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Buffalo Belles

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THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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TG DREAMS, THE LONDON ONTARIO COMPLEX FEATURED IN AN ARTICLE IN LAST MONTH'S JOURNEY HAS UNFORTUNATELY GONE OUT OF BUSINESS. NO FURTHER DETAILS AVAILABLE AT THE PRESENT TIME.

ANYONE ATTENDING THE CHRISTMAS PARTY IS WELCOME TO BRING A DISH TO PASS AROUND.

Buffalo Belle Receives Community Service Award At 17th Annual GLYS Gala

On Thursday, November 30, Camille Hopkins of the Buffalo Belles, was presented the Robert Uplinger Community Service Award at the Seventeenth Annual Gay & Lesbian Youth Service (GLYS) Anniversary Gala. This award goes to a gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered person who has significantly assisted GLYS and its mission. GLYS supports and respects individual differences and affirms the right of all persons to live free from fear, prejudice, and violence.

More than 150 attended the fundraising event held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in downtown Buffalo. Among those in attendance were Buffalo Mayor, Tony Masiello; State Assemblymen, Sam Hoyt (another honoree); and State Senator, Byron Brown. Also in the audience to help celebrate Camille's award were three Buffalo Belles: Janice G., Bobbi S. and Tina M.

Camille notes that GLYS is a wonderful organization and has been doing vital work for the GLBT youth, 14 to 20 years old, in the Buffalo area. "These kids need to know they can feel good about who they are. Especially nowadays as more Trans youth are coming out, GLYS provides them with a safe place to go. If we can offer care and understanding to these great kids, it will help them to live in a society that is all too quick to judge a person for who they are."

Ms. Hopkins points out that other Belles have also given their support to the youth of GLYS. They include Colleen R. and Andy M. She thanks them for the effort they have put forth.

My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference

A Daily Journal by Tina Marie
Part Two

Day 4:

This was to be a big day for us. We skipped breakfast this day and chose to go straight to lunch after getting ready. It was so nice to wake up in a cool room! We met Stephanie and Vanessa at our usual table. They are 2 girls I had met at the Poconos last fall and have become good friends with. Today we were going to take a side trip to Stone Mountain State Park. Patti and I had chosen casual outfits of jeans and shorts. And I'm wearing low heels again. This is a different pair from our trip here and weren't hurting my heel blister. Stephanie and Vanessa were a little dressier which turned out to be interesting for me on our trip.

After our meal, we headed downstairs to find Vanessa's vehicle waiting for us. Valets are so nice! We all got in and were on our way. It was about a 45 minute trip to the park. This was to be my first experience out in public sightseeing and shopping.

Stone Mountain is the biggest outcropping of granite in the world. It is huge! It had a cable car to the top and a train that went around the base. Unfortunately we didn't do either due to the time to wait in line. We walked around and took a lot of pictures. This is when I noticed how important it is to dress appropriately. Vanessa and Stephanie were a bit out of place with their dressy outfits. Everyone was in shorts and sneakers and seeing a lady in a dress or skirt brought attention to them. They looked great, but it just wasn't the place for heels and a dress. Patti and I walked behind and I noticed all the people staring at them.

Continued on page



CAMILLE'S CORNER

This is my last issue as editor of *The Journey*. You'll still hear from me as I plan on continuing to write my monthly column. I'm just trading my editor's hat for something that I truly enjoy: outreach/education. *The Journey* will be in capable hands for now: Rebecca C. will be overseeing the newsletter operation. She is encouraging everyone who would like to contribute something to the newsletter (announcement, photos, first person story, suggestions, ads, etc.) to please e-mail it to her at: rebecca-janec@outcome.com. Or mail it to the Belles PO box.

This past week has been somewhat of a milestone for the Transgendered community here in the Buffalo area. The GLYS Community Service award that was given to me on November 30, was not so much a personal accomplishment as it was a recognition that transgendered individuals can make a difference throughout the community. I hope you derive joy from that thought as much as I have. There's more work and joy to come.

