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11-2000

### November 2000

Buffalo Belles

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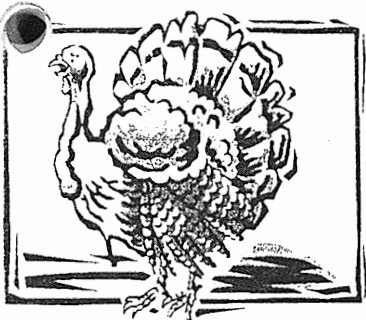


# THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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ATTENDED A HALLOWEEN EVENT THAT WAS FUN OR UNUSUAL?

OR HAVE A FIRST-TIME OUT STORY TO TELL?

THE JOURNEY IS ACCEPTING ARTICLES - SHORT OR LONG, OF YOUR EXPERIENCE. CONTACT CAMILLE & LET HER KNOW YOU'D LIKE TO SHARE THAT ADVENTURE.

## My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference

A Daily Journal by Tina Marie

I'd been planning this for over 6 months and it was about to pay off. We were going to the Southern Comfort Conference (SCC) in Atlanta and we were doing this for 5 straight days of being totally Tina and Patti. The longest time I had done this before was 2 1/2 days and I was very excited about this.

After a week of packing and getting things ready we were off. I had 2 suitcases and a carry-on bag with my life in them. I had sent down 2 boxes ahead of me with things I couldn't pack and would take up too much room on the plane. These were my hat for a Victorian outfit I had been putting together for 6 months and a few pair (10 actually) of shoes. I also had 4 pair with me in my suitcase just in case the boxes didn't make it. I would have been heartbroken if my hat didn't get there, but it all made it in good shape.

### Day 1:

It was Wednesday and my morning started at 7:15 with a shower, breakfast, and getting dressed. I picked out a pair of black slacks, a nice top & sweater and a pair of 1 1/2" heeled shoes. This was for all the walking I knew we were about to do, but this would end up to be a bad thing. I couldn't wear a corset because of the X-ray machine, so I wrapped Saran Wrap around my stomach and then wrapped duct tape around this. This worked OK, except I found out later that the edge of the tape was on my skin and left a red welt that lasted over a week. I had to wait to pack the last few things until I was all put together. Did I tell you that I was very nervous about this trip?

*(Continued on page 7)*

## Gala Opening of TGDreams

By Bobbi Swan

I received an invitation to attend the Gala Opening of the new TGDreams facility in London, Ontario for the weekend of September 9, 2000. Announcements had been sent earlier and a new website had been created that had already caught my attention. Here was a facility that advertised a hotel totally equipped with all TG services located in an alternative life style friendly environment. It sounded too good to be true and located in London, a small city in Ontario I'd often driven by crossing Canada halfway on my way to Buffalo from Detroit.

I was determined to visit and see for myself when a phone call from Michelle, the very beautiful founder who was kind enough to reserve a room for me over the weekend. I was soon to find this "Dream" of hers was all it was advertised to be -- and in my eyes a lot more than I had hoped for.

My biggest surprise was to find that this TG facility was equipped with rooms, restaurant, night club and bar along with makeover services and even the beginnings of a boutique. This was all just as advertised extolling over 5,000 sq. ft. of space -- for the twelve suites and dining room on the top floor and a good 1,500 sq. ft. saloon underneath - again all self contained for the TG scene. Now to me, that was a dream in itself.

My invitation included dinner on Friday night and off I went dressed for the weekend and passing Customs and Immigration at the border with no trouble at all. Bob, the bartender and 'jack of all trades' met me and helped me up the stairs where I was checked in by Susan who doubled as the cook and was settled into my private room. Michelle was waiting for me at the large dining table where I could select my choice from a generous menu with most reasonable prices.

*(Continued on page 6)*



## CAMILLE'S CORNER

During the last few years, I have immersed myself into a variety of activities that I enjoyed or interested me: writing; outreach; education; counseling; public speaking. I feel great and energized doing these endeavors. But I was not paying attention to a certain part of me – my spiritual side.

Having been brought up Catholic, I became disenchanted with organized religion shortly after leaving high school. I had many questions: Who is God? Does He/She exist? Do we really have a soul? I didn't find answers to these and other questions, so I got involved with life and ignored anything that had to do with religion. Occasionally I dabbled in various kinds of spiritualism (Buddhism, Scientology), but never connected with a higher power or found them spiritually uplifting.

