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Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES**NU PHI CHI

 President: Denise Miller V.P.,Treas.: Janice Gnau Newsletter: Kathy Lorraine

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 Williamsville,NY 14221-4100

Dear Sisters,

We had a nice turn out for the March meeting. Braveing the mild weather were Denise M., Janet G., Jean H., Patty J., Rene K., Dana D., Joan C., Kathy L., Linda V.,(Whom was especially nice to see again after a long absence!). Tammy Z., Frances L., Nancy M., Michelle S., Kurst, and Jackie with Yvette & Dee Dee in tow. Also, we welcomed a new guest, the lovely Nina! She is a special person and we hope she can return real soon.

The 'main event' of the night was presentation of Revlon Wigs. We had Nancy and Jerry on hand. They brought along a large assortment of wigs for the girls to try on. Each girl received personalized, sympathetic, professional attention. Just about everyone but the fortunate few who can go 'ennatural' tried on a couple. A handful of the girls bought their new du that night, myself included!

Nancy and Jerry are looking forward to making a return visit, probably in the fall. We'll be looking forward to their return, but in the meantime if you don't want to wait, they can be reached through the Revlon Inspirations Kiosk at the Galleria Mall. As they are not usually found there, it would be best to call 685-0212 and leave a message for them to reply to. Then you can set up an appoitment for your individual attention.

During these hairy going ons, we held a short business meeting. Denise handed out a revised cost estimate for putting on special event. Even with most of the 'frills' eliminated, it still came to a projected cost of \$215-235.00 each. This idea will be shelved for now, but we must thank Denise for all the work she did in putting together the cost estimate. Another big factor would be finding someone with the time and desire to stage it all! But someday, when a sister comes along with that 'spark' we'll be cost ready. Finding the right place and theme would be the first step.

* * * * *

I want to give thanks to Frances Lee. She donated an extra \$45 with her meeting fee. Your generosity is much appreciated! THANKYOU!!!

* * * * *

Just a reminder, the April meeting will be held on the EIGHT, not the FIRST as is normal. We have moved a week back so we could attend the XPRESSSION'S Weekend at Niagra on the Lake. Hereafter, NL.

For those still undecided, it is not to late, nor to expensive. Janice and I took a trip there this past week. It is a lovely old red brick canning factory remodeled into a quite elegant, exciting place. For those who haven't bean to NL, like myself till this visit, it is a really neat old quaint town, accross the Niagra Rivers's outlet into Lake Ontario. Looking at Old Fort Niagra. About a 45 minute drive from the meeting place. The place was basically deserted Tuesday. In the summer, mega crunch for sure! Enjoy this fine hotel. Take a walk into town if you dare. What a great day and evening.

At the time this is being written, Thurs. 23rd, only three of us are commmitted to going. Janice, (like really, an event without her? Yeah, sure!) Patty, and myself (Kathy). A couple of others, have expressed some interest. This was supposed to have bean Buffalo Nite Out III, I'm somewhat disappointed that the response is so low.

It is not to late. Dig out your January issue, Find \$35 for admission, \$30 for room five miles down the road, or \$55 for room at event. Or save that and use the hospitality suite for free. Come in drab. Change and have a good time. If your dog ate your newsletter, call the hotline and let us know. (643 2626) Isn't this all about haveing some fun after all?

* * * * *

Our meeting place is collecting grocery store receipts from Tops & Jubilee. Also Campbell Soup labels. If you have such, and they aren't already going elsewhere, it would be nice to help out our hosts.

* * * * *

The Erie Sisters have extended an invitation to their April 22 meeting. They have a new meeting place, of an institution as ours. They are haveing a special presentation by the Staff Psychologist from Hamot Medical Center in Erie. Is it a time for a road trip?? Isn't it, like Spring Break?

* * * * *

According to Xpressions Xplorer (newsletter of Xpressions) they are planning to draw in the range of 40 people to the Spring Gala. The planned agenda for April 1st at the Pillar and Post is as follows:

- 11:00 Wine Tour (add'l cost approx \$10 canadian)
- 1:00 Vendors for wigs and makeup
- 3:00 Seminars on makeup and electrolysis
- 7:00 Cocktails
- 8:00 Dinner

There is also schedule entertainment after dinner and if you wish you can go shopping in town, ^{during the day} personally I'm thinking about visiting historical Fort George. Sometime during the day there is also a planned couples session with the wives.