December Happenings:

Those of you who attended the last meeting heard Desiree announce she was planning a party for the Trans community. It is now confirmed. It will take place on Saturday, December 9th, from 7:00pm to 11:00pm. At the Fallsview Travelodge Hotel in Niagara Falls. It is located at the corner of Rainbow Blvd and 2nd Ave. There is plenty of park-

ing behind the hotel. Wear something festive and bring an appetite as there will be a buffet. A cash bar will also be available. Fallsview Travelodge, 201 Rainbow Blvd. - (716) 285-9321 for directions.

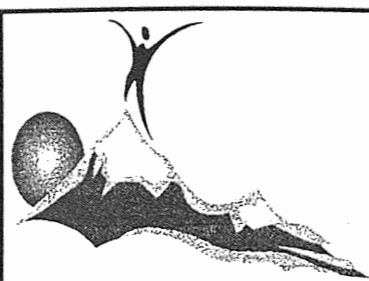
The Belles Annual Christmas Party takes place on Saturday, December 16th. (There is no regular meeting on December 9th.) See page 4 for information.

December 20, Wednesday - The 3rd Annual Winter Solstice. Celebrate the time of the year of the rising of the Midwinter sun and the promise of a New Year with new hopes. It reflects a growing awareness of the inherent spirituality in the gay, lesbian and transgender community's journey to freedom. I have been asked to participate by reading a passage at the celebration. Those gathering will be gay and trans, family and friends. All faiths are welcome. 7:30pm sharp, at Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave. (between Summer and Barker) Parking is available at the at the Temple and at the Red Cross across the street.

Looking into the New Year:

On Saturday, January 6, 2001, Bill and Jim, the owners of Secrets, the Belles favorite downtown club, are having a Buffalo Belles Appreciation Night. They are doing this as a way of saying 'thank you' for patronizing Secrets all these years. Food will be provided by Secrets. It will take place in the upstairs lounge. A changing room is available (upstairs) for those needing one. At this writing, the time it starts has not been locked in. It will probably begin about 9:00pm. I will have final details in the next newsletter.

Have a safe and happy holiday season.



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Buffalo Belles, PO Box
1701, Amherst, NY 14226-
1701

Editor:
Camille H.

To contact the Buffalo Belles:

By Phone:
(716) 879-0973

By Mail:
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Amherst, NY 14226

By E-Mail:
buffalo_belles@juno.com

Buffalo Belles Website:
www.geocities.com/
buffalobelles/



NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi, ladies!

I've been trying to get my head on straight after a great vacation, but it ain't easy! I'd like to take this opportunity to relate my experience in print for those of you who missed the November meeting. It won't be in such detail as Tina's account of Southern Comfort, as that is not my style. Hopefully you'll enjoy sharing with me.

I went to the "Fall Harvest 2000" in St. Louis. This event is hosted by the St. Louis Gender Foundation, with MAGGIE as the sponsor. MAGGIE is the "Mid America Gender Group Information Exchange" with clubs that include: The Chicago Gender Society; City of Lakes Crossgendered Community; Gemini Gender Group; Iowa Artistry; Kansas City Cross Dressers and Friends; River City Gender Alliance; St. Louis Gender Foundation; Transgender Organization of Northern Indiana and the Wichita Transgendered Alliance. This was the 11th annual affair, and what a wonderful job they did in organizing and providing a relaxing atmosphere for all of us to enjoy. I'm not sure how many girls were there, but would guess 150+ at least. I met sisters from all over the country - Iowa, Florida, Colorado, New Jersey, New York, Tennessee, and many, many other states. A real cross-section.

I arrived at the hotel about noon on Thursday after driving down from Chicago, and I HAD to leave after breakfast on Sunday - HAD being the key word here since I would have stayed a lot longer had that been possible. Celebrating the 1904 World's Fair in St. Louis was the first nights theme, and a lot of the gals were dressed in costumes from that time-period. We were treated to a nice buffet that included foods first unveiled at that World's Fair - ice cream for one, and also HOT DOGS! I questioned why they would serve 'weiners' at a CD gathering - something I really wanted to forget about for a few days - but I didn't get much response! All the meals were buffet style since the hotel is being torn down soon for an airport expansion project. I enjoyed going to breakfast each day before the crowd - getting dressed up early and talking with the staff was fun. It is such a great feeling to let it all hang out for a few days as opposed to a few hours. If you have never been to a convention, or large group 'thing' - I urge you to consider going to one soon. This was my third convention in two years, and they have all been worth the time, energy and expense. Each used a different format, with the usual good and

bad points - but the overall positive feeling was present no matter where I've gone.

