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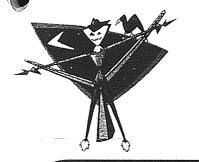


# THE JOURNEY

### NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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REACHING OUT TO THE GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY: WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO CONNECT? READ CAMILLE'S CORNER.



### FREE DRINKS FOR LADS IN DRAG

ENGLAND (SEPTEMBER 22) - Pals Tommy Marsh and Matthew Spencer had a night of free drinking in their local bar - by dressing in drag.



Done up as busty brunettes in high heels, they slipped into a Ladies' Night that offered free drinks for women.

They spent four hours knocking

back cocktails and shots - and even a few flirty blokes.

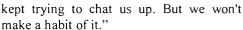
Bartender Gareth Murgatroyd later admitted: "I didn't realize they were really men."

A printer by profession, Tommy, 27, said he and Matthew couldn't afford to hit the town to celebrate his birthday. So he had a "brainwave" and got a pal's sister to lend him a silver-gray dress and leather jacket. She gave mechanic Matthew, 22, a pink-and-black outfit.

They spent hours shaving, padding their bras and putting on make-up and jewelry - then tottered along to the Travellers' Rest in Shipley, West Yorks.

Matthew said:
"We got strange looks at first, but then people started chatting."

Tommy added:
"We had a right laugh and having free drinks all night was great, even though fellas



"And I'll never moan again about how long it takes women to get ready."

By Alastair Taylor



FREDDIE WILL BE MAKING HIS ANNUAL OCTOBER APPEARANCE ON OCTOBER 7 AT 6;30PM.

Bring your wigs and hairpieces and watch him work his styling wizardry on them. It's the most well attended meeting of the year so get there early if you want to capture some of Freddie's magic.

Happening in November:

Miss Gay Rochester pageant is Sunday, Nov. 12 at the Four Points Sheraton on Main in Rochester (across from the convention center).

The CD Network will be getting a table, so please come and join us at this event.



CAMILLE'S

CORNER

### Are Trans Girls Stuck Up?

Through a series of conversations I've had with some members of the gay and lesbian communities, I have bee told that a common impression is that Trans girls are not very friendly to their the gay and lesbian brothers and sisters. This apparent lack of friendliness is noticed largely in the bars and clubs of downtown Buffalo.

This came as a surprise to me as I've always gone out of my way to chat with people in the bars and clubs and have made many friends and acquaintances over the years. What was my friend talking about? He provided me with an example that had just recently occurred.

He is a respected drag performer and was in *Secrets*, on Allen Street, to do a show. The show had not started yet and he noticed a crowd of about 6 or 7 T-girls sitting together at a few tables. Being the friendly sort, he decided to go over and chat with them before the show. Offering a warm hello to the girls, he was surprised to get an icy reception from the group. He thought perhaps that he had interrupted a private moment or perhaps they didn't appreciate his being as forward he was. He shrugged it off and found others to talk to.

But this was not an isolated incident. He told me his gay friends experienced the same type of behavior over the following months. Different T-girls, but the same reactions. Different bar or club, same reactions. He wanted to know why they appeared to be so unfriendly. I didn't have an answer for him. It bothered the both of us.

We, or some of us, are alienating the one group of people who are sympathetic to our community and are willing to assist us in our interaction with society. T's are in general, a fairly closeted group who need advocates to assist them in attaining some basic rights – the same rights that the Gay, Lesbian and Bi (GLB) communities have struggled to obtain for decades. We can't do it alone, because there aren't enough Trans individuals out there working to change the laws and educate the general public.

But before we can educate the public, we have to connect with the GLB community and educate them about who we are. And we won't be able do that when a simple "hello" leads to closing the door to friendship and understanding.

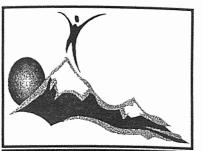
Many gays and lesbians don't grasp what it means to be transgendered. Some think its another way of doing drag. Others believe we can't acknowledge our supposed homosexuality, so we create an alternative gender, going so far as "mutilating" our bodies (through sex changes) to conform to the conventional norms of straight society.

But how do we tell them it's a gender identity issue when we don't talk to them?

The GLB community is struggling to understand us. And we, by our actions, are making it difficult to bring our communities together for the common goals of respect, equality and fairness.

