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Vol # XX Issue #9

Hotline (708) 364-9514

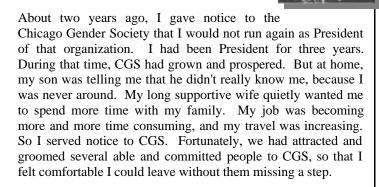
Sept 1995

## Gloria steps down as President.

### THE WRIGHT LINE!

By Gloria Wright,

### A CHALLENGE!!



Shortly after my announcement, and during the night of the Chi-Chapter election, Naomi announced that she, too would step down for office. She would not run for President. Unfortunately, no one had been warned, and no one was prepared. No one was willing to run that night....the night of the election. Someone nominated me. I declined. I had just stepped down from CGS to take a breather.

We all decided to take another month to sort things out. During that month, several people approached me asking me to run until a permanent President could be found. I agreed to run for the following reasons:

- 1. Tri-Ess is the first transgendered group I ever joined. I felt a responsibility to help keep it going.
- 2. I felt I could lay the groundwork for this to never happen again.
- 3. I felt that with my varied background, I could be the conduit for greater cooperation between the two Chicago groups.

Needless to say, my wife was not exactly overjoyed with my decision. But as always, she was supportive. She is my rock and my strength.

## This Month At Chi-Chapter

## Bring your Wife or S.O.

We meet at the Holiday Inn Express in Elmhurst. The theme of the September meeting is a rap session with wives/SO's, family members, neighbors, etc. This is you're opportunity to get some of those questions off your mind. Especially if you're single or about to be married. What do wives and othersthink about crossdressing....

Hopefully there will be enough panel members present to present a complete cross section of feelings.

The room will open at 5:00 pm and there will be a changing area available but bring your own towels, etc.

Reservations for a room can be made at (708) 279-0700. Please mention <u>Chi-Chapter</u>

## Coming Up At Chi-Chapter

October: Halloween Costume Party

**November: Fashion Show** 

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## Gloria.....

Citing family and business obligations, Gloria has announced she will step down as President of Chi-Chapter following the September meeting. I was just going run her CGS announcment from 1994 but she came up with a new one for this issue.

Gloria advised the board members of her decision during the board meeting on Aug 19th.

As many of you know, Gloria was drafted to run for President in 1994 after the sudden retirement of Naomi. Only a week before finishing her third term as President of CGS and preparing for a life of retirement. She graciously accepted to help in a time of need but now must continue on her way.

We would like to thank Gloria for all she has done for Chi-Chapter during the past year and a half. Her unselfish attitude towards the chapter will always be remembered.

Deanna volunteered to serve as Interm President until the next election. She will be conducting the meetings while the other presidental duties will be spread amougnst the other officers. With the upcoming 'Puttin on the Ritz' in December and the 'Holiday EnFemme' in November 96, <u>aaannnnddd</u> the 'BeAll' in 1997, we have our work cut out for us. If anyone is interested on serving on any committees or running for office next year, please come forward.

## Candace.....

Seems like Candace can't stay out of the limelight.....See the article a local area newspaper ran about Chi-Chapter and her. Page 3

## Babs.....

Geeezzzee just when you think everything is going OK, up pops someone you hoped you would never hear from again... No not Kiki! But Aunt Bab's. Yes the only person in the world that is one float short of a parade. My sense of goodwill overcame me and I have included one of her letters in this issue. Good luck finding it.

## Suzi....

Many of you know Susan Roberts, Chi-Chapter member and my Asst Sysiop on the LIFETIME BBS. She has announced that she is taking sometime off from our favorite sport, cross-dressing and may not be attending meetings for a while, although I did get to to aggree to come to the Christmas Party......Hopefully as Suzi Claus.

## Dunes.....

I will print the map to the Douglas Dunes in next months issue.....ran out of space this month....bummer..