We were given tickets for a drawing at lunch on Friday and Saturday - they had small gifts of the area - mugs, posters, t-shirts, etc. - but they also had perfume which I got when they called my number on Saturday. We had a talent show on Friday and a beauty pageant crowning Miss/Mr. Fall Harvest on Saturday evening. I'm telling you - there were some really beautiful women present with loads of talent. A nice dance followed the pageant, of course! Talk about some great evening gowns!

Vendors row was wild! I love being able to find stuff that fits and looks good without having to go to a mall. We had: Absolutely Picture Perfect - videos and stills; Barb's Large and Lovely Lingerie, with sizes to 8X; Mr. Jim Bridges Makeovers (famous guy from Hollywood); IFGE Bookstore with Ms. Nancy Cain, the Executive Director; Portraits by Sharon - a local CD member of the host group; The Shoe Express from Lafayette, LA, with sizes to 15WW, and QTPronto with stents for post operative TS women. I ended up purchasing a TG ID card, some new pantyhose, a gorgeous blue peignoir, and 3 pair of shoes - well one pair was free, since the owner remembered me from the "Be All" in Cleveland two years ago, and she said she likes me a lot - love them vendors!

Time to tour! One group left Friday morning for Grant's Farm. This is a 281 acre wildlife preserve and historical site located just south of St. Louis. It's home to hundreds of exotic animals as well as many other activities. On Saturday the tour guide took the girls to the famous Anheuser-Busch Brewery. They stopped to see the Clydesdale horses, the beechwood aging cellars, Brew House, and then to the Hospitality Room for some free samples. Good time had by all. Nothing like watching the expression on the other visitors faces when the vans began to unload passengers - very interesting! In the evening, our hosts provided a van to take anyone/everyone on a tour of St. Louis nightspots. A little bar-hopping never hurts.

Some wonderful presenters were there to talk about TG issues, and they included: Lor and Mary Akers, recent recipients of the Jennifer Richards award for Gender Outreach; Attorney Mark Hungerford who believes in diversity and the law with the right to be transgendered; Marcia Williams, a local CD who has learned the techniques of developing a female sounding voice; Randi Kelcher who is a graduate of the St. Louis Institute of Electrolgy; Dr. Randi Ettner, Ph.D. a noted clinical psychologist, author and syndicated newspaper columnist, lecturer and radio and television talk show host; Robert Goss, a noted Gay activist and former Jesuit priest who is chairman of the Department of Religious Studies at Webster University; Dr. Helen Friedman, Ph.D. specializing in gender identity issues and relationships connected with being transgendered; Toby R. Meltzer, MD. a board certified doctor of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He does a full range of cosmetic procedures; and finally Jim Bridges who has worked

(Continued on page 4)

THE NINTH ANNUAL BUFFALO BELLES CHRISTMAS PARTY

SATURDAY - DECEMBER 16
6:00pm



◆ GREAT FOOD

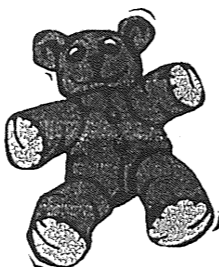
◆ MEMBER GIFT EXCHANGE
(\$5-\$10 range)

◆ VISIT WITH OLD AND NEW FRIENDS

◆ AGAIN THIS YEAR THE BELLES WILL BE ACCEPTING
UNWRAPPED TOYS TO BE DONATED TO THE
"TOYS FOR TOTS" PROGRAM



WE NEED A FEW VOLUNTEERS TO ASSIST WITH
THE EVENING ACTIVITIES. PLEASE BE AN ANGEL
AND HELP. CALL HELPLINE : 879-0973



NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

(Continued from page 3)

