't plummet from loosing our business. However, Tanya has been warned that she might be expelled as her cooking may cause us to have to all go buy new wardrobes!!!!*



*Our program of bringing toys for needy children was a great success. The pile of gifts for these kids was impressive to say the least. Janice's trunk must have been filled, and even her car, carrying off these gifts!*

*Our gift exchange between sisters did go over well also, accept for one minor problem. Apparently two girls thought it was OK to take a gift, but not to bring one! Whoever you were, there was an operative word in there-"exchange". 'Nuff said.*

*We did hold a lengthy business meeting to discuss a couple of important topics. They will be discussed later in the newsletter. Just a reminder that our next*

## ATTENDEES

- |                |             |
|----------------|-------------|
| Denise M.      | Kathrynn Y. |
| Jean H.,       | Camille H.  |
| Janice G.,     | Michelle G. |
| Patti J.       | Sharon C.   |
| Dana D.        | Alicia F.   |
| Kathy L.       | Crystal     |
| Collean R.     | Tanya.      |
| Joy & Lillian, |             |
| Angella.       |             |

meeting will be January 4th. The theme for this meeting will "dress-up" night, where we will wear our finest formal wear outfits. A chance to show off that outfit you might have worn to the ball a few nights previous, or did!



The February meeting will be country line dancing night. We will have Tye, (the Katus Kickers) giving instructions for us all to get out and shake a leg. So dig out that denim skirt and boots and come out to our Ho Down. Yippie i o kai a, twang twang. You to can be Rebba, Dolly or Tammy!

Before too soon we were off into the clement night. Many headed off the down town scene, maybe a record amount. Continuing the party at the Stage Door was Patti, Denise, Janice, Joy, Kathy, Kathryn, Camille (her first time out in "public"), Sharon and Crystal Lynn & Tanya. We hooked up with a girl from Pittsburgh, Brenda and Holly was even seen in the area. For the first time I know of, a wife came along for the after meeting event. Quite an Event, hope you were there!! See you at January meeting.

Kathy Lorraine

What's going on:



### DUES ARE DUE:

It is time to renew your membership! The dues structure remains the same as before. Twentyfive dollars for full members-those who attend meetings and vote in our elections and receive the occasional special mailings. Fifteen dollars for those who can't attend and wish to receive the newsletter only. For those who joined us in '96, your renewal is pro-rated and separate piece of paper is enclosed with your amount due. Our cut off date for payment is with the March newsletter. Failure to pay will result in a curse being place upon you of the unknown hang nail that snag your last pair of new hose!

**CHANGE IN LEADERSHIP:** Cindy has decided to resign from being one our three Sisters in Charge. Her work schedule has been insufferable and she hasn't been able to give the group the time she would like. Using the Miss America rules succession (like what else to use, I mean really...) Patti will fill out Cindi's term. And as soon as YOU are ready to hold a position of leadership, we'll hold another election. Just ask!

### CONNIE NICHOLS PASSES AWAY.



We are saddened to learn that one of our original members passed away in September. Many of you may have had some correspondence with her over the years. She was an avid letter writer and searched out the new girls to

offer her friendship and advice. She had a wonderful supportive wife and will always be known for her great love of 5" heels.

**TRI-ESS AFFILIATION IN QUESTION:** In the past few months we have received more correspondence from headquarters than we probably had in the last four years. Whether we should remain part of the 'family' was discussed at length at the meeting. They are asking us to meet certain standards. The most blatant one we haven't met is the membership in Tri-Ess as a part of our requirements for membership. This policy was adopted at our very first meeting in September '92, at that time of the six in attendance, two were Tri-Ess members. The percentage has slipped since then. At the meeting with 15 in attendance, three were Tri-Ess members. From a very recent national membership list, I was able to identify seven members out of our current list of fifty two members.

Nobody had anything really negative to say regarding Tri-Ess or our being part of their organization. Certainly our emphasis and core of members is identical, providing a safe and secure environment for the hetro cross dresser to meet and explore her second self. This we have done quite well, thank you.

The consensus of the discussion was we would remain an affiliate if they want us. We have so much in common, but we are not going to start insisting upon membership.