## The Chi Tribune



Editor: Denise Peters

### Printer: Regal Press - Schaumburg

The Chi Tribune newsletter is published monthly by Chi Chapter TRI-ESS. Please send all news, information, contributions, comments and suggestions to:

Denise Peters PO Box 133 Park Ridge, IL 60068-0133 OR

Upload your article-etc. to:

LIFETIME BBS

The OFFICIAL Chi-Chapter BBS

(708) 438-1901

OR

AOL-DenisePete CI\$-71321,2131 DenisePete@aol.com

Upload can be in any popular word processing format or ASCII text file. Typed, faxed articles accepted with prior arraignment

## Chi Chapter/TriEss P.O.Box 40 Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040

### Officers

President: Gloria Wright VP/Program: Rori Petros VP/Membership: Candace Mahne Secretary: Denise Peters Treasurer: Deanna Johns

### Commitees

Couples Group:Susan Vaya Newcomers: Amanda Dee Dee Bolden Food: Sally

TRI-ESS is a not-for-profit social and educational support group for crossdressers and their spouses and partners. Meetings are held on the third

Saturday of each month.

Chi Chapter Telephone Hotline: (708) 364-9514

## Gatekeeper of Secret DuPage crossdressing society sets the record 'straight'

By Dan Pearson For SPOTLIGHT Press Publications

While audiences find female impersonation a scream on stage and screen, those men who feel the need to wear women's clothing in real life are not often met with the same response.

Fear of exposure and ridicule by family, friends and complete strangers can lead to overwhelming feelings of guilt depression, alienation and, in some cases, suicide.



"A lot of those people are scared to death," admits Candace Mahne, vice president and outreach coordinator of the Chicago area chapter of Tri-ess, a national support group for heterosexual male crossdressers and their significant others.

"Some are embarrassed," said Mahne, a 57-year-old straight male cross-dresser who has been out of the closet since 1992. "They are afraid they are the only creature like

this in the world and they don't want to live alone. They don't understand it."

Based in DuPage County with a post office box in Wood Dale, Tri-Ess, or the Society for the Second Self, offers a safe haven for the heterosexual cross-dresser.

"Our job locally is to get those people out of the closet any way we can. Bring them into a loving, caring environment where they can accept themselves and go on to be the great people that they can be. That is our, function said Mahne.

Also to have a good time..; I feel God has a good sense of humor when He-She created me."

"Candace Mahne" is the *femme* name chosen by this former DuPage resident who nows lives in Kane County. As vice president of the Chi Chapter of Tri-Ess, "she" is also in charge of membership development and answering the group's hotline number.

As one of more than 40 chapters in the United States, Mahne states the Chicago Tri-Ess chapter alone lists some 300 members.

"My job on the hotline is to convince people who are closeted and very fearful to come to our meeting and meet others just like themselves," he said.

Mahne says' most crossdressers know about this desire when they are 5-7 years of age.

"We tend to have the feeling that we were brought here by alien spacecraft to live amongst you people. We put our finger up like E.T. waiting for that spacecraft to bring us home. It is only when we discover- crossdressing organizations [like Tri-Ess] that we know there are other people like us in the world."

Membership in Tri-Ess is limited only to heterosexual cross-dressers and their wives or significant others.

"We are considered a closed group for that reason. The open group [Chicago Gender Society] allows heteros, gay cross-dressers and transsexuals, both pre-op and post-op. There. has been argument that they want Tri-Ess to change. I have written several strong articles saying that this [closed policy] should not change.

"It is my opinion that you can help those that you are focused in on. We can't be all things to all people. As Dirty Harry says, 'You've got to know your limitations.' I am not a transsexual. I am not a gay male. I don't understand the feelings that they, have gone through."

Most members come crossdressed to the meetings, which are held the third Saturday of the month at an undisclosed hotel in DuPage County.

"We come from all walks of life: lawyers, physicans, professionals people, tradespeople. About 80 percent of us have been married or are married. We are family-type people," said Mahne, who works in real estate.

Mahne has been married twice. His first wife of six years did not know "Candace." When she did find out Mahne says "she thought, all the negative things about me.