The next time you're out and you have a chance to be friendly, please say 'hello' and begin the mending.





The Journey is the monthly publication of the Buffalo Belles. All articles and information contained in this publication may be reprinted in full by any non-profit gender community organization without permission, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. The material contained herein does not necessarily express the views or opinions of the Buffalo Belles, its officers or editorial staff. Contributions of articles are welcomed. The Buffalo Belles reserve the right to edit submissions for publication for suitability. spelling, grammar and/or length. Submissions or comments should be addressed

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### NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi Everyone!

I was sitting here with one eye on a football game and the other eye on a sales catalog, when I decided it was time to write something. Lucky you!

Our September meeting was a milestone! It was our 9th anniversary - where were you? Two of the original founding 'mothers' were even present. We should thank those who organized such a truly special group. We are provided with a place to go that asks no questions, but allows everyone to express themselves as they see fit. It really is a gift!

The September meeting with the CD Network in Rochester was fun - as always. I think there were more 'Belles' present than host members. Terry and Sue arrived dressed in identical outfits! They both looked great, but don't you just hate it when two women show up wearing the same thing. Thank goodness they're married or I'm sure we would have heard some comments. Sue did tell me that there was only one difference in their attire - Terry's shoes were bigger. I would have guessed bra size, but what do I know.

A gal named Nancy (no relation) spoke of how she started out years ago contacting other TG's via the mail. I found that interesting because one of the ways I chose to get out of the house (closet) a few years ago was to do the same thing. I used the Pen-Pal section of the TG Tapestry and also from Ladylike. I've learned a lot about how others deal with being transgendered, and remaining anonymous, so to speak, is positive. I have talked with a few on the phone, and about 5 sisters have spent time at my house in the past couple of years. I found out that what we have gone through in our lives only binds us together that much closer. That shouldn't be a shock I guess, but anytime I can confirm a theory I have - it feels good! Anyone who wants a safe outlet, and who likes to write - try it. There are a lot of girls on the WEB too.

I won't have a column next month. I'll be in St. Louis carrying on the old tradition of being a conventioneer so I will miss the meeting, but I'll be having a good time. I'll tell you all about it in November.

HELP!!! Someone reading this right now has the tools. and skills to become the editor of our newsletter. Help us out - step forward - we need you.

Keep in mind we are always looking for new activities for everyone to enjoy. You come up with any ideas, call the Hotline phone, and leave a message.

Take care.

Your sister, Nancy



Hi everyone,

Camille here. I'm writing to comment on an article that I ran in September's *The Journey*. This is something I don't ordinarily do, but I wanted to express my opinion about last month's cover article, *Thoughtful Advice* by Tina Marie.

It is filled with sage advice. In it, Tina points out that if any of us venture outside, especially to a bar or club, we must be wary of certain individuals who may not have our best interests at heart. The article's first 'rule' states "A lady never accepts a drink from someone she doesn't know." It makes sense at first look. But if that's the rule, how would you meet new people? Granted, friends can introduce you to new people but that advice rules out the chance of meeting a 'nice stranger'. The article goes on to mention in the next paragraph "...that if you accept a drink from a stranger, you are more or less saying he can expect something in return."

Not necessarily so. By accepting a drink, you are not obligating yourself to anyone. The person buying the drink is using it as conversation starter. This is one way of getting to know you and you getting to know him. If, after a short while, you don't wish continue the conversation. you are not obligated to offer any more of your time, or anything else for that matter, in return of accepting a drink. Women have been dealing with this situation for decades. They learn how to say no when necessary and mean it. That's something we T-girls need to learn.

Now go out and have a good and safe time.

