



GIRL TALK

Powder Puffs of California — Serving the California Gender Community Since 1987

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Cal Dreamin' 98

Dear Dee,
 Marsha and I had a great time at the conference and were happy to have the opportunity to participate. Thanks to you and the whole staff.

All my best,
Rachel

May Meeting — “Dr. James Elias?”

Dr. James Elias of California State University, Northridge at our May meeting?

May be YES, maybe NO.

Right now, your Board is decompressing after *California Dreamin' 98*. While most of the attendees came, saw, and conquered San Francisco, Dee Grady et al. had to show up early, work through the convention, and clean up afterwards. Much of the work needed to confirm this May's meeting had to be taken care of after the convention. The details were still not ironed out as of press time.

But time (and crossdressing) waits for no one and Powder Puff's will still hold its May Meeting. There are those out there (*we know who you are*) who just didn't have enough time to wear all those outfits that were shlepped with loving care to San Francisco. Others, might still feel the need to dress, or may just wish to bask in the afterglow of *Cal Dreamin'*. Whatever the reason, stop on by our meeting and relive great memories.

Date: Saturday, May 16, 1998
Time: 8:00 pm PDT
Place: Placentia Holiday Inn, 118 E. Orangethorpe Ave, Placentia, CA. Take 57 Fwy to Orangethorpe exit. Head east.

Real Deals

ABC Channel 7 Real Deals

ABC Channel 7 run its weekly “Real Deals,” a news(?) spot which spotlights some store offering what they deem as a exceptional buy. What follows is a very partial listing of some of the places they have spotlighted that may interest you. I haven't visited all of the places, so you are own your own.

Purses & Handbags

Marlene Gaines Handbags
 located in The Alley in the Valley
 60000 Reseda Blvd.
 Tarzana

Special Occasion Dresses:

Ibex is a 836 S. Los Angeles St.
 Los Angeles, CA

Fenucci Designs
 934 Santee
 Los Angeles, CA

Rosebuds
 5501 1/2 Reseda Blvd.
 Tarzana

Discount Perfumes:

The Fragrance Shop
 5655 E. La Palma
 Anaheim, CA
 714-695-0854

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California Dreamin '98

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PPOC:
<http://www.ren.org/ppoc.html>

CA Dreamin:
<http://www.flash.net/~dhome/cadreamin>

New Transgender Surgical & Medical Center!

From the Internet

Transgender Surgical & Medical Center (TSMC) Specializing in Complete Trans Care Opens in Pittsburgh Friday, May 1, 1998 (PITTSBURGH, PA, USA)

A new era in transgender care has begun in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania — a city that is known for so many medical "Firsts." For the first time in Trans History, a trans physician and surgeon, Dr. Sheila Kirk, has developed and is directing a facility specializing in complete transgender surgical and medical care. In addition, Dr. Kirk is performing MTF GRS, FTM top surgeries, hysterectomies and related surgical procedures for MTFs and FTMs. The facility is named the Transgender Surgical & Medical Center or TSMC and the offices are located at 2100 Jane Street, Medical Professional Building, 2nd Floor, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Trans Care by Transprofessionals

"This step is a first step for our community," states Dr. Kirk, "a small step . . . when compared to the other steps that should and will follow in this relatively new discipline I like to refer to as Trans Care. However, it is an important step and signifies a positive shift that paves the way to fully utilize the immense medical and surgical talent that exists within our own community to help us treat our Sisters and Brothers.

Transprofessionals caring for Trans people through all facets of their gender journey should be the norm not the exception. As TSMC grows, it is our goal to recruit Transprofessionals whose professional caliber and dedication matches TSMC's philosophy of providing the highest standards of excellence."

TSMC Team

Sheila Kirk, MD, F.A.O.G.-Board certified OB/GYN, Transgender Medicine Specialist/Surgeon, author of our community's best-selling medical books and the first Transgender physician elected to the HBIQDA board. In addition to performing MTF GRS, Dr. Kirk specializes in FTM top surgeries, hysterectomies and related surgical procedures for MTFs and FTMs.

