



The Phi Journal



ISSUE 23

Editor - *Wendi Beeman*

APRIL 1987

GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLISHER

The lead article is an adaptation of President Tina's opening remarks at our March meeting. After that is my report on the meeting, then comes Wendi's magic prose. *Jane*

OUR PRESIDENT SPEAKS

My daughter Sheri, whom you all know and love, is now doing makeovers. If you are interested, please talk to her after the program. [Sheri is at most of our meetings. *J.*]

The first meeting of the "better halves" was scheduled for Mary's home (near Selma's) on 11 April. The Phi Chapter would like to thank Mary for taking the first step in making this meeting happen. Call Mary at 609 428 7673. She will be glad to answer any questions you may have.

Our April meeting on Saturday the 25th will be strictly social, with emphasis on our "thrift shop". Do take time to look over the collection. Purchase some of the fine clothes. No reasonable offer will be turned down. And if you have anything in your closet that you are now tired of, contribute it to the collection. All proceeds go to the Phi Chapter and thence to you in the form of guest speakers.

Our May meeting will be held at the Tara Dinner Theater of the Brandywine Hotel and Resort in Downingtown, PA, on the 30th. [Note that this is a fifth Saturday.] The Brandywine is on US 30 (Lancaster Pike) just east of Downingtown. The entertainment will be provided by the Finocchio show, the best in female impersonators. See Phi Journal 21 for Wendi's comments on this group. The show begins at 2230 (10:30 p.m.). The cost is \$11.00 per person, payable at our April meeting, or if you will not be at that meeting send a check payable to Beeman Associates, P.O. Box 2512, West Chester, PA 19380. There will be no May meeting at Selma's, but she will be with us in Downingtown. [Refunds of deposits for the cancelled formal dinner in May will be in your mailbox very shortly. If not, write Beeman Associates.]

The Phi Chapter would like to thank Shelly's Tall Fashions, who arranged to have the mall open for our group on 14 March. It is a shame that only two of the promised ten from our group actually showed up. As Emily wrote in the last newsletter [Phi Journal 22], the Seasons color consultants - Jean, Lois, and Cynthia were there to give us color analyses and make overs. We were so impressed that we invited them to attend this, our 28 March meeting. *Tina*

MARCH MEETING

Jean, Lois, and Cynthia gave us a demonstration of their procedure, using Mary's lovely daughter Regina as an example. First, they covered her hair and dress, so that only her face was visible and removed all her makeup. Next, they held countless color swatches near her scrubbed face to see which one of the four basic sets of colors was best for her. Having made that decision, they skillfully applied cosmetics appropriate to her color "season". The final result was fabulous. Regina received a little book showing examples of "her" colors, which she can take to stores as an aid in shopping for a long time to come. It seems that one's optimum colors do not change with changing fashions, but only slowly as part of the aging process, if at all.

Several of us were so impressed with the program that we made appointments for personal consultations. The analysis takes about two hours and the fee is \$65. If any of you out there are interested, call Jean at 609 854 6360. (Be prepared to talk to an answering machine.)

One more note about the meeting, and I hate to have to bring this up, but a few people seem to have forgotten the expectation that all of us will be dressed appropriately for the occasion, i.e. a party for CD's. Our president can grant a waiver under special circumstances, but let's avoid the need for this.

Jane

SHOP BY MAIL

For those of you who aren't into shopping while dressed but are looking for dependable and quality mail order sales, you might write to two places:

Night 'n Day Intimates
Unique Merchandise Mart
Building 22
Hanover, PA 17333

Avon Fashions
Avon Lane
Newport News, VA
23630

Both are quality merchandisers and stand behind everything they sell.

Also for shoes in the larger sizes, Milton Bodner has a good reputation. The address is 38 Lexington Avenue, Passaic, NJ 07055.

MORE ON JOANIE!

In the October issue, we poked a little fun at comedienne Joan Rivers for her lawsuit aimed at two fellows who were doing impersonations of her. The suit was settled out of court, but we chided Joan for the suit in the first place. It certainly appeared that the suit was only a publicity stunt for rapier-tongued Miss Rivers.

Well, it seems that sharp tongue got Miss Rivers in a little trouble with Burt Reynolds, who apparently has no love for "Can we talk" either. It seems that Miss Rivers must have said some nasty things about Reynolds in a magazine interview. And boy, did Reynolds get his revenge.