And Tina, keep writing those thought provoking

~~~~

### SEPTEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Brenda H. Colleen R.

Donna S.

Jean H. Jo S.

Rebe

Kathy L. Nancy W. Rebecca C

Karoline O.

# Belles meeting activities for October and November

# OCTOBER 14

Ever want a really nice portrait of your femme self but were hesitant to call a photo studio?



Then come meet Jacquie of "Photo's By Jacquie"

She is TG friendly and has already taken photos of Belles' members. Jacquie will answer your questions & be available to take appointments at her studio or make arrangements to come to your home for a photo shoot.

## NOVEMBER 11

"SAFER SEX" **DEMONSTRATION** 



You will be enlightened, amused and surprised!

Mark this on your calendar. This event is not to be missed.

> Presented by AIDS Alliance

### KATHY'S **THOUGHTS**

Dear Sisters & Brothers,

Due to one of the lowest levels of a din ever recorded. I once more have been dragged out of retirement to bring you forth the news of the last meeting. Since there was little to report, it was thought that I might just be able to handle the task in my dottermentia.

We didn't have a great turnout for our September meeting. Why? Who knows, it is something that has long puzzled those of us in TG Mission Control. Maybe someone can chart the astrological signs compared to meeting attendance and come up with some correlation.

However, as often is the case, the smaller the meeting, sometimes the better. The nine girls who turned out, for this our eighth anniversary meeting were able to talk in more intimate way than is usually found at the more highly attended meetings. We were able to sit around the table and just talk for most of the evening.

The highlight of the night had to be the attendance once more of Jean. She had been missing for the last 19 months but a search by the civil air patrol had turned her up at some truck stop doing unimaginable things to her big rig, and brought her home to us. Jean and I got reminiscing about the last eight years of the Belles. Six girls were in attendance that night. Breaking new ground. At that first meeting, of the six, we still have Dana, Denise, Janice and Jean with us. Holly, Patti and I were also of the original members, but not at the very first meeting. Hard to believe so many of us can't find something better to do on a Saturday night yet!

We talked about different events we first held. The fledging trips out into the public for the first time. Events we used to hold, such as dinners at a restaurant, Melody Fair, or convention attendance. Perhaps our experience has made us too blasé today. Picking up on that, Jo is going to check into restaurants for us and set up a dinner out at an accepting establishment. It will be held on a non-meeting night, but probably a Saturday. Further details after the October meet-

Another thing, Janice and I were talking recently about conventions. In particular, the upcoming Erie Sisters Lake Erie Gala and why nobody seems to attend these functions in the group anymore. Y'all received a brochure for it a couple of months ago, is anyone attending? These are excellent events, for those of you who are still afraid for whatever reason to have the confidence to venture out. Give them a try. You'll have a ball.

At the October meeting, we'll be having a free clothing giveaway. And quite a few accessories, such as wigs, shoes, matching bags, and lingerie. Take special interest if

you are between a size 12 and 16/18, as that is where most lie, especially 14/16 area. Size ten shoes if I recall, but I'm too lazy at this point of the evening to walk down to the basement and verify that. Anything not taken that night goes to charity. The bad news with this is that we lost a wonderful member, who wishes to remain anonymous. All I can say is that she had good taste and will be missed. We wish her all the best in making the best parts of her life all the best.

Also at the October meeting will be Camille. She kept her word and took the last three months off; well maybe not off, as she is such a busy beaver, but not at the meetings at least. Consider yourself warned. She's had a few months to recharge her batteries and her energy is sure to rub off!

WANTED: Really, we need someone to become "snack girl". It isn't really hard, just make sure that we have the usual chips, cups, napkins and pop in the cabinet for the meetings.

### MANNANNANNAN

# STILL

INDIVIDUAL TO **ASSUME EDITOR DUTIES OF** THE JOURNEY

Camille will be leaving her position as Editor of the newsletter after the December, 2000, issue due to her outreach/ education activities.

This position *must* be filled.

Assistance will be provided.

Please contact the helpline or speak to an officer if you are interested.

### TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

# TRANSGENDERED HAVE LESSONS FOR SOCIETY

By Deb Price / The Detroit News, June 26, 2000

Men in dresses.

The very idea makes most people laugh and squirm. It jostles assumptions and turns expectations upside down. That may begin to explain why the American Film Institute recently ranked *Some Like It Hot* and *Tootsie* as the best comedies of all time.

In those celluloid worlds, Jack Lemmon and Dustin Hoffman show some whistle-fetching leg. And in the process, they loosen us up and encourage us to question our ideas about gender roles and identity.

More recently, the Academy Award-winning *Boys Don't Cry* told the gut-wrenching story of Brandon Teena, a transgendered youth whose sweet, unshakable faith in himself partially freed him from the female body that felt like a prison.

These films trigger conflicting emotions in most of us: We don't want anyone shoving us into a narrow pigeonhole that ignores our individuality; yet we like the comfort of thinking the rest of the world fits into clear-cut categories. Gender-bending forces us... whether we like it or not... to live with ambiguity.

Living with ambiguity... or, more correctly, celebrating it... defines a civil rights movement that is boldly shaking up assumptions in families, friendships and workplaces to encourage acceptance of people who don't conform to standard gender categories. Now in its third decade of organized political activity, the transgendered civil rights movement has only recently hit its stride. It has much to teach the rest of us.

"The goal is to let people be productive, to be safe and to be able to contribute to this society... and not be held back or hurt because of their gender identity or gender expression," says Shannon Minter, an attorney who aligned his body with his male identity through medical procedures.

"Transgendered" is an umbrella term that covers transsexuals (whose sense of themselves clashes with their original biological sex), cross-dressers and others whose appearance is at odds with traditional gender expectations. As in the rest of society, some Trans people are gay while others aren't.

Being transgendered puts men and women at extreme risk of being ridiculed and humiliated, being fired without cause, being kicked out of restaurants and stores, being denied housing and being refused medical treatment, even lifesaving emergency care. Male-to-female transsexuals are especially likely to be the victims of brutal hate crimes.

"This is a community of extremely wounded people," says writer Jamison Green, a female-to-male transsexual.

Yet Trans people are making real progress as more of the rest of us come to see them as kindred spirits battling fierce versions of old familiar enemies... sexism, rigid gender roles and violent hatred. As Minter reminds gay people, "You can't really fight back against homophobia without dealing with gender stereotyping and sexism."

Striking a special chord with those of us who're gay, Minter adds, "I don't want to have to hide who I am in order to be safe."

Trans people scored their first legislative victory in 1975, when Minneapolis protected them from discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations. Now, four states and 26 localities... including Ann Arbor, Grand Rapids and Ypsilanti... include them in anti-bias or hate crimes laws, according to "Transgendered Equality," which maps out the movement's history and ways to build on its successes.

California included transgendered youth in its 1999 "safe schools" law.

Lucent Technologies took the lead in the private sector, declaring in 1997 that it won't discriminate.

The breakthroughs of recent years are going to multiply because major employers and society are becoming more familiar with... and thus less threatened by... Trans people. "We're at a critical point. So many more people are willing to be relaxed and allow others to be who they are," Green says.

People in rewarding lives. Isn't that the universal goal?

# FARMERS IN DRAG? IN NEBRASKA??

That's right. And if you have access to the Internet, fire up your browser and check out the National Public Radio audio report by Meghan Daum about interesting fashion choices of some farmers in Nebraska

Go to:

www.npr.org/programs/morning/

- Click on archives
- Click on September, 2000
- Click on September 6
- Click on "Meghan Daum on Nebraska Farmers" (next to last item on page)
- Enjoy!

# TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

# HISTORIAN BRINGS EX-FIRST LADY TO LIFE

### Man dresses as Florence Harding

CANTON, Ohio (AP) - Florence Kling Harding was the first woman to vote for her husband in a presidential election. She enjoyed entertaining at the White House. And she loved to wear black.