J. William Futrell, MD, F.A.C.S.-Chief and Professor of the University Pittsburgh Medical Center, Plastic Reconstructive Surgery Department. One of the nation's most respected plastic surgeons, Dr. Futrell has vast experience in MTF/FTM GRS, feminization and masculinization of the face and related MTF/FTM surgeries.

Ernest K. Manders, MD, F.A.C.S.-Board certified in micro and plastic reconstructive surgery, Dr. Manders is Professor of Surgery at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School. Specialists in Rib Removal & Male Pattern Baldness Surgery. In addition to MTF/FTM GRS, Dr. Manders specialties include his pioneered method for minimally invasive rib removal for MTFs and his pioneered techniques for correcting male pattern baldness.

TSMC provides the Highest Standards of Care & Excellence

"It gives me great pleasure to be an associate of these highly-skilled and compassionate surgeons," Dr. Kirk said, "Our combined experience in transgender surgical and medical care and our mutual dedication will provide to our community the highest standards of care, concern and management throughout all stages of their medical and surgical needs."

Partnership with Local Physicians & Therapists

TSMC provides complete medical care for non-op, pre-op and post-op MTFs and FTMs including close partnership with

Please see TSMC, Page 4

THE CROSSDRESSERS' GUIDE TO PICKING UP CHICKS

By Janyne C.,

Submitted by PPOC member, Teresa

(The article originally appeared in Tri-Ess' Alpha Chapter newsletter, *Alpha Bits*, 1995)

Well aside from the obvious, which is don't call women chicks. There are some methods that can be used that are different from the traditional ones we have been using for all these years.

The way most crossdressers meet a woman is to get as manly as they can and hang out with guys and eventually meet a girl. The other way is to get fixed up with one. This is usually set up by a well meaning friend or relative who does not know you crossdress.

What then happens is the crossdresser likes this woman and she likes him. So he throws away \$12,512 worth of clothes, so that he can have her over for dinner. She respects him because he doesn't try to bed her on the first date. He tells her he has old fashioned values about his purity and he respects her too much to become intimate too early, and she buys all this. What he's really doing is letting his leg hair grow. When the leg hair is long enough to be seen by the naked eye, he will be all over her like a sweater with static cling. The relationship (they slept together so we can call it a relationship) is progressing well, he has given up crossdressing, and is growing a mustache, she is getting her upper lip waxed to remove hers. This thing could be serious, it feels good to him and he thinks about her constantly, but he is also starting to think about her clothes.

Now she is a size 4 to 6 dress and a 4 1/2 shoe, he is a 14 in both, but he tries on her undies one day when she's out, and splits the sides out. She is livid at the poor quality of her panties and vows to get that sales girl fired. He knows he should tell her, but what the hell that sales girl probably has a live in boy friend who has a job any way, and a little unemployment never hurt anyone. So he just shines it on and picks up a couple of pairs of panties in his size, and a nice pair of silky panty hose, and if he's got hose he needs shoes.

Now everyone knows how hard shoe shopping can be unless your dressed so some mail order buying needs to be done so as to get enough to wear to go shopping (trust me this makes sense).

Then one day he is sleeping late and hears the scream from hell, it rips the wall paper off, it tears a hole in his heart, and he just knows that she found the

white satin panties with the red hearts and lace cupid arrows on them that he has carefully been keeping in the pocket of his camel hair sport jacket. "Who is she, you son of a bitch" she screams, and he thinks, good she doesn't think they are mine.

It doesn't matter what she or he thinks for that matter this relationship is now history, and he has looked up his old crossdressing buddies and is busy telling them how crossdressing has ruined this relationship made in heaven.

If this kind of dating and relating is working for you, don't let me stop you from pursuing it further, I mean what the hell, if it works keep it up. Any relationship that can handle a little deceit isn't worth cheating on anyway, is it?

So now he wants to meet a nice girl who will accept his crossdressing, and he is even willing to forgive the fact that most of her clothes are leather and she charges him a \$100 an hour to date her. Hey she has values, he can even forgive being called her sissy maid, or some other term of endearment like slut dancer or something else just as cute as a button.

