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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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June 1996

Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES

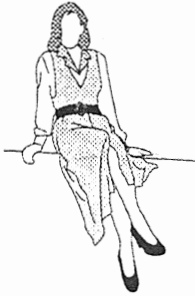


Address Correspondence
To
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Anherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

HOTLINE: (716) 643-2626
NU PHI CHI

JUNE, 1996

SISTERS IN CHARGE:
CINDY H.
JEAN H.
KATHY LORRAINE



Dear Sisters,
We had a lovely meeting last month. The weather has started to act a little more lady like. We didn't have to brush snow off our cars upon leaving.

A warm welcome was given to our newest member, attending her first meeting, the charming Camille H. She is part of the new group of members that have recently joined us. Our efforts in getting us listings in Artvoice, QNews, and the Buffalo News has really paid off in reaching those out there who are looking for a group like ourselves. Joining us recently, we also welcome Jerrie S., Elaine E., & Camille C.

We also must say a fond farewell to a very new sister, Linda W. Linda attended the April meetings, but a sudden change occurred that had her moving to Florida a few days later! She will be returning to the area a couple times a year and will be timing her trips with the meeting dates.

We will continue to see new faces at many meetings Please go out of your way to try to talk and help those new faces! Remember how much fear and doubts you

had when you first attended? Be that needed friend to that new sister!

We have sent out about two dozen of the revised application package in the last two months. They are slowly being returned after some deliberation or are back in the P0 Box two days later!! The most common theme is how they have looked for a group such as ours, to no avail! It does pay to advertise!

We are not into growth for growth's sake at all. We do it out of our obligation to the sisters out there looking for a family like ours. It has kind of created a logistics nightmare for me. Keeping track of calls, letters. Especially returning calls. Etc. But Jean has pitched in and Cindy is lending a hand now so we are keeping up to date, I think. However we are looking for a helper in two departments. Would someone please volunteer to relieve Jean of being the one to arrive and set up the mirror and bring the snacks?? Jean has been doing this since almost day one of the group. With her other duties with so many other things like this newsletter for one, she requests relief on this. If you are a regular attendee, would you help out?

We would also like someone to become our librarian. Someone who can inventory, and record what we have and where it may

have gone?

We hope to move the library out of the basement and up into the side area of the entrance foyer. We have permission but we are looking for a metal locker type of cabinet. Something 24-36" wide, 16+" deep and 4' to 6' high. That can be locked. If you have such an item you might let go of, give us a call!!

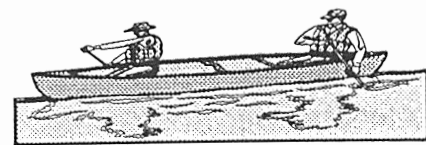
So who wants to be food wench, our librarian wench or the cabinet lady?

Speaking of the library. At our April meeting it was discovered that someone had made a donation to the library of a collection of magazines and video's. They were not of the type that we desire to have. Although most had CD, TV, TS etc. in their title, they were little connected to what we see ourselves as. And what is appropriate to be kept in our host's home. What you have in your home is entirely your choice and right, I firmly believe.

I did give them a look over. Like I'm really sweet and innocent, you know. I've never been in an adult bookstore in my life! I really didn't know just what was available until finding this collection! I guess what struck me more than anything, was the sadness I felt for the girls who make these video's and pose for these pictures! So many of them were so very pretty. What a way to make a living! I'll stick to picking up empty cans and bottles.

Another thing I found interesting was in one of magazines, the editor was apparently answering a letter of criticism about the lack of truth about the transgendered. She replied that the

circulation of Tri-Ess was about a thousand, IFGE Tapestry was three thousand but her magazine had a run of one hundred thousand. So who is legitimate? An interesting question. We appreciate the spirit in which this unknown sister donated with, and we thank her. Let's all keep it in good taste however. If it shows John Henry, leave it home. And if you are holding items from the library, please bring them back. The past issues of Tapestry and the Mirror are almost all absent. Along with some of the videos. Please return. Thanks.



We have been invited to attend a boat cruise on the Niagara with the group Bliss (SP?). The date is Friday May 24, and more information can be had at 855-0221. I just hope the ice is out of the river by then!