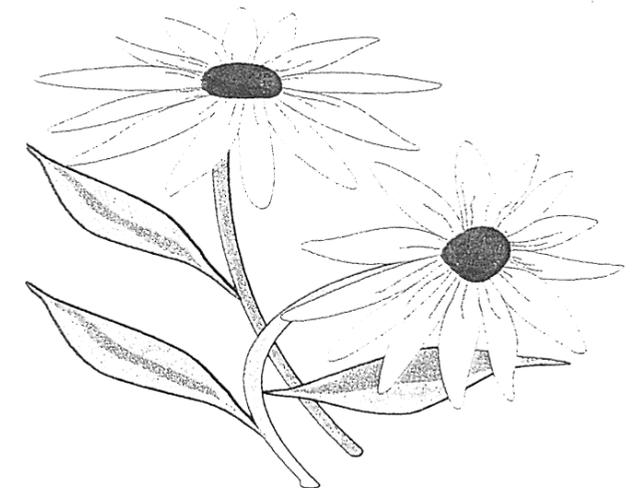
**CHARITABLE GIVING:** a discussion was held on what groups we might make a contribution to. Various suggestions were made

regarding which ones. It was finalized by the officers that fifty dollars be sent to International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) and International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy (ICTLEP). Locally we decided upon Benedict House (AIDS Hospice) and our gracious hosts.

Other good suggestions were made, especially a strong appeal for the VA by Alicia. However, it was reluctantly decided we should keep our giving in the gender community.

This depletes our treasury by a third. But our bills are current, and dues should be coming in soon so we thought we could take the chance.

**SHARP EYED GIRL:** We have been using the same letterhead/newsletter header for over a year on all our correspondence. Close to a thousand copies of this went out in this period. Finally Melissa Dixon of Tri-Ess noted we don't know how to spell the name of our town! We are in Amherst, not ANherst! How did you miss that Dana?



## AS ONE ATTORNEY SEES IT:

Have you ever been the victim of blackmail because you cross-dress?

She stood poised and perfectly groomed, arms quietly folded beneath the black and gold stole that draped her tailed black suit. M's leather shoes and purse were a quiet understatement balancing the discreet twinkle of conservative gold jewelry. I looked with interest at this well-turned-out woman who smiled a greeting as we were introduced by a mutual friend in the lobby of a downtown hotel. I had just met a cross-dresser.

I, as a genetic woman attorney interested in providing legal representation for people in alternative lifestyles, had been invited by my friend, a male-to-female transsexual, to attend a cross-dressers' social function, a Christmas party. In addition to M., I met about fifteen heterosexual cross-dressers that evening. I was fascinated at the diversity of the people, and talked one-on-one with as many of them as I could. Without exception, they were friendly and open in conversation. Also without exception, each had a tale of heartbreak and loss directly connected to being a cross-dresser.

My eyes were opened to a fascinating new world I had never known existed. Each person at the party told me he had started cross-dressing as early as age five, and had never lost the urge to cross-dress even after years of trying to stop, efforts which ranged from going "cold turkey" to spending unsuccessful years in psychotherapy.

None expressed the feelings of my transsexual friend client who had from earliest childhood felt herself to be a female trapped in a male body. Neither did any sound like the typical "drag queen" homosexual male attracted sexually to other males. These cross-dressers were content with their basic lives as males and were attracted sexually to females. For reasons that not one of them could pretend to understand, it was necessary to present themselves as a female from time to time. All described feelings of confusion, guilt, shame, and helplessness, which increased with each unsuccessful attempt to stop cross-dressing.

Some had, after years of secrecy, told their spouses the truth about their cross-dressing, trusting the spouse would be accepting, or at least somewhat tolerant. Others had been "found out" in a stroke of bad luck. None were prepared for the swift and vicious actions of their spouse in summarily ending the marriage. As each one told me his story, I learned that each had lost almost all he held dear: spouse, children, homes, possessions, at a time when he was most vulnerable. I was shocked to learn that each of these heterosexual cross-dressing males had been the victim of blackmail or terroristic threats by spouse, family, or business associates, the most common being the threat of exposure to the cross-dresser's employer, which would almost certainly result in loss of employment.

I learned that the most unfortunate of all were the cross-dressers whose spouses had taken legal action to end any and all contact between the cross-dressing father and his children. Only

I learned that the most unfortunate of all were the cross-dressers whose spouses had taken legal action to end any and all contact between the cross-dressing father and his children. Only the obligation to pay financial support for the children remained intact. Thus, in 1993, began my ever-increasing determination to do what I can to assist members of the "gender community," whether cross-dresser, transsexual, gay or lesbian, in protecting themselves from being victimized for no reason except the way they are perceived by the community at large.

At the Riverside Gala Weekend '96, I shall (for the fourth year) present a workshop on legal issues and the gender community. Of particular interest to me this year is the subject of blackmail, although I shall examine other issues as well, including employment, divorce, child custody, support, and Social Security benefits.

I've also been invited to be a moderator for the first-ever Professionals Forum late Saturday afternoon, in which psychologists, psychiatrists and other professionals working with the gender community will have the opportunity to share their questions and concerns.

If I haven't met you, please introduce yourself to me. If you and I have already met, I look forward to seeing you again this year at RGW '96.