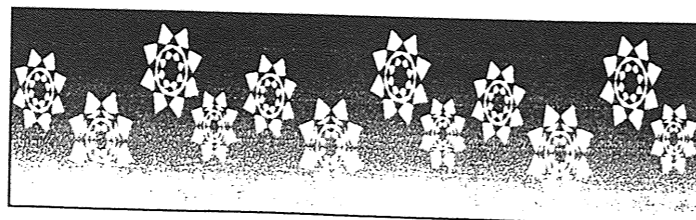
in Hollywood for years in the hair styling and makeup business. He has had Joan Collins, Sophia Loren, and Jackie Kennedy Onassis as clients (among others). He has spent the last 10 years working with the gender community, and has been in the beauty business for 30 years.

All of these folks were available for lectures, and even some one-on-one help. Of note, in another part of the hotel a mid-west group of 'swingers' were having a mini-convention. This bunch stayed pretty much behind closed doors, but we did get a glimpse of them from time-to-time. I think it was Dr. Ettner who told us that she had talked with their president, and had been able to arrange a sit down meeting with their group, for anyone who wanted to attend. It was designed to be a question and answer session. She told our group that the reason they had been staying away from us was because they felt we were all WEIRD! That just about brought the house down, believe me. I find it amusing myself that a dysfunctional bunch of wife-swappers would think WE were weird. A bit of food for thought that's for sure.

It's hard to relate exactly how much fun attending a convention can be. Meeting other CD's and transgendered folks in a safe & fun setting is so wonderful. Oh. I met two transsexuals who were both post-op, truck drivers and members of the Teamsters Union. They told me that was not a prerequisite to join! I ended my trip by going to a CD friend's house near St. Louis, and spending a couple of days with the old withdrawal pains. We had never met before, but have been writing letters and talking on the phone for over a year. It was a blast to finally meet her.

That's all for this edition. Take care. And come to the Christmas party!

Your sister,
Nancy



My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference (Continued from page 1)

Not because they were TG's, but because of their clothes. This made it easy for Patti and myself to go somewhat unnoticed as all the heads were turned as we went by. Thanks girls!

After 30 minutes of picture taking and looking around we went to the gift shop. This was my first time shopping with the general public. It was actually fun and I got a few looks, but no stares or comments. It was GREAT! I bought a few things and we then headed back to our car. This is about the time that we ran across the only people that were jerks! A couple spotted Vanessa in her dress and heels and started to laugh. They even just had to take a picture. This Patti and I rather mad. I thought of going up and saying something, but didn't. Patti waved and shouted "Would you like a close up" You go girl!

Next, we went to another area with a historic southern mansion. There was a young girl at the ticket booth wearing a hoop skirt dress. We just had to have our photos taken with her. We spent some time checking out the buildings and were about to leave when a group of about 15 young girls came up to us and asked if we could take their pictures. They were great with us and acted like we were no different that anyone else. Why can't everyone be like that?

We now had just over 2 hours to get ready for the big Costume Ball. This was the event I had been planning my outfit for the past 6 months. I had never had it all on and together at the same time, so I was so hoping it all would work. For this outfit I had to wear my 23" corset fully closed! No cheating at all. I hadn't worn it closed for any length of time in the last few months and was a little worried. I started getting dressed and I put the corset on and left it open a bit just to get used to it for a few minutes while I did other things. It was now time for the skirt and I thought I could leave it open just a little longer. No such luck! I had to go all the way in order to get the skirt buttoned. I finished putting everything on and finally put on the wig and hat. I had never seen it all together and as I looked at Patti I knew it was good when I saw the big smile on her face. I then looked in the mirror and I was so happy with what I saw! All my planning and work paid off. I felt so good and I was ready to show it off.

Then out into the hall and off we went. Every girl we passed smiled and said what a great outfit! I had so much confidence. I was having a ball! When we got to the main group of girls, the compliments on my outfit just kept coming along with "Can I take your picture"? I was worried that I wouldn't get a good photo for myself, so they had an area set up for portraits to be taken. I got in line and had 2 taken. I hope they turn out.

