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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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Dear Sisters,

The June meeting got off to a slow start once again because of a wedding taking place. I guess we must arrive earlier! Blend into the guests and help fill out any side that is lowly attended. We'll provide the gist of gossip for years! "...did you notice some of the grooms Aunt's? Hope they don't have any girls..."

While waiting for the wedding to clear out, our resident explorer Jeanne, discovered a new element of our meeting place. It has it's own park!! If you go to the back of the parking lot, find the path into the woods. Follow it into the woods and there is a clearing with an open meadow and a picnic shelter & table. Further paths lead into the woods and need exploring further. Since Janice bills herself as "going where no CDer has before.." I guess it is up to her to charter these woods. But I guess with the discovery, the honor of naming the park goes to Jeanne.

Around six we were able to regroup and quickly we had another fine meeting underway. Attending were Jeanne, Janice, Rene, Patty, Collean, Frances, Jenniffer, Linda, Kathy, Denise briefly, visitor Martee, Jackie and entourage of Yvette, DeeDee, Chrise and Dennis, and our newest member Ruth. Ruth is recently retired and new to the area and going to be quite active with us in the future I believe. A special personal thankyou to Ruth for responding to my plea last month for help in fixing my razor's charger!

Also a special thankyou to Jeniffer for being thefirst to respond to my plea for articles for the newsletter. She has responded with an interesting article included in this issue. Come on girls it is hot out. To hot for any ladylike activities other than taking the time to sip mint julips on the veranda. While doing so take along a pad and pencil and write your story!!!

KATHY

Speaking of our meeting site, it has been decided that we will hold the picnic at our regular meeting site. It has what we have been looking for to great degree-privacy, conveniences, lovely setting and now we know, wilderness. The next meeting will be for planning. The date to set aside is August 6. I am bringing a crochet set. Rules in next months newsletter. Hopefully we will get some visitors from Rochester or Erie for this event. But more than them, we want YOU. Details in next issue.

Received a nice note from Barb (TP). She hasn't been to a meeting in a long time but wants to say to all and hopefully will be able to start attending again soon. Nice to know someone is reading these efforts! How about some of you other "No See Ums"? It would be nice to hear from you! How about a note, or whatever. I've always been curious about those who are members but never attend a meeting. This is a way for you to at least say hi to the girls. Not attending is certainly your choice. We all have been where you are at one time in our lives. We do miss you!!!

Another lady we have missed lately has been Denise Miller. She has been tied up with work lately. She did make it to the Be All in Pittsburg last week, so will have plenty of stories to tell at the next meeting! She did make a brief appearance in drab at the last meeting. Bet many of the sisters thought who is that Dapper Dan? I imagine many thought "haven't I seen him on TV or the movies???" And I sure miss your page or two for the newsletter Denise!!!

So its Saturday night. First day off in 12. Has to still be close to 90° at dusk. To hot to get dressed up, even though I have the chance and mood! Next week I'm off to big golf tournee for the year. So had to get this out a little rushed. Ladies it has also lately come to my attention that some of you are actually men. (Personally I don't believe it) but if so, and tomorrow is Fathers Day this cartoon is for you!!!

Katty



STEPPING OUT THE FIRST TIME

I've been cross dressing since the age of six or seven. Often I would sneak up into the attic and dress up in my older sister's sun dresses, hats, etc. As time passed, I found myself doing more. I relished in achieving the full look. Passing in public became a dream of mine. Its been with me since early high school. Last September (1993) I finally decided to do something about it. I wrote to four cd clubs and went to the meeting of the first group to respond. Yes, a club in Toronto was first! Off I went.

The people were very helpful. They helped me apply makeup - fully; and comb out my wig. (I didn't realize wigs needed to be combed, although it seems obvious now to me now.) Fully dressed in feminine street clothes, makeup, and hair, I stepped out for the first time. Everyone was friendly, and quite encouraging. Candidly, I was very scared, insecure, and, well, I shudder to say it, but almost paranoid I might meet someone I knew in my other life.

After the club meeting, several of us went to a local bar that welcomes members of the club. Riding in a car, for the first time, as my feminine self was a thrill and a bit scary. I felt that every occupant in every car anywhere near us was staring at me. As it turned out, no one paid any attention.

