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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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VOL. II NO. VII

July 1993

Dear Sisters:

I'm back from my excursions, with still more to come, I do hope they do not interfere with the meeting dates.

I have reams of material to go through, some of which I will include in future Newsletters. You know about catching up when you've been away for awhile, some times it's fun and other times it's burden. One of the many items I need information on is the last two meetings. You'll have to fill me in on all the chit chat.

Due to the backlog of information I have, the catching up I have to do, and my restricted schedule at present, we will have little news from the main office. However, I would like to share with you a letter from Jane Ellen Fairfax, Chairperson of Tri-Ess Board of Directors, who I had a nice chat with at the Be All. This letter is in response to an exchange of letters about our chapter. The intent of including her letter into this Newsletter is to keep you informed of the national level advantages and to encourage our sisters into joining Tri-Ess if you are not a member already. Another nice newsletter was included with the package it's THE SWEETHEART'S CONNECTION, a newsletter for the wives /partners of Gender - Gifted Men. I do not intend to include the SWEETHEART'S Newsletter into ours but it has very nice articles written by wives to wives/ partners for any of our sisters who partner is a little resistant to the their dressing up. Please due consider a Tri-Ess Membership.

A bit of the feedback I got from Janice is an update to the "Gender Alliance", I don't remember if she distributed the letter or informed you on the activity that is occurring, if not I may include it into our next Newsletter. Also she said the girls would like to have a picnic, Marvellous, lets try for the July meeting date. If the conditions are satisfactory at the meeting place it's picnic time, you can dress up or down your choice. Everyone bring something for the Pot-luck banquet, lets say dinner at 8:00/ 8:30. At the present time, The World University Games being held around our area has nothing scheduled for Saturday. But uncheduled events may occur so take notice and try not to get tied up in traffic. Most of the activities should be over by the time we meet anyway.

On the back of this page is an application for anyone who would like to join The Society for the Second Self(Tri-Ess). I guess that's all for now , see you on July 10.

Denise

Joining the Society for the Second Self

Our admission procedure works on the Honor System. If you are satisfied with what you have read and believe that you qualify for membership, you should fill out the Pledge which follows. Send the Pledge along with the appropriate dues and your Profile for the Directory (send a suitable photograph if you like) to:

The Society for the Second Self

P.O. Box 194

Tulare, CA 93275

You will shortly be notified of your acceptance and will receive your code number along with copies of the latest Femme Mirror and Directory.

Membership Pledge and Agreement

I understand the purpose of the Society for the Second Self to be the assistance of its members in developing, understanding, accepting, and attaining confidence in the expression of the feminine side of their personalities. I pledge to assist, when possible, in the dissemination of information about crossdressing to the public in order to increase general awareness of this subject. I further agree:

To assist in passing on knowledge and understanding of crossdressing to others in the crossgender community and to the public.

To assist other members of the Society in handling their crossdressing related problems, to provide support, and to devote energy to helping solve such problems when requested.

To take part in programs, when possible, and to actively contribute my talents toward making Tri-Ess a successful organization - psychologically, socially, educationally, and spiritually.

To recognize that information about Society members, including real names, addresses, and telephone numbers, is theirs to give voluntarily. If such information is given to me, I will keep it most confidential.

To inform National Headquarters of behavior and activities which are against the best interests of the Society. I understand that my membership may be revoked if I am found guilty of conduct unbecoming to a member of the Society.

To acknowledge that confidential information provided in order to gain membership in the Society will not be revealed to any other than the officers of the Society, and only when needed for Society business.

In seeking membership I acknowledge that I believe in the full expression of my personality, both masculine and feminine. Understanding and agreeing to the above, I am:

Name _____

Femme Name _____

Name and address for mailing purposes _____

Membership Dues

Single: _____ \$35.00 per year

Couple: (includes sub- _____ \$45.00 per year

scription to wives newsletter) _____ \$20.00 per year

Associate: _____ \$500.00 one time fee

Life Member (single): _____ \$700.00 one time fee

Life Member (couple): _____

Individual subscriptions to wives newsletter are available for

\$12.00 per year. Send directly to:

Linda Peacock, P.O. Box 7241, Tallahassee, FL 32314-7241

Example to help you fill out your profile for the Directory:

JANE DOE

Anywhere, TX

TX-9999-D

Married

College

Sales

Protestant

Place picture here (Optional:
black and white reproduces best;
snapshot or wallet size preferred)

Jane, age 37, writes to tell us that she dresses mostly at home, but does occasionally go out to Chapter meetings. She reports that her wife and children know about Jane and are understanding and supportive. Jane enjoys music, art, history, and bridge. She and her wife are very interested in writing to other crossdressers and wives.

