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November 1999

Buffalo Belles

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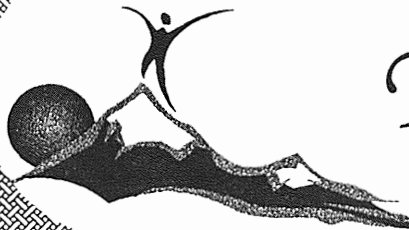


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THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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KATHY'S NOTES

Dear Sisters,

We had a decent turnout for our October movie. The showing of "Different for Girls" did go off, but with a twist and turn, along the way. First off, we didn't find out that we would not be meeting in our usual place. The change of meeting location did make it on the Hotline message 24 hours in advance. We've said it before, but for those who are a little too blonde, "Call the Hotline before a meeting, just to be sure".

Now this on its own, is not that big of deal, after all, the upstairs secondary location isn't to shabby, either. The problem was that the television is at the regular location. So the call went out Friday night to all the girls we have E-mail addresses for, whether anyone could help out. Now we didn't expect any to be so macho as to volunteer to carry the 25" counsel model up the meeting room.

However a heroine quickly appeared. Dana volunteered to bring her 13" portable to the meeting. On top of it, Dana had already seen the movie when it played in a theater in TO. Thanks Dana, you really saved the night for us.

The movie did seem to have some interest, as I would estimate that at least half of the girls stayed with it through it's entire length. Hopefully we'll do this again some time in the near future. Patti and Camille saw "Better Than Chocolate" recently, and gave it excellent reviews. As soon as it becomes available on Video, hopefully we'll get a copy for another video night.

A reminder, this video as well as quite a few others are available for borrowing from our library. See Joan about taking materials, OK?

Turning out for the October meeting was:

- | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Patti J | Joan L. |
| Dana D. | Jo S. |
| Kathy L. | Brenda D. |
| Becky A. | Kendra K. |
| Camille H. | Tina M. |
| Susan R. | Randi * |
| Debbie C. | Victoria * |
| Crystal & Tanya | |
| Nancy | *debutantes, |
| Kelly H. | welcome sisters |

Guests Terry Lynn and wife Sue

We continue to attract new members, wish to give a welcome to the three new girls who've joined us, this last month. Suzie, Diana and Malissa, hope to be seeing you at a meeting in the near future.

Since I'm so anal retentive and take an interest in obscure and irrelevant things in life, it is time to bestow the "I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO WITH MY SATURDAY NIGHTS AWARD" to Patti for finally achieving the dubious distinction of making the most meetings, since day one. Patti has fought long and hard to overcome the initial success of Janice. Then Jean got on a roll, and took over number one a few years ago. But through sheer determination and patience, Patti has finally achieved number one. What even makes this more outstanding, is the times that Patti has left a hard days work on the ski slopes, taking her frostbitten feet and forcing them into a tight pair of pumps, put on a pretty face, and made it to the meetings.

(Kathy's "I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO TOP TEN" is continued on page 6)

- VIDEO GLAM-CAM NIGHT ON NOVEMBER 13th.
- WANTED: A BUFFALO BELLES CHRISTMAS PARTY. HOW DO WE GET IT? WE NEED VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH A FEW THINGS THAT WILL ENSURE A GREAT TIME. SEE CAMILLE OR PATTI OR CALL THE HELPLINE & LEAVE A MESSAGE.



Camille's Corner

Hi Belles

It has been a wonderful month with colorful fall leaves delighting the eye. It's my favorite sea-

son. Not too hot, not too cold. And it's also a time I love to travel. And on October 15, I found myself, along with Patti and Janice, on the road heading down Interstate 79 to Pittsburgh. For Patti and myself, this trip was to be totally enfemme. Three days for three women. I was really looking forward to this adventure.

Our main motivation was to visit Frank Lloyd Wright's masterpiece "Fallingwater", the former summer home of the Kaufmann (department store) family, about 60 miles outside of Pittsburgh. It's so popular you need reservations to tour it. We were scheduled to visit it on Saturday morning. But before and after that, we intended to explore Pittsburgh and have some fun.

We arrived in Pittsburgh about 6:00pm, Friday and checked into a Holiday Inn just 3 miles from downtown, and immediately started making plans for dinner. I suggested we go to a place called the Church Brew Works, a former church lovingly converted to a brewpub featuring award winning beer and food. We were not disappointed.