The cost for Saturday remains at \$50 canadian. The hospitality suite can be used for a changing room. In addition some of the girls from the Buffalo Belles is planning to rent a seperate hotel room either at the Pillar and Post or another motel in Canada.

The Pillar and Post is located in Niagara-on-the-Lake (N-o-t-L) on the corner of King and John Streets. It can be reached by crossing either the Rainbow (27 Ks) or the Lewiston-Queenston (13Ks) Bridge and proceeding north on the Niagara Parkway, make a left turn in N-o-t-L at King Street (the first and only flashing stop light) and is less than 2k down on the right.

If you wish to go and or check on the availability of the motel room contact me directly or leave a message on the voice mail immediately, we need to know the number of people for dinner.

* * * * *

1995 accounting as of March 18, 1995

Balance as of February 15, 1995 (see prior newsletter) \$320

Yearly full dues	4 @ 25	\$100	
Extra donation		5	
Meeting fees	14 @ 5	70	175
March pizza			26
			<u>\$169</u>
			====

CROSSING THE BORDER
BY JANICE GNAU

With several girls talking about going to Xpressions 1st annual spring gala, I have been asked about crossing the border while dressed (don't be a blond, you know I mean crossdress - I still haven't tried a nude crossing).

This is something I cannot truly recommend - I have never directly contacted customs on either side of the border to discover the potential legal consequences of doing so. The nearest I came to this was when I was talking to a U.S. customs official at the Geneseo Air Show in an unofficial capacity. I inquired if I could ask an unusual question - at which time I explained that I go up to Toronto quite often to visit friends and what problems, if any, would I have if I cross the border either way like this - upon which I showed the gentleman a photo of myself dressed (of course). I was wearing a semi-formal almost ankle length blue dress, with gold trim, and my blond wig. He examine the photo for a short period of time, glancing up at myself frequently. He eventually said he couldn't speak for Canadian customs and didn't have all the U.S. requirements memorized but he knew of no problem. He went on to say, "You might have to answer a few more questions than normal but I'm sure you are not the first to do so nor will you be the last". I thanked him for his time and proceeded to the flight line.

The way my so called thought process worked I finally concluded customs could not refuse to allow me back into the states. At the most they could give me a hard time, pull me over and go over a large number of questions, but eventually they would have to allow me entrance. They might not like who I am (or how I represent my nation) but they couldn't deny or revoke my nationality (no matter how much they might wish to). I also concluded the maximum Canadian customs could do was refuse me admittance and tell me to return to the states.

If you are considering any crossborder crossdressing the logical and smart thing to do would be to contact customs directly. However I have never been accused of being either logical or smart.

In the past couple years I have entered Canada close to a dozen times and

back into the U.S. well over a dozen times, in fact for the last several months I have gone no other way. These have included four day trips: one of these trips was a couple hours walking trip over the Rainbow Bridge to view the falls and back again.

I don't remember the date of my first trip back into the states, it was most likely early 1993 but my first trip into Canada was Christmas day 1993. This was the easiest crossing ever, dress or not dress, only one question if I had any gift over \$20.

In all the times I have gone (I will not say pass) through customs I have been requested to supply my drivers license three times. Once going into Canada and twice coming back to the U.S.. The time I was requested to supply my drivers license entering Canada (I wasn't even driving, I was on foot) I was also asked for my Social Security card. The two times entering the U.S. I believe it was more a matter of observing my reaction to offering my license than actually viewing the license itself. I know one time he was looking at my eyes and didn't even glance at my license.

Majority of time it is the same two or three questions:

NATIONALITY, PURPOSE OF VISIT, ANYTHING TO DECLARE

I have never been asked why I was dress the way I was or what did I think I was doing. Although when they ask if I have anything to declare I have always been tempted to reply, "Isn't this enough!"

Despite my lack of recommendation if you might still be considering a crossborder crossdressing trip I do highly recommend.

1. Above all be honest - do not lie - give them your true name and address.
2. Show identification in a relax and expedient maner if requested.
3. Definitely do not obtain or use a false name or address or use false papers of any sort.
4. Try not to act either arrogant or intimidated.

