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Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES



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JANUARY, 1998

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

Well, the days are finally getting longer but the time between our December and January meetings is shorter (3 weeks this time). So you will find this newsletter a little thinner due to time constraints.

I hope you've been enjoying the holiday season and if you didn't get what you wished for (a pretty outfit, some jewelry, an understanding spouse/partner...) why not go out and get it yourself. There should be lots of after-Christmas sales by the time you read this. As far as the understanding spouse/partner, don't give up hope. There's always next year.

Sixteen Belles and friends made it to our annual Christmas Party on December 13th. It seemed everyone was pleased with the evening that went by all too fast. Pictures of the group were taken by Patti and they may be ready for the next meeting.

At the business part our meeting, Angela announced that she had arranged an evening at Attilio's, a beauty salon and spa in Kenmore. Since then the date has been set for Saturday, January 17th.. She has been there many times in the past and says that the staff is friendly, helpful and understanding of our needs. That night, they will keep their staff on past the usual 6:00 PM closing and that we will have the whole place to ourselves from 6:00 to 9:00 PM. Any Belle who wishes can be

pampered with a variety of services such as: facials, manicures, pedicures, nail enhancements, makeup application, waxing, hair and wig styling and much more. Plus afterwards, a trip downtown is planned for the Stage Door or some other night spot (Club Marcella, anyone?). If this sounds interesting, you can arrange the evening with Angela at the next scheduled Buffalo Belles meeting

ATTENDEES

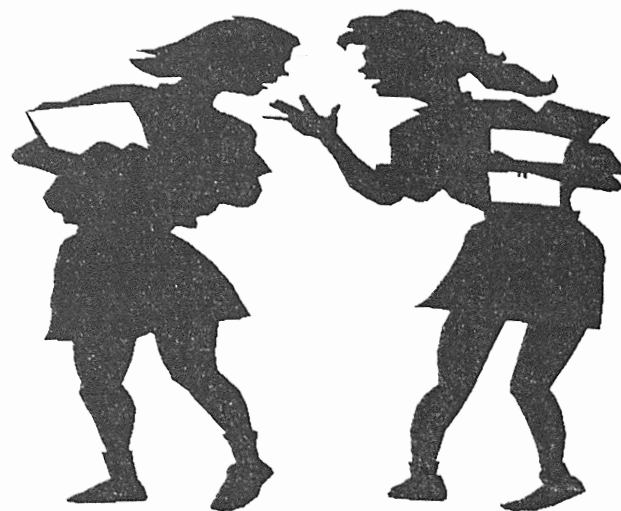
- | | |
|-------------|-----------------|
| Denise M | Camille H. |
| Janice G. | Susan B. |
| Patti J. | Crystal & Tonya |
| Dana D. | Karoline |
| Colleen R. | Vaughn |
| Michelle G. | Donna |
| Joy S. | Cheryl |
| Angella A. | Marsha guest |

on Saturday, January 3rd. If you can't make it to the meeting, but would like to go to Attilio's (2929 Delaware Ave), call the hotline (643-2626), leave your name and we'll get you the information you're looking for. I'm planning to go to Attilio's that evening. One of my wigs needs some restyling and these legs could use a good waxing.

After our Christmas Party ended, a large contingent headed downtown to the Stage Door, for a continuation of the night's festivities. The Imperial Court of Buffalo was performing their annual Christmas benefit and the place was packed with partygoers. It was a delightful evening I wish didn't have to end.

I'm looking forward to seeing more of you at our January 3rd meeting. Do try to attend and please wear that party dress or gown so we can help celebrate the New Year Buffalo Belle style. Bye for this month.