After dinner, Janice wanted to see a laser show at the local planetarium, so we said goodbye to our pint-size friends and headed off to find the Carnegie Science Center. Its located next to Three Rivers Stadium, where the Pirates and Steelers play. The 11:00pm show featured music from the Pink Floyd album "The Wall". I last saw a laser light show about 12 years ago and was astounded by the latest state-of-the-art laser display.

Upon our return back at the inn, we had hoped to grab a drink at the hotel bar before retiring for the night. Unfortunately it had closed early. Just as well because we needed to arise early to get ready for our daytime excursions.

I've been told that if you don't want to be "read" in public, wear pants as most women nowadays do. I brought four pairs of pants with me, so I was ready to blend in. We hit the road early Saturday and made it to Fallingwater with time to spare. Its located in

the country where there's lots of rolling hills. The sun was shining brightly, the foliage was near peak. It was a warm day and I was a little apprehensive that my makeup would start to melt and that I, or Patti, would soon be an unwanted center of attention. Our tour group consisted of about a dozen individuals and throughout the hour long tour no one knew or seemed to mind. We did some hiking and took lots of photos that I should have at the upcoming meeting.

Later that afternoon we headed back to Pittsburgh. Our aim was to locate a bar/club, preferably TG friendly, to go for a drink and some dancing later that evening. We checked out some places in the Strip District and South Side and found a couple of possibilities that looked promising.

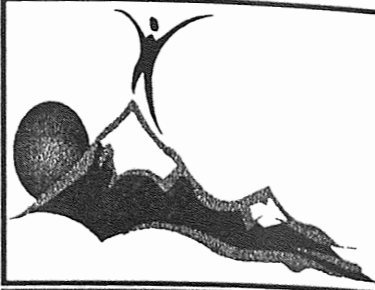
Returning to the hotel, we had dinner at the on-site restaurant. Although we got read by the staff there, we were treated like any other customer there. Back in our room, we got ready for the evening. Now was the time to break out the skirts and high heels.

We decided to go to a place called 'Chauncey's', a rather large club that featured a fireplace, nice pool tables, lots of booths, and a big dance floor. Oh, and it was a straight bar. No problem, I silently prayed. And I guess my prayers were answered as we did not have a single problem the whole time we were there. Even the dreaded 'wait-on-line' for the women's restroom was uneventful. Patti was asked to dance a few times, I was approached by one of the best lawyers in Pittsburgh (his description of himself), and Jan kept us from doing anything foolish. Unless you count my trying to pull off a sexy exit from the club when I swished a little too much and tripped on the slick tile steps leaving the place. I got attention. Just not the kind I was hoping for. Oh, and I broke a heel on my favorite pair of heels. That's what I get for trying to show off.

The next day we packed the van were off to home. But not before stopping at a factory outlet mall outside of Pittsburgh. No bargains, no purchase. Hello again, Buffalo.

So what can travel do for a TG individual? It can show you that our fears about going out in public are usually unwarranted. The general public is becoming more accepting every day. So get out those traveling shoes (and a pair of sexy heels) and go. You'll be glad you did.

Hugs,
Camille



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NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi!

I've taken a little heat of late for sending in my column with a mention of events that haven't actually happened yet. Ask Kathy or Camille! If I submit my column to be published later and I write about something that will take place after I throw it into the mail, then several factors are in place: (a) I can foresee the future, (b) I'm making it all up, (c) nobody will be the wiser, or (d) none of the above. If you picked (d) you win! Hey, it's female intuition kicking in and I'm proud to say that this particular trait is very strong within me. Oh, and don't forget I'm under the gun with a deadline.

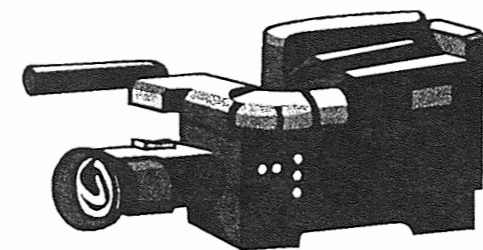
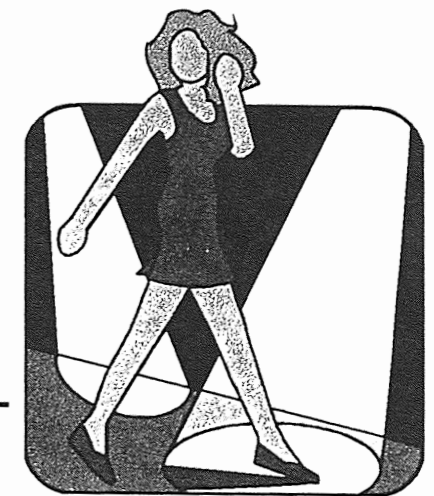
I'm penning this column from my hotel room in Chicago. It's only mid-September and I know you won't read this until the November issue. What's a girl to do?

