The Chi Tribune

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President's Podium

Getting Along

I always wondered why some people complain about other groups and put them down, I read about it so often in the many newsletters and magazines and even on the Internet. Of course someone always comes up with the answer. "They need to get along." What does that mean? I guess I have been lucky here in Chicago, I never faced any infighting amongst groups. Sure, sometimes some mis-informed or self-important person takes a jab at a group or person, even as VP at CGS, I frequently would sit down with a 'Tri-Ess negative' person and explain the Tri-Ess purpose. I have never had someone come out of that without a new outlook on Tri-Ess and an appriciation of it's purpose. But most of us in this area understand what the purpose of the other group is. Of course we all want the biggest and best group for our members but generally I have seen a lot of cooperation amongst the groups, and so far no one has run out of calendar for events, etc.

As mentioned a few months ago, I was intrigued with a presentation made last July, to the National Board regarding the newly formed Oklahoma Umbrella group C.O.T.A. and the article in the Spring 95 issue of the Femme Mirror. Seeing a need for a similar organization here, I approached Carol Rodgers regarding this when she announced her candicity for President of CGS. I found that she also was thinking along the same lines in forming a leadership group here in the Chicago area to better coordinate the efforts of various gender groups.

I am happy to announce that on June 4th the first meeting of the Gender Leadership Conference was held at Transformations. Present and past officers of six area gender groups were invited and the following were present along with several interested visitors. CGS: President; Carole Rodgers, VP;Olivia, Officer at Large; Andre GGG/ITW.: Colleen Obrien, Debbie Johnson, T. O.N.I. President; Claudia Kenworthy, Chi-Chapter; President; Denise, VP; Miranda, Treasurer; Bridget, VP; Candace, I.T.I.; Chair; Stephanie, Janice, and Past President (CGS and Chi), Gloria and visitor Sunny.

JULY MEETING

The next meeting will feature a Vendors fair and Ice Cream Social
The schedule of the July meeting is as follows:

5:00 pm	Changing rooms open
6:00 pm	GG/Wives meeting in room 118
6:30 pm	Newcomers meeting in room 120
8:30 pm	General meeting begins

Those changing in the changing rooms are reminded to bring a towel(s) for makeup removal.

The location of the Holiday Inn Express is on Riverside drive just off RT83 in Elmhurst. RT 83 is reachable from I-290, North Av or St Charles Rd to RT83 then South. Or take Roosevelt Rd to RT83 then go North.

It is advisable when making a room reservbation, to make it at least a month early, we have been experiencing many FULL houses at the Inn. Reservations are available at (708)279-0700. Please mention Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess.

Discussion included the creation of a flyer/brochure outlining the various groups and their missions. Each group will submit copy for the flyer and Denise was 'appointed the editor'. Hopefully it should be available by July 1.The cost of which will be covered by all the groups based on membership levels. We covered establishing a calendar of activities with will prevent overlapping of events and the problems they create. Miranda was 'elected' to the job of calendar (girl) keeper.

The meeting was adjourned after setting Sept 4th as the next meeting date. Denise will chair and the main topic will be outreach coordination.

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P.A.L.S. by Dawn

P.A.L.S, (short for Positive Attitudes Living Side by side) is a women's group set up for wives, girlfriends and significant others whose partners are cross-dressers. The purpose of this group is to provide an outlet to share concerns in cross-dressing issues in a private and secure environment. It is our intention that P.A.L.S. be a support group, where we ladies band together to help each other maintain, uplift and ultimately strengthen our marriages and relationships.

In P.A.L.S. we want to promote positive attitudes and attributes and at the same time to identify and resolve negative feelings. We want to deal with the fear and the trust that is often broken do to discovery or poor disclosure. We encourage intimacy and COMMUNICATION and that can only strengthen the original basis of the relationship.

Everyone taking part in this group needs to abide by an ethic of confidentiality. We need to have faith in each other's discretion and mutual respect for each other's feelings. We need to reassure each other that any information disclosed in this group will not be discussed outside the meeting.