Hugs,
Camille



RIVERSIDE GALA WEEKEND (RGW. '97)

by, Patricia Jones

(Patti)

The RGW, as it has come to be known as, was held, Nov. 21-23rd. this year in Franklin, Pa. about 65 miles south of Erie, Pa. Renee', Tammy, myself and about seventy others, enjoyed another wonderful time at the annual event. This years new location was a great choice, though not as picturesque, or as homey as the Riverside Inn, the Inn at Franklin made up for that with modern conveniences of a newer hotel; large rooms, phone & a TV. Those of you that have attended past galas' know that wasn't the case at the Riverside Inn. (but that's what makes it unique) The event activities actually started, for myself, the weekend before the event with a facial at the Reflections Salon, (it feels soooooo good!), and at that time I was able to make an

appointment for Friday at 10:00am, for a set of acrylic nails to be put on. I took off from work Friday the 21st. & Monday the 24th, before and after the event, to extend my enjoyment of the weekend. I thought Friday would never come, the week just dragged (no pun intended).

I packed the car & changed Friday morning, leaving behind all my male clothes and was off to the salon for my nail appointment. At the salon I met Diane, my nail tech, she suggested I use a acrylic glue on tips with a powder-acrylic overlay filler, because they would be easier for me to remove at the end of the weekend. We had nice conversation while she worked on my nails. The process took about a hour and half. I had her give my nails a French tipped natural look & polish. My nails turned out beautiful, I feel they added a lot to making my hands and my over all look more feminine.

I met Renee', loaded her gear to my van, and we were off to Franklin Pa.; after about 3 hrs. of a nice, but uneventful road trip, we arrived in Franklin & found the Inn. We unpacked & got acclimated to the hotel. We changed for dinner, and found the buffet with a large selection of delicious food, more than any who watches her weight needs. After dinner we all went to the hotels' bar for cocktails. The bar had a dee-jay & we all talked and danced until the cows came home

Saturday, Tammy arrived at about 10:30 am (to early!!) and got us out of bed, just in time for coffee & coffee cake. We all took

advantage of all vendors that were there: Renee' was draped for determining her colors, and purchased a new wig. Tammy purchased some new makeup, and I had my wig re-styled. The event also held a number of seminars for the wives and the TS community. I sat in on a seminar/discussion on gender, that was very interesting and thought provoking. Afterwards, I went back to the room to get ready for the banquet.

By the time we all were done the room looked like a bomb went off. Tammy decided to wear a beautiful, sleeveless, knit party dress & blonde wig. She looked absolutely stunning. Of course she could wear a burlap sack and look good. Renee' decided on a very elegant black chiffon dress, just below the knee in length, with a draped over layer that tied at the shoulder, that went wonderfully with her new wig and makeup colors. I wore a old, full length gown that I had worn to a RGW a few years ago: a black velvet, form fitting gown with a neckline of looped lacing, and the front is slit up the left leg at mid-thigh. I wore it with a black velvet bolero, black velvet high heels and a platinum blonde wig, styled up. We all looked great! So off to the ball.

At the banquet, as everyone slowly arrived cocktails were made available, and people were entertained by a women ventriloquist and her dummy (Granny). We had a very good, three course meal followed the guest speaker, Joann Roberts. She gave a nice speech/talk on where our community has come from and gave her outlook for the future.

She was followed by the main entertainment, a magic act that was very enjoyable, and then the awards for best dressed couple and best dress overall. Well, for the second time in two years, a Buffalo Belle won the best dress award. Yes if you haven't heard, I won, with the same dress that I had won with two years ago. I have to thank the hostess & waiters for having such good taste(?), and voting for my old \$30.00 gown, over all other beautiful dresses. I was very surprised and honored to have won. It was the high point of a weekend I will not soon forget. I received a free professional photo of myself and combination picture frame and clock, for winning. We all went to the hotel bar afterwards for drinks & dancing until dawn. The weekend was a great time, so next year, I hope to see you all there.....Bye for now.

Patti

Ps. I'd like to especially thank Tammy & Renee' for sharing this weekend with me because, without them it wouldn't have been half as fun.



DUES ARE DUE: Yes, it is that time again. Full members pay \$25, and for those who only want the newsletter, \$15. For those who joined in mid-year you'll get separate notice of amount due. What a bargain! Even a super shopper like Colleen doesn't wait for this to go on sale!

