

Alpha Zeta is a Tri-Ess chapter

PO Box 4351

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April 15, 1988

**The Editor's Corner****By: Wendi Danielle P.**

Hello girls, I hope this newsletter finds you all in good health and all has been well during the past month. This month I'd like to talk a little about what I call the "other side". You see, for the past 5 months or so I have been experiencing what I call the "other side". I have been pretty much full time in a feminine role, both in my private life and in my public life (at work etc.). We all would like to give it a try, or at least we've thought about it. It was my desire to follow through on those thoughts. Mine were so strong that I had to give them a chance to come to life.



Well, I guess I would have to start by saying its a bit rough at times. You grow up trying to fit into a gender role dictated by all you contact. Your family, friends, even total strangers influence your adherence to this role. The problem that occurred with me and many others is that inside, sometimes deep inside, we have a driving need to let another role emerge. An opposite gender role, that at times can closely parallel our biological role and at times be completely out of phase with it. In my case I find a lot of parallelism between the two roles has evolved during the past 5 months. I have given myself the chance to let this opposite gender role emerge into the light of day and now I can say that I am glad that I have started to explore this long suppressed side of my nature.

Probably the biggest change that I have experienced during these past months has been the relationships that have started to blossom for me. My masculine side was never able to become closely involved with other people. I speak here of involvement at a social level, being able to express my emotions and relate to others. I would guess that this ability to suppress emotions is one of the traits that I unknowingly was led to believe was part of being masculine. Not necessarily so, but for

In conclusion I can only say that the changes I have seen indicate to me that I have had a certain amount of success in my desire to live in this new gender role. Also, I have several new challenges ahead of me to hopefully regain the status I enjoyed in the male role. Probably the most important thing that I am now feeling is a certain amount of

me, my explorations into my feminine side have removed the restrictions that I have placed on myself over the years. Now I feel free to become much more involved with others of both sexes at a social level. In the past few months I have learned that women seem to relate to each other at many more levels than do men. They seem to confide more with their peers. My acceptance in a few feminine circles at work has shown me this. In general I would guess that women are more concerned with relationships and emotions than men. Once you start being accepted (or at least tentatively included) into a group of women, this becomes fairly apparent.

On the other side, my relationships with the men I work with seem to have taken an interesting turn. I do not stress the need for men to treat me any different, but none the less I am treated differently in many subtle ways. Those that have known me for years see basically the same person with regard to capabilities, general attitudes, outside interests, etc.. Now they tend to treat me as more of an outsider at times. The risqué jokes, the relating of "I did this" experiences, the off color comments about certain women have all but disappeared (I do get the equivalent from the feminine side of the fence a little now, so I would say what's fair is fair). In there place I am presented a more business like attitude, with courtesy I had not expected.

In another light I have had some real problems with some career related issues. Since I am an engineer, recognition at a professional level is necessary for advancement, or in my case, holding my position. This recognition has drastically deteriorated. Also, I had heard the old adage for years that women have to work much harder to prove themselves in business, especially in technically oriented fields. Well, I now have first hand proof that this is true. I was highly respected by my peers before my transition. In the past several months I have had more than one incident in which I was not perceived as being knowledgeable in certain areas where I had proven my capabilities before. While I can only speculate why I was passed over as a resource, I feel that the feminine role that I have adopted has had an influence.

confidence in this new role, which will increase with time. With that thought I'll close this update for now. Until next month girls, GO FOR IT!



## The First Lady's Notebook

By: Terri F.

Sisters, March 19th was one of the most positive days I have had in a long time. It began in the afternoon when Diane, Brenda and I drove dressed to Paradise Valley Community College to speak to a psychology 101 class. We were admitted to the classroom during a short recess, and as the students reappeared and settled themselves down, we smiled, and they responded in kind. That set the tone for a very pleasant afternoon as we proceeded to educate and enlighten them about crossdressing. It was very easy to talk to them and I could tell that we were getting our message across. The question and answer portion of our talk lasted for more than an hour! The questions were thought provoking and inquisitive, but not prying. We took turns fielding them as we felt able to handle them, and often our responses would trigger a warm round of applause at the conclusion, after which we adjourned outside for another 15 minute session of more questions from a number of remaining students. It was particularly interesting to note that the last three students were males. I really enjoyed the statement that we seemed so comfortable with ourselves. All in all it was a very meaningful experience.