In P.A.L.S. you can rest assured that no problem will be too small, no concern belittled and no fear glossed over. You can take heart to know that in P.A.L.S. you will always be treated with respect, decency and discretion. In return we ask only that you stay open to the positive energy that this group can generate.

P.A.L.S. will meet the 3rd Saturday of the month coinciding with the Tri-Ess meetings. our meetings will run from 6:30 to 8pm in an adjacent hotel room. When you check in make sure you receive a name tag and an index card. In keeping with confidentiality you will have an opportunity to reveal a concern without disclosing your true identity by writing it on the index cards. The particular needs of each individual will be addressed in a positive manner.

The Chi Tribune

Editor:
Denise Peters

The Chi Tribune newsletter is published monthly by Chi Chapter TRI-ESS. Please send all news, information,contributions, comments and suggestions to:

Denise Peters
PO Box 1138
Lake Zurich, IL 60047-1138

Couples Group

The couples group met at Denise's home on June 22nd. The crowd of ten arrived at 7:00pm and the meeting started promptly at 7:30pm. Dawn took reins as facilitator and began the meeting by asking each couple for a short recital of their experience with crossdressing. After a refreshment break at 9 pm the question of personal boundaries was presented . The meeting was over at 10:30 PM .

The next Couples meeting will be on 24th and the location will most likely be at Denise's. Please remember, this is a NON-CROSSDRESSED meeting. PLEASE DO NOT wear any feminine article of clothing, jewelry or decoration (Lipstick, nail polish) which can be seen. Also, no children will be allowed at the meeting for obvious reasons.

(Continued from page 1) President

The Tri-Ess International Board met at the Hyatt Lisle on Saturday June 29th. Board members attending were, Jane Ellen and Frances Fairfax, Carol Beecroft, Samantha Wells, Donna Martin, Naomi, Deanna, Judy Davis, Marlene, Peggy Rudd, Robin K., Lynda Frank and yours truly. From Chi-Chapter we were proud to have our officers Candace and Bridget, and members Sunny, Toni M. Vera and Dawn.

Amongst the topics covered were the new role of chapters under the 501 (c)(3). Basically, Chi-Chapter would be allowed to accept deductible donations.
A discussion on requirements for members to hold local office. It was reaffirmed that only Full members should be allowed to run and hold office.

Establishment of a Canadian Tri-Ess office and translation of Tri-Ess literature into foreign languages.

A motion to change the focus of Tri-Ess to include Heterosexual and Gay crossdressers, was amended with Candace being appointed to work with GLAAD and Horizons to assist them to establish a national gay crossdressers group.

This is only a brief list of the agenda, (Simplified because of space.) if anyone would like more information, just let me know....Happy Fireworks!!!!

Miranda Writes....

Next time you're visiting the Lakeview neighborhood and you see those boys in black berets wearing Pink Angels tee shirts, be sure to thank them for coming all the way out to Elmhurst to share with us some of their "street smarts." Frankie and Kenny did a great job informing us how to avoid being victims, and I hope we all have the presence of mind to use some of their tips if a situation arises.

One of the things which I will always remember is that it is not necessary to "pass" when your life is in danger. Lower that voice to it most masculine boom, and give out a fierce shout. Surprise can be a powerful deterrent. Remember how Dustin Hoffman got the cabbie's attention in Tootsie?

The Pink Angels is an all volunteer organization, and their only funding comes from donations. If you care to send them something, their address is 3023 N. Clark St., #134, Chicago IL 60657.

A simple request for the future.... Please treat guest speakers with ladylike courtesy. I had some complaints that side conversations made it very difficult to hear, and for our guests to be heard. Sometimes it is not enough to just look like a lady...