Years later when I fully embraced my feminine side, I thought I was on the way to becoming a 'whole' person. But there was still something missing and I wasn't sure what it was.

Then this past summer, I had the opportunity to talk with an interesting woman at small party I attended en femme. We discussed many topics. One that held my inter-

est was the need for spiritual enrichment in our lives. It was something I felt I was ignoring. Before the evening was over, I had accepted her invitation to attend a service at her church. She assured me that attending en femme would not be a problem.

So a week later, I found myself in church, sitting with a few people that she had introduced me to, taking in a life and spirit affirming service. Afterwards, I attended a small after-church 'coffee hour' and met some very nice people who encouraged me to return the following week. I enjoyed their warm welcome and acceptance.

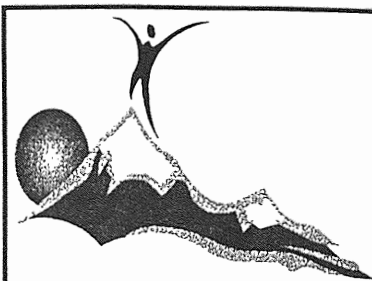
After attending a few more services, I decided to join the congregation. I even sat for a photo portrait to be included in their member directory.

The name of this church? It should come as no surprise to Belles who attend our monthly meetings: The Unitarian Universalist Church. (I attend at the city location at Elmwood Ave. and W. Ferry.)

Why have I informed you of this? Some of you have told me you are looking for an accepting church or house of worship, after getting a cold shoulder from your own congregation about attending en femme. The Unitarians truly practice their belief that everyone deserves recognition and acceptance.

If you feel you are in need of either or wish to enrich your spirit, please contact me for more information. Not interested? Then just enjoy the fact that there are large groups of people out there who do accept the Trans community.

That truth itself is enriching.



**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 to:

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## Ban of Crossdressing Student Voided

BROCKTON, Mass. (AP) — A 15-year-old boy who was barred from school for wearing girls' clothing, including padded bras, wigs and high heels, can return to class, a lesbian judge ruled. The student, identified in court records as "Pat Doe," can also wear any clothing or accessories that any other male or female student may wear, Judge Linda Giles said Wednesday.

South Junior High School had forbidden the boy to attend school in female dress, calling it disruptive. A school attorney said the student upset parents and students and led to confrontations with classmates.

The student was suspended three times for using the girls' restroom after being warned not to.

The school referred him to a therapist, who in 1999 diagnosed him with gender identity disorder. The therapist said requiring him to wear boys' clothing could harm his mental health.

On Wednesday, the judge ruled the prohibition amounts to "the stifling of a person's selfhood merely because it causes some members of the community discomfort." Giles earlier refused a request by the school to take herself off the case because of her sexual orientation.

## Doors.. .Doors.. .Doors

What is it about a door that  
welcomes us or excludes us?

The doors I needed opened were sometimes  
closed just moments before I arrived,  
and no one would hear  
my pleas for compassion,  
or for mercy.

Other doors, doors of opportunity, I  
sometimes have raced towards

only to find that to make my  
way in I had to wedge a foot in it  
and refuse to give in, or, rather, give up.

And other doors, doors that I needed to exit,  
were locked from the outside.... outside.

Searching for a way to leave, locked in against my  
will

I struggled against that door, convinced that  
it was the only way out to a safer harbor  
from this island of bigotry.

Until, that is, I became aware  
that my room had within its walls,  
a window,

and unfolding my bruised wings, finally allowed  
my spirit to take its flight and transcend  
through my window of  
opportunity.

Andy Miller 10/23/2000

## NANCY'S



## PERSPECTIVE

Hi Belles,

I know, I said you would not see my column in the November issue. Well, after reading the October edition I couldn't help myself.

I was at the Fall Harvest 2000 in St. Louis on Oct. 14th so missed our meeting. I really wish I had been there so I could have welcomed Camille back, and perhaps bought her a drink. If you come to the November meeting on the 11th, I'll fill you in on the Fall Harvest.

Camille's Corner raised an interesting point last month. Why is it we tend to shy away from gay & lesbian brothers and sisters? I've never had a problem, but I do understand why this happens, to some extent. We are by nature a closeted group, but whenever we're out in a public setting it really is in our best interests to accept others. After all, who are we to pass judgement. Making friends only helps us take steps forward in our own journey through life.