Asked about her comments, Reynolds replied:

"I never argue with female impersonators...We were never friends. I was friends with her when she was a guy. We played on the same football team. She was (former Green Bay Packer) Ray Nitschke before surgery."

NOTES, QUOTES, AND ANECDOTES

Geraldo Rivera, noted for his investigative pieces on 20/20 before leaving in a huff and for his TV specials on Al Capone's secret "stash", which turned out to be a bust, had an interesting encounter with Holly Woodlawn a few years ago.

Now you remember that Holly Woodlawn was one of three major FI stars used by Andy Warhol, the pop artist, in many of his early movies.

Rivera, interviewing Holly, asked: "What are you? A transvestite? A transsexual? A drag queen?"

Holly's reply: "What difference does it make as long as you look fabulous."

Touche!

SPEAKING OF HOLLY AND ANDY, OR WHEN DRAG WAS IN FASHION

This piece from *The Rainbow*, newsletter of the Rainbow Gender Association, San Jose, CA.

Rock music concertgoers of the mid to late 60's were in for quite an experience at a showing of Andy Warhol's *Exploding Plastic Inevitable*. It was a raucous multimedia showing of lights, movies, slides, and audience participation behind the overwhelming sound of the Velvet Underground and the haunting voice of Nico. And among the band and audience were several beautiful dancing drag queens touring with the group.

Andy Warhol regarded his "drag queens" as his own sort of groupies, and used them as a final assault upon his audience. ("Drag queens" is used in quotes because it appears evident that some of them were really TS's.

Warhol: "As late as '67, drag queens still weren't accepted in the mainstream freak circles (I love it!). But just like drugs have come into the average person's life (sadly), sexual blurs did, too, and people began identifying a little more with drag queens, seeing them more as 'sexual radicals' than as depressing losers."

The three main characters in Warhol's DQ assemblage were Woodlawn, Jackie Curtis, and Candy Darling.

Jackie played being a woman like it was a comedy. The act took on overtones of reality in 1968 when she began taking hormones and began electrolysis. Asked why she was going all the way, she replied: "It's much easier to be a weird girl than a weird guy." (No comment!)

You can check out the underground art scene in Warhol's book, *Popism-- the Warhol '60's*. The book is available in the arts/entertainment section of most good bookstores, or in some libraries.

FOR ADDED READING

Making Tootsie, by Susan Sworkin, tells the story of Dustin Hoffman and the filming of *Tootsie*, the movie that was such a big hit in 1983. Hoffman, of course, plays out-of-work actor Michael Dorsey who becomes "actress" Dorothy Michaels and lands a part in a soap opera.

While shooting some scenes for the movie, Hoffman is said to have fooled fellow actor Jon Voigt, who didn't know Dustin was Michael playing Dorothy. Voigt apparently has trouble telling the boys from the girls.

In *Midnight Cowboy*, Voigt, as the naive western stud who hooks up with Ratso Rizzo (Hoffman), gets involved with a couple of FI's. And it's Rizzo (Hoffman) who sets him up with the "date".

Two other books worth checking out are *Midnight Movies* by Hoberman and Rosenbaum and *Blake Edwards* by Peter Lehman and William Luhr.

Midnight Movies as its title implies, is about many of the cult and other Grade B movies that often featured impersonation or crossdressing.

Published by the Ohio University Press in 1981, *Blake Edwards* is obviously about the movie director and husband of Julie Andrews. Cross-dressing plays a key role in several of Edwards' movies, and much space in the book is devoted to his use of it.

His 1967 movie *Gunn*, based on the Peter Gunn TV (television, that is) detective series, has one of the key roles played by a female impersonator, Marion Marshall. He also uses an impersonator in *Revenge of the Pink Panther*, one of the great Peter Sellers' series.

NO COMMENT NEEDED; WE UNDERSTAND PERFECTLY

The *Our Town* section of the *Philadelphia Inquirer Sunday Magazine* carries some interesting little observations on life. The following by Carrie Rickey, who is a movie reviewer for the newspaper, is a gem:

"As I was walking on Chestnut Street, two creatures in a storefront caught my eye. One was poinsettia-red and billowed. Its companion was the blue-violet of fresh-cut freesias; it beckoned.

"I paused and took note of the window, a boutique called Feminine Things. The red was a lace-edged bustier, garters dangling from its satiny hem. The blue-violet affair was a Merry Widow corset, heaving its silky bosom. A fugitive draft inside the store was animating these garments of enticement.