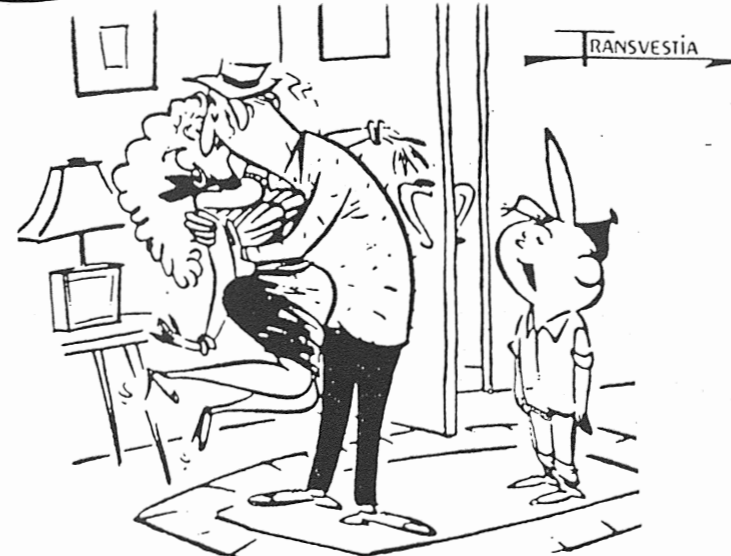
A REPORT FROM KATHY:

WELCOME NEW SISTERS At the last meeting we had two new sisters making their debuts, Donna and Cheryl. Also Karoline made her first enfemme appearance. Welcome girls, and hope we will be seeing you all often in the coming months!
APOLOGY OFFERED to Gemini for printing two pages from their excellent publication, without giving proper credit, last month. Those were the two quizzes by Victoria Powers, on pg. 7&8. This slight was not intentional, and we appreciate having their excellent publication to draw upon.

JANUARY MEETING: To remind you, the **THIRD**.

FEBRUARY MEETING: keeping with our flip flopping of dates lately, the date for this will be 14th!!

MARCH Meeting should be on the **SEVENTH**. Also this is the month of the IFGE Convention in Toronto. Brochure enclosed. This is probably as close to us as a "national" Convention will ever be held. Many of us are already familiar with the city and know its delights!! You have a few months to start to pile up the brownie points with the boss and at work. Girl, you know you just gotta have some fun!!!



"Hey, that's my brother — Sis will be down in a minute."

Feminine Manerism's

Part I - Hand Gestures

One of things you will want to do when looking at your fingernails. Whether you pressed them on, had them professionally done, or painted them yourself, you will want to extend your fingers wide and hold your palm out. Men tend to curl their fingers and bring them close to their face. Women will extend their fingers with their palm out and admire them from afar.

Another mannerism you will want to get used to is when you go to adjust your hair to pull it way from your checks or eyes. Don't curl your fingers up and stroke the hair away. Instead, extend your fingers, this time holding them together, and flip it with the back of your finger-nails and fingers. A little head motion is also helpful. Flipping hair is one way to subtly flirt a little as well.

Whenever you are clutching something or making a fist for any reason don't curl your fingers under. Let the pads of your finger tips touch your palm instead so that you can see the nails very clearly. Sometimes when you are walking swiftly you may hold your arm straight down with your hand in this fist position. The goal is to help reduce the amount of jiggle in your breasts. If you are wearing silicone breast forms or if you have your own breasts you know what I'm talking about.

If you are sitting at a table and want to lean your chin on your hand try the following. Place your

elbow on the table extending your arm up vertically and let your hand relax. Rest your chin on top of the back of your hand. Or by extending your thumb and first finger out. Place your other three fingers in the fist position described above and place your chin in the L formed by the two fingers such that your finger extends up by your cheek.

Part II - Sitting

The key to sitting is to remember to keep your thighs together. I don't know how many groups I've been to and social events where "guys in drag" are sitting with their legs spread apart. If you have larger thighs you might try crossing your legs at the ankles. If you can manage, cross your legs so both extend down one over the other.

