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Coming Up...

In October we will have Dr. Alan Lanning from the College of Dupage. Rachel is working on our annual Halloween party, and we hold our annual nominations for Chi Chapter Board.

November brings Rori and her touch of class on fashion and makeup for the holidays. Kim will be serving Turkey, etc. If anyone would like to bring along a dish, please do so. Our budget normally does not allow for full meals except for special occasions. I think Thanksgiving is a special occasion, and of course we hold our annual elections.

Well, what is in store for the rest of the year? I just signed a contract with Ms. Honey West for the Puttin' on the Ritz on December 19th at the Ramada O'Hare (Our hotel). If you want you may make your room reservations now. Mention Chi Chapter-Tri-Ess and remind them you want a 'tower' room for Dec 19th

Things...

Be sure to read Gloria's article on page 2. This has got to be the best thing since sliced bread, or at least false eyelashes and press on nails. Gloria experienced something every crossdresser has dreamt of, the ultimate event that we all wish would happen but never does. Well, it did happen to Gloria and the entire story is in this edition.

A hardy welcome to 'Kiki' at the September meeting. HE was present despite her bout with the dreaded Crossdressers blues. This affliction is well known by all in the Transgender community but is normally only found in the area of crossdressing. I don't think TS's or full time TG's would ever have



Halloween



Chi Chapter has a new phone number

this.

Most of you have been the victim of this terrible curse, you feel as you have lost the urge to dress, even extending as far as thinking you are no longer a crossdresser, and/or the need to purge everything.

Well, we can all feel for Kiki's lament. She is a trooper for sticking with us and even coming out to the meetings despite the complete lack of desire to dress for the last several months. Hey, it's all part of the crossdressing phenom, it has probably happened to all of us at one time or another. Don't feel ashamed and boycott the meetings, there is no rule that says you must dress for a meeting. We are here for support whether you want to dress or have lost the desire.

I will say she is doing her part behind the scenes. She edited most of the profiles which appear in the new Tri-Ess Membership Directory recently delivered to all the full members. I think if you give her a name and a membership number she can read off a profile by memory. Kiki has also been assisting in the mailing of the newsletter, (nice secretary), folding and stuffing the over 200 envelopes we mail each month. Don't worry, Kiki is still around, working away, she just felt guilty not dressing. Now she's off to Hawaii and we will surely miss her again.

That's our new 'helpline' phone

708-383-1677

number.

Candace has advised that she will not be seeking re-election as VP of Outreach this coming year. Because of this it has been necessary to reconfigure the "helpline" phone so it may be more flexible in its use. The features required to give us the flexibility were not available on the existing phone number and therefore a new number was required. The system uses call forwarding to a volunteer's phone. The number we have is centrally located in the Chicagoland area to even out the cost of the forwarded calls. Remote programming allows us to switch answering points as needed. Hopefully this will be the last time a change is necessary.

The new number is now in effect and will be answered by volunteers on a rotating basis. We still have a need for volunteers who will be trained in the outreach aspect of the helpline and would be available at least once or more per

Warning....

month.

Randi Ettner wanted to advise everyone that there is a rumor going around that she is endorsing or supporting a plastic surgeon in the area. She wants to let everyone know that this is FALSE. She has no connection, what so ever with any



Denise

THE KIKI EXPERIENCE OR FANTASY BECOMES REALITY!

By Gloria Wright

In some ways I feel sorry for the newcomers to CGS and Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess. They get to see a gray haired gentleman who kind of hangs around in the background. I think he says his name is Bill. But I remember Bill's sister. We don't get to see her much, but any who ever did is ever changed. Her name is Kiki. I think it's short for Kinky, but that's another story altogether.

I have known Kiki for something like 10-15 years. Over that time, she has done some pretty amazing things. She always seemed to be in the thick of fun. She even won the coveted Chi-Chapter "Queen of the Trailer Park" award. Olivia Conners, CGS President once said to me, "If you're going to hang around Kiki, you've got to be able to keep up."

I'll leave it to Bill to tell you some of the stories, but one includes hair, a swimming pool, and "Be All." There are many others.

Well, anything that is out of the ordinary, fun and a little dangerous, I call a "Kiki" experience. And I had one of my own recently. It went like this:

My company was holding a "worldwide" meeting of sales and technical people in the Chicago area. They brought people from the far east, near east, Europe, Latin and North America. We were to receive training.