Probably a better one will be in late summer with the Imperial Court of Buffalo when they do their annual cruise. We found it took a minimum of 60 to book a Miss Buffalo cruise. No way we thought any more of that as a special outing for us.

Speaking of special outings, see the flyer that we received for a Niagara Falls outing on June 22. This is being done by our dear friends down the J-90 in Erie, Pa. I can't think of a better group than them for getting a party going in our neck of the woods after what they do with the Riverside Weekend in November! Which will revert to old time of weekend before Thanksgiving again this year. Which is 22~24th this year for those

of you who are calendar challenged. Start planning for both events. Depending on the response we might use the regular meeting place for gathering if enough are interested. As usual, call the hotline with any comments.

If you don't call the hotline, you may miss out on events that come up fast. The special meeting on Wed. April 24 is an example. A report on the meeting should be in here from Cindy.

We'll miss Denise and Jean they will be off to Detroit for the Be All. Hope they have a wonderful time!!

Hope to see you all at our next meeting, June 1, after that we have long period off, until July 13. The Niagara Falls outing will be a nice interlude between meetings!

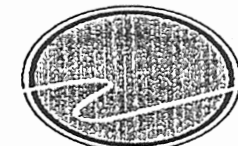
Kathy

ATTENDEES

- ◆ Denise N.,
- ◆ Jean H.,
- ◆ Janice G.,
- ◆ Patti J.,
- ◆ Holly I.,
- ◆ Dana B.,
- ◆ Joan C.,
- ◆ Kathy L.,
- ◆ Collean R.,
- ◆ Nancy M.,
- ◆ Cindy H.,
- ◆ Paula C.,
- ◆ Camille H.,
- ◆ Kathy T.

Currently we post vendors cards free of charge. This helps us to direct our members to supportive services. Please inform us if you know of a service or vendor who is supportive and would like to be published in our newsletter. As space allows, ads may not be posted each issue.

If repetitive posting is requested, fees will be discussed. As always call the hotline!



Reflections of Hair

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Buffalo, N.Y. 14223
837-1162

A full-service salon designed to fit the needs of men and women who want top-quality service at affordable prices. From head to toe, Reflections of Hair offers the latest in contemporary salon options.



Mark
837-1162

Reflections of Hair

471 Englewood Avenue Buffalo, NY 14223

NIAGARA FALLS OUTING

Sponsored by the ERIE SISTERS C D CLUB JUNE 22, 1996

The Erie Sisters Club cordially extends to all members of Alpha-Omega, Buffalo Belles, Glass City Sisters, Paradise Club, Rochester CD Network and Transpit an invitation to join us in a wonderful day at the Falls.

Our 3:30 rendezvous in the Falls area will be at the home of Janice Gnau, an ESC life member who has graciously offered her guide services to us for the afternoon and evening. Janice will lead us on the short trip from her home to Niagara Falls and will do her best to allow us to enjoy the splendor of the Falls while keeping risks to a minimum. She has also found an accepting restaurant for us, which will expect us to arrive at about 6:30. Reservations will be required, of course, and we'll be collecting a \$10.00 deposit from each person which will be returned when you arrive at the restaurant.

Please place your ten-dollar bill in an envelope (no checks, please) and write your name on it so we'll know to whom to return the deposits. We'll count the envelopes at Janice's and call in the reservation from there.