Not everyone had a costume on, but there were some really great ones around. The dinner was great, but I had to eat rather slowly and very small pieces. At times I was feeling like I might faint from the heat and the tight corset, but

after about 2 hours I started to feel better and was adjusting. I was not going to take this outfit off! At the end of dinner they had a few speeches and the "Gay Men's Choir" sang for us. They were really great!

We then went downstairs to take photos of our outfits. Vanessa had on a renaissance gown which looked great. The



four of us took photos of every possible combination of people and then Bobbi S. joined us to take some more photos. I was in heaven and enjoying it all. I had never had so much attention in my life. I used to be the person hiding in the corner and now I was in the spotlight.

Then the editor of "Transgender Tapestry" came down to have some photos taken. He asked if Vanessa and I would have ours with him and we both said sure! So, look for us in the next issue!

By this time I had forgotten all about my corset. Our group broke up a bit and I decided to take up Bobbi's invitation to join her at the "Stone Bucket," which was a sports bar a block up the street from the hotel. So off we strolled, up the streets of Atlanta in my Victorian ensemble. You can't believe how great it felt to be walking the streets dressed like that. All the cars going by and looking at us. I loved it! I did get a little nervous when we went into the sports bar. Bobbi had said she had been there a previous night and had no problem, but this would be a new group of people and you never know. We walked in and I did notice a few quick looks and then everyone went back to the game they were watching. We sat inside for a few minutes and then took our drinks to the patio where we picked a table and relaxed. No one was looking at us. This was strange. I would have thought everyone would have been staring, but no one was even looking. I think this bothered Bobbi a bit as she loves attention. (Me too, as long as it's good.) We were joined by 2 more girls and we chatted a bit and after an hour or so Bobbi and I decided to head back to the hotel. We were just about to leave the patio when a group of 8 stopped us and asked if they could take pictures of us with them. This is what Bobbi was waiting for and she got a huge smile on her face and said "You bet!" We had a blast trading photos for the next 10 minutes. They said they wanted to talk with us when we first got there, but didn't want to make us feel uncomfortable and weren't sure if we would like it. This is the problem for us. People aren't sure how to react with us. They don't realize we are just people too.

(Continued on page 8)

My Trip To The Southern Comfort Conference

(Continued from page 7)

We then strolled back to the hotel. The walk back was just as much fun as the walk there. I could have done that all night. Once back in the hotel, I got a drink and mingled with the girls a bit more. I had a photographer that was there taking photos for something (not sure what) ask to take mine. He loved my hat and wanted some photos of it. He took my address down in his little black book and thanked me. I will have to wait to see if that turns into anything. I think throughout the night I must have had 50 to 75 photos taken of me. I must have done something right! This was the last night of the conference and I didn't want it to end. Tomorrow was pack up day and off to home. I think I got back to my room around 3:30 and called it a night. And what a night it was!



Tina and Patti at the Southern Comfort Costume Ball

Day 5:

Our plane was to be scheduled to leave Atlanta at 3:35pm, so all our planning had to be timed carefully. We didn't do this so well! We started packing up our things around 9:30am leaving out the things we were to wear. Things were a bit of a mess after 4 days of dressing and undressing, to say the least. I finished packing up my things, got a shower and dressed for the trip. This time I didn't need anything on my waist. After 4 days of wearing my corset, my slacks fit fine. I then had to get my things that I had mailed down back into their boxes and down to the front desk so as to be mailed back home. We had to be at the airport by 2:30 and it was about an hour from the hotel to the airport with returning the car. This meant we had to leave the hotel about 1:30 at the latest. We got our things back into the car about 1:00 and checked out. We had a few minutes to spare, so we relaxed a bit on the patio with Stephanie. We wanted to savor every moment we could. We finally

said good-bye around 2:00 and went to our car. Oh, didn't I say we should have left at 1:30? I actually wasn't aware of the problem, but it soon would be evident!