As part of the entertainment one of the evenings, we were to participate in a "murder mystery" play. The catch was some of us were to play

particular characters in the play. (Stay with me. Don't jump ahead.)

I received a letter in the mail from the Executive VP of my company. (She is a woman, whose last name happens to be "Mann.") Her letter stated, *You have been (somewhat) randomly selected to play a character in the evening's play. We want you to stay in character throughout the evening. Feel free to use whatever props necessary to enhance the believability of your character. At the end of the evening, whoever is voted the most believable character will win a prize. To make this the most fun, do not discuss your character with any attendees.*

The second page listed my character as, *MARY STRONG*. I was to be the former mistress of the person murdered. You can imagine the internal wranglings that went on inside me as I read this. Gloria said, "YES, there is a Heaven!" Greg said "There's a Hell alright."

All at once I wondered, "Why did they pick me? Do they know? Do they suspect? Do I refuse? How far do I take it? And baby, WHEN DO I START?!!"

Upon further checking, I found out that several people were going to play the opposite gender. And I found out that my BOSS was also going to be a woman. I was told that he would wear make up and women's clothing.



Well, needless to say, that was just about all the excuse I needed. "Saddle up your girdle girl, let's go....."

The night of the event, I went for the whole enchilada. The only concession I made was I wore low rather than high heels. I didn't want to explain why I was so comfortable in high heels. I also wore a long black skirt, so as not to have to explain shaved legs. I started to wear pants, but I figured that would be conceding too much.

Getting ready took longer than I was given time for, so I was ten minutes late getting to the ballroom where the event was held. As I left my room, I waffled between playing it straight as a man, or letting Gloria loose. (It didn't help that a man on the elevator started eyeing me up. He complimented me on my clothing, and I thanked him in my best female voice. I didn't want to disclose to John Q. Public what I was doing.)

On the way the ballroom, I passed the woman from my company who was organizing the party. She was calling the front desk asking for me, as I was the only one late. (Gloria late, imagine that.) As she was spelling out my name to the front desk clerk, I told her, "Hey, I'm right here." She looked at me kind of funny, and said she didn't even recognize me.

As she and I entered the party, there were some open mouths, and dropped jaws. I immediately went to the bar, and ordered two drinks at once.

All the "characters" were introduced, and I used my best "fake" female voice to say who I was. Sadly, the other gender benders did the standard "drag," balloon boobs and the like. My boss did make-up and a wig, but no women's clothes! So I kind of stood out.

People had to interview us individually for clues. During these interviews, I got a lot of compliments on my appearance. Several "Hey, you've done this before" comments, and the like. But people seemed to like what I was doing.

As I went to sit for dinner, one of

(Continued on page 4)

RECAP

ACCORDING TO KIKI

The meeting of 9-19-98 was started by Denise, our President, at 8:10 sharp! She asked all those present to introduce themselves and the question that night was, "What did you bring for Ethnic Night?", this was followed by the introduction of the officers. Our VP/ Programming, Rachel James, then rose and promoted the First Annual Rainbow Cotillion on Friday, October 23, 1998 sponsored by MCC and Les Bi-Gay Radio.

Denise then announced a costume party for the next meeting and that our annual Christmas party, Puttin' on the Ritz will be held December 19. This was followed by Eve who gave a eulogy for one of our members, Lenore, who died recently. Eve stated that her name stood for Love, Elegance, Neutral, Attitude, Organized, Reverent, and Empathy. She was a minister.

We then heard from Naomi who also gave a eulogy.

Miranda from Its time Illinois announced an Aids Walk for the next week and a human rights Statement for Freedom dinner/fundraiser this October 3 at Park West.

We then took a break before the night's program discussion panel started. The panel consisted of Rachel, Mickey, Kate and Connie and the topic was Crossdressing from the spouse's point of view. The first question was "How would a spouse feel about coming out to more people?" Most of the gals said, "Forget it". It was very interesting hearing from the gals. The meeting was adjourned at 10:01

Speaking of Crossdressing, I just read in the paper about how many young gals joined the Union Army during the Civil War. They say they have records of over 200 so far. Things must have been really rough for young women in those days without money or influence. How could they get away with it? Apparently it was common to wear all your clothes to bed including overcoats and shoes without changing, yet some of them got pregnant. Hum, somebody

knew.

I wish to apologize for not dressing for the meetings for the last several months. I'm in a non-dressing funk these days which is impossible to explain. I'm thinking of therapy.



