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Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
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Buffalo Belles

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VOLUME III No. VII

BUFFALO BELLES

AUGUST 1994

The July meeting was without conflict this month! Seemed like old times again having our beautiful meeting place all to ourselves again! The weather was lovely, warm and sunny.

The attendance was downright chilly however. Only seven members and two guests shown up. This was the least attended meeting since Feb. '93. Which was probably pretty chilly also! oh yeah, remember those long winter days not to far ago, and not to far off I guess; as I have just received my first "Holiday Catalog" in the mail!!! Getting time to start watching for those summer clothing sales as the fall stuff is showing up.

We're not two years old yet, but our wigs are to tight. But we are learning (hopefully). We all became blond at once and forgot to check calendar before setting meeting date. A holiday weekend is not a good, especially in the good old summer time.

So call out the stone chiselers!!! It is time to uncast a meeting date!! THE SEPTEMBER MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE 10th. And while you have them there, you might as well have them change the January 95 meeting from the 1st. to the 7th. Otherwise we will stay with the first Saturday of the month as our regular meeting day.

Those who were devoid of better things to do this holiday weekend were: Collean, Janice, Denise, Jean, Kathy, Ruth and guests Linda and Greg.

Some of the regulars not attending offered the following excuses for their lack of participation; "Strawberries with Di at Wimbleton, "Summering at the Hamptons,..."gonna throw an alternator in the ol jeep and go down to Seneca St. and fight some..."I'm maid of honor in my sisters wedding..."just gonna sit home and sweat and drink beer and swat flies..."got me a case of those old kitchen matches, gonna take the boy down in the woods and show him how to pack pipes and blow things up..."I've nothing to wear...There it is my top seven list!!! I'm sure the guilty parties will recognize themselves and initiate litigation. So what is your excuss? Send it in and maybe we will have a Top Ten List like Dave! I could have thought of more but am saving them for myself.

She has been very busy the last few months with her job but does report that operating a jackhammer isn't the best thing for ones pedicure!!! Gee Denise, you could have just asked! I've been in stoop labor for years! Also a big welcome to Greg. Hopefully she will be a new sister after "checking" us out.

As happens each month, time went to fast, the pizza was gone and it was 11:00 and we had to depart into the night.

Kathy Lorraine

If you are a member or Tri-ess, with your latest issue of The Mirror, you received a questionnaire by Drs Bonnie & Vern Bullough. If not, and you like to answer questions about your CD life, copies are available at meetings. If you don't attend, and would like a copy, drop me a line at my address Kathy Lorraine, PO 361, Amherst, NY 14226..The Bulloughs are long time researchers into our behavior and resided in Buffalo until the last year or so.

Due to the poor attendance, we didn't do much planning for our picnic next month. We are going to play it by ear. We'll see who shows up and what they brought, and go from there. There is a big TOPS nearby and we will go get wheat is lacking. We already have a good supply of cutlery, plates and Jean's placesettings. Also have our Pepsi supply. A salad has been promised and Patty will bring along a gas grill (No frizzled wigs from an open flame! I'm dangerous enough to myself with light fixtures). So if someone brings a watermellon, another some dogs, etc we will make out alright. What is it? Aren't we around the 25th anniversary of Woodstock? We'll just have to share what we have. I'll bring the croquet set.

If you have any thing you wish to bring, let Janice know. She'll be keeping a list if anyone wishes to volunteer something special/specific.

Janice G. PO 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

NIGHT OUT IN BUFFALO Pt. II August 25 th

YES WE ARE DOING IT AGAIN!!! See Basrbra Streisand live at Melody Fair on Thursday evening at 8:00 PM OK maybe not the real lady but Jim Bailey famous Impersonator. This one we defintly need reservations for. Go as a group and get block of seats. Respond to Janice by next meeting or the 15th at latest. Depending on response, we'll organize from there. Who knows, maybe we wil get an F2M openig Elvis act!!!