So he gives up on ever finding a nice woman who can just accept him as he is. Well guess what, he has just taken the first step to meeting her. He has surrendered to the fact that he is a crossdresser, and will always be one, even if it means living alone.

Now about meeting these women, let me suggest a way, something a little different, a little daring, a little scary. Honesty, there we said it the H word, now can we talk about it.

The old relationships that crossdressing ruined, were really ruined by keeping secrets, by not being honest. We don't know how to tell a potential girl friend that on Saturdays we are ladies so we don't and one Saturday the relationship blows up in our faces, scattering mascara into the heavens.

So, if we can't tell our lovers how can we be honest? Well, try meeting them as a crossdresser!! Wow, how in the hell do you do that for suggestions, do something out side of the crossdresser circles, and do it dressed. Take a class, attend a lecture series, volunteer at a hospital, (not as a patient silly) sure they will read you and it may be tough for a while, but keep doing it and be nice and keep smiling. You will in a short time make friends, and I can almost guarantee they will be women friends, the men won't come near you, trust me on this.

Please see Crossdressers' Guide, Page 4

Crossdressers' Guide

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After you have earned the trust of these ladies you may be elevated to the status of a girl friend. Now I want to tell you, it's an honor to be a girl friend and if nothing further ever comes out of your friendship being a girlfriend is a reward in and of it's self. As a girl friend you will become privy to all sorts of things and you will get a chance to help your girlfriend sometime, she will of course know you are a guy(girls are really smart about this) and the chance just might come up for her to meet the masculine side some day. And she might see in you a man who is also the girl friend she likes so much.

This special lady who accepted you as the woman you presented your self as will probably accept you as the man you also present your self as. She will be curious about you, she will be fascinated with your gender/genders, she still will call you she, or by your feminine name, and you will still always be sisters at your soul level.

There is a chance you will be allowed to express as people in love, not in the traditional masculine over feminine roles but as equals, she will never forget that you are also a lady, and you won't forget that she is one too.

The worst that can happen in all this is that you get the chance to take a chance and make a friend as a woman, be a woman in the world, be a person.

The best that can happen is you just might meet a girlfriend and become involved. Trust me ladies, I know a couple who met just this way, it works for them, just fine.

TSMC

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one's local physician and mental health care provider in all medical matters in addition to hormonal therapy.

Surgical Procedures Offered at TSMC

Surgical procedures for the MTF individuals include Gender Reassignment Surgery, breast augmentation, face feminization, minimally invasive rib removal and a wide range of associated feminizing procedures. For FTM individuals: phalloplasty, top surgery, hysterectomy, clitoral freeing, facial masculinization are

among the services available including an innovative surgical procedure for male pattern baldness.

For more complete information on the services offered and general information, please contact Sheila Kirk, M.D. by phone (412) 781-1092, fax (412) 781-1096, e-mail tsmc@aol.com or snail mail: c/o TSMC, P.O. Box 38366, Blawnox, PA 15238. TSMC is a registered name

Saving Face: Fashion Books Glow

Excerpted from *The Press-Enterprise*

"The World's Best-Kept Beauty Secrets," by Diane Irons (Sourcebooks (\$12.95) is chockfull of beauty secrets, many of them cheap and simple. Irons, a former model, takes an authoritative, no-nonsense tone in this easy-to-read, fast-paced book.



"The Little Black Dress," by Amy Holman Edelman (Simon & Schuster \$30) is 150 pages.

There is nothing more simple and appropriate for any occasion than a little black dress. The most famous was Audrey Hepburn's in "Breakfast at Tiffany's." Almost every woman own's and wear one (*and quite a few men, too — Cyndi*). End of story.

No, that's just the beginning of Edelman's tale, as she takes us through seven decades of fashion history about who wore little black dresses and why.



"Making Faces," by Kevyn Aucoin (Little Brown \$29.95) is a bible. The author is one of the most dominant makeup artists today. For 10 years, he has worked on entertainers and supermodels for magazine covers and runways. Innovative in design, he has also developed new products. He has designed the Naked collection for Ultima II.

In this book, he gives step-by-step directions for dozens of different looks. But not until he has dissected the tools and ingredients. Finally, we have some place to go to learn about different kinds of foundations, powders and concealers.