There is one other item - while I will be going to Niagara-on-the-Lake April 1st and will be very tempted I will not reply to customs "April Fools".

C A L A N D A R

- APRIL 1 Niagra on the Lake outing.
 8 BUFFALO BELLES regular meeting. Avon cosmetics to be on hand for makeup/style consultations.
 22 Erie Sisters meeting-road trip anyone???
- MAY 6 BUFFALO BELLES regular meeting
- JUNE 3 BUFFALO BELLES regular meeting
 8-11 Be All Ciminatti

Women disguised as men who fought in Civil War

By EILEEN LOH
 Associated Press

CHALMETTE, La. — From 1862 to '64, a Union Army private wrote to kinfolk back home in New York, describing strange Southern lands, drills and duty, loneliness and an itch to go into battle.

"I am well and tough as a bear," Lyons Wakeman wrote. "I have got so that I can drill just as well as any man there is in my regiment."

Wakeman died of dysentery after fighting in Louisiana's Red River Campaign in 1864. The 21-year-old soldier was laid to rest in Chalmette National Cemetery, just one among the 654,000 killed during the four-year war.

Wakeman, though, died harboring a secret guarded with the vigilance of a sentry at post.

Lyons Wakeman was actually Sarah Rosetta Wakeman, who left home at 19 to find the freedom in breeches that she couldn't enjoy in a dress. She cut her hair, bound her breasts, put on a uniform, and in 1862 enlisted in the 153rd Regiment, New York State Volunteers.

Wakeman wasn't alone. Of the 3 million Union and Confederate soldiers in the Civil War, some 400 women are known to have posed as men so they could fight.

"Probably many, many more" lie under graves bearing their male aliases, says Lauren Cook Burgess, Civil War historian and editor of "The Uncommon Soldier," a collection of Wakeman's letters. "We'll never know."

There's nothing to distinguish Wakeman's grave from the other 15,000 thick stone markers at the Chalmette cemetery, just outside New Orleans. Her tombstone reads simply "4066 Lyons Wakeman N.Y."

It wasn't so hard for Wakeman to keep her secret while alive, either, historians say.

The urgency for more soldiers meant that physical examinations of new recruits were spotty at best.

Sometimes all that was required of an enlistee was a trigger finger that worked and two opposing teeth strong enough to rip open a Minnie ball cartridge.

In her memoir, "Nurse and Spy," Sarah Emma E. Edwards, who posed as Pvt. Franklin Thompson for the 2nd Michigan Volunteers, described her physical entrance exam as "a firm hand-shake."

Also, so many teen-age and pre-adolescent boys fought in uniform that it wasn't unusual to see a small, smooth-faced soldier with a high voice.

Wakeman often sent money home to Afon, N.Y., to keep the farm going, though her defiance so embarrassed her parents that they told siblings too young

to remember her that she was a boy. "I am enjoying my Self better this summer than I ever did before in this world," she told them in June of 1863. "I will Dress as I am a mind to for all anyone else (cares), and if they don't let me Alone, they will be sorry for it."

A younger sister, born after Wakeman died, found her letters in the attic, along with her ring and a daguerreotype of Wakeman in uniform.

It was the first time Catherine Wakeman realized her "brother" Lyons was a woman, her great-great-granddaughter, Ruth Goodier, of Chipley, Fla., said in an interview.

"It wasn't talked about," Goodier says. "The younger ones didn't know about it; it was just not discussed because it was not the kind of thing women did. They sort of brushed it under the carpet."

Linda Grant de Pauw, president of the Minerva Center on Women in the Military in Pasadena, Md., says, "People said it was disgraceful when the other side did it. But when their girls did it, it was patriotism."

Goodier told Burgess about her great-great-aunt when she read a newspaper article about the historian's own gender conflict.

Burgess had been portraying a male soldier in 1989 for a re-enactment of the Battle of Antietam, and was spotted leaving the ladies' room. Authorities at Antietam National Park in Sharpsburg, Md., told her she couldn't join any more living histories — because they wanted to preserve the authenticity of the 1862 battle.