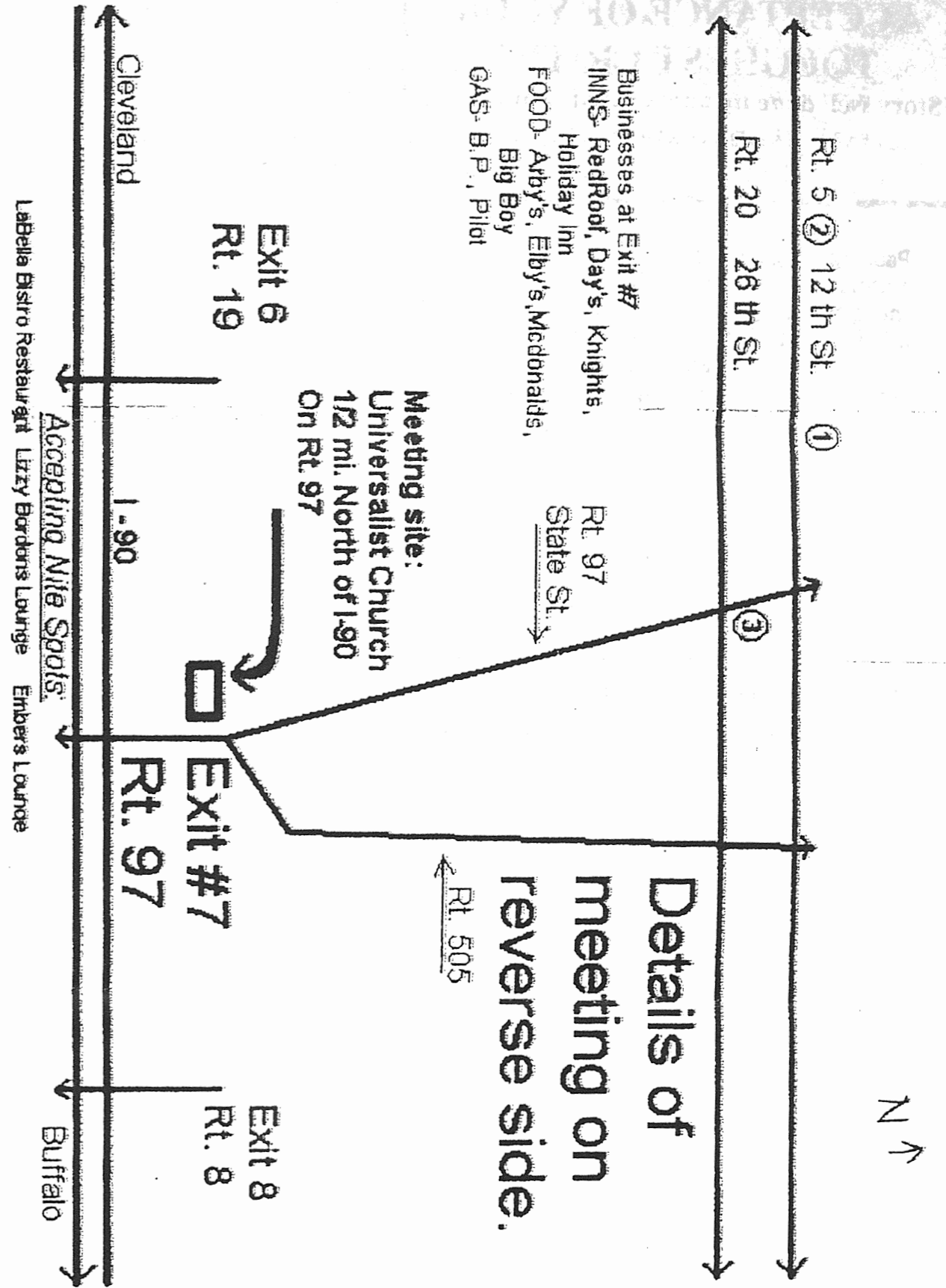
After dinner, we can return to a vantage point to view the Falls as they're illuminated by an ever-changing array of powerful floodlights.

Remember that the Falls produces quite a bit of mist which can be cool in the evening and cause some unwanted changes in your 'do. A plastic rain bonnet is a good idea, as is a light jacket and flats or sneakers.

If your car has a CB radio, or you own a portable CB, bring it along and tune to channel 22 to keep in touch.

Please be sure to mark June 22 on your calendar and join your sisters in what is sure to be a marvelous experience!

P.D. 5/5/96



GAINING THE ACCEPTANCE OF YOUR TOUGHEST CRITIC

(Story well done by president of News Brief,
Carol Ann Lee)

Pausing to glance at the title of this month's editorial, I can almost hear the burdensome thoughts may be running through many minds right this very minute. "Carol Ann must be talking about my wife! My wife never gives me any support! My wife says I look like a man in a dress!" Many of us (including myself because Joyce hasn't always been the approving and supporting wife that she is today) have been subjected to and have somehow endured similar derisions at one time or another. But, in all reality, she is not your toughest critic. The one person that can inflict the most detrimental wounds to one's spirit is the one person you may least suspect. It is the person you have placed your utmost faith and trust in. It is a person you see every single day of your life, actually, the first one in the morning and the last one at night. That person is the person who gazes back at you in the mirror.

