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3-1999

March 1999

Buffalo Belles

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Recommended Citation

Buffalo Belles, "March 1999" (1999). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 109.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles/109>

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BUFFALO BELLES

Address Correspondence
To:
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

INFO-LINE:
(716) 446-2661

Sisters in Charge:
**CAMILLE
JEAN
KATHY
PATTI**

MARCH 1999

Kathy's Notes

Dear sisters,

The February meeting was, in my opinion, the most embarrassing meeting we have ever held. Of course you were probably not there to experience it. Last month everyone had a good excuse with the snows of early January, but weather certainly wasn't a factor this month.

How bad was it? So bad that Camille broke off her streak of 26 meetings in a row. Patti missed the meeting, how often does that occur? Every other year or so. No Janice. Very unusual. Got so bad that a couple of old timers were brought out of retirement (Denise and Kathy) to populate the meeting-

Jean was there to open up and get things started. Also Jennifer and Nancy were there to welcome the FOUR new sisters that were making their debut. This was really something four new girls to interact with four more experienced members. So we actually ended up having a really nice meeting. We just sat around the table and talked all evening. When things start to bog down, we could rely on Nancy to get up and do one of her routines about her life. Nancy, you might consider changing your name to Joan Candy.

Our new sisters that we welcome to our little group are Joan L., Kristen M., Wende G., and Brenda O.

However nice the February meeting was, we have a fundamental problem that must be addressed. The group is slowly fading, both in attendance and in financial matters. Needless to say, they are directly related.

Our fundamental problem is that meeting attendance was down in 98. For the twelve months in 98 we had 135 member attendees. In 97, we had 170, which is a 35 difference or down 3 on average per month. Add in that for those 135 members we didn't collect the \$745 that we should have in meeting fees, but only \$639. Girls, when you attend, pay the fee. That is a procedure that we will be improving immediately.

But the question isn't just about numbers but WHY the attendance is down, while membership has crept up every year. Have the meetings gotten that stale? What is the problem? What can we do? That is why there is a questionnaire in this issue of the newsletter that must be returned. It is time we examine what we should be doing and what you want. AND, what you are willing TO DO!

Footnote to the February meeting. It was found that our makeup mirror was missing. It was out at the January meeting. Does anyone remember putting it away, or know where it might be found? Also, we are looking for the video "How To Develop A Female Voice" by Melanie Phillips. Girls, let's make a point of returning what videos, books, etc. you might have at home ASAP, OK?

In the meantime, other things of interest:

NEXT MEETING:

March 13, in the upstairs alternative meeting area again. You know, the classrooms, by the fire escape. Subject to be the questionnaire and what to do.

SPECIAL MEETING:

The Rochester CD Network has sent an invitation to us to join them at their next meeting on Saturday, March 6. They will be opening their doors at 6:00pm for us. Anyone who is interested in making the trip, please let us know. We can meet at our usual location and car pool it over. Let's plan on leaving by 5.

They are meeting in a new location. Directions are available for those who may wish to do the Rachacha boogie solo!

DUES ARE DO:

This is your last notice. Failure to pay by next month will mean an automatic dropping from the member-

(Continued on page 2)

A Reminder: This will be your last newsletter if we do not receive your annual dues by March 13 !

(Continued from page 1)

ship list. The amount that you owe is shown on your envelope. R-25 means owe \$25, etc. If you are one of those lovely ladies who have the PD-99 after your name, you are one of the few who have paid up so far.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT (as of February 13, 1999)

For accounting purposes, we are going to break down our group into its two main components-the meetings, and the newsletter/overhead expenses. We will look at each part and how it is doing.

MEETINGS:

MEETING EXPENSES:

RENT: \$35.00/month-although our rent was increased in mid '98 from \$20/mo., this is still a bargain. Many groups like ours are forced to rent Hotel/Motel suites, etc. at a cost of over \$100. For the wonderful location and site we have, can't imagine anything better than what we already enjoy.

FOOD: \$24.00/month-this covers our usual pizza, snacks and pop. Also napkins, plates, etc. Perhaps we should cut back on pizza or as some groups do, do more of a potluck dinner thing for their eats. Open to discussion for how to save.

MSC. \$3/mo. This mainly went for stipend to line dance callers, last February.

Total: \$62/mo. Monthly cost to hold meetings as we have in the past. Or can be called \$744/year.

MEETING INCOME:

Meeting fees: Total collected for the 135 attendees for the year, \$639. Interestingly, for the year before, ('97), we had 170 attendees, or a drop of 35 or 3 per month.

