



The Phi Journal



ISSUE 21

Editor - Wendi Beeman

February 1987

GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLISHER

First and foremost: Both President Tina and Editor Wendi called me and asked me to emphasize our forthcoming banquet. We need at least 10 more participants to make the event possible. We must make a deposit very soon to hold the date, Saturday, 23 May. It will be a great opportunity to wear our party finery in a comfortable situation. It will be a novel and thrilling experience for those of us who have not gone public before, and it will be just as much fun, even if not as novel, for those others of us who are already out of the closet. Several of the wives will be there to enhance the occasion. Do arrange to come. The total cost will be about \$35 per person, including drinks and tips. We must have \$20 per person up front now. Send your deposit (check payable to Beeman Associates) to Wendi so that she will receive it no later than Tuesday, 17 February. (Address: D. Beeman, P.O. Box 2512, West Chester, PA 19380.)

A second item from me is that I found a great new place to shop for clothes and shoes. It's called Dream Dresser Boutique and it is a very high-class operation. Prices are quite reasonable, considering the quality of the merchandise (some of it imported). The proprietors, Madeline Miles and Stella Martin are familiar with people with our interests, and there are private dressing rooms for try-ons. The boutique is located at Loehmann's Plaza in Pennsauken. The Plaza is in the triangle formed by Cuthbert Boulevard, NJ 70, and NJ 38 and the store is near the NJ 70 side of the Plaza. For more information, call 609 488 6279.

Jane Peabody

REPORT ON MEETINGS

Jane tells me that the 24 January meeting was well-attended. The roads were a bit icy, but Selma's living room was nice and warm. Professor Bud Heuer gave a fascinating talk on the differences between female and male voices and speech patterns. It's not as much a question of pitch as you may think. Bud suggested that we each find and study a role model who projects an image and a voice that are realistic for us. The voice should be appropriate for our size, age, and personality.

The February meeting on the 28th (can't get much later in the month!) will feature a make-over demonstration. One of our members has volunteered to be the "guinea pig". Come see what changes can be wrought, and how to make them. Should be interesting for all of us.

AT THE THEATER

Among the favorite targets of professional FI's over the years have been such actresses as Bette Davis, Carol Channing, Judy Garland, Bette Midler, and Tallulah Bankhead.

The play *Tallulah* by Larry Hopp is now playing at the Peak Theater in the Montserrat Restaurant, 623 South Street, Philadelphia, and the author has added a little twist with a three-man chorus that is constantly changing costumes and personalities, including those of women.

Tallulah is a lively little show, although it drags (no pun intended) when it gets serious about some of Miss Bankhead's relationships. The male chorus provides the best musical moments. The three members singing together and singly are great. They make it worth seeing. Call the restaurant at 215 627 4224 for details.

Look for Joel Gray to reprise his role in *Cabaret* at the Forrest Theater in Philadelphia sometime late in March. *Cabaret* centers on the infamous Kit Kat Club in decadent pre-World War II Germany and features a number of FI's. Gray himself does a cute little number with the chorus line at the club. Check the theater for dates and times.

AND MORE ON THE STAGE

Don't know if you caught it or not, but there was an interesting approach to the story of the Finocchio group now playing at the Brandywine Hotel and Resort in Downingtown that appeared in the *Daily News* on 13 January.

Although I have not seen the production myself (I mentioned it in the November newsletter), several people that have seen it enjoyed it thoroughly. The production is scheduled to run only through 1 February, but rumor has it that it might be held over.

The production features five impersonators from the Pacific Northwest who have a great time parodying some very popular tunes by changing the lyrics. My spies tell me that Walt Colvig, one of the impersonators who goes by the stage name of Lori LaRue, has a beautiful singing voice. It seems that he had operatic training at the University of Washington and the Seattle Opera.

"But let's face it," he says, "there simply are not a lot of roles for a male soprano. They keep trying to stick me in the tenor section."

The Brandywine Hotel and Resort is on US 30 (Lancaster Pike) just east of Downingtown. Call 215 269 2000 for information and tickets.

AT THE MOVIES

A movie, *The Philadelphia Experiment*, which has been playing the cable networks (HBO and PRISM) lately, features one funny scene with an impersonator. A nuclear accident propels two 1940's era sailors into the present. One is arrested and his cellmate turns out to be a very attractive crossdresser.