"I was taken aback," Burgess said, explaining that "it was a pretty well-known fact in historian circles" that five women, posing as men, fought at Antietam (two were wounded, one killed). She sued the National Park Service for sexual discrimination, and won.

Rosetta Wakeman's letters — the most important cache to date on female soldiers in the Civil War — show that she felt a deep responsibility toward her family, particularly helping pay her father's debts. "I knew that I could help you more to leave home than to stay there with you," she wrote.

"We speculated in the family about why she did it," Goodier said. "We decided she did it for the money."

Economics was only one reason women gave up their identity to enlist, Burgess says.

Like men, "they were patriots, of course. They wanted to strike a blow against the enemy.... The third reason is for adventure, to gain a measure of social and legal and economic independence not available to women."

Others accompanied husbands, lovers



Lyons Wakeman, pictured in this antique photo, was among some 400 women who were disguised as men to fight in the Civil War.

or brothers into battle. Some were discovered when they were treated for illness or wounds; a few became pregnant.

"A corporal was promoted to sergeant for gallant conduct at the battle of Fredericksburgh," wrote Union Col. Elijah H.C. Cavins, "since which time the sergeant has become the mother of a child."

Accounts show she equaled — and some might say exceeded — her male counterparts in skill, bravery and toughness.

"I don't feel afraid to go (into battle)," she wrote in August of 1863. "I don't believe there are any Rebel's bullet made for me yet. Nor I don't care that there is. I am as independent as a hog on the ice. If it is God's will for me to fall in the field of battle, it is my will to go and never return home...."

"Good-by for this time, from yours respectful,

"Miss Rosetta Wakeman."

at Vicksburg, Miss.

Wakeman got her wish to see battle during the Red River Campaign. She survived its fiercest engagement, the Battle of Pleasant Hill, and marched about 400 miles in Louisiana's subtropical weather on a meager diet.

When Albert D.J. Cashier of the 95th Illinois Infantry Regiment was hospitalized long after the war, doctors found that "he" was really Jennie Rodgers.

After her secret was discovered, Rodgers continued to receive a pension and lived out her last years in a soldiers' home, but the Pension Bureau "made her dress like a woman," Burgess said. "She wasn't very happy about it."

Cashier's name appears on a monument to the Illinois soldiers who fought

DISLIKES AND A FEW LIKES ABOUT BEING MALE

By: Kelly D.

Each morning, I get up and after nature calls, I make my way to the kitchen. That morning cup of coffee or two is vital to me. Strange as it may seem, when I first get up, I feel like a female. It's during these two cups of coffee, and with many very deep thoughts that, like some great fog rolling in, my first real dose of being male hits me right between the eyes: That UGLY BEARD.

That is the first thing I don't like about being male and possibly the one I dislike the most. Oh, if I could just afford electrolysis!! I do so envy a woman's hair-free face.

Then, I guess it's the shower that is my next dose of reality because it is very definitely a male body I am washing. No hips, no curves, well, you know.

As the day progresses, there are more and more things that remind me I am male. I have to dress and am given the choice of shirt and pants, 365 days a year, no variety, no skirt, no dress, just shirt and pants 365 days a year, what a bummer.

Then, I would have to drive to work, and the traffic would make me angry and I shouldn't be angry, but those male hormones kick in.

Almost every day, some woman wants me to lift something; I always comply, but deep within my brain I think that a man's body was designed to push, pull, lift, tote, and generally be a damn mule.

I have always worked with mostly men, and sometimes I don't enjoy being macho, but go along with it because to do otherwise invites suspicion as to my gender.

It really ticks me off when I hear women complain about their lot. I wonder if they think it's so great on the other side. It's no so great.

All in all, there are a few things I like about being male, like belching, cursing, passing gas, and being crude and rowdy. Drinking beer with the boys and sports and shooting my rifle, and going fishing -- yeah, these are good.

Being born a Libra gives me the opportunity to put all of these feelings on a scale and sort of balance them out. While I like some things, I dislike others, but balance is the rule. I will strive to do a better job of balancing those feminine and those masculine feelings so I might be a better all around person.

"Life," as Forrest Gump says "IS like a box of chocolates."

Bye for this month,

Kelly D.