This shows a net loss of holding the meetings of \$105 for the year. If one divides the attendance by collected, we get \$4.73 collected per member. Admittedly this figure is a little skewed by the fact that we raised the meeting from \$5 to \$6 about mid year when the rent went up. I'm not so anal retentive that I am going to go back and amortize the shortcoming any further than that.

However, we cannot escape the fact that with our rent increase and attendance down, with some attendees not paying their fee, we are now losing money on the part that used to carry us.

Solution: Find out why attendance is down and do something about it. That is what the survey is about. Fill it out and send it in! Also we dropped the 50/50 raffle when the tickets ran out. That used to be good for another ten bucks or so when we ran it before. A roll of tickets has been bought and all we need is for someone to volunteer to be Raffelmistress. And meeting fees will be collected a little more strictly than before.

NEWSLETTER/OVERHEAD:

Costs (yearly):
Postage \$227
Printing: \$273
PO Box \$40.
Phone \$300
Checking charge \$84
Total operating cost \$924.
Income (dues) \$830.
Loss of \$94.00

So what do we do first? We need a free checking account. Phone should be less since switching services, by about \$50. Make the newsletter BI-monthly? Or...

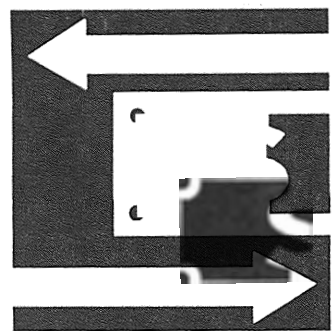
Increase income, that \$830 figure divided by the 51 members on our current roster, averages out to \$16.25 per member. Six of our sisters elect to be associates, and pay \$15.

In the past we have been very generous in allowing many girls to slide do to "hard times". We may still grant a pass to some that warrant such consideration, but the request must be looked at with more scrutiny.

What is disturbing has been the unusually low rate of renewals so far this year. So far we have 19 renewals so far. We always loose a fair amount each year. Hopefully this will be rectified in the next month.

So what is the bottom line?

We lost \$200 last year. Only two years ago, we had so much money that we were making donations to other groups. What we have now is \$478 in our account. The rent is paid through June. Let's project that we take in another \$400 in dues. That gives us \$878. We still have ten months of newsletter/overhead expenses facing us. Newsletter/overhead eats up \$77/mo. Add the \$9/mo loss incurred at the meetings makes \$86. Take off another six months rent Let's see \$878 minus 210 = \$668div by \$86 leaves us 8 months left till we're broke.



Kathy's Notes

(continued on page 4)

This newsletter is a 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:

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

Or E-mail to:
camille1@usa.net



Jennifer's

Corner

Hi girls. Well March is finally here, that means just around the corner are birds chirping, grass turning green, and best of all is the lifting of the Winter Blahs. I for one cannot wait! Shorts, suntans, the beach, dinner at a sidewalk café. The music even sounds different in spring.

Well before we go there..... On January 23 Joy Schroeder and myself treated ourselves to a night on the town. It all started with dinner at E B Greens in the Hyatt that turned out to be dinner, and the left-overs were lunch for the next 2 days, there was certainly a lot of food! From there we adjourned to Kleinhans for a Buffalo Philharmonic Concert which featured the music from *My Fair Lady*, one of Joy's favorite musicals. In addition to the wonderful music of the Philharmonic, there were actors on stage and we were able to enjoy many of the scenes from the play. Fortunately the evening didn't end there. The next stop was the very popular night spot, T-Birds featuring the live music of Flip Side. They played a wide variety of music from the 50's,

60's, and 70's- including some Disco. Boy, did that bring back some memories! We have definite plans for a return trip. We had planned for the evening to end early. Little did we know by early we meant early in the morning. If anyone is interested in an outing such as this call the hotline, or E-mail me at Jennifer25@hotmail.com, I am always looking for an excuse for a night on the town even if its something as simple as dinner and a movie. If you want to get out, the offer of companionship is there. So take advantage of it and we'll both have a great time.

I enjoyed so much seeing and meeting all the people that attended the Buffalo Belles Christmas Party. I learn something new just from talking to my sisters at the meetings. I consider the meetings an invaluable experience and would enjoy all of your company at our next monthly meeting. We have so much in common and so much to talk about. Think about attending the next meeting.



This Months Web Link:

<http://transsexual.org/>

The site deals with Gender Dysphoria in great depth. Almost any question you may have should be answered here. There is also a link to **The Gender Test Center**. When I took the tests it was just another confirmation of what I have known all of my life. Some of the other sections are: **Why did this have to happen to me?**, **How to create self worth**, **Beliefs that can kill**, **The issue of passing**, **a cartoon page**, and **a very extensive links page**.