I am sad to report we have lost one of our members. Kelly has left the area for Arizona. She was one of our original members and was one of the six who attended our first meeting just two years ago next month.

I have gotten to know Kelly better the last six months through several marathon phne calls, and a long dinner out in early spring. Kelly has left to persue her dream. She will be able to continue to work in her carear field living full time as a woman. She has moved closer to her goal of SRS. I am sure she is going to do well. I know she has all the support of her friends back home and we will all be pulling for her!!

Kelly left us a bequest! Since she doesn't need her old breast forms any more, she left them to the group. Those ol' hormones sure do work! My guess is that we should "auction" them off. I'm not sure of their size etc. but do know they are silicon type. If you are interested contact Janice.

What to do with the money received is up in the air. My suggestion is that we get ourselves a Post Office Box of our own. We have used Denise's since forming. As our size and fame is slowly widening, would we work more effiecently by having one address rather than the three we currently seem to employ-Denise's, Janice's and mine.? Any other thoughts by anyone on our legacy?? I know Jan has a different view on the disposal. We can discuss it at the next meeting.

July 23 Rochester CA meet. C A L E N D A R
August 6 Buffalo Belles Picnic!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- 25 Buffalo Belles Night Out II
- Sept 10 Buffalo Belles reg. meeting 2nd anniv. party
- 15-18 Paradise in the Poconno's
- 29-2-Southern Comfort-Atlanta
- October 1 Buffalo Belles Regular meeting
- 16-23 Provincetown, Ma.
- November 5 Buffalo Belles
- 10-13 Holiday en Femme-NYC
- 18-20 Riverside Weekend

A Retrospective by Janice

I'm writing this to try to correct a misunderstanding that could be coming across from some of my articles which you might have read or will be reading.

It might come as a surprise to some of you but I want to stress that I'm not trying to encourage, coax, persuade or promote any of you girls to go out IF, and here is the important item, IF you don't wish to do so.

Here I define going out as the active participation in mixing with the general population on such items as shopping, theaters, museums, restaurants, etc. I do not necessary include going out here to mean attending a club meeting or other functions which does not include this mixing with the general population.

Don't let anybody especially myself influence you on this issue. You are not more true to yourself, your feelings or beliefs, more feminine or have anything to prove to anybody by going out. There is no scale that exist, as some unfortunately believes, which states you are more of a cross dresser or somehow more advance if you are one of those that does goes out. There is no scale, ladder or hierarchy that exist for one to climb or conquer.

The only true scale that exist is what you might set for yourself. The only item there is to conquer is your own internal fear (although this is easier said than done) to do something you wish to do. Be true to yourself; to your wants, desires, beliefs and feelings and not to what you might perceive as anybody else idea of what is correct to do.

However just as you have no need to apologize about not wanting to go out I likewise have no need to apologize about wanting to go out. This is the way for me to be true to myself - Table for one please.

The article which you might be reading is the following one of mine that our newsletter publisher has in her files (it is also the last one she has of mine).

I wrote this article well over a year ago and it was not publish at that time. It is a short bio of my journey from my closet, to the time when I first started coming out, to where I was when the article was created.

That is the important item, it is my journey on my personal scale. I'm not trying to advocate this journey to anybody else, in fact I did certain things that I would try to talk other people out of (small steps are usually the best way to proceed). I did what I felt was right for me at the time.

And at the present time the journey continues.

Janice

I wish to especially thank and express my deepest gratitude to Patricia (Paddy) Aldridge, Veronica Brown and all my friends, acquaintances and fellow members of the CCDC (Canadian Crossdressers Club). Paddy and Veronica through Wildside and the CCDC generates a comfortable atmosphere that gave myself and others the time, place and ability to learn to accept ourselves and to meet others. They were also there when the time was right for me to expand my horizons and to explore the universe that exists for all of us. I firmly believe in my soul that if it wasn't for them the following history and seasons would not have occurred.

This history starts with the following quote "For everything there is a season and a time for any purpose under heaven."