Those in attendance at the meeting were:

IL-4866-R, Amy,
IL-3355-B, Athena,
MI-4215-K, Barbara,
IL-2299-B, Barbara Diane & IL-9118-B, Barbara
IL-1672-A, Carole,
IL-4965-L, Carolyn,
IL-3445-K, Christine,
IL-4770-C, Collette & IL-9504-C, Mikkie
IL-4362-A, Dawn,
IL-3708-O, Dee Dee,
IL-3493-P, Denise & IL-9195-P, Kim
IL-1179-B, Eve,
IL-4925-P, Gina & IL-9553-P, Luci
IL-3684-D, Janet,
IL-4924-B, Janice,
IN-4654-B, Jeri,
IL-4627-J, Julie Ann,
IL-1631-M, Kiki,
IL-3475-J, Lee,
WI-1485-V, Lois,
IL-4275-K, Loraine,
IL-4098-M, Miranda,
IL-4837-S, Nancy,
IL-1164-O, Naomi & IL-9007-G, Rachel
IL-3956-T, Norma,
IL-4229-A, Pamela,
IN-4054-K, Paula,
IL-4461-B, Rachel & IL-9473-B, Kate
IL-3557-A, Sandy,
IL-4690-F, Sara,
IL-1991-S, Sheila D,
IL-3686-L, Vickie,
Andrea,

First timers:

Majorie,
Kelly & Connie,
Cassie & Amanda,
Amy Marie

Tips for Tall

This article is for us statuesque beauties only. The rest of you runts and Munchkins can go and play while your betters study the following information. After reading several books and articles concerning apparel for tall women, I have condensed many of the important suggestions. They are ordered under 13 sub topics.

General - Wear lighter colors on top. Wear natural fabrics with matte surfaces.

Avoid patterns, stripes, and plaids (except shawls). Avoid or hide buttons. Never use buttons for decoration. Clothes should be roomy since a tight fit makes you look larger and taller. If you muscular legs, never wear shorts.

Tops - Avoid wide horizontal necklines on large shoulders. Avoid square neck tops. Mandarin collars look good on us.

Skirts - Prints should be used only on skirts. With a trumpet skirt, avoid bright colors and wear flats or low heel shoes. Avoid tiered, cowgirl, and wrap skirts.

Dresses - Avoid prints and ruffles. Avoid shiny material. Dresses should have a clean shape.

Suits - Blouses should be lighter than the suit. The blouse should correspond to the skirt. Shoe color should match the suit. Avoid jewelry. A fitted jacket with a slender skirt looks very graceful.

Pants - They must coordinate with the hose and shoes.

Coats/jackets - Use large buttons. Use simple colors. Sleeves should completely cover the wrist.

Shoes - Avoid detail and the color white if possible.

Hosiery - Should match skirt and shoes. Shiny hose is great for muscular legs.

Swirnwear - One piece suit only. Should be high at the thigh and low in the back.

(Continued on page 4)

(Continued from page 2) Gloria

our marketing people said he wanted to sit between two "beautiful women," so he plopped down between a female co-worker and me. He seemed a *little* too into it for me.

I must say that I was a bit of the "Belle of the Ball," as people kept wanting to know who did my make-up, where did I get the clothes, the shoes, the hair, etc. This only served to bring out Gloria more and more.

I was informed at the party that my character was to die by poisoning as I was interviewed at the front. As I was called forward I took my drink with me. On my final question, I took a drink, and did my best dying.

All the drinking I was doing (to get through the nervousness) caused me to have to go to the restroom in the worst way. As I hurried off, I decided I'd better use the lady's room rather than the men's.

Fortunately, there were few people around, and I got in and out without incident. It would have been difficult to explain going in there to co-workers.

Well, at the end of the mystery everyone voted for whom they thought committed the murder, and who was the best character.

As befitting the fantasy nature of the evening, I was voted as the best character! The photo used in this article was taken with a digital camera I won. (The photo was taken by the marketing person, I thought was giving me a little too much attention.) I could have selected a really nice bracelet, but I thought.....maybe not!

Then, I was asked to come to the front to "do the Supremes." So I and some of the other "females" sang Supremes and Aretha Franklin songs. After about six drinks, I was just going with the flow.

Aftermath:

The next morning I got comments like: "You must have a strong marriage," and "You may have a new way of making a living," etc. The best comment I got was, "You know, the clothing really

seemed to bring out your feminine side. It's important for people to have both a masculine and feminine side."