The movie *Once Bitten* also features a little scene in which a teenager runs into a fellow in drag in a restaurant. Not very funny, and he's not very good-looking.

MORE MOVIES WITH CROSSDRESSING IN THEM

- * *In Like Flint* - Veteran character actor Lee J. Cobb does the dressing up in this spy case.
- * *Trash* - Only if you are an Andy Warhol fan and can put up with the likes of the late Candy Darling and another one of Warhol's favorites, Holly Woodlawn.
- * *Glass Bottom Boat* - Have not seen this one in years, but it features the late Paul Lynde in a comedy/spy drama, if I recall correctly. He doesn't do a bad job.
- * *California Split* - Elliot Gould picks on an aging CD.
- * *I Was a Male War Bride* - This time it's the late Cary Grant doing the dressing up. A funny movie, especially if you are a Grant fan.
- * *Privates On Parade* - This one has appeared on some cable networks recently. An Army officer establishes a theater/entertainment troupe while stationed in Singapore. Sort of a gay USO, I guess.
- * *Meaning of Life* - A must if you like Monty Python humor.

LOOKING GOOD, OR THE EYES HAVE IT

Or so says Donna Mills, the actress. Donna tells you how to apply your makeup in a 55-minute videotape by MCA. This apply-along tape reportedly shows how to achieve all the right looks: natural, business, and glamour. There is also a fashion show tossed in for good measure. Miss Mills' techniques are easy to follow. All you need is your VCR near your makeup table. The tape sells for about \$19.95.

Another self-help tape, *The 8-Minute Makeover* is also reported to do a great job on makeup techniques. I don't know anything about cost, length, manufacturer, producer, etc, but you might want to check it out the next time you are in your favorite video store.

TRAVELING TIME

If any of our readers are traveling in the Cincinnati OH area, here are a couple of places where crossdressers are welcome:

- * Jacober's Downstairs Bar - 36 West Fifth Street. Dressing OK.
- * Metro Lounge - Ruth Lyons Place and Gano Alley (off Vine, near the square). Dressing OK; mixed crowd. Drag shows on Friday and Saturday.

In the Dayton area:

- * 1470 West - 1470 West Dorothy Street. Drag shows on Sunday nights. Dressing permitted.

Finally, when in New York you might want to check out:

- * Bogies - 249 West 26th Street. 212 924 7935. CD's are welcome at a "private" gathering after 10 p.m. Cover charge is \$5. Understand there are often very attractive CD's in the crowd.

SOONER OR LATER YOU'LL GET TIRED OF HEARING IT

We're still looking for contributions to the Phi Chapter library. That includes books, tapes, and any other non-pornographic material on cross-dressing. If you have some material that you think would be of interest to the group, please let me know.

My own tape library continues to grow, and I shall be happy to make copies from my tapes if you will simply provide the blank tape. The collection includes various TV shows featuring crossdressers and female impersonators and excerpts from some movies that feature crossdressing.

TREASURER'S REPORT

Here is Emily's report through January:

On hand after November meeting		\$59.00
24 January receipts		
attendance fees - 16 x \$15	\$240.00	
donations	10.00	
thrift shop	8.00	
	total	\$317.00
24 January disbursements		
Selma - 16 x \$12	\$192.00	
Dr. Heuer - honorarium	60.00	
	total	\$252.00
Balance forward after 24 January meeting		\$65.00

A REMINDER

The International Foundation for Gender Education will hold its first convention, "Coming Together - Working Together" on March 4-9 at the Ramada O'Hare Hotel in Chicago. The convention is being held to "promote self-validation and self-respect, to develop a sense of togetherness and working together to benefit all, and provide in-depth educational opportunity for all." The registration fee for the entire convention is \$150. Hotel rooms are \$80 per night, single occupancy. Per diem registrations are possible, and reduced hotel rates apply for double occupancy. I understand that some 70 have already registered, including several of our members.

A flier and registration form can be gotten from Merissa Sherill Lynn, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778. Telephone is 617 358 2305. Don't delay.

FINALLY

Do send in your deposit for the May banquet ASAP.

Plan to make our 28 February meeting and give Selma a call at 609 428 8448 to let her know you are coming.

Mendi Beeman