This quote keeps coming back to me time after time when I dress. What has generated this season, this time and this purpose in my life? I wish I had the answer but that is an unknown to me as the reasons of why I do dress.

Though a life long crossdresser (since the age of ten) it was only two years ago I was so deep in the closet that I couldn't see the light coming in through the cracks in the door. It was only in my fantasies that I even knew that door and those cracks had to be there somewhere. What caused this changed of seasons from hiding in this cold dark existence to the current warm bright reality I am now facing and living?

There is no longer any apprehension about going out the front door of my house, day or night. I still waiting for my neighbor to inquire about the blonde who is sometimes driving my car. From being afraid to even look for the closet door I have gone out in two countries and five states. I have gone from the top on the CN Tower in Toronto Ontario to Mission Control of the Johnson Space Center in Houston Texas. From the whale watch boats of Provincetown Massachusetts to the floor of Rich Stadium just outside Buffalo New York.

I believe that closet door was located in November of 1990. While on a trip to Toronto I took the unprecedented step of going to a newly establish shop - Wildside, located then at 429C Dundas Street and advertised in the local Buffalo newspaper. Timidity (after walking past the door three times) I enter this specialty shop for CD's and was greeted warmly by Veronica Brown. I even went as far as trying on a

Medical Emergencies and the Crossdresser

By Joan Bridgeman

I was asked to write this article by a physician who is also a crossdresser. She seemed to feel that I was uniquely qualified to deal with this problem because I am a male-to-female transsexual who also has a seizure disorder. This has meant that I have been taken to at least six different emergency rooms while dressed as a female in six different cities. I hope that crossdressers will take the suggestions I am making here under advisement.

One of the most difficult problems faced by all crossdressers, be they transvestites, transsexuals or transgenderists, is the unexpected medical emergency which leads to a visit to a hospital emergency room. Often when a crossdresser faces this problem they often make a series of decisions which could be both harmful and self-destructive. By this I mean a tendency to give an inaccurate medical history and identification. If a crossdresser has a pre-existing medical condition this could possibly cost her her life. This could happen because if the emergency room staff does not have an accurate medical history, they cannot properly treat the patient.

There is another question to be considered; that is the payment for the medical services rendered. Many people have medical insurance and the accounting department of the hospital has to know who to bill. It is absolutely essential to carry some sort of identification so that the emergency room staff can find out who you really are and your insurance status.

Another factor is the medications the crossdresser may be taking to control any pre-existing conditions. It is absolutely essential that emergency room staff know what medication their patients are taking. Otherwise it can be very, very dangerous.

If you are taken to an emergency room it is best to remember the following rules:

1. If you regain consciousness in an emergency room, remember not to panic.

2. Give the emergency/admitting staff your correct name and address, not your femme-name. This is so they can find out your medical history and the name of your next of kin. I realize that in many cases notifying your next of kin is the last thing you may want but there are a number of legal problems involved if they do not have the name of your next of kin. If this is not done all they can do is just what is necessary to keep you alive. Anything else will have to wait until they have this information.

3. Give the emergency/admitting staff the name of your medical insurance carrier. This is so payment can be arranged and you can receive prompt treatment. In Canada you give them your Provincial Hospital Insurance Card. In any case you would not be refused treatment if you did not have it with you. Hospitals in the United States want to be sure they get their money before they treat you.

4. Inform the emergency admitting staff of any maintenance medication you may be taking and the correct dosages of this medication. This includes medications for medical disorders such as diabetes, epilepsy, heart disease, cancer and AIDS. If you are taking female hormones, include the dosage and your hormone regimen.



dress. I also did what I now believe had a profound change on my existence and reality, I joined my first CD support group, the newly formed Toronto Crossdresser's Club (now the CCDC).