Our First Ever Vendor's Fair

The July program is being coordinated by Toni Monzo, who has assured me that this is going to be an event which we will want to repeat. All of our advertisers have been invited to showcase their goods and/or services and over a dozen have responded with "We wouldn't miss it." Not only is this an opportunity to show off their stuff, but also it is a chance to meet you. It is amazing to me that many of our vendors, even some who have advertised in the Chi Tribune for years, have never actually come out to one of our meetings. This will be a good introduction.

In addition, Sally's hospitality committee is bringing ice cream and all the fixin's for our ice cream social. Colleen had promised to bring jump ropes, jacks and other games to remind us of when we were little girls (or wished we were). It should be a fun evening.

Tony N' Tony's Wedding

We're planning an outing to Tony N' Tony's Wedding at Piper's Alley on July 22. But I have to know right away if you want to go. The ticket price of $45 includes the wedding buffet, champagne, dancing, etc. Honey West, star of Vampire Lesbians of Sodom, is the mother-of-the-bride, and it also features Monica Munro, whom you all know from her performances at the Baton. Call me as soon as possible at (847) 394-9293.

Where else can you attend a same sex marriage in the State of Illinois despite the passage of SB 1773?

Future Programs

Our August program will be a Seniors' Panel Discussion. Christine is facilitating this event. We need 3 or 4 of you gals who have been "out" for 20+ years, whether or not you consider yourself a senior. Basically we want to learn from your experiences. How has the world changed in those years for the crossdresser? How have your personal feelings about yourself changed? If you could do it all over again, what would you do differently? I could go on, but I'd rather leave the questions for the panel discussion. If you would like to share some of your wisdom, and help out us more recent gals (I've been out less than 2 years), please see me or Christine.

In September, Rori and I are coordinating Beatnik night, a 50's coffeehouse theme evening. We need poets, folk singers, bongo players, existentialist philosophers, etc. Let us know what you want to do. And while you're at it, you'd better lay in stock of black eyemakeup and white lipstick.

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Out Of Focus
By Kiki Carmichael

The Missing Balls!

My friend Mary Ann Foster and I went to Saugatuck one week-end a couple summers ago. I think there was something going with the IME Group in Grand Rapids that Friday night and we wanted to check it out. That Saturday night we went into town for dinner and to just walk around. Afterwards we went to a gay and lesbian bar called Sir Douglas and had a couple drinks.

I was wearing my long red and white floral skirt that came down to mid-calf, my oversized white sweater with the huge oval neck that showed a lot of shoulder, my frosted blond hair pulled back into a pony tail and held with a beige bow, bare legs and my 4" high-heeled white pumps. I felt marvy and knew I looked marvy! Mary Ann as usual wore a simple skirt and blouse, her own hair, and some beige pumps. When we walked in, we got several complimentary nods and smiles.

Its a huge place with several bars. After having a few drinks, dancing, and talking in one bar, we went to the outdoor covered garden where they had a pool table set up. It was a slow night, no action to speak of, and noticing the pool table, we decided to amuse ourselves with a game of pool. While racking up, we realized there were two balls missing. I looked at Mary Ann and solemnly said, "I'll talk to the bartender. Maybe they have some extra balls," and though I was trying to act as solemn as possible, I knew I was grinning from ear to ear.

As I made my way over the short distance to the Garden Bar, I noticed there were three or four young men sitting there, and without looking directly at them, I knew all of them were watching us with all eyes.

Being in a gay place, I knew they weren't lustful looks (damn it) but they were extremely curious to say the least. In a way, Saugatuck is like being in the sticks and TVs were a rarity back then. Having been there before and talked to some of the locals, we learned we were the first TVs they had ever seen live!

As I approached the bar the bartender came over to meet me. I said in as innocent and as high a voice as I could, "Ooohhh, we're missing a couple balls over here". Well, everybody broke into huge grins and quiet chuckles and the bartender, who had a grin on his face so wide it was ridiculous, tried to say something but it came out all garbled up. After a couple more attempts to say something intelligible, he finally said, "They, ah, ah, they've been missing, ah, all night." "Well", I said innocently again, "Do you have any more we could play with?" More chuckles and suppressed laughter from the bar seats and the bartender, still grinning from ear to ear and by this time practically choking, answered, "I'm sorry Miss, we haven't". I thanked him for his trouble, went back to the pool table and Mary Ann and I played a game or two with what we had.