A dear friend of mine recently described a TG girlfriend of hers as having a dual personality as opposed to a split personality. I agree with that observation as defined by my friend. She says that the male deep inside of us maintains control over the female side of our personality when we choose to express ourselves as women. This may help explain why we shy away when approached by a gay or lesbian person when we're out in public just being a girl. Dump those thoughts, and remember we're all in the same boat. Sure, some would say that gay and lesbian folks have a sexuality thing going while we have a gender identity crisis - doesn't matter in the long run. If we want to expand our horizons we have to acknowledge that all people are different - it doesn't matter who they are.

Take care.

Your sister,  
Nancy

## TELEVISION ALERT

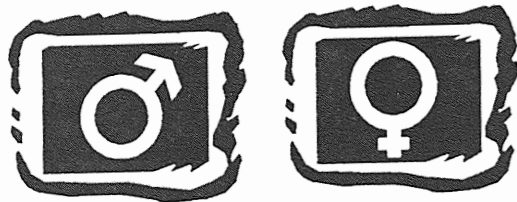
- "MSNBC Investigates: Crossdressing"  
Sunday, November 12 at 8:00 P.M. (cable)
- "MSNBC Investigates: A Change of Gender"  
Tuesday, November 14th at 8:00 P.M. (cable)
- "Night Life In Buffalo: Club Marcella"  
Friday, November 17 at 11:00 P.M. (Channel 7 WKBW)



## Belles meeting activities for *November and December*

### NOVEMBER 11

"SAFER SEX"  
DEMONSTRATION



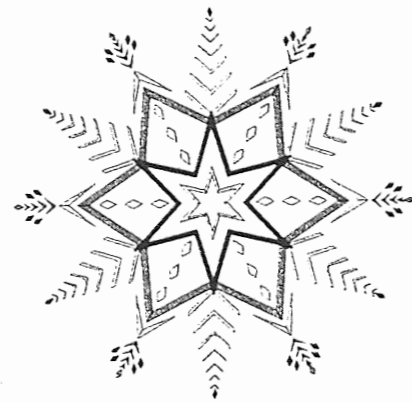
You will be  
enlightened,  
amused  
and  
surprised!

This event is not to be  
missed.

Presented by  
AIDS Alliance

### DECEMBER 16

THE NINTH  
ANNUAL



BUFFALO  
BELLES  
CHRISTMAS  
PARTY

GREAT FOOD, FUN  
& FRIENDS

MORE INFO IN NEXT MONTH'S ISSUE  
(VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO HELP)

## LEGALLY CHANGING YOUR NAME

By Colleen R.