If you have Internet access its worth the trip.

This Months Quote:

"Dentopedalogy is the science of opening your mouth and putting your foot in it. I've been practicing it for years."

Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (b. 1921). Address to Britain's General Dental Council. Quoted in: *Time* (New York, 21 Nov. 1960).

Remember you can E-Mail me at: Jennifer25@Hotmail.com
Or visit my Web Page at:
http://members.tgforum.com/jennifer_ny

See you all at the meeting!
Huggggggggs

Jennifer

Kathy's Notes

(continued from page 2)

THE QUESTIONNAIRE:

Dear Sisters,

When Denise was first getting the group going and was contacting prospective members, she sent a rather extensive survey to find out what we wanted in a group. Certain parameters were established from the results. Such as where and when to meet. Security guidelines. Even the dues were established by vote!

There were some other questions that seem a little strange today. Like whether we would be better off just merging with a more established group like Crossroads or RochCD. Or "Do you know a bail bondsman? Have you ever needed one while dressed en femme?" Come to think of it, maybe that isn't such a bad question, so here, answer those two questions:

We're not looking for so much this time. We just want to know what we are doing right, and more importantly, what we are doing wrong. There is no doubt that we have a problem. The meetings have become a boor. The leaders are burned out.

When I look back at some of things we used to do, like dinners both in and out, boat rides, Melody Fair, wig/makeup demos. For the last two Februarys we had the line dancing, not this year. During the early years, we had 25-30 girls on our roster. We had 10-15 at the meetings. Today, we draw less with twice the membership.

So what is the problem and how do we fix it? And what are you going to do to help out? We are playing hardball with this one. That is why your mailing address is printed on it. We want the surveys back. **Failure to return the survey means your newsletter will no longer be mailed to you.** If you don't pay your dues, this is your last newsletter anyway, but we would still like to receive it back so we can finally learn why we lose so many of you each year. We know there is an interest out there. We keep getting inquires. We had 22 in attendance the Christmas meeting.

So it is time to go back to the fundamentals. Find out what you want and are going to do. Camille is cutting back on her duties do to having to move and family problems, Kathy has a new life to make for herself, Jean is going to be putting the pedal to the metal and be gone, and Patti still has the restrictions on her ability to do more than she already does.

The Survey Questionnaire appears as an insert with this issue. Please take a few minutes to fill it out and mail it back to us. Thanks!



TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

OK, gang...you've probably seen it, by now...but I gotta share this...true story by the Associated Press:

IS TINKY WINKY GAY?

By DAVID REED, Associated Press

ROANOKE, Va. — The Rev. Jerry Falwell suspects so, telling parents that the purple "Teletubbies" character from the popular children's TV show is a homosexual role model.

Under a headline that reads "Parents Alert: Tinky Winky Comes Out of the Closet," an article in this month's edition of the National Liberty Journal notes that Tinky Winky has the voice of a boy yet carries a purse.

"He is purple - the gay-pride color; and his antenna is shaped like a triangle - the gay-pride symbol," he story said. The paper is edited and published by Falwell.

Falwell contends that the "subtle depictions" are intentional and in a statement issued Tuesday said, "As a Christian I feel that role-modeling the gay lifestyle is damaging to the moral lives of children."

A spokesman for Itsy Bitsy Entertainment Co., which licenses the Teletubbies in the United States, said that what Falwell's paper described as a purse is actually Tinky Winky's magic bag.

"The fact that he carries a magic bag doesn't make him gay," Steve Rice said. "It's a children's show, folks," Rice added. "To think we would be putting sexual innuendo in a children's show is kind of outlandish."

The British show aimed at toddlers began airing on U.S. public television last spring and is now as popular as Barney, a singing, purple dinosaur.

Now, my 2 cents...

First, hey, great...now I can call my purse a "magic bag"?? This is too great! Gods, he's carrying a bag...does that mean it has to be a purse?? I don't see a shoulder strap...and, besides, lots of professionals, male and female alike...Christian and non-Christians alike wear a carrying case, a satchel, a purse...call it what you want to...Photographers come to mind here...what would a photographer be without a camera bag?? Does Falwell think all male photographers are gay, since they carry a "purse"?

Second, as the article points out, Barney also is purple. Third...For God's sake, it's a kids show!! Aimed at toddlers!! who have no idea that one sex is even any real different from the other!! I mean, hey, I was sheltered in my youth...didn't know of physical difference between boys and girls till I was eight. I can't believe toddlers would be cognizant of these things.