After a few minutes of looking at the map and getting our bearings, we were on our way back to the car rental drop-off. We made this in good time with only one 30 second wrong turn. We then caught the shuttle bus to the airport. It was now 3:10 and we still had to check our luggage and get to the plane. In Buffalo, this would be fine, but Atlanta is another story. We were too late to check our baggage at the curb, so we ended up carrying it all the way to the plane. So here we go! Trying to figure out where to go and we had 20 minutes until our plane left. This is like a half mile through a maze of passageways and carrying 5 bags! First problem was X-ray. If we didn't get through it without a problem, we were dead! We got there in 5 minutes and luckily got through OK. I just had to have one bag checked with a hand wand and that was quick. Patti was working on getting her big bag through a machine in the meantime. We are now through this obstacle and off to find the plane. Down the escalators, on the subway, up the escalators, through concourse after concourse and we finally make it to TransAir! Oops, wrong one! Turn around and head back the other way. Another minute and we find the right one! The plane is still there. Checked in our luggage, checked our ID's and onto the plane. We carried our luggage right to the door. So much for not bringing attention to ourselves! We were the last ones on the plane and had to take the seats in the very back. In my seat with sweat running down my forehead I could finally relax. We had made it by less than 5 minutes! You may ask if we were noticed in the airport this time. I have no idea!

Our trip seemed even faster going home and once there, we departed and found Kathy waiting as we were walking to find our luggage. The nervousness I had when we left 5 days earlier was almost completely gone now. There was a little left, but nothing like it was. We found our bags and headed to Kathy's house, where we had started. We ordered a pizza and shared some stories for a few hours. This is the first time I have ever taken a trip and wasn't in any hurry to go home. I wanted it to just keep going and never end. Unfortunately it did have to end and Patti drove me home about 9:00. I stayed dress until about 11:00 and then put Tina to bed. What a great time she had!

Day 6

Back to reality.

This was the hardest time for me of the whole trip. I got up and everything was the same as before I left. All I had to do was unpack my bags and get on with life. This ended up taking me 2 days, not because it was a lot to do, but because I didn't want to. Every time I opened up my suitcase and saw the clothes that had brought me so much joy the days before, I got a wee bit emotional. Every item had a special memory with it and I didn't want it to end. I'm just so glad to have such special friends that I could share this with. There will be more!

Lessons Learned

By Ann

Well lately I have been getting my confidence up by going shopping during the day to local malls and stores. If you know me, I usually dress pretty glitzy and have toned it down quite a bit to do this. Easy on the make up and lipstick, no false eye lashes, medium length nails w/ regular colors, a nice blouse, jeans and low heels (that's killing me as I love my spikes!). I have had no problems and as a matter of fact, so many of the women clerks just want to talk! No one has brought up about being a cross-dresser. I have been "made" by some, but with no adverse reactions, usually it's "you look great" or "you look better than most women". All this until my last time out

I went shopping on a Saturday and finished quite late, so I decided to stop and see if anyone was out downtown. I stopped at Miss Suzi's and saw a few girls and decided to go out for a few drinks with them. We went to Secret's and talked for a bit and then I decided to head toward home. Well on the way home I decided to stop at a few of my local bars to see what the reaction would be.

The first one I stopped at was no problem at all, didn't hardly get a second (questioning) look. I did notice that I did draw some attention to myself by being alone (lesson #1). After that, I went to another local bar and that's where I made my big mistake.

What I did was say "Hi" to a few people that I knew from the place and called them by name. Well that started the ball rolling! People in the place were trying to figure out who I was, and after close scrutiny, someone figured out I was a guy. They thought I was there for Halloween (even though it wasn't until the next week), and thought I was some other person (a good thing!). I did over-hear one girl arguing with a guy that I was a guy, but the guy wouldn't believe it! I also had a few women come up to me and praise me, which felt good.

Now, while at the crescendo of my outing, I decided I better "cut my losses" and leave, which I did, before anyone noticed (out the back door). The lesson I learned there (lesson #2) was to "KEEP MY BIG MOUTH SHUT!" If I would have done that (as in the first place), I would have had no problems. Oh well, lesson learned and no harm done!