- OBTAIN FORMS:** The necessary forms can be obtained from Sanders Legal Publishers, Inc., 174 Franklin St., Buffalo, NY. (716-842-6666). The packet contains 3 Petitions, 3 Orders, and 2 RJI's at a cost of \$8.81. Fill out and amend the forms where necessary. DO NOT DATE OR SIGN the forms at this time.
- APPLY FOR YOUR COURT DATE:** This is done at the County Clerk's office at 25 Delaware, up stairs from the downtown DMV office, in the office of Actions and Proceedings. You presumably won't need your petition yet, but have it on hand for cross-referencing, just in case. You'll fill out an Attorney Filing Application. (Your full name v. leave blank ) and ( Supreme Court ). Three completed copies of your RJI less date and signature are also required. ( Fill out one RJI form and copy it twice.) In front of the clerk at the office of Actions and Proceedings you will sign and date all the RJI's and the Attorney Filing Application. Your court file number will be on your portion of the Attorney Filing Application and your copy of the RJI. The clerk will direct you to the cashier line to pay your filing fee of \$170.00 and in turn you will receive a receipt with your file number.
- CONFIRM YOUR COURT DATE:** Within a few days you should receive confirmation of your court date on a three by five card indicating the justice, where the petition and order are to be filed, a return date/court date, time, and the part. If you do not receive confirmation contact the Court Calendar office by phone to see if and when you've been scheduled. Have your file number ready.
- ATTACH OTHER INFORMATION TO THE PETITION:** Amendments that might be required when filling out your Petition. ( The amendments are to correct statements made on the form that are not true for you.) A letter from your therapist indicating your birth name, your gender orientation, the possible need for SRS, and that you are not trying to perpetuate a fraud. A stamped copy of you birth certificate with your birth number. Your petitions must be dated, signed, and notarized before they can submitted. I submitted three copies of the order and the petition. ALL DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED TO THE COURT MUST HAVE YOUR FILE NUMBER ON THEM.
- DELIVER YOUR PETITION AND ORDER TO THE JUDGE:** These go to the judge's office. You can mail, return receipt or hand deliver them. You'll get the location from the card mailed to you, or from the Court Calendar's office. The paper work must be delivered five days before the court date or else the date moves forward, into the next "cycle". Usually this means another month's wait. After the paper work has been delivered, check with the judge's clerk to be absolutely sure everything is in place. If so, you need not do anything until after the court date. You do not need to be in court.
- FILE YOUR ORDER AND PETITION WITH THE COUNTY CLERK:** Within 10 days after the court date, pick up your order and petition from the judge's office and bring them to Actions and Proceedings
- PLACE YOUR AD:** Within 20 days of your court date, arrange to run an announcement of your name change in a local publication. Mostly these ads run in the Buffalo Law Journal. You can deliver a copy of your Order to the Law Journal at 472 Delaware, or you may fax it and be billed later. ( Fax# 882-4576 ) My cost was \$30. The Law Journal will send you an affidavit of publication as soon as the ad is run, or you can make arrangements to pick it up and deliver it to the office of Actions and Proceedings. The Law Journal puts the information from your Order in the correct form for publication for you, but should you choose to use another publication the format is given in the Civil Procedure texts.
- FILE THE AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION WITH THE COUNTY CLERK:** Within 40 days of the court date the affidavit of publication must be filed at Actions and Proceedings. Once done you have officially changed your name. You'll get a copy of the Order, signed and stamped by the county clerk. You may want additional copies with the clerk's seal to present to officials who'll be changing other identification. These are \$4 each.
- APPLY FOR A NEW DRIVER'S LICENSE:** This will require a letter from your therapist on letterhead paper that one gender predominates, and as part of the therapy you should be living in that gender.

Lauren did most of the work by giving me her roadmap. My many thanks to her.

## Gala Opening of TG Dreams (Continued from page 1)

I should add here that all charges were in Canadian dollars with a discount of 1 to 1.4 in currency conversion. My choice was a chicken Caesar plate that was delicious and while I ate I had a chance to meet Michelle along with staff and other weekend guests. It was a marvelous opportunity to interview Michelle for an article and learn the history of TGDreams. Later on that night I met Taylor, the other Partner in the enterprise. I also had a fully guided tour and was amazed at the expansiveness of the facility that included a luxurious living room (perfect for the slumber party later that night) makeup areas and the arrangement for professional makeovers.

Following dinner we moved downstairs to the spacious bar, saloon and dance floor all well equipped with DJ and sound capability. More guests arrived during the evening, some for overnight and more as bar patrons. It was indeed different -- to be in a TG host bar where others were welcome to come in and join us as friendly patrons!

The evening ran late with so many to meet and chat with and I must admit to being very nicely 'hit' upon more than once but the day had been long and I whisked myself off to bed just after 2:00 AM. After the bar closed many stayed up till



Bobbi &amp; friends at TGDreams

nearly dawn in the lounge upstairs just off the bedrooms. A slumber party indeed but a quiet one that never disturbed my sleep.. No, I wasn't getting up early -- I slept till 10:30 AM.

Saturday was the day of the gala celebration show and all hands were busy through the day. Despite that I managed to stay well catered to at a very late breakfast and visit with the staff. My greatest delight was watching and photographing John, the makeup artist do Bob (I best described him as 'Lurch' from the Addams Family) into Carmenela for the evening behind the bar. John, owner of a posh salon in London, did me next and I had one more great lesson on a makeover with super tips and advice for me in the future. (His price for members is \$40.00 Canadian and with a tip that comes to about \$30.00 U.S.) Later in the day, he did Michelle for her evening performance as 'Granny' and 'herself as 'she' appeared in the show as 'Tracey'. John practices what he preaches for us!