I had the pleasure to meet a wonderful girlfriend whom I've been corresponding with for some time. Brenda lives in the Chicago area and since I was headed there on vacation we decided to meet for the first time. Brenda wanted to experience what it's like to have a man take her to dinner or to a mall. To go on a "date". Me being a CD, I simply got dressed as a man and helped to fulfill her longtime wish. I took her to dinner on Friday, to a mall on Saturday that included lunch and to downtown Chicago to visit 'Skyscraper Heels'. Talk about a wild and crazy shoe store! Brenda suggested we go to a meeting of the Chi-Chapter of TRI-ESS on Saturday night. I simply got dressed up, put on my makeup and we were off to share the company of 40+ women at the local Holiday Inn Express. (See me for details.) We spent Sunday hanging out and we both had a great time.

(continued on page 6)

GLAM CAM NIGHT

- ◊ Do you ever wonder what you look like to others?
- ◊ Or how you move when you walk, talk or sit down?
- ◊ Interested in improving your look or presentation?
- ◊ Or just curious how glamorous that special outfit will look when you venture out during the holidays?



**Come to the Buffalo Belles November
13th meeting and find out.**

We will be video taping interested individuals that evening.

**Bring a blank VHS tape, if you wish,
to use as a practice/reference tool at home.**

**We will have a deportment expert at the meeting who will
assist us in developing ladylike movements and presentation.**

DON'T MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY FOR A BETTER YOU.

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

SCHOOL SAYS BOY IN DRAG
CAN'T BE QUEEN

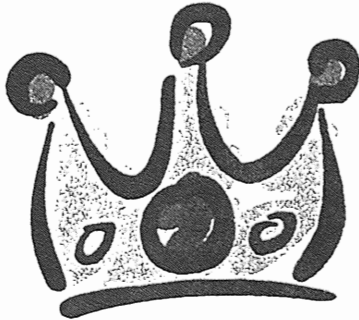
September 30, 1999

TAMPA, Fla. (Reuters) - JaVonn Hicks dreams of being homecoming queen but a Florida school district says no way.

JaVonn Hicks is a boy.

"It's not a sexual orientation issue," Hillsborough County public school spokesman Mark Hart told the Tampa Tribune in a story published Thursday. "It's about equity."

Hart said Hicks' school would choose both a homecoming king and a homecoming queen, with boys running for king and girls for queen.



"If there wasn't a category for him to participate, then he would have the right to be homecoming queen," Hart said. "He has the opportunity to run, because he's a boy, for king."

The 17-year-old student, who wears blue polish on perfectly manicured nails, has been allowed to dress in drag since his sophomore year at Tampa Bay Vo-Tech, the Tribune reported.

The newspaper said Hicks, whose bedroom resembles that of any high school girl, with fashion magazines, lipstick, curling iron and fingernail polish strewn about, was diagnosed with gender identity disorder but does not want a sex change operation. He dresses as a girl because he is more comfortable that way.

"I'm a very fashionable boy," said Hicks, who says he is gay. "I'm happy the way I am. I don't know why I was born a boy or why this is happening to me. I just take the bitter with the sweet."

Tampa Bay Vo-Tech Principal Sylvia Albritton said Hicks has been well accepted by other students.

"The student body has been very supportive of him," she said. "He's a respectable student and he's very stylish in what he wears."

Hicks' slinky black prom dress hangs in his closet and he is still hoping school officials change their minds before the queen is crowned Oct. 23.

"It's something I really want to do," he told the Tribune. "I'm not ashamed of who I am. No student should be discriminated against."

POWER-TOWER TOPLESS ACT BRINGS ELEC-
TRONIC DETENTION

October 19, 1999, SEATTLE POST-INTELLIGENCER

Last month, Ara Tripp stood atop a 180-foot electrical transmission tower, danced topless and breathed fire.

Yesterday, wearing a red dress and black high heels, she stood before a Seattle Municipal Court Judge to hear her punishment.