Later on two guys came along and talked to us. We mentioned the missing balls and they told us they had been missing for at least a week.

Oh well, it was fun, and fun is where you find it!. And the locals got to know some CD's from Chi Town a little better. FIN

CD's REALLY DON'T BITE
PERSONAL OBSERVATIONS OF A FIRST-TIMER
by BRENDA

I pulled into a parking lot of a motel I'd never been in before and watched my knees try to trade places with each other as I shut the car off. I thought to myself, I can't do this, but I knew I had to. It had taken me three long months to get to this spot and I wasn't going to quit now ... if only my knees would cooperate. Come on, I told myself, you can do it. They're only crossdressers just like yourself. But there'll be a whole room full of them, I argued back, and they might .... MIGHT WHAT? I really didn't know what they "might...", but I do know I was, well, uneasy. All right, scared outta my pantyhose.

I've been a crossdresser since I was 3 years old. Now at age 54 I had recently joined Tri-Ess and made up my mind to join the chapter and be with others like me. I blew off the first meeting that I knew about - I just wasn't ready even though I'd recently gone out in public successfully for the first time (the mirror hadn't lied to me, I was looking good after losing 55 pounds the past year). To the best of my knowledge I've never seen or been in the presence of another CD, but then how would I or anyone know - it's not like you hang a flashing red light from your nose to let people know. The next Saturday meet (The Spring Fling) fell on our 33rd wedding anniversary, so that was out (WHEW!). Then came the June meeting.

My confidence was building. I had gone out in daylight several times and was never once read (at least I didn't see any panic in the streets or hear screams). But to go meet others like me ... wellll. My week leading up to that eventful Saturday went like a mental warzone. Monday I was going; Tuesday I decided against it; Wednesday it was on again with great reservations - heck, they "might..." Thursday I was sure I was coming down with something - a chickening something or other. Friday evening I washed my hands 3 times after getting home from work (I'm an auto mechanic so you can imagine what I go through getting them clean) and discovered that I only cut my hands in 3 places that week. I showered and crossdressed and told my wife (she's known for 30 years and now fully accepts) that I needed to go out awhile to build my confidence up for Saturday night.

I went to the local fuel emporium and gassed up the Olds, passed very well with the fellow on duty and drove over to the next town and took a walk down the main drag (no pun intended). Three wolf whistles and a "Hey, Babe" from a car load of guys in a Mustang told me all I needed to know: LOOK OUT WORLD, I'M READY!!! I went to bed that night ready to take on ... a room full of CD's! And probably slept a total of 3 hours. Saturday morning I cut about 5 acres of grass (I live out in the country on 20 acres), transplanted a maple tree and decided to wash the car to -et the last bit of ground--in grease off my hands. At 2:00 pm I knew it was time for the

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(Continued from page 4) *BRENDA*

transformation to begin. What normally takes me just over a hour took 2 1/2. Nothing seemed to look right how could it with my hands pretending they belonged at the hardware store mixing paint.

Finally I was ready (yeah, right). It's an hour's drive to the meeting and I decided to leave at 5:00. At 5:15 still firmly planted in the family room I watched a run start from my left toe. I slipped on my shoe and it almost covered the run - close enough. By now my wife was in convulsions of laughter watching her ain't-scared-o'-nothincl, husband fall apart. Finally after her third "you're procrastinating", I got in the car and headed off. The day was warm and I had the a/c on MAX, which normally freezes me out of the car. With the heat I was generating, it was losing the battle. Half way there I watched the stone chip I'd had in the windshield for over a year turn into a full-blown crack that ran across the entire window.@#@&@#! Then the a/c compressor started to screech each time it cycled. Just great! The whole thing was going to be a disaster, I could just see it coming! When (and if) I get to the meeting, those CD's just "might..."