NOVEMBER MEETING ATTENDANCE

Brenda H.	Kathy L.
Camille H.	Kendra K.
Cleo J.	Michelle F. (debut)
Colleen R.	Nancy W.
Gita S.	Patti J.
Holly H.	Prissy F. (debut)
Jana F.	Susan D. (debut)
Janice G.	Desiree L. (guest)
Jean H.	Bev, Panther, Tiffany
Jennifer M. (debut)	(guests)
Jo S.	

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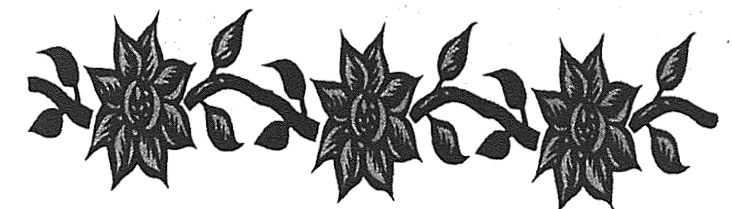
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TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

Native North American Sacred
Cross-Gender Traditions

By Michèle Brown

In certain tribal societies, sexual diversity was not only tolerated but in many cases seen as specially sacred. Europeans called the men who grew up dressing as women and doing all the things that women did, berdaches.

When the European invaders came across such people they were totally horrified, and saw it as the work of the devil. The Native Americans however, were happy to accept them, as part of their society. Not only that but they were seen to be specially chosen by spirit because they were different, and therefore came to have special ritual roles and considerable power.

Berdaches were not necessarily shamans, but a good many of them were considered to be. The shaman needs to have the presence to perform powerful ritual, to have a special connection to spirit, both of which a berdache automatically was seen to possess from early childhood, and which were cultivated in them.

The Navajos and Lakotas have many berdache chanters, called nadle and winkte respectively. These chants are healing chants that can take many days to perform over the sick person. The Cheyenne usually had a berdache medicine man travelling with them to heal the wounded on raids.

Berdaches were quite often consulted by shamans for advice. They were seen to be holy already and did not have to cultivate their power in the way a shaman does. They were called upon to bless ceremonies and look after grieving families. Their roles being specified in these rituals gave them status and a real sense of belonging to the community.

Because the term berdache was coined by Europeans, who were also more interested in recording the doings of men than women, it does not apply to the women who crossed the gender borders. But they did exist, with parallel roles to those of the berdache. There are stories of women who dressed like

men, took wives and also became shamanic healers.

The shaman lives in a liminal world, that is the world between, between night and day, between the spirit world and the human world, between masculinity and femininity. These special, in between places are the gaps through which a shaman can slip to intervene with the spirits and travel wherever he wishes to go. It is not surprising that the berdache and their women counterparts were celebrated in some tribes simply because they were already in that state, able to see both sides, and another, uniquely their own.

Further reading: *The Spirit and the Flesh*, Walter L. Williams

Michèle Brown has followed a shamanic path for the past 15 years. She writes regularly for *Sacred Hoop* magazine, and runs occasional shamanic workshops. If you want any further information on shamanism, shamanic healers, contacts, drums or workshops, please email her on: vixen.drummer@virginnet.co.uk

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FASHION, STYLE
... AND YOUHow to Buy a Perfect Little Black Dress
by Sarah Golden

Everyone needs a Little Black Dress. It's the dress you slip on when you don't know what to wear, but you have to look fabulous.