Judge Ron Mamiya sentenced Tripp to 30 days of electronic home detention.

Grant M. Haller/P-I Tripp, 37, must also pay \$800 to City Light for expenses stemming from the Sept. 8 incident off Interstate 5 at the Ship Canal.

City Light was forced to send a crew to cut power to protect Tripp from the 120,000 volts of electricity coursing through tower lines.

Mamiya also ordered Tripp to pay \$500 in costs associated with her case and to perform 100 hours of community service.

She could have been sentenced to up to a year in jail.

Her stunt backed up traffic for miles during the morning commute. Tripp, a transsexual, said her action was intended to protest state decency laws that don't allow women to go topless in public.

"I think it's unfair males can show their nipples, breasts and chests, and females cannot," she told the court. "It is an unjust and unfair law."

However, Tripp said, she was sorry for any chaos she caused. "It was not my purpose, and I do have remorse," Tripp said.

Mamiya initially sentenced Tripp to 10 days in jail, but changed that to electronic home detention after jail officials said they would have a difficult time accommodating her with the female jail population, according to Tripp's lawyer, David Gehrke.

Mamiya told her she could have picked a better forum for her protest, one that did not endanger herself or others and one that did not cause massive traffic jams.

"I hope this is not something to cause you to be back in court again," he said. The judge then asked Tripp's lawyer if she suffered from any mental illness. Gehrke assured him that she did not.

"She seems very comfortable with where she is," Gehrke said. "I don't see any mental health issues. This was not a suicide attempt."

Tripp likewise assured the judge she was sane.

"From the off-the-rocker point of view," she said, "I'm not."

GENE TREATMENT GETS HAIR TO GROW

NEW YORK (AP) - Hair's some hopeful news for men concerned about baldness.

Gene therapists at the Weill Medical College of Cornell University report that they have used injections of a gene in mice to force resting hair follicles into a growth phase.

The lead researcher, Dr. Ronald G. Crystal, used a virus to carry a gene nicknamed Sonic hedgehog, a hereditary factor essential for development, into young mice whose hair follicles had gone into a normal resting phase.

The animals' black fur was bleached blond, and a few days after the injections tufts of new black hair sprouted, apparently after their follicles were forced back into active phase.

The research, reported in the latest issue of *The Journal of Clinical Investigation*, has not yet been tried on humans. If it were, and it worked, human hair-seekers presumably would require multiple injections over their bald scalps, *The New York Times* reported Tuesday.

"My guess is that maybe someday we will be using Sonic hedgehog as part of a cocktail of growth factors to make hair grow," Dr. Ervin Epstein, a dermatologist at the University of California at San Francisco, commented in the Times.

Problems remain to be solved, the Times noted. Epstein has found that overactivity of the Sonic hedgehog gene is a case of basal cell carcinoma, a common but treatable skin cancer.

In earlier genetic research on baldness, Columbia University researchers reported in the journal *Science* in January 1998 that a mutation of a gene nicknamed "hairless" caused a very rare condition in which people are born without eyelashes or eyebrows, quickly lose the hair on top of the head and never grow any body hair.

Santa sez: it's a man's world. A "Santa Claus" working



at a Wal-Mart in Louisville, KY, last Christmas was fired after it was discovered that "he" was a woman. Marta Brown has filed a claim for \$67,000 for lost wages and "pain and suffering" with the KY Human Rights Commission. "Mrs. Brown proved she could play the role of

Santa, but she was rejected based on her female status," her attorney said. "She was totally humiliated."

LESBIAN GROUP FINED FOR DISCRIMINATING
AGAINST TRANSGENDER PERSON

October 15, 1999

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) - A lesbian group has been ordered to pay more than \$2,000 after a British Columbia Human Rights Tribunal hearing found it committed sexual discrimination by banning a transgendered person from its drop-in center.

The Vancouver Lesbian Connection is to pay about \$2,030 to Susan Mamela, a pre-operative transgendered person, meaning she hasn't had surgery to change her sex to female.

She began attending the University of British Columbia's Gender Clinic in 1995 and has received hormonal therapy.

The tribunal order was entered this week in British Columbia Supreme Court, giving it the effect of a court order.

Mamela described herself to the human rights tribunal as a radical lesbian feminist who rejects male society's attempt to define her and "make a woman out of me."

"My client's view is that she's not a woman and never can be a woman because it's a social-political construct based on a lot of stereotypes and restrictions," Mamela's lawyer, Clea Parfitt, said Thursday.