"I made a pact with myself [that], if I every got married again I would tell the person upfront. I met somebody, told her, and cross-dressing was never an issue. We were married for 26 years, raised two children and I have three grandchildren. The break-up of [that] marriage had nothing to do with cross-dressing; we just grew apart"

For those interested in contacting Tri-Ess, Mahne cautions callers to let him know if the number they leave is a secure line.

"We are not here to break up marriages, we are here to help people accept themselves as they are. We do not force anything on anybody. We try to educate [them] to the possibilities, to get over the guilt and the shame that usually goes with [crossdressing] in the early stages.

It is Mahne's opinion cross-dressers make better fathers, better husbands and better people all around. Because cross-dressers are "more in tuned with feelings, we are able to nurture children more easily as most men."

To protect the integrity of the group, all new members must go through a screening process.

"I am the gatekeeper," laughs Mahne. "In enjoining you in a conversation I can tell pretty quickly whether you are one that is going to come with an assault rifle and kill us all, or whether you are genuinely interested in finding out about yourself."

Mahne says after spending a lot of years in the closet (Continued on page 8)

4 Sept 1995 The Chi Tribune

## Wigstock: A Personal Reflection on the Movie

by Miranda Stevens

Wigstock. Every year around Labor Day since 1984, there has been a rather large drag festival in downtown Manhattan called Wigstock. Wigstock, the Movie, is a documentary of the Wigstock Festival with footage from Wigstocks '93 and '94. It was billed as a tribute to the art of drag entertainment, focusing on the female impressionists on and off stage and the participants in the festival audience.

I wanted to see this movie because I know very little about the gay community (Wigstock is primarily a gay festival), less about about gay cross dressers, and even less about the men who work in the entertainment industry as drag queens. Consequently, I asked Amanda to go with me to see Wigstock, which was playing at only one theater in Chicagoland, the Sony Theater in Pipers Alley.

The evening started out as a perfect outing for us. Amanda looked gorgeous (as usual) in her long black and floral print summer dress and her saucy summer hair do. I felt delicious in my conservative pink empire-waist dress. We had no trouble passing, even with the children and teenagers whom we walked by in the streets. Amanda was whistled at as the wind caught her skirt, and I know I attracted more than one admiring lance. Dinner before the show at a little Italian restaurant was lovely, and sipping a cup of cappacino afterwards at a little outdoor coffee house in Old Town was absolutely delightful.

The movie was another story. If you ever wanted to know the difference between the drag queens and yourself, then this is the movie for you. They are a different breed altogether. If you ever had any doubts about your own gender orientation or image presentation, then this movie should dispel your self doubts. But, there is very little else which would recommend this movie.

Oh, I'm not saying the performances by Mistress Formika, RuPaul, Lypsinka, The Lady Bunny and the numerous others whose names escape me at the moment were not good. On the contrary, some of them were outstanding. Some of the acts were beautifully choreographed. Some were performed with grace and style that any of us would be proud to emulate. Some of the voices (the ones who were not lip-syncing) were of a quality that many jazz or popular female vocalists would envy. And some of the acts were sensitively filmed, cutting back and forth to the performers in and out of drag, from off stage rehearsal to full stage production.

But most of the movie was exploitation, pure and simple. The most outrageous characters were continually being spotlighted by the camera, solely for their shock value. The movie did nothing to dispel the popular conception that all crossdressers are gay, that crossdressers make a mockery of womanhood, and that most crossdressers are basically bizarre and freakish.

Unless the viewer is sensitized as we are to look behind the mask (and believe me, you have never seen such garish makeup), the queens in the movie come across as something less than human. That in its own right was very disturbing to me. But even more disturbing was the movie audience's reaction. They were there to laugh at the freaks. And they got their money's worth. Five minutes into the film, I became very uncomfortable being in the audience because I realized they were not laughing because they enjoyed seeing some rather free-spirited individuals enjoying themselves. They were not laughing at the comedy of the performances on stage. They were not laughing at the absurd society we live in which proscribes freedom of gender expression. No... they were laughing at these people, they were laughing at the freaks, they were laughing at what they viewed as less than human.