Craig Schermer knows her style well: nose-pinching spectacles, a black choker, white blouse, black jacket and a long black skirt with matching heels, gloves and hat. Dressed as the first lady of the early 1920s, he recently guided about a dozen women through the Saxton McKinley House, which houses the National First Ladies' Library.

Not only is Schermer, 52, tonsidered an expert at the library located in the

former family home of President William McKinley's wife, Ida - he portrays several women whose lives are documented there.

Schermer impersonates about 10 first ladies, including Lucretia Garfield, Ida McKinley and Helen Taft, earning as much as \$150 when he gives library tours.

"He has a following. We absolutely love him," said Mary Anne Wittich, who coordinates senior citizen bus trips to the museum. "He immerses himself in the characters. If you listen to him lecture, you can almost feel it in the air."

Schermer became enamored with first ladies as a boy growing up in the Cleveland suburb of University Heights when he saw a photo of Abraham Lincoln's wife.

"When I was 8 years old, I fell in love with Mary Lincoln," he said. "I read my first adult biography of her."

Schermer, a history student at John Carroll University in Cleveland in the 1970s, started collecting photos, autographs and other first lady memorabilia about 15 years ago. He has lent much of his collection and about 400 books to the library.

In 1977, he joined the Brigade of the American Revolution and participated in re-enactments as a British soldier. He gave

speeches to students and social organizations about the war and historical figures, including first ladies. But it wasn't originally his idea to actually dress as a president's wife.

"With my mother's help, I sort of came on to doing this sort of thing," Schermer said.

His mother, who died in 1998, suggested that her son use his expertise to impersonate first ladies. She taught him to apply makeup, and accompanied him when he purchased his first costume: a high-necked, long-sleeved black silk dress similar to what Florence Harding once wore.

His debut performance was in 1993 for a women's church group in Cleveland Heights.

"That was the first time I had a man walk into the men's room and say, 'Excuse me ma'am, but I think you're in the wrong room,'" Schermer said.

Above all, Schermer strives for authenticity. During a tour Wednesday, he demanded to be addressed as Mrs. Harding and only allowed references to himself in the third person.

Pat Krider, executive director of the National First Ladies' Library, said Schermer is her main source when researching first ladies. She considers his characterizations a bonus.

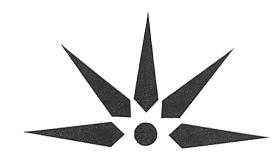
"At first it's strange," she said. "But if you let your mind go, it's really interesting. When theater first started, men performed all the parts."

All of Schermer's first lady characters have been outfitted by Shirley Wolf, owner of Stitches in Time, a vintage and antique clothing store.

"I thought it was great," she said. "It's not strange - not in my business. I thought what he was doing was wonderful because it's educational. It's entertaining, yes, but you're learning something. I find his program fascinating because he has a wealth of knowledge."

Schermer said his hearing - not his gender - presents the toughest obstacle in portraying presidents' wives. He wears two hearing aids and relies upon lip reading to understand people's questions.

He said he hopes to add Grace Coolidge, who taught the deaf, to his repertoire "when I find the right dress."





# FASHION, STYLE ... AND YOU





### HOSIEKY

Here are some hosiery facts to file away in your mind's miscellaneous file , from none other than the Hosiery Partnership for Consumer Education:

- Average number of wearings from a pair of sheers: 8.
- Most notorious monarch to wear pantyhose: King Henry VIII.
- State that produces half of all U.S. hosiery: North Carolina.
- Strangest myths for making pantyhose last longer: Freezing. Rinsing in salt
- Most successful method for making hosiery last longer: Carefully pulling them on and off.

### SHOES

When shopping for shoes, try shopping later in the day when your feet have swollen a little from daily life. This way, your shoes should fit well.

### COMMON MAKEUP MISTAKES

### 1. Lip Liner Showing

Coordinate your lip pencil and color. Smudge inward so pencil lines "disappear" under lip color. Apply lip color to completely cover lips.

#### 2. Misapplied Blush

Sweep blush from the top of cheekbone to the temple. Soften and blend.

### 3. Makeup Mask

Match your foundation to your skin tone at the base of your neck. Carefully blend with sponge to prevent lines of demarcation.

#### 4. White Browbones

Eyeshadow should lighten as it reaches the brow. Blend so there are no definite lines of color.

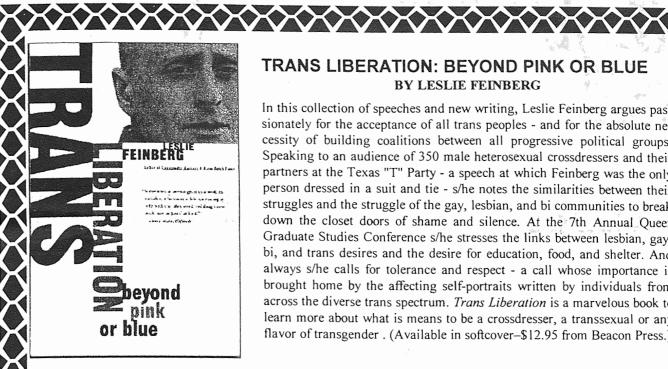