"She prefers the term female," Parfitt said.

Mamela first approached the lesbian group in February 1996 to become a member. She was told she couldn't join because she had been born male.

But after the its annual general meeting in May 1996, the group changed its membership policy to include transgendered and bisexual women.

Mamela was a member of the group until March 1997, when she was asked to leave after a heated argument over what constitutes womanhood.

Mamela was accused by group members of being "aggressive and mannish."

The group also felt it was inappropriate that Mamela should answer phones to the women's crisis line because she had a male-sounding voice.

The tribunal upheld Mamela's complaint and ordered the group to pay the penalty in compensation for injury to Mamela's "dignity, feelings and self-respect."

"Straights are always saying to me, 'Are you trying to recruit us?' What would be the selling point? We have no rights. People hate us. Come join us."

--Gay comedian Jason Stuart performing Oct. 2 at the University of Arizona in Tucson.

KATHY'S NOTES*(Continued from page 1)***"I'VE GOT NOTHING BETTER TO DO TOP TEN"**

Patti J. 66
 Janice G. 65
 Jean H. 63
 Kathy L. 58
 Colleen R. 47
 Dana D. 43
 Denise M. 38
 Camille H. 38
 Holly I. 36
 Susan R. 28

This is out of a possible 82 meetings that were held and attendance recorded. There were three more that were held and attendance not kept. This does not include any special meetings, but just the monthly regular, since our start in September '92.

On another note, For those who've had my mail box address- PO Box 361 in Amherst for the last ten years or so, loose it, forget it, it is gone. For anyone needing to send me anything, you can use either the club box or directly to me (Kathy Lorraine if you've forgotten who your reading at this point. You are getting sleepy...) or to my home, assuming you know what bridge I'm currently residing under.

See you at the November meeting,
 Kathy

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE*(continued from page 3)*

She suggested I open an escort service for crossdressers who need an understanding person to go out on a date with. I'm checking into that and already have a few ideas for a business card.

Finally, but most important. Daryl Holzhauer sends her warmest regards. Daryl is my personal Mary Kay beauty consultant who gave of her time and expertise to join us at the September meeting. We had 10 sisters sit down, watch an instructional video, do a facial and apply makeup under her watchful eye. It was a ball watching everyone transform themselves. Daryl sends a huge "Thank You"! She was very impressed with the Belles and enjoyed herself immensely. She hopes to be invited back next year to help us again. Of course, our thanks go to Daryl in return.

I'm going to the Fantasia Fair towards the end of October, so by the time you read this, I'll be back. I won't go into detail or give you my comments on this gig yet. I'll let you know the details later.

Take care,
 Nancy

**MOVIE REVIEW:
BOYS DON'T
CRY**

'Boys Don't Cry' struck me so powerfully on first viewing that it wasn't until hours later that I realized how really good it is. The immediate emotional impact forced aside thoughts of direction, writing and performance, and I was simply there, inside the story of a girl named Teena Brandon who decided to become a boy named Brandon Teena, fell in love, and was murdered.

This true story from 1993 has already inspired a documentary and TV coverage ranging from news magazines to Jerry Springer. You might guess that the story of a 21-year-old Nebraskan can't support all that attention, but you'd be wrong. Like Romeo and Juliet, this tragedy of deception and love can support any number of interpretations, and seems destined to become part of our folklore, a death that holds up a mirror to society.

Moving to a small town an hour or two away from Lincoln, she - now he - falls in with a crowd of redneck pool players and their girls, and is soon dating Lana (Chloe Sevigny), a girl about her age. They live in a violent world of drinking and drugging macho bullies, who at first accept Brandon and then eventually discover the secret.

The film was directed by Kimberly Peirce, who co-wrote it with Andy Bienen. They avoid all the pitfalls of symbolism and polemics and simply allow their story to emerge from these lives. Swank achieves a convincing compromise between female and male, and embodies Brandon's uncomplicated desires with a kind of enthusiastic purity. This is not a person who recites clichés about "a man trapped in a woman's body" but a good-looking kid who wants to have a good time, to party and fall in love. When Brandon whispers to a cop, late in the film, about a "sexual identity crisis," you sense these are words that have been heard but not understood.