Kelly's article inspired Vanetta to write an article about a few Likes & Dislikes about being a Woman!!!

A FEW LIKES AND DISLIKES ABOUT BEING A WOMAN

BY: Vanetta

Believe me, Kelly, being a woman ain't all it's cracked up to be --

We suffer through fat days, bad hair days, PMS, gynecological exams, and yeast infections.

Believe it or not, putting on makeup EVERY DAY can be a pain in the butt. (And contrary to what Vickie thinks, I do not have permanent eyeliner!!)

I guess what I hate most about being a woman is not being able to pee over the side of the boat when we're fishing!!!

Unfortunately, there still exists some chauvinism in this world that women have to put up with. Of course, now I'm getting to the age where I am thankful that I still get whistled at by construction workers.

Men have a lot more social freedoms than do women -- it's not "ladylike" to belch, pass gas or be loud and rowdy. And, society dictates that we're all supposed to look like Cindy Crawford, have thin thighs, tiny waists and big boobs. We're not supposed to age or sag, be assertive or express anger. No pressure at all - NOT!!

There are, however, many things about being a woman that I like: jewelry, short skirts, having doors opened for me, new makeup, dressing freedom, and being able to use tears to get out of a ticket, a tactic that usually doesn't work for a man.

I enjoy masculine things as well. Shooting, fishing, camping, sports, etc.

Until I met Rose, I liked my "masculine" side better than my "feminine" side. Rose taught me to appreciate being a woman. And, for the record, I no longer own any undergarment made of the dreaded -- cotton.

There are positive and negatives about being male or female. The key is to love ourselves just the way we are. icking is finding another person who also loves us just the way we are.

IN SOUTH BEACH, THE GAME'S A DRAG

MIAMI — Come Sunday afternoon, they will suit up, carefully, in the equipment so vital to their trade.

They will mentally rehearse, one more time, the moves they will need to call upon instinctively.

As they step out onto their stage, they will feel the adrenalin rush, that hormone surge that fuels their performance.

And then, it will be showtime, time to talk the talk and walk the walk.

Or, if you prefer, the ashay, dearie.

At the same time the 49ers and Chargers are playing Super Bowl XXIX, Marvella and Roberta Slack and Bridget Buttercup and Penny Sometimes and D'Va Rober* (pronounced Ro-BEAR) will also be playing.

Not on a field, but on a stage. They are not men playing football but boys playing girls, by far the most popular sport in South Beach, Miami's predominantly gay Art Deco district, which is a lot closer to RuPaul than to Joe Robbie.

If you think Super Bowl Sunday is a drag, you should see Monday nights



QUEENS & THE KING: Never mind the 49ers and Chargers, the entertainment on Super Sunday in South Beach will be provided by drag queens like the ones shown above, including one who once performed at a party hosted by Don Shula (inset), the NFL's all-time winningest coach.



WALLACE MATTHEWS

at Cafe Mulberry. Or Tuesday at Diamante, or Wednesday at the Beehive. Or just about any night at Club Uranus.

"We are just full of testosterone, honey, let me tell you," said Rober* from the Cafe Mulberry stage, where he emceed the 60-minute Monday night lip-synch show in full flutter and short blond wig. "That's just in case any of you were convinced that we are, in fact, women."

That could take a second look. Some of them are almost as good looking as the Dallas Cowboys, and all of them could embarrass Dejon off the dance floor. They spend much of their lives mocking conventional stereotypes of masculinity, of which the Super Bowl is the No. 1 symbol.

"The Beach is not a very Super Bowl-oriented world," said Marvella, who is really 23-year-old David Marvel.

Let's face it. Anybody can — and will — tell you more than you could possibly want to know this week about Steve Young and Stan Humphries and Dancin' Dejon.

But who else will give you an inside peek at another life in the incredibly bizarre mosaic that is Miami, a fitting site for America's strangest sporting phenomenon.

The squalor and despair of Overtown is a coconut's throw from the tropical splendor and wealth of Fisher Island, which is just across the bay from

the surreal street theater of the Beach, or SoBe, as it is referred to by the truly hip. The population is a melange of Cuban emigrants, Nicaraguans, Caribbeans, migrated New Yorkers and retirees with a few native Floridians sprinkled in.