The saloon opened early with an excellent buffet dinner and off and on patrons came, most waiting for the special show later that evening. I found a table by the dance floor and stage and settled down with my camera for my dinner with Paddy, owner and founder of Wildside in Toronto and new local friends, Ruth, a local five year post-op and others that dropped by to visit. We had plenty of time to mingle and dance as the DJ provided a pleasant background to the evening. Yes, we

had 'deep purple' as well as 'glitter rock'! It was to be an evening to please all age groups. Before the night was over more than 200 guests came through the well monitored doors of the saloon. Michelle has some marvelous security folks for these special evenings.

The show literally started with a bang about 10:00 PM. Granny was the first act and woke everyone up when she drank a jigger of her 'firewater' and smashed the empty glass to the ground. Smoke from the pyrotechnics filled the air and the show was on. It was to last for over two and a half startling hours with two professional stars from Toronto, Michelle DuBarry and Chris Edwards, and a host of talent from Michelle's friends. Ms. DuBarry performed her specialties (mine too) from the 60's while the young, lithe, shapely and very talented African American Ms. Edwards provided her gift of interpretive dancing. Encores kept these entertainers performing at their personal best and blessing us with their favorite numbers from over the years.

I could not tell whether it was our performers that wanted to go on and on - or the spirited audience that hungered for more and more. All in all, it was a remarkable night that I wished would never come to an end.

Chris Edwards left us with an inspiring transgender message to be what we are as she reviewed a few of her hardships as a youth. It was the perfect place for such a stimulating message and very well received.

Sadly, it all had to come to an end but these gifted performers lingered with a few of the guests upstairs with a late bite to eat with tales to tell us. I felt honored to be with them all.

I found my way into bed at 3:30 AM and fell sound asleep. The slumber party had not even started then but in the morning I learned that it had carried on past 5:00 in the morning. A little after 7:00 AM when I toddled of to the potty one survivor was still up amid the debris of glasses and plates from the late snack that had been offered.

I struggled out of my room to bid goodbye to Paddy a little after 8:00 AM and with that the day started again - but very slowly. I showered and did a full makeup having decided to drive home in style. I hated to have it all end. A group with Michelle and Bob was reviewing the gala evening at a late breakfast and I lingered over a cup of tea and juice. It was easy to see no one was in a hurry to leave and while I shared their emotions I was determined to get my films to the processor and of course pick Katie up at the kennel with my appointment and time was flying.

I happily paid my bill for the two night weekend with a check - just a shy over \$100.00 U.S. and bid my hosts goodbye promising to be back the following Saturday with photos for a second stay -- and an eyebrow waxing by John!

TGDreams is a reality and it's here for all of us. I'd suggest you put this on your 'must do' list and help us support Michelle and Taylor's dream spot. It's what we must do to keep it healthy and growing. Plan a special weekend with your friends that always wanted to get away for a night out and with a slumber party of your own!

Visit TGDreams at <http://www.tgdreams.com> or give Michelle a call at (519) 850-DREAM. Maybe we could have a weekend together?

## My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference

(continued from page 1)

I have never flown before. (I don't think an hour in a 2 seat Piper Cub counts.) Now this would be a big step in itself, but besides flying for the first time. Patti and I were flying to Atlanta dressed!

Patti arrived about 9:30 to pick me up and we drove to Kathy's to switch cars. Kathy then drove Patti and I to the Buffalo Airport. We pulled up to the front of the terminal and unloaded our luggage and headed in. (Did I tell you I was nervous?) We walked over to the counter to check our luggage. There wasn't a line so we went right up and started the information exchange. We showed the check-in girl our ID's and licenses. No problem yet! We had to fill out the address tags for our baggage and this is the first time I saw how nervous I was. My hand was shaking like a leaf and I had a hard time filling out the tag. This done, we headed on to the second check point.

As we walked to the X-ray check point, I'm looking around to see if people are looking at us. For the most part, no one was. Every once in a while I would catch a glance of someone checking us out, but no stares. Just a quick look and then on with their business. I'm sure this was just because they say 2 great looking girls! I had done a trial trip to the airport a few months before to see how the X-ray would go. I flunked it that time, but this time I passed with flying colors and went through without a problem. Now Patti, on the other hand, failed. She had one bracelet on that was just a little too big and set off the buzzer. No big deal. She took it off and went through fine. Now failure #2. Her bag didn't pass. They stopped it in the machine and looked at the monitor for a while. They called a few more people over to look and still couldn't figure it out. So I'm waiting patiently aside while Patti has to open up her bag until they find the culprit. It ended up being her make-up mirror. They then gave us the all-clear and we went on our way to the loading area. We had about 45 minutes to wait, so we found a seat and relaxed. Once again, we got a few looks, but nothing bad. We did get a few nice smiles also.

