

TGIC NEWS - APR/MAY 1993

A Publication of Transgenderist's Independence Club, Albany, NY

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN - Winnie [REDACTED]

Much of my writing this month is on the IFGE Convention, so this report on TGIC activities will be very brief. Joan tells me that our Dinner Party on March 20 was a group of six; the range of attendance so far has been from 4 to 16. Our next party at the Northway Inn is on Saturday, April 17 at 8 pm. All coming should get word to Joan H. by Thursday, April 15 if possible.

Dues Reminder! This month is the first time that some of our regular members will see ***LAST*** printed on their mailing label. This means that their membership has expired and they will receive no further newsletters unless they pay their dues before the next mailing - see page 2 of *TGIC News for Feb/Mar*. If you owe dues, please send your payment with the membership renewal form on the last page of the *Dec/Jan TGIC News*. If your renewal date is later in the year, save the form until then.

THE 1993 IFGE CONVENTION - Winnie B.

For months, I had planned to drive down to Philadelphia for the IFGE Convention on Sunday, March 14. But Saturday was the day of the "Blizzard of the Century", and it took most of Sunday to clear my driveway with the help of a struggling little snow-blower and two human shovellers. By Monday, the main roads were cleared and I made it without incident, except the streets of Philadelphia were covered with packed snow and ice; it took all week to melt. The contingent from IFGE headquarters had arrived on Saturday, one step ahead of the storm, and watched the snow fall from the safety of the hotel.

The trip to Atlantic City on Monday was cancelled, so I joined a group led by JoAnn Roberts to a restaurant a few blocks from the hotel. I had remembered to bring my femme boots, but others were slipping and sliding on the uneven ice, though spike heels that dug in were sometimes an

advantage. Upon returning to my room, I found that my room-mate Sharon Ann [REDACTED] a member of TGIC from Cooperstown, had moved in with umpteen suitcases, garment bags and boxes of papers. It took two luggage carts to carry her stuff. I have known Sharon Ann for 20 years, and we soon settled in comfortably for the work of the Convention.

I was involved with the *Congress of Representatives*, as rep for TGIC. The first act of business was to confirm the Congress as an organization separate but cooperating with IFGE by accepting a reciprocal agreement. A provisional set of By Laws was approved, including an article containing statements of direction and purpose that were developed at the Convention last year in Houston:

Statement of Direction: Unity through exploration and acceptance of diverse gender lifestyles and expressions.

Statement of Purpose: To promote and encourage diverse representations of our community and to facilitate communications within our community and the community at large.

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More specifically, the Congress is a gathering of representatives from transgendered support organizations from all over the world, dedicated to providing a communication channel from their organizations to other organizations, including the IFGE. The Congress will make public statements and recommendations to the transgendered community and the public at large. The Congress will assist in developing and implementing communications among and within the many related member organizations of the transgendered community.

The next act was to change our name to "Congress of Transgender Organizations". The "Bill of Gender Rights" first proposed at the Denver Convention in 1991 was then endorsed by the Congress. Alison Laing was unanimously drafted to remain in the Chair of the Congress for another year.

Other Congress matters included formation of committees, political concerns, some requests of IFGE, and facilitation of regional coalitions. Downstate, the *Greater New York Gender Alliance* has formed, and is sponsoring *Moonlight in Manhattan* this month. Upstate, I would like to see the *New York State Gender Coalition* revived in some form, if only to sponsor meetings like the *Autumn Accord* held in Syracuse in 1991. To this end I had some tentative discussions with representatives from EON in Syracuse and CD Network in Rochester, but the main stumbling block remains finding people willing to do the work needed to make it happen.

My other duty at the Convention was on the IFGE *Nominations and Awards Committee*, which is responsible for overseeing the election process for the *IFGE Board of Directors* and recipients of the *Trinity Awards* and the *Virginia Prince Award*. This work having been done previously, the committee meeting was short, mainly a review of procedures. However, I was nominated and approved as new Chairperson, replacing Ellen Summers of Oregon, who will remain on the Committee.