Back at the office, people are still talking about it. The President of our company, who was sitting directly across from me at dinner said I looked "disturbingly" female. (He's British, so I thought he could relate to men in drag.)

I haven't lost my job.....yet. I don't *think* I will. No one has stopped being friendly to me. (As a matter of fact, there is a marketing person who I have always felt to be lesbian, who hugged me for the first time ever, and told me she really enjoyed my "performance.") And I have a new digital camera. I also hope that somehow I made it easier for others to "have a feminine side," or a "masculine side." I liken it to Dennis Rodman showing that even sports figures can be weird.

I also liken it to the Kiki experience. Those times when you just decide to run with what life presents to you, and just deal with what comes after.

Gloria



Debbie's Library Shelves



Reminder that we have received a quantity of the new Peggy Rudd book "Who's Really from Venus"

These are available for a reduced rate of \$12.00

You may E-mail me with your inquiries at Dbender@starnetinc.com or the chapter mailbox at Chitriess@aol.com or the helpline at 708-383-1677

(Continued from page 3) Tips for Talls

Evening wear - Less is more. Ornamentation should be restricted to the top half of the body. Avoid shiny material. Shoes and hose must be the same color as the evening wear.

Night wear - Jungle prints look great on talls. No teddies.

Accessories - Avoid large square bags. Choker style necklaces are good. Never wear a necklace with large hanging earrings. Wear only one bracelet at a time. Avoid rings. Eyeglass frames should be a bit wider than the face.

Talls do not need anything other than their height to attract attention. The above tips will show off our natural grace, dignity, and nobility. Leave the ruffles, baubles, and collage of colors to the mud huggers.

- Sarah

Reprinted from August 1998 issue of IXE newsletter.

Election Letters

Abby's Road

Was it really only this past June that my wife Terri and I started coming to TRI-ESS? In just four months we've attended two regular meetings, two couples meetings, two pals meetings and the July Garden Party. Everyone at Chi-Chapter has been welcoming and supportive. Next month, we'll be working at the TRI-ESS booth at the NCFR conference in Milwaukee. It's been a great experience for both of us, and we look forward to being active contributors for many years to come.

What's that you say? How about this year? Hey, we just got here! We haven't even met half of the sisters yet. We were just going to gradually get into the TRI-ESS thing, and I was



comfortable with that, until I read Olivia's column in the last newsletter. Don't just sit back and let others do all the work. Get involved! Run for Something! O.K. Olivia, I offer myself as a candidate for V. P. Programming.

Am I qualified to do this? Who Knows? Is there a job description somewhere? I will say that in my other life (the one without heels), I've done programming for my church, theater company, Rotary Club, historical society and schools. Not too many of those would work for Chi-Chapter, so I would probably have to develop some new ideas if you elect me. In order to get some idea of what you all have been doing, I asked our President to send me the archive copies of the newsletter for the past few years. It was really something to read about all the wonderful things that Rachel, Rori and Miranda have had you doing. Wish we'd known about Tri-Ess three years ago. (Yes, Deborah. I am returning them to your library).

I believe that programs can serve a number of purposes: fellowship (oops! Sorry about that. I mean "sistership"), information and



instruction, and entertainment. It would be my goal to see that each of the regular meetings would touch at least one, and hopefully two of these areas. Most of all, I want the meetings to be fun, to be something to look forward to and more than just an opportunity to be en femme. I have a few ideas: post Christmas gift exchange, Mardi Gras (which is the second most popular cross-dressing holiday in the country), spring cleaning garage sale, gender bender trivia, all in addition to the discussions and demonstrations that are an important part of helping us deal with the many aspects of crossdressing.

There is one other aspect of programming that I would attempt to implement if you gals choose me. I would like to try to have several "girls night out" events each year, like the trip to Tommy Guns. Going out as a group can be an important step for a sister who's not ready to try being out there on her own yet. It also gives us potential outreach opportunities.

I will be honest with you. Terri and I live on the other side of the state, and sometimes we might have trouble getting into a meeting. I do promise that I will maintain open and frequent communication with the board to insure that programs come off as planned, and to make sure they know all the arrangements if we are unable to make it in. Thanks for your consideration. If any of you have questions, my e-mail is abigale_a@hotmail.com.

Abigale Adams

Amanda's Outlook

Tri-Ess has been good to me, and to many of you too. For most, it has been a first step into living a fuller life by coming out, at least to others like ourselves. I have been a



member since October of 1991, when I arrived in my wife's dress and not too well made up. A lot of growth has happened since then, and I have been happy to give something back to the organization that has given me so much.