Boys Don't Cry is a compelling and absorbing film for general audiences, the kind of movie like *Midnight Cowboy*, *Philadelphia* or *The Crying Game* that can reach and touch anyone. It's not sociological, it's not ideological, it's simply the sad and beautiful story of two star-crossed lovers; Romeo and Juliet in a trailer park. Its story is so touching and compelling, so convincingly and simply told, that it would absorb any audience given the chance to see it.

Boys Don't Cry is one of the best films of the year.

**FOR A BETTER
YOU...****ASK THE
MAKE-UP
DIVA**

Q: How do I know which eye shadow colors are right for me?

A: Unless you just want to play with color, the main purpose of eye shadow is to accent the color of your eyes. The best way to do this is to choose eye shadow colors that are neutral and don't compete with your eye color (like blue shadow with blue eyes).

A good rule of thumb is to always choose eye shadow shades that are either lighter or darker than your eyes; for example, if you have dark brown eyes, you'll find lighter colors will make your eyes stand out more. Here are a few current guidelines to make color selection easier:

For blue eyes, purples from lilac to eggplant are most flattering

For brown eyes, you can wear just about anything, so don't be afraid to experiment

For green eyes, try a rosy or reddish brown

A few things to avoid:

Red: Unless you like to look really tired or like you've been crying all day, anything remotely red near your eye is not flattering.

Excessive sparkle: At night, get as sparkly as you want, but for a basic, polished look during the day, stick to matte or slightly shimmery shades.

Obvious lines: Should you choose to use more than one eye shadow color, I can't stress enough the importance of careful blending. Use a clean soft eye shadow brush to blend the edges of your colors so there is not harsh line.

Muddiness: Always use a clean eye shadow brush for each color you apply so you don't end up with a muddy mess. Blend gently to erase lines but still keep the individual colors distinct.

If you still aren't sure what colors suit you, visit a few department store cosmetic counters to try on colors that appeal to you. Try on a few and wear them around for a while. Then, if you like it, you can go back and buy it, or even look for an alternative at the drug-store if you don't want to spend that much.

The 'Millennium Bra': Fit for a queen**... or anyone else with a large bank account***November 4, 1999*

TOKYO (Reuters) -- Behold the "Millennium Bra."

A German lingerie maker unveiled the gold-threaded, diamond-studded undergarment in Tokyo on Thursday, in what it dubbed an effort to bring the timeless beauty of ancient Egypt to the dawn of the new age.

The "Millennium Bra" is made from 24-carat gold thread hand-woven into 15th-century style "bobbin lace" and encrusted with a 15-carat diamond in the center. It weighs a hefty 421 grams (15 ounces), making it about eight times heavier than a regular bra.

This one-of-a-kind bra, which took three years to make, has an even heftier price tag -- 200 million yen (US \$1.9 million). But it's built to last.

"It's nearly the year 2000," says Sachiko Kamata, of Triumph Inc., "and as we head for this important year, we thought we'd make something that would remain eternal."



Fashion



TIPS FROM "INSTANT STYLE"

By Emily Cho & Neila Fisher

- The perfect jacket covers the rear and gives a longer line to the body.
- If your upper arm is heavy, you can still wear a short sleeve if the sleeve is long enough to hide the heaviest part.
- The look of three solid colors can be very striking. If you're wearing two bright colors together, black is a safe third color.
- Always tone your stockings to your shoes, not to your skirts. Your legs will look longer.
- Makeup Note: A line inside the eye rim makes the eye look smaller, whereas a line right under the lower lashes makes the eye look bigger.
- Cheap Advice: Drink as much water as you can. There is nothing better for your skin!
- A money saving hint is to look for evening-wear possibilities in the lingerie department, such as a satin camisole or a lacy bodysuit.

THE ANNUAL BUFFALO BELLES CHRISTMAS PARTY SATURDAY - DECEMBER 11

♦ GREAT FOOD

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

♦ SEE FABULOUS FESTIVE OUTFITS
♦ 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 DECORATIONS. PLEASE BE AN
ANGEL AND HELP. SEE CAMILLE OR PATTI
OR LEAVE YOUR NAME ON THE HELPLINE
VOICEMAIL

SCHOOL DISTRICT IGNORED A WARNING ON FIRING OF TS TEACHER

By Walt Wiley Bee Staff Writer, Sept. 29, 1999

The three members of the Center Unified School District board who voted to fire a teacher who's changing gender reportedly took the action even though the district's legal counsel warned them they could not win and would spend a minimum of \$250,000 to fight a losing battle.