California Dreamin' 99 !

Just the Facts, Ma'am

Excerpted from a pamphlet distributed by Tri-Ess

What Causes Some to be a Crossdresser? This is one of the most difficult questions that there is to answer, and for the answer there are only theories. While some researchers believe that social environment may be at cause, today most are looking to genetics (the structure & coding of genes)

Do Crossdressers Wish to Become Women? Unlike the transsexual the crossdresser does not detest his male body and does not wish to have it surgically altered to that of the female. He is content with his maleness and with his masculinity, but also recognizes he has a feminine component to his life. While the crossdresser does not wish to become a woman, due to his high admiration for the traits of the woman he does wish to become a woman, due to his high admiration for the traits of the woman he does wish to become womanlike, discovering and developing the most positive traits of the woman and integrating them into his own life.

Are Crossdressers Gay? This is the worst of all myths about crossdressers. Most crossdressers are in fact heterosexual people. In all surveys it has been found that only about 5 percent of them were gay. Most people believe that crossdressers are gay because the gay crossdresser is generally more open than the heterosexual crossdresser. For most people their first encounter with crossdressers will be the impersonator at a gay bar, or a drag queen.

Female Impersonator: The female impersonator is a person who's prime reason for crossdressing is employment. They have perfected their crossdressing into a performing art. It is interesting to note that the late James Cagney got his start in show business as a female impersonator.

Fetish: the fetish is a person who is sexually aroused by the wearing of certain articles of feminine clothing. Unlike the average crossdresser, the fetish will not dress completely, and will only dress when they wish sexual arousal. In reality the true fetish cannot even become aroused unless wearing the article of feminine clothes that gives him pleasure.

Transgenderist: Unlike the average crossdresser who will spend most of his time in the masculine role, the transgenderist is a person who lives and works in the crossgendered role full time. Unlike the transsexual, he is content with his male organs and does not plan surgery to remove them.

Transsexual: While often confused with the crossdresser, the transsexual are NOT considered to be crossdressers. Unlike crossdressers who recognize themselves as males with a feminine

part to them, the transsexual is a person who is psychologically a member of one sex, and physiologically a member of the opposite sex. Unlike the crossdresser, the transsexual cannot be content unless the physiological body is surgically altered to be congruent with the psychological person who occupies that body. While crossdressing for personality expression is far more common in masculine to feminine form, transsexualism is about equally common in female-to-male as it is in male-to-female.

Can Crossdressing be Cured? While many years ago psychologists did attempt to cure crossdressers, today most have recognized that crossdressing is lifelong and find that better results can be obtained by teaching the crossdresser to accept their feminine side. While most crossdressers can control their urge to crossdress, **THERE IS NO CURE. CROSSDRESSING IS LIFELONG.**

The Times, They are a Changin'

Received via e-mail

Lobby Days 1998 have come and gone here in Washington, D.C. We had approximately 100 citizen advocates on Capitol Hill Monday and Tuesday, April 20 and 21, visiting their state delegations to discuss hate crimes, job discrimination, freedom to marry, and whatever else moved them. In appearance, participants covered a range of races/ethnicities, and ranged from very young to very old, from passable to improbable. All were critically important in showing the diversity of gender expression that actually exists in the U.S.

I continue to marvel at how, in the third to fifth year of this event (depending upon how one counts), the group no longer attracts much astonishment in the huge Rayburn Cafeteria. Non-gender-different folk on the Hill are learning, I think, perhaps in spite of themselves, that we don't explode or throw off our clothes and dance on the tables, but are -- who would have imagined it? -- just like everybody else.

This is a minor milestone, and the next thing that will happen, if we keep it up, is that they will begin to ask themselves, "What is it that motivates them to keep coming back here every year?" Then, it is my hope, the progress will begin.

My favorite loopy moment (don't hate me for this -- I couldn't resist). Jessica Xavier and I were being interviewed on a local radio station Monday night, and the earnest gay host asked: "What causes transsexuality?" He was expecting some sort of medical justification. I leaned slowly toward the mike, taking my time. "Broccoli." I said.

Best,
Dana Priesing