Elizabeth C. M. Carmichael, Esq.  
Franklin, PA  
September 1996

# DUES ARE DUE

# !

**PLEASE SEND IN YOUR DUES NOW! WE CAN NOT PAY THE RENT AND EAT PIZZA WITHOUT YOUR MONEY.**

**THE MEMBERS WHO HAVE NOT BEEN WITH US FOR A FULL YEAR ARE PRO RATED. PAY ONLY THE AMOUNT LISTED ON YOU NEWSLETTER ENVELOPE.**



**SOME OF OUR MEMBERS ATTEND THE RIVERSIDE EVENT!**



Teresa Rene Janice Tammy Patti Dana



Tammy Patti Janice Rene Dana

**Gowns, Gowns, Gowns!**

*Janice has them!*

*Do you need one for the next meeting? Our next meeting is dress up day. This is the day to get all decked out in the outfit you would have worn on New Year Eve. Janice and other members have offered her elegant gowns to anyone that may have a use for them. Call the hot line if you are interested. There are many more that are not shown.*



sexy



pretty low cut



elegant



stunning



full skirt



ultra feminine



graceful

# CURRENT

By SUSAN MARTIN

## Holiday dress codes

The invitation reads: Semiformal attire. *Now what?* you panic.

More than a few calls have come into The Buffalo News of late, from readers fretting over what to wear to New Year's Eve soirees and other holiday gatherings.

For them and other party-goers, here's a review compiled from etiquette books and news wire services of what all those dress codes really mean:

• Casual dress means relaxed but not sloppy — pants, skirts, shirts, sport jackets, blazers and sweaters. No neckties, but leave the torn jeans and graphic T-shirts at home.

• Informal attire is a dress for a woman and a coat and tie for a man. "Before 6 p.m. a man may wear a sports jacket or blazer and tie. A woman may wear an afternoon, or luncheon, dress, similar to what you might wear to church or work. After 6, the woman may wear a dinner dress or dressy conservative suit; the man wears a dark or light business suit," advises the Charlotte Observer.

• Semiformal attire means the woman may wear a short or long cocktail, party or dinner dress or suit of a dressy to very dressy fabric — or an evening dress with jacket, explains etiquette expert Anne Oliver in her etiquette book.

"Before 6 p.m. the man wears a dark suit, and after 6 p.m. may wear a dark suit or a dinner jacket with a black silk bow tie."

• Black tie (formal is either black tie or white tie) denotes a tuxedo for men, starched white shirt, studs, French cuffs, cuff links, black shoes and a satin bow tie. The woman wears a long or short evening dress.

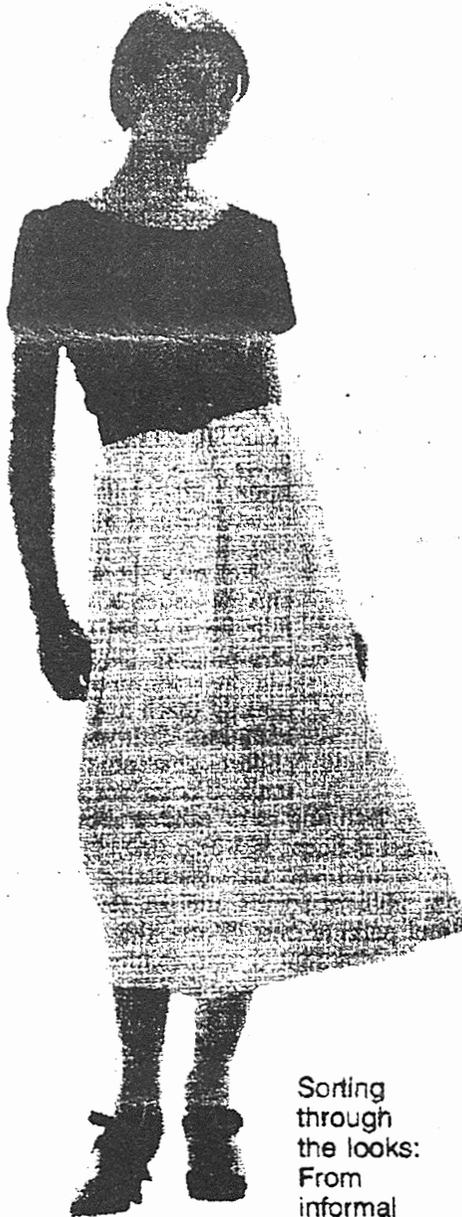
• Black tie optional gives men the option of wearing a tuxedo or dark suit, and women can wear gowns or cocktail



... to black-tie optional ...

dresses. Here's where some creativity creeps in as well.

• White tie means full dress. Women wear real ball gowns and real jewelry; above-the-elbow white gloves may also be worn with sleeveless gowns. Men wear long black tailcoats with satin lapels and matching trousers with narrow braid stripes ... the whole nine yards.



Sorting through the looks: From informal