We had our monthly meeting that evening, and though the turnout was average, I was most impressed at what transpired during the business meeting. I was very pleased to announce that a good number of us will be going as a group to a performance of the Ballet Trockadero on April 22nd. I procured a block of 15 tickets the next day at Dillard's. Some of us will go dressed, others won't but it really doesn't matter, we will be doing this together! We will also be meeting together this month at the Unbound Sole shoe store in downtown Phoenix. Ladies- we have arranged to be the only customers of some very understanding and hospitable owners. I urge everyone to attend this, our first "on the town" meeting.

I have sent out questionnaires in order to get a better idea of what this group wants to do as a whole. Please return them at your earliest convenience. I will tell you what the results were at



the May meeting. And please- even if you can not attend the meetings regularly, take as active a role as you can by keeping abreast of things and by giving us your input. There is no such person as a "fringe" member. We are all in this together!

## A Rose Update

By: Jackie Michaels.

The April Meeting was held at Terri J.'s house on Saturday the 9th. We decided to postpone the meeting one week due to the Easter Holiday in hopes that more members would be able to attend. As it turned out that may not have been such a great idea. Perhaps a lot of you were planing on attending a meeting on the 2nd of April? There were 10 members present and a



lot of familiar faces were missing! The group was rather subdued and dancing was at your own risk since Terri's dance floor was only a 3x3 area next to the front door! Sunglasses were not needed that night because our Staff Photographers, Wendi and Judee were unable to make it to the meeting. Rumor has it that they went camping/fishing and forgot their compass. Hope they get back in time for the May Meeting!

Speaking of Mae..where were you? Hope your not mad at me! I really "do" like your new hair style and dress! And, no you can't have that wig I got at the swap meet. I like it too much. How about a different wig?

The summers hot weather is just about upon us. Something most of us dread. If you can't or don't like to go out "dressed" in the hot weather you are still most welcome at the meetings. We like to see you all no matter how you "dress"! May will likely be the last month where the nights are still a bit cool, so I hope you all will try your best to show up at the meeting. During the summer months we will be starting our meeting at 9pm (if I can get the other officers to agree). Just the same, if you can't get out early you are always welcome later in the evening.

As always we encourage you to keep in touch with the group and let us know what you think and what you would like to take place at your meetings.

One final note, there seemed to be a little confusion at this month's meeting in regards to our



regular meeting fee. We do have a standing rule that unless otherwise stated, there is a \$3 per person (\$5 per couple) meeting charge. \$2 per person goes to the host of the evening and the remainder goes into our treasury for meeting notice mailing etc. So, please try to remember to pay your meeting dues. Thanks.

Till Next Month..."JACKIE"

**Alpha Zeta Update**  
by: Diane I.

The regular Alpha Zeta monthly meeting was a St. Patrick's Day celebration held on Saturday, March 19th at the Best Western Suites in Tempe. Present were Terri F., Terri J. Erika, Diane, Rosalind & Phyllis, Cindy, Wendi & Judee, Lynda & Jackie, Brenda & Donna, Sandy and Angela. First lady, Terri, presided over the business meeting. Thanks go to



Lynda and Jackie for setting up and decorating the room in the appropriate green trim. Terri announced that the latest Alpha Zeta outreach activity was a visit to JoAnn Richi's psychology class at Paradise Valley Community college. Terri, Diane & Brenda gave the class some first hand information about what it is like to be a crossdresser. The discussion included personal experiences, discussion of sex and gender, and TV terminology. It was Brenda's first time talking in public en femme and she did a great job!

Terri mentioned that there were plans to have a joint project between Alpha Zeta, A Rose and ASU to bring in guest speakers on crossdressing. Diane will make contact with ASU and find out about available funds, advertising and facilities. These programs will begin in the fall.