"They see this as a principle to stand up for," said trustee Raymond F. Bender of fellow board members Scott Rodowick, Dan Reason and Ronald E. Hodges and their vote in June to fire teacher Dana Rivers.

"They'll say things about parental rights and all that, but what this amounts to is: No way will they allow a transgender teacher to teach in the Center district," Bender said.

For her part, Rivers, visiting family in the Bay Area, said she wants only to return to teaching.

Bender and trustee Nancy Anderson were opposed to firing Rivers, who as a man named David Warfield was for eight years a popular, award-winning broadcast journalism and history teacher at Center High School.

At the end of the last school year, Warfield announced that he would be returning as Rivers, which was followed by the June vote to fire her, Bender said.

Since state law requires that teachers be served with such news only between Sept. 15 and the middle of May, he said,

"they waited to mail out the news and actually put it in the mail on the Friday after a district staff day to avoid the danger of a teacher strike or something."

Board president Rodowick, however, said the action was merely to reinforce parental rights regarding sex education.

"We have a policy that requires parental notification of content and intention before any family life or sex education material is presented to students. She discussed her situation with students without that notification. That's a violation of policy and that's why we're taking the action," he said.

Specifically, the board alleges that Rivers shows an "evident unfitness for service," and it has served her with a notice of intent to dismiss, placing her on administrative leave with pay. She has filed a complaint with the state labor commissioner to get her job back and will request a hearing.

The board has chosen a difficult path, said Beverly Tucker, chief counsel for the California Teachers Association.

"The district is going to have to prove that the teacher has a character defect -- unchangeable," Tucker said.

Tucker said this is the first such case she has heard of, and it is not known how many transgender teachers there are in the state.

"I know them everywhere -- Sacramento, Santa Cruz, San Jose. That's what's so surprising here," Rivers said.

In Red Bluff last year, a music teacher returned from summer vacation as a woman after having worked a dozen years as a man.

The district trustees downplayed any controversy, received a few complaints from parents at board meetings, "and now it's all blown over. There were no problems at all," said Red Bluff Joint Union High School District Superintendent Kathy Wheeler.

XPRESSION'S CHRISTMAS EVENT & GALA WEEKEND!

This will be held over the weekend of December 2nd through 5th, 1999, at the Colony Hotel at 89 Chestnut Street, in Toronto. The Gala weekend will begin on:

- Ø Thursday evening; with registration & a cocktail party,
- Ø Friday: tours & shopping during the day, with an organized dinner & evening.
- Ø Saturday: a few workshop, more shopping & the Gala dinner & Show this evening,
- Ø Sunday: Breakfast, or Brunch & then, 'say your goodbyes'!

Rates at the hotel have been negotiated at \$59(Canadian) per room (\$40 US), per night & it is recommended that you book quickly, as room are limited, given it is Christmas season. To book your rooms please telephone the hotel directly, refer to Xpressions & the weekend dates, then book your room(s). Be sure they quote you the \$59.00 rate. If you have any problems lets me know.

This will be a great event & weekend, and a wonderful opportunity to do your Christmas shopping in Toronto, while staying in a downtown hotel, only steps away from the Eaton's Centre. You don't want to miss this one!



COMING EVENTS



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

- | | |
|-----------------------|---|
| NOVEMBER 11-14 | THE WESTERN BELLES ROUNDUP
Milford, Pennsylvania |
| NOVEMBER 13 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
Video Glam-Cam Night |
| NOVEMBER 14 | MISS GAY ROCHESTER 7:00pm to Midnight
Gotham City Club, Rochester (call helpline if interested) |
| NOVEMBER 18-21 | ERIE LAKESIDE GALA
Erie, Pennsylvania |
| NOVEMBER 20 | PEP MEETING 7:00pm
Compton's After Dark, 1239 Niagara Street, Buffalo |
| NOVEMBER 21 | TRANSGENDER DISCUSSION GROUP 2-4pm
367 Delaware Ave. (near Tupper St.), Buffalo |
| DECEMBER 4 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:30pm |
| DECEMBER 3-5 | X-PRESSIONS CHRISTMAS GALA
Toronto, Ontario |
| DECEMBER 11 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm
ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY |
| FEBRUARY 26 | CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 10:00pm – 2:00am
Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave |
| MARCH 1-5 | COLORADO GOLD RUSH TG CONVENTION
Denver, Colorado |
| APRIL 30 | MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR
EQUALITY |