The various ethnic groups seem to blend together acceptably, but so far, football and the drag scene do not.

Evidence of this was offered at a "Viva Las Vegas" theme party hosted a couple of years ago by one Mary Anne Stephens and her then-beau, a Mr. Don Shula.

A featured performer

was the lovely and talented Shelley Novak, born Tommy Strange, who lip-synchs while dressed in a blond bouffant wig but doesn't bother to shave his chest. It's unclear which role Tommy/Shelley played, but you can be reasonably sure it was not Elvis.

According to witness accounts, everyone seemed to enjoy the performance immensely — with one notable exception.

"What a face that Shula made," Novak recalled. "Like he needed a big dose of Correctol."

Now that she is Mrs. Shula, Mary Anne denies Novak even appeared.

"Tommy must be confused," she said. "We would never hire a drag queen for one of our parties."

However, two guests at the party, Jacqui Chalban, a makeup artist for a local TV station, and Jaime Robinson, a photographer, say Novak was there — and they have pictures.

"Mary Anne told me I was great," Novak said. "Now she won't even admit I was there."

SoBe it.

Still, in some ways the NFL and the drag scene are parallel worlds.

In one, Jerry Rice runs crossing patterns. In the other, David Marvel cross-

ball fans into the general population, so too are the drag queens attracting attention from the mainstream.

But unlike the NFL, the queens' audience is growing.

Monday night, not a table could be had at Cafe Mulberry for the 60-minute show hosted by D'Va Rober*, whose real name is Robert and grew up in Texas Football country.

"I hate football, absolutely hate it," Rober* said. "I've hated it since I was a child. My parents, of course, love it."

Marvella, who is David Marvel out of makeup but a deadringer for Sandra Bernhard in his long black wig and purple lipstick, is a bit of a football fan but no longer cares who wins Super Bowl XXIX.

"I'm a Dallas Cowboys fan," he said. "Go 'Boys! I liked them because my grandmother did. She was always unconventional and eccentric."

On Super Sunday, while the Niners and Chargers fight to be kings of the NFL, the queens will be queens, holding a mock Super Bowl party at one of their homes ("I'm sure we won't even watch the game, but we'll have fun," said Rober*) and then heading over to Amnesia for the weekly Sunday night show.

"I shave, do my hair and makeup, put on my dress," Rober* said. "And then I start to get that adrenalin, that energy. Something just takes over, and then I go out and do it."

Sounds a lot like what the 49ers and Chargers will be going through at about the same time, in a much different world.

Gender Puzzler

L D E M K A Y K C I V W
 L D N B J J O A N N E Q
 E O O N L U A Y N P S I
 A C O N I D B E N V T R
 A C I A N Y O I A W E H
 N C P L D A A R A S P E
 N N Q O A N M R I C H S
 E A W R X N U A G H A T
 T S T A C I E B R R N J
 T U R C F S F T O I I G
 E S H E R R I Y E S E H
 D O N N C C T C G U G I

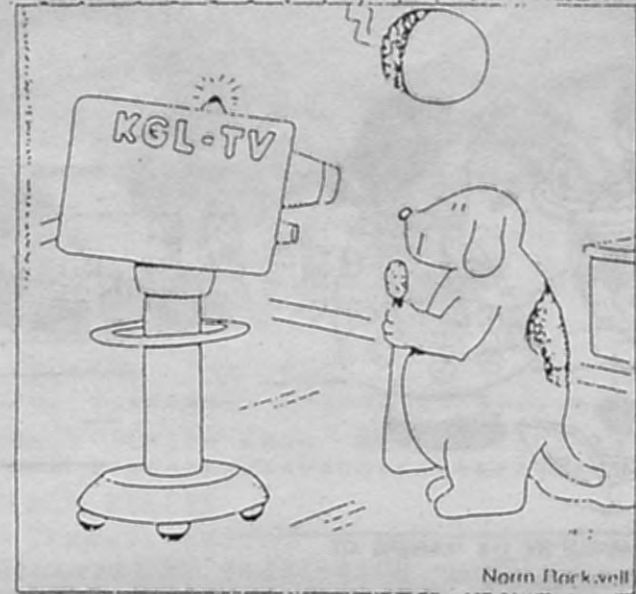
SIGMA NU RHO SISTERS

- ALICE
- BARRIE
- * CAROL ANN *example*
- CHRIS
- DONNA MARIE
- FAWN
- GEORGIA ANN
- JOANNE
- JUDY ANN
- KAY
- LEA ANNETTE
- SARA
- SHERRI
- STACIE
- STEPHANIE
- SUSAN
- VICKY