Let me digress here for a moment. In my life I've slipped and fallen in a flooded, raging river and swain my way to shore; had a customer mistakenly start his car in gear which slammed and pinned me against the back wall (I actually held the car back while the tires spun oil the cement floor as I yelled for him to shut it off and only had 2 bruises on my legs); drove my C-Gas Chevy drag car (I'm really into "drag") through the lights at over 116 mph only to discover that I had no brakes; and a little over a year ago, just 2 weeks after getting out of the hospital to have one of my arteries roto-rootered because of my chocoholic habit had a lift at work with a car on it fall on me resulting in a bad cut on my noggin! But I saved the car and my tool box from getting any damage! None of these events ever came close to raising my blood pressure the way meeting that room

full of CD's was about to.

o, as I started out in the first paragraph, there I was in the parking lot listening to this horrible knocking sound in the car - wait a minute, he keys are in my hand! It was my knees. I thought about waiting awhile o I could be fashionably late. Look, you wanna do this so do it! NOW! taking a deep breath (not an easy trick with a new waist cinch), I left lie car (go back and lock the door, dummy) and headed to the lobby doors passing a young group of teenage girls. Several glanced my way then went back to their conversations. PASSED! You never know with kids. Into the lobby, a few people here and there, some glanced at me then returned to what hey were doing. The clerk behind the counter watched me intently (my new red suit?) and I smiled at him as I walked by and into the hallway leading to the rooms.

suddenly my purse got heavier, the hallway seemed to stretch for miles, my blood pressure went off the scale. There at the end of the hall was THE ROOM! Behind the door was ... was ... THEM ... and they're gonna .... What little confidence I had with me was already on a flight to Norway. I don't know hat made my hand raise up and open the door, but it did and suddenly I was confronted with a room full of..... PEOPLE! Just like me. Who like to do what I do. All kinds - some short, some tall; some big some small. I quickly found out what they "might..." - they said HI! and WELCOME! Or Hi, I'm .... ! "Are you new here? Great! The newcomers meeting will start shortly." I was directed to the table servings cool drinks if I wanted any. As I looked over the room I saw a couple dozen people busily getting ready to entertain even more people. Boy, now there's something you want to lose sleep over and tie your insides in knots for 3 months! Very quickly the newcomers were led off into a smaller room , nd soon we were talking all about ourselves.

An hour and a half flew by and it was time for the general meeting. Without going into a lot of details, it was fun, entertaining and nearly everyone had something to say. During a break everyone mingled and soon I had about 30 new names to remember. Does it ever make you feel good when people stop by and say how nice you look! There were even real girls there; wives, girlfriends and even a daughter. I was eyeing one cute chic there (Hey, I'm still a guy) when I heard "her" speak - WHOOPS! Boy, some of them are good! After the meeting finished it was general chitchat and snack time. Oh, the sweet stuff they had to eat - not the best thing for my nice new figure. With much restraint I opted or some tasty fruit salad and spoke with a lot more people. All the while I was thinking what an idiot I'd been for not getting out to a meeting sooner. This was fun and the people far more "normal" that the average crazies walking the streets of America. And how can you say we dress funny - have you looked at wht's walking around these days?

Since that meeting I no longer feel like some weirdo. I like being a crossdresser and now I'm proud of it. I feel sorry for the so called normal people who never get to see both sides of the gender world. They sure are missing a lot of fun. I won't miss the fun, though, because I'm gonna be at every possible meeting. Gotta work on the wife, too. Oh, the screeching from the a/c was a loose belt!