Jane Ellen Fairfax
Chairman
Tri-Ess Board of Directors
P.O. Box 1105
Alief, TX 77411-1105

May 10, 1993

Dear Denise,

Thank you for your letter of April 25th, along with the inclusions on Tri-Ess philosophy, your charter, policies and bylaws. Everything appears quite compatible with the policies and bylaws of Tri-Ess, with one exception I will get to later. I do very sincerely apologize for the lack of attention you have gotten from our national offices, but I am going to start rectifying that right now. It seems we owe you a lot of support and updated information. Please find enclosed a copy of our updated information brochure, and the Chapter Formation Kit. Nu Phi Chi is listed as a Forming Chapter in the Spring issue of the MIRROR, with you as contact person. Your first name and code number only are listed, as we do not publish anyone's home address. You should look into getting a chapter Post Office Box, either in a regular Post Office or in one of those strip shopping center places.

Thank you very much for the history of Nu Phi Chi. I now understand the time sequence. You seem to be doing quite well with your 30 sisters, and about 7 still in a secrecy situation. The lack of involvement of the wives is a little disquieting. There could be a lot of reasons for this. If you have any insights, I would appreciate your sharing them with me. Wives tend to understand the Tri-Ess vision very clearly. History has shown that chapters with heavy involvement by the wives tend to be the most loyal and enthusiastic participants in the work we are doing worldwide.

I am going to devote the body of this letter to addressing what you call "the difficult question", a question that threatens the long-term viability of Nu Phi Chi as a Tri-Ess chapter. In your letter you mention that a significant number of your members do not belong to Tri-Ess National. You say, "I believe there is a perception problem, a mental image of what Tri-Ess will do for them, and the money for the membership. Perceived value comes into question." In order to address this issue in detail, let's start at the beginning:

Essentially, Tri-Ess is a family-oriented support group for heterosexual crossdressers, spouses, partners, and family members. It is dedicated to full personality expression for gender-gifted people, integration of crossgender traits to make a happier whole person, the achievement of balance between the masculine and the feminine in our lives, and integration of crossgender expression into family life. Tri-Ess members are united in their commitment to educate society towards acceptance of crossdressers as ordinary people. We cannot afford to kid ourselves. Acceptance will not come on the basis of "passing", or fooling society into thinking we're something we're not, or promotion of a subculture or paraculture. Society tends to accept that which will make it more productive, viable, stable and happy. It would seem then that our gender gift, properly presented, would make us good candidates for public acceptance.

What, then, is a Tri-Ess chapter? Simply put, it is a group of Tri-Ess members, those who believe in the family-oriented vision for gender-gifted people as outlined above. It is a group of people who come together to make friends, enjoy crossgender expression, and work for the common goals outlined above. To accomplish these goals, members are willing to devote a small

financial commitment (\$35 per year for a single membership, \$45.00 for couples), and a certain amount of their time and talent, be it speaking, writing, or simply supporting their sisters on an individual basis.

The question of "perceived value" troubles me deeply. Yes, I am aware of the struggles of the late 1980's. The 1987 swamping of our then-small national offices by the avalanche of inquirers resulting from the first Donahue Show, closely followed by Carol Beecroft's severe accident and months of painful recuperation, and attacks by some selfish people upon Tri-Ess for being family-oriented, all combined to leave a legacy of bitterness which is only now dissolving. Let's look into that "perceived value". For reference purposes, let's take the maximum financial commitment of \$45.00 a year for a couples' membership. What do the members get for their money? Before I go into more detail, please find enclosed a copy of the Tri-Ess budget for the year 1993. Our meager resources are so efficiently spent that I am eager to share this budget with all Tri-Ess members. You will see, Denise, that no one makes a salary. In fact, it would be fair to say that several Tri-Ess leaders make financial commitments many times that of the individual members.