The issue is self-acceptance. Although crossdressing, ultimately, can and does have a tendency to complicate and magnify the problem, self-acceptance is not associated uniquely to crossdressers, but it is woven into the fabric of life. No one is immune to a low self-esteem. I will offer a prime example later on. Every human being has blessed or cursed, depending on your situation, with the freedom of thought.

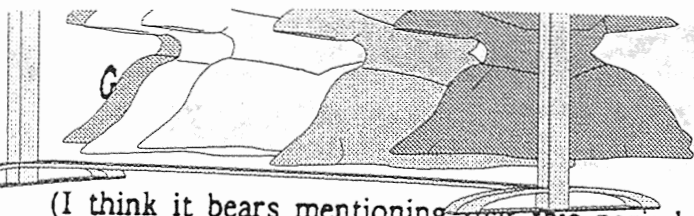
The most discomforting factor appertaining self-acceptance is that it can take the greater part of a lifetime to achieve. In the case of some of the poorest souls, even with help, it can never be realized. The lack of it can lead directly to self-destruction. The data on alcohol and drug abuse and the suicide rate will solemnly confirm this and most of those bleak statistics involved non-

crossdressers. So, as you can see, our valiant struggle is made all the more formidable. Not only does self-acceptance remain so illusive, it rarely, if ever, evolves totally and completely.

For those of us who have managed to "find ourselves," we feel a sense of hopelessness that self-acceptance cannot be administered. We do all we can to share our thoughts and support with others but, alas, self-acceptance must developed and nurtured from within.

The problem emanates from the fact that any given person cannot look at themselves with objectivity. It has been built into our psyche. While we can accept others without much thought, we tend to be hypercritical when dealing with ourselves. Many plastic surgeons have become wealthy over the mortal lack of self-esteem. It seems that one would have to be somehow, magically, conveyed outside of the bonds of one's own mind and body to have a view of impartiality.

I am reminded of a period, not too long before Carol Ann was "born," Bill squandered quite a bit of wasted time and energy in an attempt to controvert his feminine aspects. During this phase, Bill was a bodybuilder. (Ladies, this is an extremely poor choice of endeavors for a crossdresser and it is definitely not recommended for your next purge.) Bill consumed countless hours in the gym over the space of several years and had managed to develop quite a physique, according to his workout buddies. But when Bill peered into one of the many mirrors that surrounded the gym, he could never visualize it. That was until one day Bill was sitting on the incline bench, preparing to work his upper pectorals, when he spotted a great looking pair of arms in one of the oblique mirrors. Bill's initial thoughts were, "Gee, I wish my arms could look like that." You can't imagine how truly astonished Bill was when he came to the sudden and stunning realization that the arms he was coveting were his own.



(I think it bears mentioning that this period of my life marked the twilight of my only "purge" which lasted some thirty years. Regardless of all that iron-pumping, the more I developed, the more intense my secretly harbored desire became to put on a leotard and a pair of tights and join the sweet ladies on the aerobics floor. This does not even take into account how extremely jealous I was of just how good those lovely ladies looked.)