Sharon Ann was much busier - as a newly elected member of the Board of Directors, she was fully engaged in meetings, both formal and informal, day and night all week, and drafting motions on a borrowed laptop computer in our room. I hear that some of the meetings were as stormy as the Blizzard, but things were resolved by compromise, and the Sun was shining with hugs and kisses at the end. I guess Sharon Ann must have done her part well - she ended up as Vice-Chair of the Board and Chair of the Legal & Bye Laws Committee. All this in addition to her work on the Military Law Project - see below. Congratulations, Sharon Ann!

I was glad to see some other members of TGIC show up at the Convention for the weekend. Ed H. appeared with his jelly mounds, and Sasha ventured out for her first big event. Besides the work, we all had a lot of fun, especially at *Chez Renaissance Casino* on Friday night. Hope to see more next year in Portland, Oregon.

TRI-ESS CHAPTER FORMED - Winnie B.

Sharon Ann has also been instrumental in organizing the Lambda Chi Lambda Chapter of Tri-Ess to serve members in Upstate New York. Tri-Ess is a national support group for heterosexual crossdressers, their spouses, families and friends. While TGIC is an "open" group, we can endorse and cooperate with other "closed" groups; there is no reason why our members cannot join and support other organizations as well. In particular, we have supported Jennifer Well's attempts to form a TS group and the Albany Gender Project.

Some crossdressers, especially those seeking acceptance from wives, may feel more comfortable within the restrictions of Tri-Ess; I have been a member for 20 years (including its forerunner FPE). Membership in a local chapter requires membership in the national organization, which publishes the magazine *Femme Mirror*. The intent of Lambda Chi Lambda is to focus on family issues; some initial meetings have been held

in Schenectady. Sharon Ann [redacted] is president and puts out a newsletter, *Cornbury's Closet*. Several other members of TGIC have also joined. If you are interested, contact Sharon Ann or myself. We may arrange some joint meetings in the future.

MILITARY LAW PROJECT QUESTIONNAIRE

An article on the Military Law Project appeared in the Jan/Feb 93 issue of *The Transgenderist*. This Project is an outgrowth of the First International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy, held in August 1992 in Houston. Sharon Ann [redacted], a member of TGIC, is Chair of the Military Law Committee which manages the project. One of the goals of the Military Law Project is: "To assemble a resource file of case histories of transgendered military personnel (TMP) who have served in all branches of the armed forces, including active duty, reserves, National Guard, and retired personnel."

To implement this goal, a 7-page questionnaire has been prepared for all members of the gender community who have served in the armed forces. If this applies to you, please help by completing the questionnaire, copies of which are available in the *Club Room* or will be *mailed upon request* to TGIC. Even if you did not cross

dress while in service (or were not discovered), you should participate in the study and contribute to statistics that will show many transgendered people have served honorably in performing their duties without problems. (In this case, the form won't take long to fill out!)

NOTE!! All information gathered is strictly confidential and will be used only for the purpose of studying the issues related to transgendered military personnel and to support efforts to reform military laws and regulations as they pertain to gender issues in the military. Your name and address are optional, and should *not* be revealed if you are still subject to the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ).

The Military Law Project is supported and funded by many gender community organizations and individuals. Voluntary contributions of \$15.00 or more are encouraged. Please make check or money order payable to "Military Law Project" and mail under separate cover (*not* with the questionnaire) to:

Military Law Project Fund
PO Box 930
Cooperstown, NY 13326

If you have questions or need assistance, write to the above address or call: 1-800-824-7122

The Greater New York Gender Alliance Presents

Moonlight in Manhattan

Dinner/Dance
April 23, 24, 25 1993



APRIL 23, 24, 25 1993
A Weekend of fun and fantasy in the heart of Manhattan!

Three days and nights of the excitement and sounds of the Big Apple.

- > Bus night club tour
- > Clinics on make-up, styles, photography
- > Shopping tours
- > Dinner/Dance and wild entertainment
- > Special hotel discounts
- > Extra airline discounts
- > and a lot more.

Contact: Linda Frank, Registrar
GREATER NEW YORK GENDER ALLIANCE
330 W45th St., 3E
New York, NY 10036
212-765-3561 Mon-Thurs 6-10 p.m. EST

THE TGIC CLUB ROOM



RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

"WARRIOR QUEEN" IN THE 17TH CENTURY,
 QUEEN NZINGA of Angola, DISGUISED AS A MAN, LED AN ARMY
 DRESSED AS WOMEN INTO BATTLE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE!
SUBMITTED BY ROB CURTISS, SCHEENECTADY, N.Y.