For the sake of convenience, I will divide into two parts what Tri-Ess provides its membership in exchange for its financial commitment of \$45.00 per couple. First we will talk about those values provided before the year 1990:

1) The FEMME MIRROR. This excellent publication is the communication device by which our members keep up with the doings of the organization. Provided in this magazine are crossdressing tips and a summary of the goings on in the crossgender community. The content is provided almost exclusively by our members, with the rare exception of reprints of articles deemed to be of high significance to all gender-gifted people. Of all the major publications in the gender community, it is the only one that would be fit to place on a coffee table or to show a new wife when educating her about crossdressing. Every one of your long-time Tri-Ess members should be able to attest that since Tau Chi Chapter took over publication of the MIRROR in 1989, it has been both timely and of ever-increasing quality. Its content is what Tri-Ess members make it.

2) The Membership Directory and Directory Supplement. This pictorial directory is another example of delegation of Tri-Ess services to the chapters, where the womanpower is. Last year Tri-Ess published its current Directory, and this year's Directory Supplement went out six weeks ago. Just as Tau Chi Chapter in Houston improved the quality of the MIRROR as it gained experience, so the Directory Supplement is a marked improvement over the first effort. We can look forward to further improvement in both publications with increasing experience. The Membership Directory is a literal lifeline of communication for many crossdressers in private dressing situations or in geographic isolation from chapters. The Mail Forwarding Service enables our isolated members to communicate by letter with one another.

3) The Holiday En Femme. This annual November event provides programs and opportunities for members to go out crossdressed, and to learn what is going on in the community. Not only does it showcase the hosting chapter(s), but it affords an opportunity from National for outreach to promote the local chapter.

Over the last three years, Tri-Ess has not had a dues increase. In fact, the last adjustment of dues was a DROP for couples' memberships from \$50 yearly to \$45. The following services have been added since 1990:

1) The Big Sister Program for one-on-one support for new members during their first year in Tri-Ess. It is administered by Pat and Shirley K. of Delta Chapter, Denver.

2) The Pen Pal Program. So often members in the Directory do not answer correspondence. This is a personal failing of some individual members, but it can cause a lot of pain and feelings of rejection. The Pen Pal Program consists of sisters who have guaranteed that they will respond to any Tri-Ess sister who writes them. In this way, feelings of rejection and loneliness are abated.

3) The Office of Wives and Partners Concerns. This office publishes the Sweetheart Connection, a quarterly newsletter for the wives and partners of crossdressers. It emphasizes Tri-Ess's commitment to the principle that the needs of crossdressers are no more and no less important than the needs of their spouses. Please find enclosed a copy of a recent issue.

4) S.P.I.C.E. (the Spouses & Partners International Conference for Education). So often in the crossgender community, wives and partners are only along for the ride. They come mainly in support of their husbands, but little is provided for their needs. Tri-Ess was the first large gender-gifted organization to admit wives as full participating members and elect them to office, both locally and nationally. For the upcoming S.P.I.C.E. Conference Tri-Ess National has put up \$1000, and has raised \$3500 more in the community. This landmark conference, which promises to be an annual event, is dedicated to integrating crossgender expression into family life, and to the building of relationships. Please find a S.P.I.C.E. brochure enclosed.

5) National Hotline and National correspondence outreach program. Carol Beecroft spends a lot of time talking with crossdressers and with wives who are struggling to accept them. Sue in southern California is personally responsible for bringing many crossdressers out of secrecy. She answers perhaps 200 letters a year from those responding to Tri-Ess ads placed in various other gender community publications. Often these are persons in need of a little encouragement and information, and reassurance they are not alone.

6) Dynamic new chapter development program. You have the "Kit" enclosed. This is updated every six to twelve months. Marlene, Director of Chapter Development, and I devote many hundreds of dollars in long distance phone calls, using a hands-on approach to help budding leaders start chapters where our members can go for friendship, support, work and fun.

7) Outreach tapes. Tri-Ess disseminates a "Welcome to Tri-Ess" tape which has obtained wide acclaim both inside and outside Tri-Ess. Tri-Ess has also produced entertaining tapes highlighting some of the Holiday En Femme conventions of past years. Another Tri-Ess-produced videotape entitled "Husbands, Wives, Best Friends and Lovers", a series of interviews with four Tri-Ess couples discussing various gender and relationship issues, is being marketed through I.F.G.E.