And these people think WE'RE strange?!?!?!

Angela F. Bridgman
It's Time, Kentucky!

FOR A BETTER YOU...

Pantyhose for the Long Run...

By Yvonne

Now, call me prudish, but when I like to make an appearance as Yvonne, I almost always end up wearing...pantyhose (among other things, I hope you understand). There, I've said it. There's probably a support group for people like me: "Crossdressers Who Prefer Pantyhose". I've tried garters and stockings and you know what...hated it, although I like the idea! I know that this probably puts me in the minority among crossdressers.



I have to admit that at certain times, stockings would be more convenient, and I have on some occasions worn thigh-high stockings for this reason. But the truth is, the thigh-highs are way down at the bottom of my underwear draw, and there's not a stocking to be seen. So I wouldn't hold it against you if you never visited this web site again. I understand.

You probably don't care, but the February 1999 issue of *Consumer Reports* included an evaluation of several brands of pantyhose along with some very useful guidelines for buying pantyhose. For those of us misguided souls who just don't get it I decided to summarize their findings. I guess that would make me an enabler.

In their usual methodical and complete manner, *Consumer Reports* used three women to evaluate how well various brands fit when based on the size chart the manufacturer supplies. They point out that sizes vary between brands, and that one brand's "Size A" is not the same as another brand's "Size A".

The three models were each about five feet seven inches tall (a little taller than the average woman) and weight 115lbs (dress size 6 to 8), 143lbs (dress size 12) and 175lbs (dress size 14 to



16). If a brand's size chart indicated that the model fell on the boundary of two sizes, they always went to the larger size.

One conclusion that all models came to was that a little spandex content in the leg and panty made for a better fit. They also concluded, based on the opinions of the models, that, in general, more spandex can mean less comfort. The quantity of spandex in the brands they tested ranged from 8 to 25 percent, with brands labeled "control top" having higher contents.

The bad news for gals like us is that, again, in general, brands that fit the slim and average models well were too tight on the larger model (where most of us would find ourselves). They also found that brands that offered more size options usually fit better. However, these brands also tended to be more expensive. The article suggested that larger gals move into the "Queen Size" size range.

Another finding was that brands with some spandex in the leg were less likely to snag. The *L'eggs Shear Energy* brand rated very high in terms of being snag resistant.

Here were their recommendations:

- Don't go by words such as *sheer* or *silky* in the brand's name. There's no standard for what these words mean.
- You don't need to pay more than \$5.00 for a quality pair of pantyhose.
- There is variation in quality among different styles of the same brand.
- The better pantyhose have some spandex in the leg and the panty.
- To help pantyhose last, remove rings and bracelets before putting on. If you have rough skin on your hands, use a skin cream first.
- When you wash pantyhose, don't dry them in a machine, hang them to dry.

And, for the sake of completeness, they even tested the old wives tale that pantyhose stored in the freezer will resist snags. Not true, they say.

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Here are the brands and styles they tested, listed in order from best to worst.

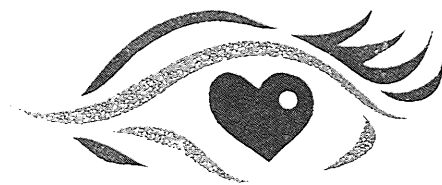
Brand	Style	Price
Calvin Kline	Matte Sheer 700	\$9.20
Wolford	Individual 10 11640	\$42.00
JC Penny Worthington	Sheer Caress Silky Sheer 6090	\$4.00
Donna Karen	Matte Sheer D75	\$12.00
Hanes	Resilience Strong and Sheer D02	\$6.85
L'eggs	Reliance	\$4.45
Jockey for Her	Day Sheer 1950	\$5.85
Jaclyn Smith (Kmart)	Silky Sheer 5110	\$2.75
Round The Clock	Silky Lycra 61	\$5.95
Hanes	Silk Reflections Sheer Collection 716	\$5.55
L'eggs	Sheer Energy	\$4.25
No Nonsense	Sheer Endurance	\$3.25
Evan Picone	Business Sheers 187 *	\$3.95
No Nonsense	No Nonsense*	\$2.10
L'eggs	Everyday *	\$1.70
No Nonsense	Sheer to Waist *	\$2.40
Hanes	Too! *	\$3.70
Berkshire	All Day 4401 *	\$3.50



Note: styles marked with * had no spandex

For myself, I am partial to the JC Penny brands, and I was glad to see that one of their styles rated well. Another thing I like about getting pantyhose at JC Penny's is their *Hosiery Club* card, which entitles you to a free pair with every ten pairs purchased. There is no time limit on how long it takes to buy ten pair. That's my little commercial.