Finally, it was time to get on the plane. We walked down the gangway and found our seats. I was feeling a little better now and wasn't quit so nervous. That is until the plane started to move. As we started down the runway, I guess I grabbed Patti's hand and squeezed it a bit too hard (I could tell by the look of pain on her face) as the plane left the ground.. The flight went fine and only lasted about an hour and 45 minutes. Still no problem with people at all!

Once we landed, we were off to find our luggage. Now this was an adventure! The Atlanta Airport makes the Buffalo Airport look like a bus stop! I'm very glad I was with someone that knew where to go. We walked for about 10 or 15 minutes. Up escalators, down escalators, on moving sidewalks, and then decided to take the subway! I couldn't believe how far it was! After a 5 minute ride on the subway and up another escalator, we found our luggage. Hooray!! I had my life with me again!! What a relief! Now all we have to do is get our rented car and get to the hotel.

We were trying to save a few bucks, so we got a "Thrifty" rental. The car was not at the airport, so we had to take a 10 minute shuttle bus ride to the Thrifty site. We unloaded our



Tina &amp; Patti at the Atlanta Sheraton.

things and Patti went in to do the paper work as I stood guard. I had a few more looks, but everything so far was just a curious look and then back to what they were doing. I was getting used to this by now and it didn't really bother me anymore. We then went to our car and we got a nice 'big' Neon! We had to upgrade from a Geo to get our things in it. I had told Patti, I wanted a pink car, but that didn't come through. We had gotten the car so we could do a little sight seeing while there. We never used it again and wasted the rental money.

Now our next leg of our trip was a 20 minute drive to the hotel. I played navigator as Patti drove. I didn't get us lost, which I tend to do a lot. Atlanta is a beautiful city and very busy. We got to the hotel, parked in the ramp, and walked in to register. Upon entering the hotel I saw a dozen other girls around and knew we were in the right place. We got our key and went up to our room. On the way up I noticed my heel was hurting a bit, but not sure why. As we opened the door, we were greeted by a nice "HOT" room. This was not good. We got our things in and gave each other a hug to acknowledge our accomplishment and set to unpacking. This was when I took my shoe off and saw a nice big blister on my heel. This was not good as I was thinking of the next 4 days wearing heels. It turned out not to be a big problem, though, as long as I wore 5 inch heels. Low heels hurt it but high was fine. So 4 days of high heels it was.

After unpacking I called down to the front desk to alert them of the heat problem. They said the air-conditioning was broken, but they were working on it. It wasn't supposed to be to long they said, but it lasted for 2 days. Not very good trying to get dressed in a 75 to 80 degree room! We tried to open the window but decided it was not able to open after a few minutes of pushing.

It was a little after 5:00pm now and we headed upstairs to register for the SCC and get our info. for the days ahead. This took just a few minutes and we then noticed we had just an hour to get ready for our first dinner. Back down to our HOT room to pick out our outfits for the night and to freshen up our makeup. Our first dinner was at "Agatha's Dinner Theater"

(Continued on page 8)



### My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference (continued from page 7)

This involved a shuttle bus trip of about 40 minutes. We got to see a bit of the city and it is big! There were 2 full buses for our group and we just about filled the place. At least 95% of the guests were from the SCC. It was an interesting dinner with participation from everyone through out the evening. Luckily I didn't have a solo part, but I did have to sing with about a dozen other girls. It did turn out to be fun with some of the girls doing a bit of improvising on the parts they were given. We all had a good time. This ended somewhere around 11:00 and we went back to the hotel to socialize and relax by the bar. We chatted with a few girls, but I did more looking around than talking. I had never seen so many of us in one place. It was great. There was such a mixture of girls. Some tall, some short, some big, some small, some have gone all the way, some just starting, some doing a great job on looks, some trying very hard, but all having a great time! The bar was only open to 2:00am, so we got back to our room about 3:00 and we were very ready for some rest by now.