8) The Clarion. This periodical represents communication between the National Tri-Ess offices and chapter leaders. It usually includes an article from Carol Beecroft, along with updated membership data. It is hoped that with the passage of time, communication will become a two-way street, with chapter leaders writing in articles about how Tri-Ess can better serve its members and chapters.

9) A Press Packet. This is provided to chapter leaders who wish to obtain media coverage of their chapter or its events. This also is kept updated periodically.

10) Activity programs. Over the past few years Tri-Ess has developed a number of exciting programs and recommended their integration into all its chapters. Brenda Thomas of Tau Chi Chapter has developed Heterosexual Cross Dressers Anonymous (HCDA), a 12-Step program for recovery from guilt and shame and toward self-acceptance and personal fulfillment. Susan Blume has developed Boys-R-U's. This consists of non-crossdressing outings, and is an excellent way to make wives feel more comfortable in the chapter. It is also a vehicle promoting balance between the masculine and the feminine. Our Boys-R-U's program in Houston has been quite enjoyable for my wife and me, and we hate to miss an activity. Still another program was formulated by Pat and Shirley K. of Colorado for couples. At the beginning of the evening the couples separate to consider a predetermined topic. After an hour's discussion they reassemble and share their points of view. This has led to a lot of lively discussion and insight.

11) Perhaps the most important, however, is the work Tri-Ess does within the community of gender-gifted people. We have an informal Speakers' Program, and if a chapter wishes, Carol Beecroft or I will visit them. We have developed programs, not only for chapters, but also for large gender community events. Most recently, we went to California Dreamin', where we had programs on Children's Issues, the History of Tri-Ess, Christianity and Crossdressing, Putting Balance in Your Life, and Stone Soup (How to Form a Tri-Ess Chapter). Carol Beecroft is engaged in a long-running campaign to educate textbook authors and editors about crossdressing issues. If we are ever to achieve success in public acceptance, we must first educate the educators. Tri-Ess has been at the forefront of efforts to form a real community of gender-gifted people. This means a vigorous campaign to end the back-biting and internecine politics that plague us so severely. Not only is Tri-Ess a member organization within the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE), but it serves as the main voice for family-oriented issues within IFGE. We urge all our chapters to send representatives to the Congress of Representatives. Tri-Ess National and many of its chapters have ratified the Gender Bill of Rights (enclosed). We urge all our chapters to do so, and to notify Jo Ann Roberts (its author) to that effect. Her address is as follows: Renaissance Education Association, P.O. Box 552, King of Prussia, PA 19406.

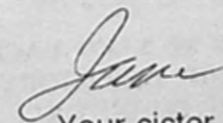
In your letter, Denise, you mention that your members are willing to pay \$25 a year for your membership. Membership services include "monthly meetings, occasional newsletter and/or meeting notices. Meetings are normally held on the second Saturday of the month in a secure environment, providing the opportunity to explore our feminine selves. Changing rooms available. Hotline to be determined." The question is whether they are willing to commit to spending \$35 to \$45 per year, for an organization that provides the following services: "Quarterly magazine, the MIRROR; Membership Directory and Directory Supplements; annual Holiday En Femme; Mail Forwarding Service; Pen Pal Program; Big Sister Program; Sweetheart Connection newsletter for wives; Spouses and Partners International Conference for Education; National Hotline; Chapter Formation Program; Outreach tapes; Press Packets; the Clarion for communication between National and its chapters; and, expertise on family-oriented crossdressing issues.

I can offer no apology for the requirement that members of Tri-Ess chapters also make a commitment to Tri-Ess National. Such a commitment is standard for most national organizations of which I am aware. Not only does the wide range of services seem well worth the financial commitment; but they are improving every year. In addition, for those in financial difficulty, Tri-Ess has a four-tier Financial Hardship Program. No organization can survive, Denise, if it is divided against itself. Eventually those not committed to Tri-Ess will form an obstacle to the development of the Tri-Ess vision, and to the development of its application to your chapter. Our ability to work for the common goals of gender-gifted people depends directly upon the financial commitment of the

membership. Beyond that, we have essentially no source of funds. Tri-Ess does not want to become merely a magazine salesman. Rather, it wishes to be in the forefront battling for our full acceptance as ordinary members of society. To accomplish our goals, each of us must do her share.