Quite frankly, I left the movie theater angry. I was angry at the producers. Perhaps they were trying to show the fun of dressing in women's clothes and the wit and humor of the festival participants. But they twisted a potentially meaningful and educational opportunity into an exploitation of our sisters. Now you may not agree that the drag queens are our sisters, but we are all on the same gender spectrum. When one part of the spectrum gets dragged down, we all get dragged down.

And I was angry at the movie audience. I guess I am not that naive to believe that most human beings are empathetic. But to witness such a total lack of sensitivity was appalling.

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## Rachel's Wig Tips

Hi, I am Rachel of Rachel & Velmas Wig & Hair Care 1833 W. Irving Park Rd. Chicago, IL (312)-528-6960

In my 29 years of experience in hair care and wigs, and 18 years of working with the TV/TS community, many girls have addressed questions concerning the proper care of wigs and styling. I will attempt to answer some of those questions.

Today's wigs are comfortable and style free. The style is preset at the manufacturer, which means goodbye to rollers, hair dryers, and teasing. Today's wigs are lighter weight and there are many new colors which look very natural. Proper care of your wig will help it to last longer. You must know when to wash, how to condition your wig, and how to dry it.

## Guidelines for proper wig care

Wash your wig every 30 days by using wig shampoo. You should need proper wig products. Wig products are very essential. Condition your wig with wig conditioner using two capfuls of conditioner. Comb through wig thoroughly. Rinse with warm water. Brush back of wig forward by holding the wig label. Place wig on a wig block or styrofoam wig form and let dry naturally. When dry your wig will be ready to brush according to wig style. With a little practice you glamor gals can feel comfortable.

## Guidelines for wearing your wig

Before putting on your wig, brush your hair back, pin it down, then use hair spray to hold it down.

Use a wig liner nylon cap.

Position ear tabs.

Put on your wig like a bathing cap.

Adjust velcro tab a back of wig, if wig feels uncomfortable or is too loose.

Tuck in ant stray hairs.

Brush wig according to style, don't be shy about brushing it. Take a good look at self in mirror for a total look before heading out on your adventure. If you don't feel wig secure, always use bobbie pins on the side of your temples.

At this time I would like to thank my many loyal customers, and invite all community girls to our October open house.

Thank you, Rachel

## Advertising Notes by Sunny

First let me introduce our newest advertiser, Rose Dynamics, owned by Arj Potdar, registered architects and engineers. If you are planning your dream home, a room addition, or a business remodeling, give them a call.

\* \* \*

Transformations, at 146 N. Oak Park Avenue, Oak Park, will be hosting a special day on September 17th from 1-7 PM.

Starting at 3:00 PM, with "Beautiful Breasts" or how to make boobs, by Soto. Ending at 4:15 PM Fee: \$ 18.00

From 4:30 PM to 5:45 PM in the lower level, Joan Marie Sassano will conduct "Movement & Modeling Fundamentals" Fee: \$ 15.00

From 6:00 to 7:00 a buffet will be served. Fee: \$ 5.00 Beer, wine and pop available at \$ 1.00 each

A special outing to the Baton follows for the 8:30 PM show, with a special \$ 4.00 admission and 2 drink minimum. Please RSVP by September 14th, call Rori at (708) 383-8338 for Baton reservations.

\* \* \*

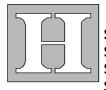
On Saturday, October 14th, Fay R. Bass of Mary Kay Cosmetics and Velma & Rachel's Wig and Hair Care at 1833 W. Irving Park Rd., Chicago will be having an open house from 1-5 PM. Featured will be Mary Kay makeovers and products, wigs, clothes, and fashion accessories. Snacks and beverages will be provided.

\* \* \*

On Sunday October 22nd, The Fashion Exchange at 201 W. St. Charles Rd. Villa Park (Located from the Elmhurst Holiday Inn north 1 light to St. Charles Rd. then west 2 lights and 2 blocks), Mary and Mary Anne will be having an open house from 1-5 PM. Check out their wide array of clothes and fashion accessories/jewelry, shoes/belts at a special open house discount of 20% off their low prices. Snacks and beverages will be provided. Have a complementary photo taken of you in your new fall fashions.