"PETTICOAT JUNCTION"

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 of the heart of Texas. It's simple, and
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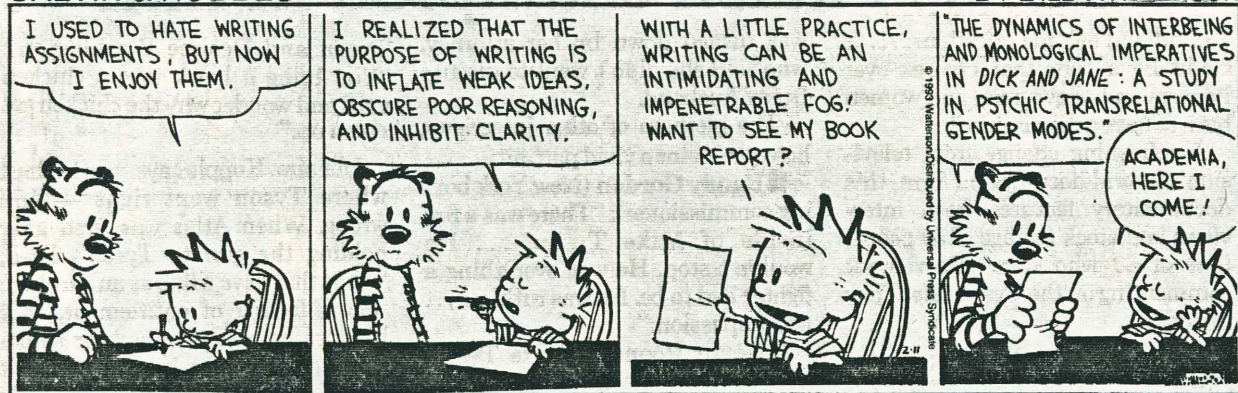
TGIC LIBRARY ADDITIONS (3/27/93)

<u>Title</u>	<u>Author</u>	<u>Publisher</u>	<u>Year</u>
Canary	Canary Conn (Autobiography)	Bantam Books	1974
Christine Jorgensen	Christine Jorgensen (Autobiography)	Bantam Books	1967
Cross Dressing, Sex, and Gender	Vern L. & Bonnie Bullough	University of Pennsylvania Press	1993
Female Impersonator's Handbook	Pudgy Roberts	Capri Publishers	1967
Forbidden Fantasies	Mark Phillips, Barry Shapiro & Mark Joseph	Collier Books	1980
Geraldine - for the love of a transvestite	Monica Jay	Caliban Books	1985
Reverse Sex "Coccinelle"	Mario A. Costa	Challenge Publications	1962
Sexual Signatures	John Money & Patricia Tucker	Little, Brown & Co.	1975
Transvestites & Transsexuals	Deborah H. Feinbloom	Dell Publishing	1976

THE BEGINNINGS OF A PSYCHIATRIST

CALVIN & HOBBS

BY BILL WATTERSON



TGIC OFFICERS & DIRECTORS

President Winnie B.
 Vice President Joan H.
 Secretary Joyce W.
 Treasurer Winnie B.
 Director Tina A.
 Director Ed H.
 Director Paul K.
 Director Sue M.

TGIC PUBLICATIONS

Transgenderists Independence Club (TGIC), PO Box 13604, Albany, NY 12212-3604, Phone (518) 436-4513, is a nonprofit, educational, social support group for persons wishing to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of gender, including crossdressers, transsexuals and their friends.

The Transgenderist

Bimonthly (Jan, Mar, May, Jul, Sep, Nov) to Members, Subscribers, prospective new members, friends, professionals, and exchange publications. Devoted to TGIC self-help and outreach to others, with original articles by Club members and local news of significant interest outside of our membership. Club business and other matters are limited to updates.

TGIC News

Bimonthly (Feb, Apr, Jun, Aug, Oct, Dec) to Members, Subscribers and prospective new members. Devoted to TGIC business and inreach from others, containing Club business matters, local news of little interest outside of our membership, selected reprints and other outside items such as clippings and cartoons.