"A sign in the window, 'Gift Assistance for the Confused Gentleman,' provided, I thought, the perfect caption for this *tableau vivant*. But as I continued on my way, I reconsidered. Any gentleman who went to

Feminine Things to purchase a holiday gift was not confused. At least he knew what he wanted."

NOTES FROM OTHER CLUBS

ETVC has updated its list of clubs around the world. For a copy of this 17-page listing of 124 clubs, send \$2 and your name and address to ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101.

In Seattle, the Emerald City Club won a suit against a motel which evicted the group. The court imposed a fine on the motel and ordered it to provide equal housing opportunities regardless of sexual persuasion.

Muriel Olive informs us that future meetings of the New York Gender Alliance will have a "reservations-required policy." The group has a \$15 meeting fee for members and prospective members and \$7.50 for relatives, spouses, and significant others. The group usually meets on the third Saturday of the month at various locations in and around NYC. Reservations must be in one week ahead of time, along with the fee. If you are interested, write NYGA, Penthouse B, 157 West 57th Street, New York, NY 10019.

THE COMPUTER LINE

There are several computer bulletin boards out there that may be of interest to the TV/TS. Here are five that operate on 1200 bps for those of you with computers and modems:

Jersey Shore System	609 693 8849
Gendernet	415 763 5173
Carolyn's Closet	612 452 2676
Mistress' Lair	415 763 5172
Passing Fancy	408 244 8250

Most boards require initial registration, verification, and passwords. Gendernet, Jersey Shore, and Passing Fancy allow full access only to paid members, and offer limited access for free.

The Phi Journal has been told that on the Jersey Shore system the initial log-on responses to the first and last name prompts are "april" and "may" (lower case), and the response to the password prompt is "FRIENDS" (ALL CAPS). Otherwise the TV/TS sub-board cannot be accessed by new users.

On Passing Fancy the response to the system identification prompt is "fancy".

Nendi

UPCOMING EVENTS

If you have ever been to any of the special multi-day events - weekends, conventions, fairs, etc. - you know how much fun they can be. Above all, is the opportunity to experience for protracted periods. If you haven't been to any, you ought to plan to attend one or more. Soon!

Here is a listing of some upcoming ones in the Northeast:

Joyce Dewhurst Spring Fling Weekend: 15 - 17 May 1987
 This private secluded resort in the Poconos offers the novice as well as the seasoned participant an accepting and relaxed atmosphere. Accommodations, 6 meals, parties, contests are \$195 per person. Write Joyce Dewhurst, 37-50 76th Street, Jackson Heights, NY 11372, or call 718 335 3048.

Tiffany Club Holiday Outing: 26 May - 1 June 1987
 The purpose of the Outing in Provincetown is to have fun. To do that, the participant has a wealth of options, ranging from quiet chats with good friends, to roaming Cape Cod's spectacular beaches, to exploring P'town's many delightful shops and fine restaurants, or visiting a friendly beauty parlor - all while dressed, if you wish. Registration and 3 meals is \$100. Accommodations (shared) are \$35 and \$40 per night. Write Merrissa Sherrill Lynn, P.O. Box 19, Wayland, MA 01778, or call 617 358 5575.

Be All You Want To Be Weekend: 11 - 14 June 1987
 This event will be held in the Cleveland area this year. I attended the one last year in Chicago, and it was fabulous. I am enclosing a copy of the flier; there's too much to summarize.

Fantasia Fair: 16 - 25 October 1987
 I have been to every one of these since 1980, and my spouse and I are already signed up for this year. Registration, including accommodations (shared), most of the events, all breakfasts (continental), 6 lunches, and 5 dinners is \$650. I expect to send a copy of the brochure along with the next issue of the *Phi Journal*. *Jane*

TREASURER'S REPORT

On hand after 28 February meeting	\$46.00
28 March receipts	
attendance fees - 16 x \$15	\$240.00
donations	<u>6.00</u>
	total
	\$292.00
28 March disbursements	
Selma - 16 x \$12	\$192.00
program	<u>75.00</u>
	total
	\$267.00
Balance forward after 28 March meeting	\$25.00

Emily

FINALLY

Plan to attend our 25 April meeting. Give Selma a call at 609 428 8448 to let her know you are coming. If you can, bring donations of items that you no longer need but that others might want. *Nendi*