Probably the scariest part, however, was getting out of the car, walking across the parking lot, across the street, and into the bar. We passed a number of people. Most went about their own business. One couple greeting us and smiled warmly. A couple of doors from the bar stood a uniformed police officer. I gulped, and scenes of jail, cold steel bars, and not so savory cell mates dashed through my mind. The man in blue looked at us and said, "Good evening ladies." All I managed was a weak "hi." The rest of the evening went equally as well.

I'm writing this for the Buffalo Belles newsletter to encourage all our sisters to face the swarming butterflies in our stomachs and step out. Take the chance to explore the feminine part of ourselves. Only you can decide to do it. Many of the sisters and wives at the club will be glad to help you. I know I will.

- Jennifer Thomas

(4)

Telling the kids...

05/10 13/11/11 11/17

by Sandy

FROM
Circulating Crossdresser

Reading the Sunday paper has always been a delight for me. Especially the comics. And the ads-got to find those bargains! The Ames flyer of March 13, sure shows how far we have come. For in the flyer is a special pull out section of eight pages titled "Its men week!". In bold red print. So what do they advertise for us "men"? Pg. 1-jeans and sneakers, Pg.2-work clothes, socks and gloves. Pg.3-Tee shirts, workout clothes. Ho Hum how boring! Plod on however, as it is Men's Week-must be something I can use. Pg.4-Handbags, hoisery, sunglasses!Pg.5-jewelry, necklasses and earrings! Pg.6-girls clothing! pg.7-now they are arranging items in columns-Hanes page two Tee shirts for \$5 vs. two bras for \$14 or two 3pk of panties for \$9 vs.two 3 pks of jockey shorts for \$7. Socks came out even. It costs more to be a lady! Pg. 8-has all ladies clothing-shells, stirrup pants, blouses, and an ad for misses shorts-with the hairiest legs I've ever seen on a lady! arms folded accross a lacking chest. Like I said, this was a "Men's week special" so I guess Ames atleast knows what us manly men do prefer to wear! I guess we are making progress!

Kathy

CALANDAR

- JUNE 25 Rochester CD meeting- Salon
- JULY 2 BUFFALO BELLES Meeting-plan for picnic
- 6-10 Spice Convention- Chicago
- AUGUST 6 BUFFALO BELLES PICNIC!!!!The Ladies take to the garden
- 5- 8 Dignity Cruise 5 The last voyage, your last chance
- SEPT 3 Buffalo Belles Meeting
- 15-18 Paradise in the Poconos, CDS Services
- 28-10/2 Fourth Southern Comfort-Atlanta
- OCTOBER 1 BUFFALO BELLES MEETING
- 16-23 20th Annual Provincetown get togethr-Jan's favorite!!
- NOV 5 Buffalo Belles Meeting
- Erie Sisters get to gether weekend

A supportive spouse or at least an understanding one is probably essential at least for telling younger children. Try imagine telling your kids; they go looking for a second opinion, and find rejection or uncertainty. It is not a wholesome situation.

Is your relationship with your kids a good one? Trust and love are cliché buzzwords, but if they don't exist in a relationship prior to telling somebody, one could be adding fuel to the fire in an already strained situation.



A common idea that Karen and I encountered was simply that if there was any chance that kids would find out accidentally you would probably be better off telling them before. Accidental discoveries lead to feelings of betrayal. They leave young and old people feeling untrusted. And they leave kids focusing on your feelings of shame and guilt for your secret.

Our family sure certainly doesn't resemble the Waltons. We aren't perfect and we all know it, but we strive for open, honest relationships. I've never known a kid that didn't have some inclination to snoop through drawers and closets. It's called curiosity and it's healthy. Curiosity is to be encouraged with due respect for the personal privacy of others. But boundaries are sometimes exceeded, rules are sometimes broken. Lord knows I did as a child, I still do exceed guidelines sometimes, and I don't expect my kids to be saints, only to know the difference between right and wrong. The idea that someday finding my clothes could destroy the trust they have had in me for years, shook me. This issue more than anything else committed Karen and I to telling our children.

Another common point of agreement we found among the sources we used was that

younger children accept different ideas more easily than older children. Infants don't question attire the way that a young adult would after they have had years to learn biases and prejudice. Most people agree that the earlier a child is told their father crossdressers, the easier it is for that child to adjust to and accept the idea.