TGIC MEMBERSHIP DUES

General Member \$40/yr
 Couples \$45/yr
 Key Club / large closet \$40/mo
 Key Club / small closet \$30/mo
 Key Club / attic storage \$15/mo

All the above categories include a one-year subscription to both TGIC News and The Transgenderist, mailed First Class.

Subscriptions:

The Transgenderist, 6 issues: \$25
 TGIC News, 6 issues: \$25
 Single copies of either: \$5 each

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First Reported Transsexual

In *The Renee Richards Story*, the author attributes a large portion of her interest in transsexualism to the book, *Man Into Woman*. In this book, the story of Einar Winegar is told, and how the male painter tried to take on female attributes during the 1930's.

Einar's attempt at feminization included the transplant of a uterus and ovaries into his body. Einar died within a year of the operation. From Renee Richards' description of the book, *Man Into Woman* might make interesting reading, due to the desperate measures Einar took.

Just Who Reads Glamour Magazine?

A recent reader poll published in *Glamour* magazine revealed just who reads the magazine, with surprising results. While 75% of the readership is a female reader, 16% responded that they were cross-dressers interested in fashion/beauty tips. The remaining readers were interested in sexual stimulation from the photos and articles.

While the total readership of *Glamour* is not known to this writer, the survey results certainly support the supposition that cross-dressing is a rather widespread activity in our society.

TS BOOK REVIEWS - Laurie B.

A LOW LIFE IN HIGH HEELS, by Holly Woodlawn. St. Martin's Press.

Holly Woodlawn, one of Andy Warhol's "Superstars", takes the reader through a life of glamour, alcoholism, drug addiction, crime, prostitution, wild and wanton sex, and more. Pre-op TS Holly, the star of stage, screen and Max's Kansas City in lower Manhattan (Holly starred in Warhol's *TRASH*), rubs elbows with Warhol, Jim Morrison of the Doors (whom she accompanies to a gay leather bar), Debbie Harry of Blondie

(before her success), Fellini, the Queen of England (the real one, plus some male ones), the forces behind the Stonewall Inn Riot, and many more famous celebrities. In contrast, there is also the desperate poverty of the transsexual community living in the worst sections of the Lower East Side.

Lou Reed's song, *Take a Walk on the Wild Side*, is based on many of the characters in this book, including Holly. On the whole, the book is light, enjoyable, and often amusing reading, if one is not turned off by life on the edge (and often beyond that point).

I WAS A WHITE SLAVE IN HARLEM, by Margo Howard-Howard. Four Walls Eight Windows publishing.

The semi-factual autobiography of un-op transsexual Margo Howard-Howard, who created a family tree (and personal history) for herself. Margo takes us through a life of heroin addiction, prostitution, crime, alcoholism and a host of amusing adventures and interesting characters that portray the TV/TS life of the forties through the nineties. Due to Margo's involvement with the Mary Stuart Society, she rubs elbows with the social elite of Manhattan and also (like Holly) gets to meet the Queen of England (Queen to Queen).

Like Holly Woodlawn's book, the emphasis in this book is on the humor that can be found in living and eking out a living as an un-op transsexual, although the descriptions are often funnier than the actual fact, I'm sure.

SECOND SERVE, THE RENEE RICHARDS STORY, by Renee Richards. Stein and Day.

A very clinical look at the life and relationships of Dr. Richard Raskind, and the up and down road leading to his transsexual change into Renee Richards, the tennis star who was the subject of a TV (television, that is) movie.

Richard Raskind starts to crossdress at two when his sister and mother entertain themselves, and by eight he is getting dolled up and roaming the neighborhood. By eighteen he is extending his trips to include Manhattan, and Greenwich Village in particular. From there, his search for transsexual knowledge takes him to France's TS community, Casablanca for halfhearted attempts at undergoing the operation, the TV/TS support groups of NYC, Dr. Harry Benjamin, and quite a few potentially tragic run-ins with the law and lowlifes while in womanly attire. As a woman (TV or post-op TS), Renee has to deal with a variety of male advances, which is interesting for those of us who venture outside our living quarters.