(Yvonne and more of her advice can be reached at her website at: <www.albany.net/~yms/>)



Makeup Tips For Eyes

Mascara clumping : Usually caused by too-old mascara, a mascara formula that is not right for your lashes, or mascara build-up. Date your mascara tube and replace every three months.

Mascara flaking : Usually caused by mascara that is too old, dry. Date your mascara tube and replace every three months.

Maximizing lashes : Maximize with at least two roots-to-tips coats. Get brush as close to the base of lashes as possible, wiggle to separate lashes and sweep up to the top of the lashes. To apply to lower lashes, hold wand vertically, sweep across lashes.

MISS...CELLANEOUS FILES



LINGERIE IQ TEST



1. What actress flaunted her figure in *The Outlaw* and later became a spokeswoman for the Playtex bra?

- A. Jayne Mansfield
- B. Lauren Bacall
- C. Jane Russell
- D. Madonna

2. Cup sizes were introduced by Warners with its Alphabet Bra in what year?

- A. 1925
- B. 1935
- C. 1941
- D. 1950

3. "Décolletage" is defined as:

- A. The low-cut neckline of a dress
- B. A French-style brassiere
- C. A coordinating top and bottom
- D. Nobody's quite sure but it sounds real fancy

4. Maidenform's "Chansonette" bra, bringing to the 50's a "Sweater Girl" look, was better known by what name?

- A. The Bomber
- B. The original WonderBra
- C. The "Semi-Demi"
- D. The Bullet Bra

5. "Cookies" are defined as:

- A. Covering for a woman's nipples
- B. Removable pads in a padded bra
- C. Bras that have no underwire
- D. Something that would taste great in ice cream

6. "I dreamed I was ... in my Maidenform bra" was a wildly successful advertising campaign which began in what year?

- A. 1933
- B. 1939
- C. 1949
- D. 1955

7. The expression "always wear clean underwear" was first uttered by:

- A. Madonna
- B. A Playtex executive
- C. An emergency room MD
- D. Your mother

8. The "Merry Widow", a black corset or bustier which usually has garters, resulted from a 1952 movie of the same name which starred what actress?

- A. Mary Martin
- B. Marilyn Monroe
- C. Elizabeth Taylor
- D. Lana Turner

9. Stronger, lighter bras that did not require ironing were made possible by what Dupont invention in 1938?

- A. Polyester
- B. Nylon
- C. Rayon
- D. The underwire

10. Slip sales went soaring following Elizabeth Taylor's starring role in what 1950's movie?

- A. A Streetcar Named Desire
- B. Cat on a Hot Tin Roof
- C. The Glass Menagerie
- D. International Velvet

ANSWERS:

1.C 2.B 3.A 4.D 5.B 6.C 7.D 8.D 9.B 10.B

SCORING GUIDE:

9-10: You're an intimate apparel genius!

6-8 : Your intimate apparel IQ is quadruple your bra size!

3-5 : You'll need a "push-up" to reach the next level!

0-2 : Your intimate apparel IQ needs a "bustier"



COMING EVENTS



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

MARCH 6

ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:00pm
contact the info-line to arrange for ride or directions

MARCH 7

TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY MEETING 2:00pm
367 DELAWARE AVE (near Tupper St.), BUFFALO

MARCH 13

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm (upstairs room)

MARCH 17-21

IFGE 13th ANNUAL CONVENTION,
LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY

APRIL 3

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm

APRIL 21-25

CORONATION '99 WEEK- IMPERIAL COURT OF
BUFFALO featuring "REIGNING ON PROM NIGHT"

MAY 1

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm

JUNE 2-6

17th ANNUAL BE-ALL CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO

JUNE 5

BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm



Well sisters, you didn't think you'd get through a whole issue without hearing from me, did you? Yes, life has been somewhat hectic lately with having to move, catching a nasty bit of a cold, and just trying to spread a little kindness around. Oh, and the occasional late night out. A girl needs to spread her wings every now and then or Buffalo 'cabin fever' will make one feel so bitchy (just ask Kathy!).

But I do need you to give some serious thought to the concerns that Kathy wrote about earlier. Many of us will assume that some other sister will offer a hand to do something. But as before, that won't happen unless you make a small commitment to keep the Belles going. Could this be the last year of the Buffalo Belles? Only you can answer that. So do think carefully when you fill out your survey questionnaire. And do come to the next meeting on March 13.

*Stay warm. Hugs,
Camille*