#### Day 2:

My day started around 9-ish. Patti's was a bit earlier, but I needed my beauty sleep. We ordered breakfast in our room and started to get ready for the day ahead. The first thing on my list of things to do was to check



Tina by the hotel pool.

out the vendors downstairs. There were about 30 different booths set up with everything you could think of: jewelry, wigs, make-up, breast forms, shoes, etc. Patti had to make a trip to the mall to have her nails repaired. They didn't hold up well from our trip and she wasn't very happy about this. Lunch was from 12:00 to 1:30 so we were going to meet there. I had thought the lunch would be a buffet style and could go at any time in that time period. This turned out to be wrong as it was a sit down lunch. I walked into the room about 1:15 as everyone was having dessert. I just stood at the door and was amazed with what I saw. This was the first time I saw almost everyone together. There were over 600 girls and the room was packed. A waiter saw me standing there and asked if I would like a plate brought to me. I said that would be great and I found a table with some space available. As I sat down I then saw Bobbi Swan and went over to say Hi. It was good to see someone I knew and her big smile made me feel right at home. About 10 minutes later Patti found me and we stayed for a few speeches. I was really having a good time and I felt right at home.

Patti and I then discussed what we wanted to do next and we decided on going pool-side for a few hours. I had bought a swim suit over a year ago and was dying to try it out. Mine was a one piece, but Patti was a bit more daring and opted for a 2 piece. Down to the pool and we picked out a couple lounge chairs and relaxed. This was really becoming fun!! It wasn't long until we decided it was picture time and we both posed for each other and cherished the moments. I did even manage to get into the pool, but only up to my neck for obvious reasons! I was a little worried that my breasts would end up at my waist, but they stayed put fairly well. I don't think I could have swam laps though. As we were sitting there, we noticed some of the windows were open in the hotel rooms. We were going to have to try our window again. When we finally got upstairs we still couldn't open them. We were afraid of pushing the window to the ground 3 floors below. So the 'heat' goes on!

About 4:00 we decided it was time to get ready for dinner. This was to be another bus trip to the "Celebrity Rock Cafe". This turned out to be a great time! It was set up like a small theater with tiers around a stage full of band equipment. The food was set up at different stations around the room which worked well. If one area was full, you could get food at another and then move on. We chatted a bit while eating and then after we were done the band started. What a great band it was and the girl singer was absolutely great!! She had all the moves and new every song requested. We watched her in order to learn some moves. If I could learn just one, I would be way ahead. This was the best band I had ever heard and we danced all night and had a great time. I had to take my shoes off from time to time. It had been a long day on 5"ers and I still had 2 more days to go.

The only thing we didn't like too much was the fact that most of the outside events were almost totally our group. It felt like we were being kept away from the general public a bit. But with our numbers, it would have been hard to go to a place that was open to everyone. We needed all the room.

We left there around 2:30am and went back to the hotel for a little socializing and then back to our room to rest up for the next day.

#### Day 3:

I was up same time as yesterday. I was glad that Patti liked to get up earlier than me. I had time to sleep a bit longer and we didn't have to fight over the bathroom. I ordered breakfast for us. We decided on a larger breakfast and we would skip lunch. I also called to check on the air-conditioning again. They said it was all fixed but it would be a few minutes more for us as they had to get to a room above us to open a valve. 30 minutes later the hotel engineer came to our room to see if it was working. It was! Hooray! He also asked if we would like our window opened! A--Yea!! He walked over, lifted it up a bit, gave it a push and it slid open. After 2 days of sweltering we now had our window open and cold air. This made it much more enjoyable to get ready and we were very grateful!

(Continued on page 9)



## FASHION, STYLE ... AND YOU



ASK THE  
MAKE-UP  
DIVA



**Q:** How can I remove the yellow from my nails caused by an error of applying nail color without a base coat? No one I have talked to seems to know the answer to this and I would like to just wear clear polish once again.

**A:** Yellow nails are generally caused by not using a base coat when using a very dark color of polish. I've had instances when even using a base coat didn't help and my fingers glowed with yellow after removing a very dark color.

There are base and top coats designed specifically for avoiding the yellow nail. One is called Yellow-Out. It's a top coat, and you can find them at most national drug stores like Rite Aid or CVS.

A home-made remedy is to use a Q-tip dipped in hydrogen peroxide (you can find this at any supermarket or drug store) and rub on nails (try to avoid the cuticles) once or twice a day until the nail lightens. It should take about a week.