While the family, sex life and marital problems of Richard Raskind make up much

of the book, and may make for slow reading, because of Renee's training as a surgeon her descriptions of the effects of hormone treatment, grinding away at the Adam's apple, electrolysis, the post-op condition and maintenance requirements for a new woman are eye opening, and appear to differ somewhat from the guidance offered in much of our TS literature. There is also a good amount of humor in the book (such as when Dr. Raskind badly attempts to perform a TV striptease at a Kansas City club, after convincing the locals he is a famous female impersonator). Unlike the other two books reviewed here, Renee does not meet the Queen of England, at least not in this book.

I bought my copy of Margo Howard-Howard's book at the Boulevard Bookstore, and borrowed the other two at a local library.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

POLICY: Short announcements and advertisements from Club Members are published free for two consecutive months (once each in TGIC News and The Transgenderist), unless cancelled by the originator or a specific request to continue is made.

GENDER-ORIENTED ART EXHIBITION

Dress Codes: The Art of Crossdressing
March 10 - May 30, 1993

Hours: Wed & Thur 12-9pm; Fri-Sun 12-5pm
Institute of Contemporary Art (ICA)
955 Boylston Street, Boston, MA
(across from the Hynes Convention Center)
Phone (617) 266-5152

ICA is a world-class museum, the oldest institution dedicated to contemporary art. This special exhibition will feature visual art, video, film, performance, and educational programs. We are encouraged to attend and meet the public. Flyers with more information are available in the Club Room.

If you would like to visit this special exhibition as a group, please write or call TGIC as soon as possible, suggest a date, and we will try to organize carpools.

1993 MARCH ON WASHINGTON, APRIL 25

This March for Lesbian, Gay & Bi Equal Rights and Liberation now specifically includes the Transgender movement. See The Transgenderist Mar/Apr, page 9 for more details. Contacts:

Joy E. Clarke, Coordinator [REDACTED]
Host Committee for Transgendered

[REDACTED]
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

Capital District Committee, Phone 395-0591
PO Box 642
Rensselaer, NY 12144

TIFFANY CLUB BBS

The Tiffany Club of New England now has a gender-related Computer Bulletin Board Service. This board has been designed to provide information, support and education for our sisters in the community. There a number of areas for discussion on many of the various topics important to all

transgendered people as well as an extensive selection of files, case histories and resource information. All interested parties are invited to call:

(617) 899-3230 4 Lines - N81

BIG SISTER IN VERMONT

Karen Ann [REDACTED] is one of our members who is out and politically active on behalf of the transgendered community internationally, nationally, and in Vermont. She is willing to help others in the region. You can write, call, leave message or contact her by FAX, TTY, or Modem at:

Karen Ann Kerin
14 St. Paul St.
Montpelier, VT 05602
(802) 223-4756

NEW ADDRESS

A noted counselor in our area has changed his mailing address:

Roger E. Peo, Ph.D.
PO Box 3445
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
(914) 452-8405 (same)

HORMONES BOOK

The Club has copies of this book by Shiela Kirk for sale @ \$8 if picked up in the Club room, or \$9.50 by mail. Ask Winnie.

ANONYMOUS HIV ANTIBODY TESTING

Your regional HIV Counseling and Testing Program provides free HIV counseling and antibody testing, support and referral. No names will be asked. (NYS Health Department) *Albany Area:*
(518) 486-1595 or 1-800-962-5065.

CALENDAR

Regular Meetings are held every Thursday at the TGIC Club Room on Central Avenue in Albany, 7:30 - 10:30 pm. Some come earlier and stay later, but it is wise call if you are not a Keyholder or if it is your first visit. Come dressed either way, meet and talk with friends. Many continue to socialize at one of the Central Ave. night spots after the meetings.

APRIL 1993

- Apr. 1 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Outrageous Outfit Night
- Apr. 8 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
How to organize a special event
- Apr. 15 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Shopping in public
- Apr. 17 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
- Apr. 22 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Makeup
(May News deadline)
- Apr. 29 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
Why do I crossdress?