My experience of service includes being part of the Newcomers group leadership for over 4 years, directing and performing in the Be-All '97 Gong Show, performing for you at two Spring Flings and assisting in several other ways. Looking back through my pink-paged diary, I calculated that I have attended 90% of the meetings in my 7 years as a member.

I would like to serve as your Secretary. My qualifications include many years as an educator. I am a good communicator, can write creatively and have lectured on transgenderism in outreach presentations to college and graduate students. On the internet I maintain a dignified and educational presence that brings thousands of visitors to my web site each month. I have been published twice in the Femme Mirror and once in Tapestry.

I hope to continue being of service to Chi Chapter and bring new and creative ideas to this position. I ask for your vote of confidence.

Amanda Lynn Richards

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Officers
President: Denise Peters
VP/Program: Rachel James
VP/Membership: Candace Mahne
Secretary: Kiki Carmichael
Treasurer: Christine Adams

Commitees
Newcomers: Amanda Lynn
Dee Dee Bolden
P.A.L.S.: Dawn & Kate
Couples: Denise
Hospitality: Kim, Laurie Ann, Barbara & Barbara
Library: Debbie B.

Chi Chapter is a not-for-profit social and educational support group of Tri-Ess members and their spouses, partners and friends. Meetings are normally held on the third Saturday of each month.

**Chi Chapter Telephone Helpline:
(708) 383-1677**

E-Mail: Chitriess@aol.com

Home Page:

HTTP://users.aol.com/chitriess/triss/chimain.htm

Articles are welcome in all formats. Via E-mail or Snail mail.. Please note that snail mail articles must be on PC disk, or scannable (Typed, not handwritten or hand printed).



Couples Group

In August, 4 couples met at Denise & Kim's home. A great time was had by all.

The next meeting was on Oct 3rd.

There will be no couples group meeting on October 24th

**NOVEMBER MEETING
Saturday November 21st**

**Rori
"From Daytime to Evening Glamour"**

Turkey and the dressings

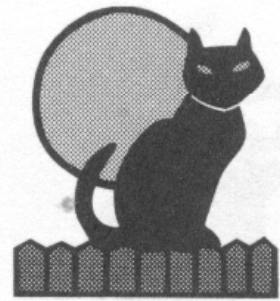
**OCTOBER
Saturday October 17th
Dr. Alan Lanning
of DuPage College
"How he views the crossdresser and
their community"**

We meet in the lower level

G.L.G.L.C .

Activities Calendar

OCT-NOV 1998



October 1998

- Sat 10/10 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
- Tue 10/13 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
- Sat 10/17 Chi-Chapter Holloween party w/Dr. Alan Lanning at the hotel (In the lower level)**
- Mon 19-26th Fantasia Fair, Provincetown, MA
- Sat 10/24 T.O.N.I. meeting, call 219-650-2142 for details

November 1998

- Nov 5-8 Fall Harvest, Minneapolis
- Nov 8-13 Holiday at Sea, Dignity Cruise #10, Cruises, Inc 1-800-621-6699
- Tue 11/10 8:00 p.m. CGS Business Meeting, Stardust
- Sat 11/14 Gemini Gender Group meeting 414-297-9328
- Sat 11/21 Chi-Chapter Thanksgiving evening with Rori Petros**

PLAN AHEAD

- Dec 19 'Puttin On The Ritz' Ramada Hotel, Rosemont**
- 1999 Be-All, Cleveland...(Will Drew show up?????)
- 1999 Holiday Enfemme, Houston, TX
- 1999 Fall Harvest, Milwaukee, WI



TO: Chi-Chapter Tri-Ess
 PO Box 40
 Wood Dale IL 60191-0040

For more information: call the "helpline" at 708-383-1677
 Room reservations available at the Ramada 847-827-5131
 Mention Tri-Ess Chi Chapter Ritz, Request 'tower room'

Enclosed is my paid reservation for _____ person(s), for 'PUTTIN' ON THE RITZ on Saturday evening, December 19, 1998 at the Ramada Hotel, O'Hare. I am enclosing a check or money order payable to Chi/Tri-Ess in the amount of \$ _____

Please print your femme name and last Initial _____

Membership # (If a member) _____

COST: Payment received by 12/9/98: \$38 per person, \$70 per couple
Payment received after 12/9/98: \$43 per person, \$75 per couple