### My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference (continued from page 8)

The first thing on the day's agenda for us was to get in a seminar. There were about 20 each day and as it turned out we made only one. We chose the one on facial plastic surgery by Dr. Ousterhout. I was very impressed with the results that were shown. It was very interesting. If I only had the money. Oh well. First things first! This ended about 3:15 and I then went back to the vendors room to look at the jewelry. I needed a pair of earrings for my Victorian outfit and had spotted something the day before, but was putting off purchasing it. After a few minutes of indecision I choose a pair of pearl drop earrings that I thought would work well. (And they did!)

It was now time to get ready for dinner. We were eating in at the hotel this time. A quick change and freshen up of make-up and up to the dinner hall. I still couldn't get over seeing so many girls (& guys) in one place. It was great! The dinner ended with a talent show which was interesting.

Our next adventure of the night was a trip to a night club called "The Chamber." This was a "fetish" type club, so a change of clothing was in order. I picked my black patent

corset and wore it on the outside for this one. It was interesting to see the hotel filled with all kinds of outfits on the girls going to the club. Lots of black leather & PVC. Some girls with almost nothing on but their shoes! A bit too daring for me. Anything could be worn for this, as long as it was black or shiny! This is the second time I saw Mistress Jordan from California and was she gorgeous! To top it off she had the most beautiful corsets with a 21" waist.

This club was a riot and very different from anyplace I had been before. When we entered, the first thing I saw was a guy in a case in the wall putting on make-up. Kind of an exhibit. We moved in and got a drink. As I looked around I saw about 4 different elevated stages with dancers on them. All of them in various fetish attire (some half naked). Some were guys, some were girls, and some were TG's. They also had a main stage up front where acts performed throughout the night. One was a fire eater who was great to watch with the dark room and loud music. There were also a few bondage acts. All were interesting and fun to watch. The music was very good here also. We danced and partied here until about 3:00 and then back to the hotel to chat again for a while. We got to our room about 4:00am. The next day would soon be dawning.

To be continued next month



# COMING EVENTS



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

- |                        |  |
|------------------------|--|
| <b>NOVEMBER 11</b>     | <b>BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm</b>   |
| <b>NOVEMBER 9 -12</b>  | <b>WESTERN BELLES ROUNDUP 2000</b><br>Milford (The Poconos), Pennsylvania<br>(info: 810-286-6214; <a href="http://www.bobbiswan.com/dude">www.bobbiswan.com/dude</a> )                                     |
| <b>NOVEMBER 12</b>     | <b>MISS GAY ROCHESTER PAGEANT</b><br>Four Points Sheraton Hotel, Main Street, Rochester  |
| <b>NOVEMBER 16 -19</b> | <b>LAKE ERIE GALA 2000</b><br>Erie, Pennsylvania (info: <a href="http://www.geocities.com/wellesley/1614">www.geocities.com/wellesley/1614</a> )   |
| <b>DECEMBER 2</b>      | <b>ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm</b>   |
| <b>DECEMBER 16</b>     | <b>BUFFALO BELLES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00pm</b>  |
| <b>JANUARY 6</b>       | <b>ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm</b>   |
| <b>JANUARY 13</b>      | <b>BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm</b>   |
| <b>JANUARY 18-21</b>   | <b>FIRST EVENT 2001</b> (sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England)<br>Crowne Plaza, Woburn, Massachusetts<br>(info: 781-891-9325 -Tues nights 7-11pm; <a href="http://www.tcne.org">www.tcne.org</a> ) |
| <b>FEBRUARY 3</b>      | <b>ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm</b>   |
| <b>FEBRUARY 10</b>     | <b>BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm</b>   |
| <b>MARCH 21-25</b>     | <b>15TH ANNUAL IFGE CONVENTION</b><br>Chicago, Illinois (info: 610-759-1761)   |
| <b>JUNE 6 -10</b>      | <b>BE-ALL CONFERENCE - DETROIT 2001</b><br>Detroit, Michigan (info: 313-719-3267; <a href="http://www.xroads.org">www.xroads.org</a> )   |

**OCTOBER  
MEETING  
ATTENDANCE**

Ann	Denise P.(debut)	Jo
April	Gina	Kelly
Bobbi	Gita (debut)	Kim
Brenda	Holly	Rebecca
Camille	Janice	Susan
Colleen	Jillian (guest)	Tina