Of course there are overriding factors. Can you risk being exposed by little tongues? Can your children handle the responsibility involved in possessing privileged information? Have you learned to be positive enough about cross-dressing to present a healthy well balanced picture? The questions are many, and the answers must all be individually arrived at, since each of us is unique. Our children are unique and our relationships with them are unique.



Okay, so you've survived adolescence, finished as much school as you're going to, got a decent job, you're married with car payments and a mortgage. Sound familiar to this point?

Somewhere along the way you figured out that this crossdressing thing wasn't going away, that you liked it, and that it was good stress management therapy. Maybe even some of the guilt disappeared. You found the courage to share all of this with your Significant Other, and she understands you want to do it more often and more completely.

But invariably, these complications have come along called, 'The Children.' What if they find out? What if they find your wig and breast forms? What if they tell someone? What if they hate you? What if....

Whether or not to tell the kids is one of the most difficult issues that some crossdressers have to deal with second only to telling your spouse. Virtually everyone will agree that a spouse or S.O. should be told early in a relationship, but many people disagree with involving children at any time. A potential wife has the option to accept or reject a relationship with a crossdressing husband, a husband that children born into a relationship do not have.

Does that mean that children should be protected from the truth and the reality of who and what their father is? I am not an expert, but I have lived through a lot of the difficulties involved with starting and raising a family. I've learned how to balance the responsibilities of being a good parent and the need to express my femme side. Karen and I have agonized over whether or not tell our kids, how to tell the kids, and why to tell the kids.

The road to making a decision and executing was a long one for us. We met and talked to an amazing variety of people, digested and debated piles of written material, and compared many living examples.

We learned a lot and every day try to share it with others. Much of what follows here will be anecdotal, but the rest will contain comments and ideas that others have shared with us. I apologize to anyone who feels proper credit is not been given to original sources, but in honesty, I don't remember some and can't be sure of others. I hope all will agree this is important enough to share without a descriptive bibliography.

Please keep in mind that each of us are individuals with different backgrounds and different needs.

Each family has different dynamics and relationships. There will be no right or wrong answers or methods; only a sea of variables that we each have to build our own realities from. A solution perfect in one family, may be completely wrong for another. Finding our own solutions without judging and damning others is a challenge.

Although we weren't sure we wanted to tell the kids, we did want to desensitize them to the fact that there were Gender Dysphoric people around and that some men wear women's clothes. We found movies and magazines that dealt with men in womens clothes tastefully.

We watched Tootsie as a family in which Dustin Hoffman's character, Michael Dorsey, impersonates a woman in order to get a job as a female actor in a soap opera.

In Victor Victoria, Julie Andrews is a woman who plays a woman impersonating a man in order to earn a living as a female impersonator, was a little over the kids heads, but they saw the cross gender roles. Magazines with Boy George in them stayed around a little longer than some others just so the message that being different and wearing make-up were okay.

Transformations, a coffee table format book about Crossdressers and those who love them by New York City photographer Mariette Pathy Allen, is heartwarming and every story, though different, is loving. If written and photographic material is to be shared with others, this book is close to indispensable. Transformations is a book that remains out and is re-read frequently in our home.



A question that kept getting thrown back at us was "Why do you want to tell your children?" The immediate, but shallow answer was, "It would be easier to dress at home." That may be selfish but it might put a burden on your children to maintain your confidentiality.

That may be a lot to ask of others just for your convenience.

Your reasons have to be better than selfish ones. There are good reasons, and many of them. Every family and every relationship will have different qualities that will affect whether, why and when to tell people. All of these factors need to be considered.

One of the most important factors is communication. Where communication is good, problems don't occur as frequently and are more easily resolved when they do. Good communication will make the difference between answering questions with relevant answers or skirting issues. Good communication allows minor issues to be addressed before they fester and become major.

Jayne's Jems

by Jayne Newman



FROM Canadian Crossdresser Vol. 11 #5

Mona Lisa: Could she actually be a he? Throughout the ages, people have wondered just who this mysterious lady could be. Was she a lover of Leonardo da Vinci, her creator, or just an image of his imagination? Some claim that it was the wife of a merchant named Giocondo, but was it? Well, the mystery may at last be solved. One theory claims that Mona Lisa is not a she at all, but merely a self portrait in which Leonardo attempted to recreate himself as a woman.