SOLUTION IN NRXT pg 10



GEE DAD, WHEN I GET BIGGER CAN I WEAR SOME OF YOUR PERFUME



Norm Flackwell

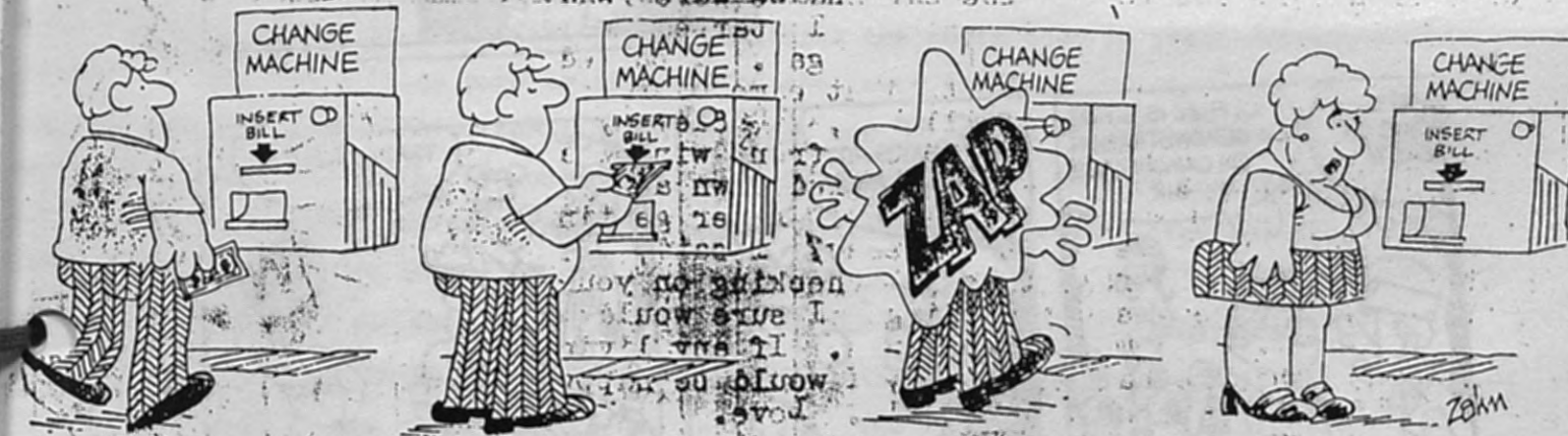
"Tonight's subject: Transvestites. Our guests are wolves that like to dress up in sheep's clothing."



NO! I'M NOT WAITING FOR ANYONE I'M IN DRAG AND I'M TRYING TO GET BACK IN



"I thought you had to work late, dear."



Zohn

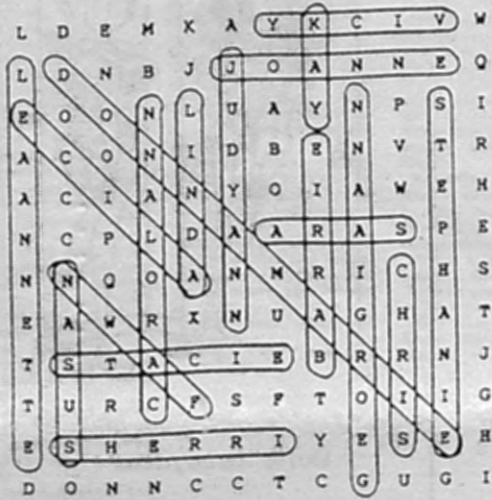


THIS IS MY NEW MAKEUP BY THE NUMBERS KIT FOR CROSSDRESSERS



"Sometimes I think I liked you better when you were a male chauvinist pig!"

SOLUTION TO JANUARY GENDER PUZZLER



THE FAR SIDE



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Walt Walker