Needless to say, if any of your members wish to communicate with me or ask questions concerning Tri-Ess, I will be most happy to answer them. If in looking through the services offered, you see something that catches your eye, I will be happy to send it. Most of the information is provided free, but the tapes are \$10.00 each. I still feel that I owe you a great debt of support and information, a debt I will gladly repay in full. If you wish, you may share this letter with your members. They are to be highly commended for keeping their commitment to form a Tri-Ess chapter. If there is anything I can do to help you build your chapter, Denise, please let me know. Until I hear from you again (which I hope will be soon), may your every effort be crowned with success and every fulfillment.

Fondly,



Your sister Jane

TRI-ESS ANNUAL BUDGET -1993

Jane Ellen Fairfax

The Tri-Ess Board of Directors is enthusiastically mining the potential of the Tri-Ess family-oriented vision. As we progress through the 90's we will be developing additional exciting new programs for the support of our membership. It is our heartfelt wish that every Tri-Ess member not only become an enthusiastic participant in Tri-Ess, but provide us with feedback and sharing of feelings. In order, however, for you the members to provide knowledgeable input, you must be kept aware in detail of the financial status of Tri-Ess. To this end, we are publishing a detailed projected budget for 1993. This Budget was adopted by the Board of Directors at the November Holiday En Femme in Atlanta. As you can see, almost all the funds Tri-Ess receives go to the support of its membership and to providing your publications. No one draws a salary in Tri-Ess; the leadership is composed entirely of volunteers. We would very much appreciate it if you would share your feelings as to how Tri-Ess could better serve you. It is you the members who are Tri-Ess National.

REVENUES

1) 925 MEMBERSHIPS @ \$35.00.....	\$32,375.00
2) 90 SPOUSE/PARTNER MEMBERSHIPS @ \$10.00	900.00
3) INTEREST.....	1,000.00
4) SALE /MIRRORS (back issues).....	150.00
5) DONATIONS*.....	605.00
TOTAL PROJECTED INCOME	\$35,030.00

EXPENSES

1) 4 MIRRORS @ \$3500 EACH	\$14,725.00
2) MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY	4,500.00
3) EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR	3,000.00
4) MEMBERSHIP DIRECTOR.....	2,300.00
5) CHAPTER DEVELOPMENT.....	1,500.00
6) CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD	1,500.00
7) INFORMATION BOOKLETS.....	1,500.00
8) S.P.I.C.E. **.....	1,000.00
9) W.A.C.S. NEWSLETTER.....	500.00
10) BIG SISTER PROGRAM.....	500.00
11) TRAVEL	500.00
12) NATIONAL OUTREACH CAMPAIGN.....	400.00
13) HOT-LINE	400.00
14) PAMPHLETS AND BROCHURES.....	400.00
15) CHAPTER FORMATION SEED MONEY.....	300.00
16) TREASURER	300.00
17) COMMUNICATIONS	300.00
18) CONTINGENCY FUND	1,000.00
19) PAID ADVERTISING	405.00
TOTAL PROJECTED EXPENSES	\$35,030.00

*Donations: We have, for the first time, been getting a few donations from members and chapters expressing appreciation for the direction Tri-Ess is taking. These were about \$200.00 this past year (1992), and I would project that this may be a conservative estimate for the coming year. In addition, sisters attending the Holiday En Femme in Atlanta donated \$405.00 to fund a small amount of paid advertising, bringing the total to \$605.00. Donations to S.P.I.C.E. are also coming in, and have not been included in these totals. Many Board Members and other Tri-Ess leaders donate incidental office and travel expenses without compensation, as well.

**The S.P.I.C.E. Conference: (Spouses' and Partners' International Conference on Education) We should figure this money to be spent and not returned, although, if the conference is a success, this money may very well come back to us in the form of "seed money" for next year's S.P.I.C.E. It will be used to provide speakers, a baby sitting service and publicity. Since this conference carries the Tri-Ess name and logo it should be the classiest event it can possibly be. The respect this landmark gathering will generate for Tri-Ess will be enormous and we should be far ahead of the game even if not one penny of this money returns to our coffers.

The total income projection of \$35,030.00 is probably conservative but it is probably wiser to underestimate rather than overestimate potential revenue. As you can see, there is little, if any, "fat" in this budget. No one will be receiving a salary, some expense items are being donated, and money is being used in a variety of ways which emphasize support and education.