Ridiculous you say? Well, he was once accused of homosexuality. [Editor's Note: several other sources claim he was homosexual] although there was never any proof and he was known for wearing flamboyant clothes. He once wrote that the sex act was repulsive to him yet his art is full of the celebration of the feminine spirit and his male subjects are quite often androgynous looking.

Leonardo da Vinci was an undisputed genius of the fifteenth century (1452-1519). Was he also a crossdresser? Quite likely, he was - You be the judge. (From The Pink Slip, March 1993, submitted by Lucy)

Clear Polish Coverup: Ever wish there was a way to wear nail polish all of the time without anyone noticing? Everyone's thought of clear polish, but it's too shiny and easily seen, right? Wrong!

Women's nails grow well because of estrogen and they can wear some form of protection also. In order for anyone to wear clear protection without detection here's how. Put on several layers of clear polish, three or four coats minimum, allowing all to dry thoroughly between coats.

Take nail polish remover and lightly dab over the entire surface of the nail. (don't rub) Before it can evaporate pat it gently with your thumb of your other hand until the stickiness disappears. Make sure the entire surface is covered because the polish takes the shape of your fingerprints and thereby distorts the reflective surface.

It very effectively dulls the shine and all but makes the polish invisible. You may have to practice this a few times to get the desired effect, but it's well worth the effort. (From Rosebuds, March 1993, submitted by Debra Berube)

Movie Tidbits: Jaye Davidson has been nominated for an Oscar as Best Supporting

Actor for his performance in the Crying Game.

Who is Jaye Davidson? Jaye is a pre-op transsexual who plays a woman and love interest for a black man captured by the IRA in Ireland. She is revealed for what she is when she undresses for a love scene!

Her paramour takes one look at him/her and goes into the bathroom to throw up. After his initial shock, the twosome are seen a couple of days later helping each other in a loving and caring manner.

This has to be one of the best kept secrets ever in Moviedom. (From The Primrose, March 1993)

When To Chuck Your Make-up: Since all cosmetics contain preservatives and other chemicals that deteriorate over time, it would be wise to know when to toss before trouble. Bacterial contamination risk increases with time and use, so in order to avoid potential infections the following are good rules to follow:

- #1. Throw out ALL make-up, foundation, top coat or under coat; liquids, powders or cremes after one year, sooner if the colour, odour or consistency changes.
- #2. Throw out mascara within three to six months, sooner if it thickens or clumps.
- #3. Throw out all lipstick, powder, eye-shadows, liners and blush after a year to eighteen months, even if the colour looks good.
- #4. Throw out all make-up you use when you have a cold sore, conjunctivitis, or other infection.
- #5. Never share mascara or other eye cosmetics.
- #6. Replace sponge eye make-up applicators often, or better yet, use a clean cotton swab each time. Q-tips make special cosmetic applicators which are inexpensive and can be purchased at most cosmetic and drug stores. They are sold in boxes just like regular Q-tips.
- #7. Tightly close liquid make-up bottles and jars.
- #8. Never add water to any make-up product

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unless the package directs you to.

#9. Apply all cosmetics on CLEAN and dry skin.

#10. Wash your hands before applying make-up.

#11. Replace your make-up carrying cases every few years.

REMEMBER - because we use cosmetics infrequently, we need to pay special attention to these rules! (From The Chi Tribune, March 1993)

Guys Are Nature's Afterthought: New scientific evidence suggests that being female may be the 'natural' body form, with a specific gene necessary to stop female development and create a male, according to one expert. Dr. Peter Goodfellow reported evidence that the sex-determining SRY gene he discovered may function in an unsuspected way that supports the notion that female is the basic human body form.

Goodfellow is with the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in England. That view of gender development is an about face from the one that followed discovery of the SRY gene by Goodfellow and associates a few years ago. (SRY stands for sex-determining region of the Y chromosome.) After discovery of SRY, some scientists speculate that the female human body type was a kind of 'default'. They thought females would develop passively unless all-powered maleness gene SRY stepped in.

Until the 7th week after conception, a human embryo may be genetically male or female but retains the capacity to develop into either sex. Goodfellow's new findings indicate the SRY gene may be a repressor gene that produces maleness by blocking events leading to a female body form. (From NWGA newsletter, October 1992)

Mr. Annie Oakley?: A supermarket tabloid shattered more lives several months ago when it reported the claims of historian Dwight Landers that Annie Oakley was actually a man. Landers claims that the real name of the star of Buffalo Bill's Wild West show was Philip Arne Oakley Mozec.