Treasurer's report
By Bridget

June Meeting

	INCOME	EXPENSE
48 paid attendees	$ 480.00	
Side room Sublet	$ 25.00	
Food		$ 84.00
Room Rent		$ 380.00
Speaker		$ 50.00
Door prize		$ 10.00
Balance (Loss)		($ 19.00)

July

13	**Gemini Gender Group Meeting**	**(414) 297-9328**
16	**CGS Meeting**	
20	**Chi-Chapter Meeting**	**(708) 863-7714**
25	**T.O.N.I. Meeting**	**(219) 929-8533**
24-28	**SPICE**	**Philadelphia,**
27	**Mary Ann Fosters Michigan Picnic**	

August

1	**ITI Meeting**	**Transformations 7:30pm**
10	**Gemini Gender Group Meeting**	
13	**CGS Meeting**	
17	**Chi-Chapter Meeting**	
18	**Chi-Chapter Picnic**	
22	**T.O.N.I Meeting**	

September

10	**CGS Meeting**
14	**Gemini Gender Meeting**
21	**Chi-Chapter Meeting**
26	**T.O.N.I. Meeting**

October

17-19	**Dunes Get-A-Way**	**Michigan**
31-Nov 2	**Fall Harvest '96**	**Cedar Rapids IA**

November

6-10	**Holiday En-Femme**

Michigan Picnic 1996

Yes, It's time to head East to Mary ann and Blanche's annual picnic in Michigan.

Everyone is invited to the picnic. It has been a joint effort between IMF of Western Michigan, and CGS for around five years now, Last year it went from Thursday evening to Tuesday afternoon. So don't think of it as just one day.

Everyone is welcome to stay on our property. We will provide beds on a first come, first serve basis as we have done in the past. We also have blow-up mattresses. You might want to bring a blanket or sleeping bag.

Food dishes are usually brought and shared with everyone. we, will have meat and some vegetarian type things to grill. I usually have plenty of soda, but if your tastes are different, bring your own.

Even if you cannot make it Saturday, stop by over the weekend. It is meant to be a time we can enjoy each others company, and meet new people. You will get an opportunity to meet several new sisters, and perhaps develop some new life long friends. And wear what you like.... anything goes.

Hope to see you all there!

Directions to Mary Ann and Blanches Michigan home -

I - Take I- 94 out of Chicago toward Detroitt (Kennedy to Dan Ryan to Calumet X-way)

2. Get off at exit 34 in Michigan (I-196)
3. Get off at exit 34 (Michigan 89), and go east to 62nd Street
4. Turn right on 62nd Street, go to stop sign (122nd St), turn left
5. After you pass the winery on your right, turn left at first street (Mallard & Blue Goose)
6. At the bottom of hill turn right, it is the first yellow house on your left. Come on in. You made it!

Registration Details

To Register: Simply fill out and return the attached 1996 Holiday En Femme Registration Form with your minimum deposit of $80 per person..

Hotel Reservations: We have reserved a block of rooms at the Hyatt Lisle at the special convention rate of $74 plus tax per night, single or double occupancy. To make reservations call the hotel at :

1 (708) 852-1234
(Hyatt Lisle Reservations)
After 8/3 the area code changes to (630)
or call 1 (800) 233-1234
(Central Reservations)

In order to get the special $74 rate you must tell the hotel you will be attending the **Tri-Ess Holiday En Femme** convention. Reservations made after October 23, 1996 are subject to space availability. Note also that **you must make your own arrangements for a room mate.**

Price Plans: Package price plans include all activities, sessions and all meals during the time covered in your registered plan. (They do not include your hotel accommodations.) Please contact us if you need a price plan different than described on the registration form.

Payments: There is a minimum deposit of $80 per person that must be included with your registration. Make your check or money order payable in US funds to: TRI-ESS HOLIDAY EN FEMME. Your confirmation will be sent upon receipt of your registration and deposit. A final package containing travel directions, check-in procedures and last minute details will be sent two weeks before the event. Upon arrival the balance due of your plan will be due payable in cash, money order or major credit card. Personal checks received after October 20, 1996 must be guaranteed with a major credit card. Send your registration form, payments or requests for more information to:

Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess
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