That first step though appearing so large to me at the time took a long time to lead to the logical next step. It wasn't until June of 1991 that I let a bit of light into the closet by attending my first CD meeting/party with the CCDC on a Tuesday night. The meeting was only after having a complete make over done by Paddy Aldridge at Wildside in the afternoon. I never looked so good, it was an afternoon of looking my best and trying on a number of wigs and outfits. I was able to wear for the remaining part of the evening the last outfit and wig I tried on since I didn't have anything of my own to wear. There was only one other member present that night and of course Paddy and Veronica. I don't remember everything what was discussed but I do remember how nice and pleasant everyone and everything was.

They say timing is not something, it is everything. My friends have also told me that when I decide to do something I usually do it in a big way. The big discussion that Tuesday night was of the Donahue show doing a remote shoot that weekend at Wildside. In hindsight it is interesting in my reaction that night after being invited back for the show that weekend and to be one of the members in the background. ME!! Agreeing to place this TV on TV? You have to be joking. The joke might have been on me because by the time I left I was agreeing to be back that weekend for the show.

The fact that most of myself was left on the cutting room floor is not important. The aspect of agreeing to be on the show had the result of widening that sliver of light coming in through the crack in the door to throwing that door wide open. While I was still in the closet I could see there was a complete universe in the light outside and I knew it was only a matter of time before I stepped out to explore it.

That exploration began in earnest by attending Fantasia Fair in Provincetown in the fall of 1991. There was a few recon missions on going out to dinner or a drink with some of the other girls from the CCDC but these were only for an hour or two and never alone.

The ability to dress and live in a feminine lifestyle for over a week was like a fantasy come true. Provincetown was everything I could imagine it to be and much more. The weather was great, the people fantastic, the town and tourist.....

to conclude next month

Editor's Note: A friend of mine who is well known in the gender community, and who shall remain anonymous, was involved in an automobile accident. At that time, my friend was using water filled bags for breast forms. Occupants of the car included my friend's wife and another couple. Both males were crossdressed at the time. Another vehicle ran a stop sign at an intersection. My friend's car ended up upside down. As all occupants were wearing seat belts, no one was injured. The wigs, however, ended up on the ceiling of the car and in a sudden panic, my friend felt a spreading wetness in her chest area, not realizing at the time the water filled breast forms had broken. When the four reached the hospital, everyone's costume was put back together and they had a lot of fun trying to convince the hospital staff they weren't really women.

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June 18, 1994

Crossdressers Social Group
c/o Denise Miller
7954 Transit Road, Suite 197
Buffalo, NY 14221

Subjects:

Retail Store
Community Bulletin Board
Event Ticket Sales

Dear Community Organization:

Apparel Plus, Ltd. has opened its doors at 483 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo. Our location is across the street from Sweet Tooth. We retail alternative and contemporary T-shirts, greeting cards, gifts and handmade crafts. Please pass this information along to your membership.

We will be placing a Community Bulletin Board within the store. If you would like to post any bulletins pertaining to your organization or upcoming events involving your organization, please feel free to walk them into the store or send them to my attention for posting.

Also, Apparel Plus, Ltd. is offering a "Gay Central Ticket Office". If and when your organization is planning an event that involves ticket sales, please feel free to offer them for sale at our location. Since many ticket sales are only through bars or do not wish to purchase their tickets at the bars is being missed. By Apparel Plus, Ltd. offering tickets for sale, hopefully we will be able to capture that part of the community.

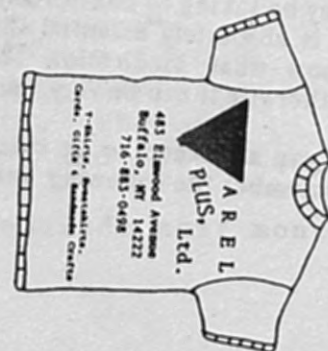
Apparel Plus, Ltd. plans on being here for a very long time for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgendered Community. Please feel free to stop by and see me with any comments or suggestions you may have.

Sincerely

Frank

Frank Ball
Owner/Manager

Enclosure



"The Store For The
Alternative Yet Not So
Alternative Shopper"