Before sitting down. Back up to the chair until you feel it with the back of your legs. Sit down and brush your skirt from behind to make sure it all comes forward. I like to sit sort of diagonal. I will cross my legs at the ankle and touch the right side of my right calf with the side of the chair or couch. I will then turn my torso a little to the left. Sometimes I'll cross my right leg underneath my left and sit on it. Both are very comfortable to me.

Your mom always told you to sit up straight. Now is the time to be very conscious of that. If you are fairly masculine and a little heavy you will have a small belly and the more you slouch the more it shows it off. The more you stretch and sit up the more lean and self confident you will look. Fold your hands in your lap always extending your nails when possible. Try to relax and feel natural.

Part III - Walking

Walking feminine, is one of the most difficult things to learn how to do. Although, once you know the techniques you can practice until you feel you have it right and then practice some more.

Step I

- Watch and Learn

I suggest as a first step to take a trip to a busy

The Femme Forum Houston

mall, sit down in a high traffic area and watch women walk. Watch the ones that are in a hurry, those that are taking their time, and others that are talking to their friends. Each walk is subtly different from person to person and what they are doing. Watch someone and close your eyes and imagine your self walking in their place so that it feels right. Once you have captured a few styles you like then while you are in the mall go find a full length mirror if you don't already have one. You'll need it for practicing.

Step II - Get Ready

The next step is to go home and get dressed if you aren't already. But don't just get dressed. While you are going through your routine, think of yourself as a girl. Throw any traces of masculinity away and just fantasize that this is just another day in your life as a woman getting ready. Adjust your minutes so that when you are done you not only look like a girl but in your mind - you are one.

Step III - Walking Techniques

The basic foundation is simple to understand but it takes a little time to get down. Stand up straight and walk from the hips. Men walk from the legs. Women walk from the hips. Lean back slightly and extend your hips forward and let your legs and feet follow. If you are wearing heels, (you might want to start with 1" or 1 1/2" heels) be sure to point your toe forward slightly so that your heel and toes come down nearly simultaneously. Be sure to have a purse with you when you practice. My purses usually have a long shoulder strap that I will wear on my left shoulder. I will clutch the strap with my left hand using the fist that I described above. I will then extend my right arm down relaxing my hand. Always look up and forward. Never look down at the ground. I see so many crossdressers, especially those new to going out, looking at the ground trying to hide their face. Look up and never forget to smile. If you are nervous, scared, or uptight then it will all show through and you will be read no matter how good you look.

"Walking" Step IV - Attitude

"Walking" You have to appear self-confident. You have to love what you are doing and be excited that you are doing it. You have to be in "girl-mode" - if you are worried about getting read then that means you are a "guy in drag" and people will see you that way. You have to condition yourself so that you feel that this is something you do every day and this time is no big deal. Just be happy, don't worry about any looks you get. Just say to yourself, "I look great and I'm getting the attention a girl should get for looking so good". If you come across with a positive attitude then even if you are read most people will leave you alone.

A strange item from the Buffalo News.
December 17, 1997

Court Let's Man Take Woman's Name

PITTSBURGH (AP) - He looks like a woman, acts like a woman and has lived as a woman for 22 years. Now Brian Harris can be addressed as a woman.

A three-judge panel of Superior Court granted Harris the right to change his first name to Lisa.

Harris took estrogen and underwent surgery for breast implants and to feminize his face but cannot afford genital sex-change surgery. A county judge refused to permit the name change, but the Superior Court panel said Harris has done what he can to merit it.

"As Tammy Wynette so aptly observed, sometimes it's hard to be a woman." Judge Peter Paul Olszewski wrote last week for the majority in the 2-1 ruling. Harris, 39, filed for the name change last year, and his counselor, Constance Saunders, said he frequently runs into problems because his driver's license identifies him as a man. Harris told Judge Gerard Long that he has used the name Lisa socially for 22 years. He said taking the name legally would avoid confusing others and embarrassment when asked to produce identification.