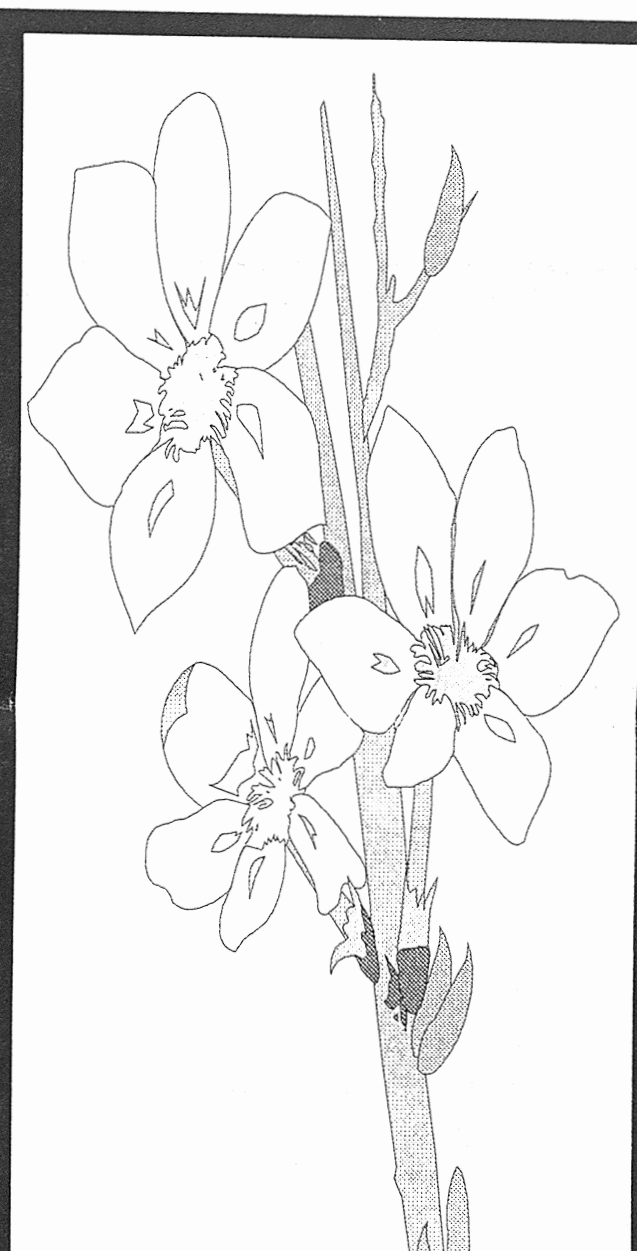
For crossdressers, self-acceptance is a much more acute issue because we have to deal with much deeper questions than mere appearance. We have to also absolve the intense feelings of shame and/or guilt for choosing to wear dresses. For those still "in the closet," the fear of discovery is always present. But, these are problems that are completely subservient to self-acceptance and will fall like so much timber should your opinion of yourself change for the better.

For those who have not yet managed the wherewithal to bring themselves towards the prosperity of self-acceptance, the image in the mirror may seem to be nothing more than an ugly, strange and depraved individual. You tend to cast your eyes downward as you cannot bear to look at that reflection. You are unable, yet, to convince yourself that you have been blessed with a truly wonderful gift of a feminine persona that could effectuate so much pleasure into your life. I know of what I am saying is true because I, too, was in that very same position for the greater portion of my life. It is a truly unbelievably wretched state to be in. You need to face that mirror head-on. Don't allow shame, guilt and fear to dominate your life because you are, in reality, a better creature than most. Your duality is a true gift.

As a chapter president, I know the sheer frustration and futility of trying to gently transmit even some of my feelings of self-worth into another sister's ethos. As I

stated previously, self-acceptance must come from within, but that doesn't mean that I will abandon my efforts. I will not stop trying. I know that, to many ears, my statements may seem like so much double-speak and filled with empty promises. But if there is one sister who grasps these words and wakes up tomorrow with a new aura of self-esteem then I can consider this little discourse a rousing success.

It has been said time and time again and bears repeating once again. If you wish others to respect you, you must first respect yourself.



GIRLS ON THE MOVE

June 1 - Buffalo Belles Regular Meeting

June 5 - 9 Be All You Want To Be. Michigan 1-800-879-2100

June 13 - 16 Spring Fling 96 in Provincetown Massachusetts (617) 891-9325

July 3 - 7 Transgender 96 Houston, Texas (713) 777-0909

July 13 - Buffalo Belles Regular Meeting (2nd Saturday of month due to 4th of July weekend)

July 24-28 Spice Conference -(for genetic females in heterosexual crossdressers relationships) (909) 875-2687 ask for Betsi

If you need more information call our Hotline and ask Jean to get it out to you.



WHAT'S YOUR NAME?— PATTI?—
SIR, NOSE JOBS ARE NEXT DOOR,
BUT I THINK YOU NEED MORE HELP
THAN THAT!

“A WOMAN'S GUIDE TO BETTER GOLF”

“I think we need to get the message out to women that it's OK to be an athlete. You can do other things, too, but it's a tough balancing act out here. It's hard to be feminine, trying to have your hair done nice, having long nails and then hitting a golf ball 300 yards. I mean, put that equation together. It does not work.”

Helen Alfredsson