MAY 1993

- May. 6 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- May. 13 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
- May. 15 Saturday, 8 pm
Dinner Party, Northway Inn
- May. 20 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm
(June News deadline)
- May. 27 Thursday Meeting, 7:30 pm

MAJOR COMING EVENTS

Contact TGIC for more information. Some registration brochures are available in the Club Room

- Apr. 23-25 *Moonlight in Manhattan*, New York
- Apr. 24-25 *March on Washington*, DC
- Apr 28-5/2 *California Dreamin'*, Burbank
- Apr 29-5/2 *Poconos Fantasy Festival*
- May 12-16 *Esprit 93*, Port Angeles, WA
- May 20-23 *Paradise in the Poconos*
- May 20-24 *Dignity Cruise to Bahamas*
- June 1-7 *Tiffany Club Spring Fling*, Provincetown, MA
- June 9-13 *Be All You Want To Be*, Chicago, IL
- July 9-11 *S.P.I.C.E. - Spouses / Partners International Conference for Education*, Dallas, TX
- Aug 26-29 *Second International Conference on Transgender Law and Employment Policy*, Houston, TX



ED'S BOOBS

BREAST FORMS FOR SALE!

Weighted synthetic breast forms. The picture shows what they're made of! Everybody likes them! Sold like hotcakes at the IFGE Convention! Sized per liquid ounces of water, 10, 12, 14, 16 ounce, etc. Special low price for Club Members only: \$40.00 per pair. Write to: Ed, Box 501, Williamstown, MA 01267.

LET'S PLAN AN AUTUMN EVENT - Diane

Hello to all readers of TGIC News & The Transgenderist. My name is Diane and I have been a member of TGIC for about five years now. Some of you know me, but probably most of you don't. I have been mostly a social member, sometimes going six or seven months between attending club activities. I have attended many evenings at the 145 Club / Mother Eve's, the events held at the Days Inn and most recently the Dinner parties at the Northway Inn.

The purpose of this article is to research the interest level and possibility of having a TGIC event similar to the ones held a couple of years ago at the Days Inn and the EconoLodge. Now that I can see my schedule (work, charity, school, social) will begin to lighten this summer, I hope to have the time to plan or help plan such an event.

I can envision our event being a one day affair, or a weekend engagement. From my experience at the dinner parties in recent months, I feel that the Northway Inn would be an excellent location to conduct the proposed activities. The management there is both accepting of our lifestyle and very accomodating. Private dining rooms are available for larger groups. Room rates are reasonable for those of us who choose to stay overnight and/or need a place to

transform. The location is very convenient for travel and shopping, being next to the Route 5 Exit 2W of the Northway.

The possible activities could include any, some or all of the following: a shopping tour, makeover sessions, hair/wig styling sessions, fashion show, lingerie party, guest speakers, dinner show, dinner dance (formal, semi-formal, casual), breakfast, lunch, dinner - you name it. In order to plan an event like this, I need your help. I need to know if there is an interest, and what activities should be included. If you could please take the time to complete the appended questionnaire and return it to the TGIC mailing address, it would be most appreciated.

Any other ideas or suggestions are completely welcome, no planning has taken place thus far. I would like to arrange the event for the early fall (late Sept. or early Oct.). If you would like to help plan this affair and want to include your name, address or phone number, please feel free to do so. Thanks in advance for your response.

See also article on Dining-Out Parties in TGIC News, August 1992 and Activity Survey Results in Oct/Nov issue. Come to the Club Room on April 8 and let's talk about it! - Ed.

QUESTIONNAIRE

LENGTH OF EVENT

- One day (Saturday)
- 1-1/2 days (Friday PM & Sat)
- 2 days (Friday PM, Sat, & Sun AM)

ACTIVITIES

- Shopping
- Fashion show
- Lingerie Party
- Makeover Sessions
 - Visit a salon
 - Professionals come to motel
 - Include manicures/nail styling
- Wig/hair styling
 - Visit a salon
 - Professionals come to motel
- Tour of local bar scene
- Dinner w/guest speaker only
- Dinner-Dance
 - Formal
 - Semi-formal
 - Casual
 - Theme (sock-hop, prom, etc.)
Theme preference _____
- Dinner-show
 - At motel
 - Dinner at motel, show elsewhere
 - Dinner & show elsewhere
- Meal, Saturday Evening
 - Buffet
 - From menu
 - Choice of 2 or 3 entrees
- Music, Saturday Evening
 - Live band
 - Hire DJ
 - Provide our own