Finally girls, when in need of a product or service, please patronize our advertisers, they help ,support our community.

Deadline for Oct Issue October 31th



September Sept 9 **Gemini Gender Group** Milwaukee (414) 297-9328

Sept 12 **CGS Meeting** Stardust Room

**Holiday Inn Express** Sept 16 **Chi-Chapter Meeting** 

Sept 27 **Southern Comfort** Atlanta



Oct 2-3 **National Transgender Lobbying Day** Washington, DC

Oct 10 **CGS Meeting** Stardust Room Oct 14 **Gemini Gender Group** Brookfield, WI Oct 15-22 Fantasia Fair Provincetown, MD

Oct 21 **Chi-Chapter Meeting Holiday Inn Express** 

Oct 19-22 Douglas Dunes Weekend Michigan Oct 26-29 Fall Harvset St. Louis, MO **See Below** Oct 26 **NW Indiana Gender Group** 

November

**CGS Meeting** Nov 7 Stardust

Nov 15-19 Holiday En-Femme Calgary, AB, Canada **Nov 18 Chi-Chapter Meeting Holiday Inn Express** 

**December** 

Dec 12 CGS Meeting

Dec 16 "Puttin on the Ritz" Ramada Inn Rosemont

## **GEMINI GENDER GROUP**

## schedules fashion and talent show

The Gemini Gender Group will meet on Saturday, JOct 14th at the following location:

Universalist Church West 13001 West North Ave. Brookfield, Wisconsin (Take Highway 45 to exit 420(North Ave)



## *LOCATIONS*

### **MEETING HALLS**

**HOLIDAY INN Express** 933 S. Rt 83 Elmhurst, (708) 279-0700

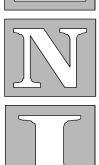
STARDUST BANQUET HALL 5688 N. Milwaukee Av Chicago, IL



"Anyone wishing to compete for the title of "Miss CGS" should contact the CGS Hotline at (708) 863-7714. There will be a meeting on September 11, 1995 of all constants. No entry fee for CGS or Tri-Ess members."

## **New Gender Group Formed**

A new TV/TS gender group has formed, the "Northwest Indiana Gender Group" meets the fourth Thursday of each month. For more information contact Claudia at (219) 929-8533, or write to P.O. Box 132, Portage, Indiana 46368.





(Continued from page 1)

Over this year and a half there have been victories and there have been failures.

### Victories:

- 1. We kept Chi-Chapter going. This was not a given. There were those who felt that if Naomi didn't run Chi-Chapter, it couldn't be run. I wanted to prove that with determination and talent, there were many right here within Chi-Chapter that could keep us afloat. It can never be said again that Chi-Chapter is dependent upon any one individual.
- 2. We proved that we could move beyond the past. Our officers have proven themselves many times over. Rori had given us many "off-site" events. She was instrumental, along with Carol with getting us out of the Midway. Denise has proven she can do just about anything, and has produced an excellent newsletter. Candace and her New Members committee (Dee Dee and Amanda) have done a phenomenal job in outreach. We all knew what Deanna could do, and she has continued to give 100% of herself. Both she and Naomi (who continued to assist her, though she was no longer a board member) were the voices of experience who kept us on track.

And there were others, non officers who kept things moving forward. Sally with the food committee, Sunny with Advertising, and many others whose names and contributions I can't include due to space considerations all helped to keep Chi-Chapter strong.

These were all victories. But there were failures, too.

- 1. The Couple's Group. I list this as a failure because my attempts to make it better caused dissension that diluted my effectiveness elsewhere. I take it as a personal failure, and fault no other individuals.
- 2. Cooperation between the groups. Some headway was made here, but I'm not sure a lasting foundation was made. This is a very big task.

So overall, it's been a good run, and a successful undertaking. I'm proud of the efforts I have made, and would do it all again given the time and energy.

But Chi-Chapter is a dynamic group, made up of dynamic individuals. I've always said that if our members can be successful people in their other endeavors, they certainly can be successful leaders of our group.