#### 5. Unblended Liner

Soften eyeliner with a cotton swab, sponge or fingertip.

### 6. Harsh, Unblended Makeup

There should be no obvious lines where color ends. The key to perfect makeup is to blend, blend, blend.

### MIND EXPANSION OPPORTUNITIES:



### TRANS LIBERATION: BEYOND PINK OR BLUE BY LESLIE FEINBERG

In this collection of speeches and new writing, Leslie Feinberg argues passionately for the acceptance of all trans peoples - and for the absolute necessity of building coalitions between all progressive political groups. Speaking to an audience of 350 male heterosexual crossdressers and their partners at the Texas "T" Party - a speech at which Feinberg was the only person dressed in a suit and tie - s/he notes the similarities between their struggles and the struggle of the gay, lesbian, and bi communities to break down the closet doors of shame and silence. At the 7th Annual Oueer Graduate Studies Conference s/he stresses the links between lesbian, gay, bi, and trans desires and the desire for education, food, and shelter. And always s/he calls for tolerance and respect - a call whose importance is brought home by the affecting self-portraits written by individuals from across the diverse trans spectrum. Trans Liberation is a marvelous book to learn more about what is means to be a crossdresser, a transsexual or any flavor of transgender. (Available in softcover-\$12.95 from Beacon Press.)

The following letter was sent to radio and television talk show host, Dr. Laura, and is meant to show that when you use the bible as justification for your bigotry it can lead to other problematic questions.

Dear Dr. Laura,

Thank you for doing so much to educate people regarding God's law. I have learned a great deal from you, and I try to share that knowledge with as many people as I can. When someone tries to defend the homosexual lifestyle, for example, I simply remind him that Leviticus 18:22 clearly states it to be an abomination. End of debate. I do need some advice from you, however, regarding some of the specific laws and how to best follow them.

When I burn a bull on the altar as a sacrifice, I know it creates a pleasing odor for the Lord (Lev. 1:9). The problem is my neighbors. They claim the odor is not pleasing to them. How should I deal with this?

I would like to sell my daughter into slavery, as it suggests in Exodus 21:7. In this day and age, what do you think would be a fair price for her?

I know that I am allowed no contact with a woman while she is in her period of menstrual uncleanliness (Lev. 15:19-24). The problem is, how do I tell? I have tried asking, but most women take offense.

Lev. 25:44 states that I may buy slaves from the nations that are around us. A friend of mine claims that this applies to Mexicans but not Canadians. Can you clarify?

I have a neighbor who insists on working on the Sabbath. Exodus 35:2 clearly states he should be put to death. Am I morally obligated to kill him myself?

A friend of mine feels that even though eating shellfish is an abomination (Lev. 10:10), it is a lesser abomination than homosexuality. I don't agree. Can you settle this?

Lev. 20:20 states that I may not approach the altar of God if I have a defect in my sight. I have to admit that I wear reading glasses. Does my vision have to be 20/20, or is there some wiggle room here?

know you have studied these things extensively, so I am confident you can help. Thank you again for reminding us that God's word is eternal and unchanging.



COMING EVENTS



DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE CHANGES, CALL TO VERIFY THE TIME AND PLACE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 5 – 8 4th INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS ON CROSSDRESSING,

SEX & GENDER, Philadelphia, PA (info: 610-975-9119)

GCTOBER 7 ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm

OCTOBER 12–15 FALL HARVEST 2000

St. Louis, Missouri (info: www.transgender.org/stlgf/FH2000.html)

OCTOBER 14 BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm

OCTOBER 18 – 25 FANTASIA FAIR

Provincetown, Massachusetts

OCTOBER 21 LESBIAN & GAY DANCE - 9:00pm - 2:00am

Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St, Buffalo (\$2 donation)

Trans people are welcome!

NOVEMBER 4 ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm

NOVEMBER 11 BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm

NOVEMBER 9 – 12 WESTERN BELLES ROUNDUP 2000

Milford (The Poconos), Pennsylvania

(info: 810-286-6214; www.bobbiswan.com/dude)

NOVEMBER 16-19 LAKE ERIE GALA 2000

Erie, Pennsylvania (info: www.geocities.com/wellesley/1614)

DECEMBER 2 ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm

DECEMBER 16 BUFFALO BELLES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00pm

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The greatest risk is not taking one.