"He was a clever man who realized that he'd be much more successful if he pretended to be a woman," Landers said. "He was short and slight of build, but tremendously strong for his size. And he was a crack shot, an absolute expert with a rifle. As a man, he might have not seemed so special, but as a woman he was a sensation."

Landers said he examined birth records in Darke County, Ohio, and saw that Philip was born in 1860, but that years later, the name on the record was changed to read 'Phoebie Anne.' He also said that there were no local newspaper reports of Phoebie Anne competing local sharpshooting contests, but Philip plenty of mention.

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A Short Short Story

by Janice Gnau

When my friend stopped at the entrance to the hotel lobby it felt like a tractor beam suddenly came into existence. I had to enter a word of caution not to show the apprehension and nervousness that was obviously present. My friend was as skittish as a matter/anti-matter intermix chamber ready for a cold restart.

I quickly and quietly told my friend a few facts of life: we would more than likely be stared at, pointed at, and talked about. You might hear laughs and giggles behind our back that you immediately think is directed at us. Some of the more courageous (or so they believe) on a dare from their friends, or if they've had a few drinks too many, will come directly up to you and ask how you can make a public spectacle of yourself and what do you get out of this.

Before carrying the conversation or going any further into the lobby I ask the Prime Question. "Is this what you really want to do? Remember, you have as much right to be here as these so-called normal individuals. Not all the statements directed at you will be negative or derogatory, ignore the laughs since they could be for anything such as a simple joke and not directed at the way we are dressed. If someone comes up to you to try to instigate a conversation you could just ignore him or her and continue on your way. The IDIC philosophy covers what we are doing here and you know as well as I do what that acronym stands for."

The answer was a while in coming as I patiently waited but eventually it came. "Yes, I worked a long time on this outfit and this makeup and I want to do it. I have fantasized about it for the last two weeks, I see how you carry yourself and the way you don't seem to worry about these mundanes. How do you do it?"

"The only thing I say to myself when these new situations arrive is damn the photon torpedoes, ahead warp factor two. You have to factor in what you want, versus the worst case

scenario. If you want to change your mind, now is the time. Once we go through the door, you can't call Scotty to beam you out of here." I then asked, "Do we proceed ahead or do we apply the retros and back out of here?"

Eventually the decision came, as if dragged out of a black hole - "Make it so. Let's go," and all of a sudden I was left standing alone in the doorway. I quickly caught up and exclaimed, "I said warp factor two, not eight, slow down and take it easy." I was thinking as we went down the few steps and across the lobby how small of a distance this was to me whereas to my friend, it probably looked longer than a light year.

It was less than two minutes later that we entered the convention area and I didn't have to ask my friend any questions since the smile was all the answer that was needed.

While waiting in the registration line I mentioned that if the desire was there later on in the day we could make a trip to Wildside where we could remove these male science fiction costumes and I could put on my female uniform from the original Star Trek series and we could fix up a fantasy outfit for my friend and then come back to the convention.

I could see the thoughts going through my friend's head and the smile gradually coming to the forefront.

Footnote: The above story is not true although many of the conversations have taken place some time in the past in a slightly different context. The bottom line premise is correct; I have seen more stares, and have heard more laughs and smickers from mundanes at a Star Trek or Science Fiction Convention than from these same normal individuals at a group of fashionably dressed CDs in a hotel lobby. And if you are wondering if I have ever gone to a convention in the above female uniform, the answer is yes.

And for you non-trekkers out there - The IDIC acronym stands for Infinite Diversification in Infinite Combination of which I am one as we all are of this diversification and combination in this beautiful universe of ours.



CCDC member Janice G. and Commander Montgomery Edward Scott of the USS Enterprise.

"Why Lassie, did I ever tell you about the time way back on stardate 5928.5 when we were on our way to Beta Aurigae, and we get this distress call from Camus II? That's the time when the Captain, you know, James T. Kirk, got involved with a life entity transfer with the now infamous Dr. Janice Lester and her notorious cohort, Dr. Coleman. Sulu and Doctor McCoy thought he kinda liked it, if you know what I mean? Say, Ye not be related to Dr. Janice Lester by any chance, are ye?"



BORN UNLUCKY...

Giovanna Faneli, 26, lost out on her dream to become Miss Italy recently when she was disqualified because she was born a man.