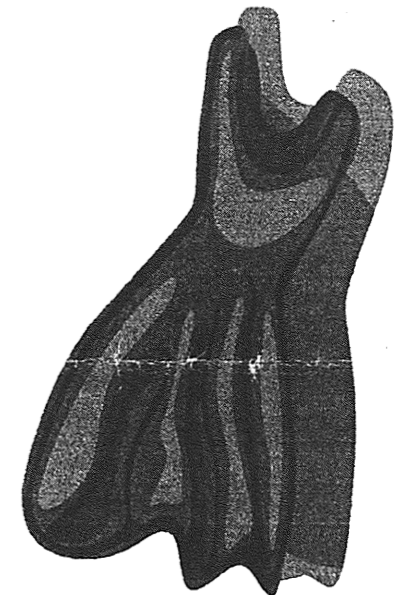


1. Identify key assets. Is your back worth showing off? Want to expose a little shoulder? Or do your legs deserve the spotlight?
2. Find a dress that's comfortable. Eliminate anything that makes it hard to walk, sit or dance. Raise your hands up as high as you can and look in the mirror while trying the dress on. You want to make sure you can move freely and dance if the occasion calls for it.
3. It's better to buy a size larger than smaller. If you try on the perfect dress, but it's a bit snug in a particular area, buy the next size. For a few dollars have it tailored for the perfect look. If it's too snug, the tailor may not be able to help you.
4. No fluffy stuff. A little black dress should have clean lines - no frills, giant poufs or other things that can clutter the elegance.
5. Choose a well-constructed dress of a good fabric - a light wool or silk crepe is best - with a lining. The lining will smooth your figure so the shell hangs neatly.

Establish the three-to-one ratio - three parts conservative to one part racy. Great little black dresses would be plain if it weren't for that one saucy feature: the crisscross straps in back, a daring neckline, a deep side, back, or front slit.

Accessorize for understated drama: fishnet stockings, a bold bracelet, a choker, or leopard pumps with a matching bag.

Dry clean, and don't iron. In order to make your classic black dress last longer, opt for dry cleaning. Black often doesn't look as nice once it fades, and this helps preserve it. Also, iron your black clothing inside out; irons tend to make black look shiny or streaked.



The Makeup Diva Report: Winter Skin Care

Every fall/winter, as the weather starts to turn cold, I go through the same little ritual - looking under my sink for a rich moisturizer that will take care of the dry, flaky skin I know is on the way. I typically only find products leftover from summer that I didn't finish, nothing appropriate for winter. This year I was determined to find something simple, effective and inexpensive, so I paid a visit to my local drugstore and found this Eucerin cream. It's not the most "natural" product I've ever seen, made of Water, Petrolatum, Mineral Oil, Ceresin (a wax), Lanolin Alcohol, Methylchloroisothiazolinone (a preservative), Methylisothiazolinone (a preservative). It's definitely not glamorous, but it works. This thick cream does a great job of relieving dryness and creating a barrier so wind and cold don't get in. *Eucerin Original Moisturizing Creme (\$6.69 for 4oz)*



COMING EVENTS



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

- | | |
|----------------------|--|
| DECEMBER 9 | DESIRE'S TRANS CHRISTMAS PARTY – 7:00 – 11:00pm
Travelodge Hotel, Rainbow Blvd. and 2nd Ave, Niagara Falls, NY |
| DECEMBER 16 | BUFFALO BELLES ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY 6:00pm |
| DECEMBER 20 | 3rd ANNUAL WINTER SOLSTICE CELEBRATION OF SPIRIT
7:30pm, Temple Beth Zion, 805 Delaware Ave, Buffalo |
| JANUARY 6 | SECRET'S APPRECIATION PARTY FOR THE BELLES – 9:00pm
Upstairs Lounge, Secrets, 20 Allen St. Buffalo |
| JANUARY 6 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm |
| JANUARY 13 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm |
| JANUARY 18-21 | FIRST EVENT 2001 (sponsored by the Tiffany Club of New England)
Crowne Plaza, Woburn, Massachusetts
(info: 781-891-9325 –Tues nights 7-11pm; www.tcne.org) |
| FEBRUARY 3 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm |
| FEBRUARY 10 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm |
| MARCH 3 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK - 6:30pm |
| MARCH 10 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING - 6:00pm |
| MARCH 21-25 | 15TH ANNUAL IFGE CONVENTION
Chicago, Illinois (info: 610-759-1761) |
| JUNE 6 -10 | BE-ALL CONFERENCE – DETROIT 2001
Detroit, Michigan (info: 313-719-3267; www.xroads.org) |

THE "SAFER SEX" PRESENTATION THAT HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR THE NOVEMBER 11th MEETING WILL BE RESCHEDULED TO EITHER THE JANUARY OR FEBRUARY MEETING. LOOK FOR ANNOUNCEMENT IN NEXT ISSUE OF *THE JOURNEY*.