But my family is calling me again. My family and job responsibilities do not allow me to operate at the level I think you deserve. Therefore, I'm stepping down again, this time before the end of my term. I wouldn't do this unless I felt the group was in good hands. Deanna has agreed to be "interim"

President, until an election is held. She has been President before, and is someone I admire a lot.

### NOW THE CHALLENGE:

Chi-Chapter is at the crossroads. We can go forward, or go back. We can go back to letting one person do everything, or we can continue on the path of having a lot of people do a little. We can no longer use the excuse that there aren't capable people here. We have PROVEN that they are here!

If anyone believes that I will crawl into the woodwork, they are mistaken. Stepping down will give me the opportunity to "pick my spots" where I can be most helpful. I will always be involved at whatever level time allows.

But I think we have come to far to turn back to the way it "used to be done." Let's all continue to be involved, and show this is OUR group. We demand the best, and are willing to help it BE the best!

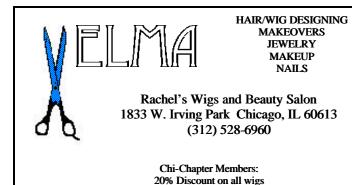
### FINALLY!

I can't finish without saying what a joy it has been to work with people like Norma and Joyce. They saved our recent picnic in many ways. Standing in for me when I wasn't able to put more of an effort into it. For those who say you can't have happy positive transgendered relationships, I say, look no further than these two.

Big thanks to Carol, Sally, Sunny, Naomi, and all others who supported this effort. Let's keep the energy flowing!

Special thanks to my wife and my son, who both know Gloria, and support my every move.

See you at the meeting! ??



(Continued from page 3)

himself, finding Tri-Ess has made his life complete.

"I am happier than I was before. I am free to express my gender of choice, which is female."

Last month, he says he spent 18 out of days dressed as "Candace,' often participating as. an outreach speaker to educational and community groups with an interest in the subject The more Mahne can show that he is "a normal human being, a typical person," he believes the better it will be for all members of the crossdressing community.

At 6 feet 1 inch tall, even wearing 3-inch" heels, Mahne says "Candace" is passable as a woman in public. "She" is also encouraged by the number of new films that are making the idea of crossdressing almost trendy.

"They are becoming trendy. I think that anything that is done in good taste, that brings us out in a good light, [like 'Priscilla, Queen of the Desert'] is fine."

The same, Mahne believes, cannot be said the depiction of cross-dressers on national talk shows.

"I think a lot of the television shows are being done for ratings. I get at least two or three calls a month from the major shows. We turn them down. One wanted a cross-dresser to come out to his wife on national TV. I told him that was my job. By doing it on national TV, you are doing more harm. 'It is like throwing out an atomic bomb.

My daughter found out two years ago -The first question she asked her mother was, 'Is dad gay?' She said no. Then she asked, having seen the shows on TV, 'Is dad a crossdresser?' Then she paid me the best compliment- 'Now I know why dad was both mother and father to me.'

For information on Tri-Ess call the hotline at (708) 364-9514 or write to PO Box 40, Wooddale, IL 60191-0040. The Chicago Gender Society can be reached at 863-7714 or at PO Box 578005, Chicaho, IL 60657

Reprinted from the July 21 issue of the **Press Publications** 'Spotlight entertainment section' (Dupage County Edition)

Vernas Venus

## NOTES FROM SALLY...

Can you believe that summer is almost over? It came and left like a gust of wind. Though it was a hot one, thanks to Rori and Carol, we kept cool in our new temporary meeting room. I hope everyone enjoyed our ice cream social last month, followed by our annual picnic the next day. Our appreciation goes to Joyce and Norma for preparing and cooking and everyone else who joined us, and brought various goodies that we could not refuse. We had good weather, good food and last but not least, good friends, what more could one ask for! Our best wishes go out to Gloria, GOOD LUCK! We will miss your leadership. Thank you for your hard work.

Can't wait to see you next month.

Raj Potdar A.I.A. President

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