Terri announced that Les Ballet Trocadero, featuring male ballerinas, will be in Phoenix for one show at 8:00pm on Friday April 22nd. The tickets are \$12 to \$22. Currently there are 12 Alpha Zeta girls planning to attend. Contact Terri if you would like information.

Cindy reported that she had made contact with the Unbound Sole shoe store and that they were very friendly and willing to help crossdressers with

shoes. She will see if they are interested in hosting the April Alpha Zeta meeting.

Terri handed out a questionnaire to all members. Please fill out this form and send it to Terri as soon as possible. This survey will help us determine what activities and programs the chapter most desires.

Wendi showed the group identification cards which she designed for A Rose. The cards have a place for a signature by a therapist and explain that the bearer is a crossdresser. Similar cards may be available to Alpha Zeta members. Wendi also mentioned that articles for the newsletter should be submitted to Diane for Alpha Zeta and Jackie for A Rose.

Diane discussed the possibility of selling Tri-Ess sorority pins as a fund raiser for Alpha Zeta. The project would require \$150 seed money from the treasury to be added to \$52 which has currently been set aside for the pins. There was unanimous support for the project.

The program for the evening was a Sally Jesse Raphael program featuring a transvestite, a transexual, and a female impersonator. The Transvestite was Naomi from Chi Chapter, who handled the subject in a confident and professional way.

**Alpha Zeta Monthly Meeting**  
By: Diane I.

We have a very special meeting planned for April at the Unbound Sole shoe store. The location of the Unbound Sole is 1515 N. Central Ave. in Phoenix, on the east side of the street just south of McDowell Rd.. The meeting will begin at 7:30pm. The Unbound Sole sells women's shoes and related products, specializing in larger sizes. They have a fantastic selection. The owners of the store will be our hosts for the evening and snacks will be available! Everyone is invited to attend, no matter your shoe size. There is no obligation to buy shoes. Come to this special meeting, meet some friendly people and support Alpha Zeta!

**Alpha Zeta Treasury Report**

Balance as of 2/29/88.....	341.18
Paid	
Out.....	40.06
Income.....	7.00
Interest.....	1.62
Balance as of 3/31/88.....	362.24



**A Rose Monthly Meeting**

**By: Wendi P.**

This month's meeting will be held at the restaurant atop the Hyatt in downtown Phoenix. It will be a town and gown evening with formal attire being highly recommended. We will be having a joint function with the Phoenix Legal Advisory Council, or PLAC as they are commonly called. They have informed us that in the event that we are treated with any discourtecies or harassed, they will provide us with free legal council. These are the group of lawyers that have been responsible for several low key but significant legal triumphs in the past few years. One of their successes was the timely removal of Wesley Bolin from office so that the Babbit family could rightfully run the state. Also, the financial wizards in this group were behind the Mecham election finance drive. The marital experts were council to several famous persons including J. Carson and L. Marvin. Their political experts were the brains behind the McGovern campaign of 1972. Their international political expertise was highly commended by Jimmy Carter as they were his advisors during the Iran hostage crisis. Currently, they are the brains behind the state of Arizona's transportation planning commission and have been responsible for the negotiations with the Salt River Indian tribe. With such good credentials, we should have little to worry about should any problems occur. April fools! Details of the May meeting have yet to be finalized, we'll let you know when we figure something out. In any case, keep the first Saturday of May free, we'll have it all figured out by then. See what happens when you write a newsletter too long into the night!

**A Rose Treasury Report**

Balance as of 2/23/88.....	327.51
Paid Out.....	0.00
Income.....	84.00
Interest.....	1.53
Balance as of 3/23/88.....	402.54

**National Events**

**Spring 1988 Pocono Fantasy Festival**

On May 13-15th this fully catered event takes place in Stroudsburg, Pa.. Highlights mentioned include parties, contests and a secluded resort environment. For more information Contact:

Joyce Dewhurst



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**Tiffany Spring Fling**

The last weekend in May the Tiffany club will sponsor it's annual spring outing in Provencetown. For more information contact:

Tiffany Club  
Po Box 19  
Wayland Mass. 01778

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**Be All You Want To Be Weekend**

June 8-12 will be the dates for this annual event. For more information Contact:

Crossroads Chapter  
PO Box 1298  
Flint, Mi. 48601

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**Shangri-La West Summer Fun**

In July the Shangri-La Club will be sponsoring this annual event in Stallion Spring, Ca.. For more information Contact:

Shangri-La Club  
PO Box 18202  
Irvine, Ca. 92713

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**Holiday En Femme**

The following news release was received during the past month regarding this National Tri-Ess event.

Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess is pleased to announce that it has been selected to host the 1988 Holiday En Femme. The weekend will be held in Chicago on Wednesday, Nov. 16th through Sunday, Nov. 20th.

Holiday En Femme will be held at the Midway Motor Lodge in suburban Elk Grove Village, Ill. The lodge is located just off Interstate 90, only a few miles northwest of Chicago's main airport -- O'Hare Field. Our meeting place is spectacular! Indoor banquet facilities... plenty of free parking... and free shuttle service to O'Hare Field. You will



be able to enjoy your finest femininity in a safe, secure and hospitable atmosphere.

Planning is underway for an exciting and fun-filled weekend. Included will be a self-development program; a trip to the Baton Show Lounge for the finest impersonator show anywhere; and a gala "HOLIDAY EN FEMME" program, there will also be meetings of the Tri-Ess board of advisors, the Tri-Ess board of professional people, and of delegates from all Tri-Ess chapters and forming groups. Topics for discussion and agenda for all meetings are now being formulated.

So, save the dates of Nov. 16-20, 1988 and plan to attend the 1988 "HOLIDAY EN FEMME". Watch your mail for further details.

#### FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Naomi Owen, President  
Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess  
Po Box 342  
Chicago, Ill. 60690

or

Deanna Johns, secretary/Treas.  
Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess  
Po Box 40  
Wood Dale, Ill. 60191

or

Chi Chapter "hot-line" (312) 364-9514

### Mariette Allen Generates a Stir

Recently the New York Post ran an article about state funding being designated for, in their opinion, "questionable purposes". They used a very misleading headline which read "TAX \$\$ PAYING FOR MEN IN DRAG". Also, there was a secondary headline stating "State spends 100G to push gay way of life". Actually when you read the article it became apparent that they were misleading their readership by the headlines, since the content of the article mainly addressed the spending of state funds for several gay and lesbian related arts projects. In addition these projects spanned a period of several years. As it turns out, one of these grants was a small grant (actually a \$7200 speaking fee) for Mariette Allen to speak at several state universities to educate the public about crossdressers through her photographic work on covering this subject. She is probably the most recognized photographer in our culture and is in the process of publishing a photo

essay on the subject of crossdressing. The article created quite a stir around the country and it even prompted some to try and start a letter writing campaign to the Post condemning such misleading reporting. In actuality it is probably better to let this poor journalism just fade away. The Post thrives on sensationalism and would probably enjoy entertaining letters from transgendered individuals, using them to further their own misleading form of journalism. Feeding this fire doesn't seem to be a winning situation. This article may help our community indirectly, since it has brought Mariette Allen into the public eye and might create more interest in her work. This will in turn give the public a much better insight into our community through her fine photo essays.

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### Sister Mary Elizabeth is In The News

A second article appeared in a supermarket checkout line paper called "The Sun" dated 4/5/88. In this issue there was a story about Sister Mary Elizabeth (formerly Joanna Clark). The headline here read "EX-NAVY PILOT IS NOW A NUN". This article is not derogatory toward Sister Mary Elizabeth, although it was written in the publication's "Ripley's Believe It or Not" style. The article is factual and might even help a few individuals to take the first step by contacting the good sister and seeking help in resolving their own transgender desires. According to the article she has counselled thousands of individuals on the subject of transsexualism and transgender behavior. The article also states that she has started her own order in the Episcopal church. Both of these items are true.

In addition, Sister Mary Elizabeth is a board member of IFGE and was a speaker at the convention last month. She introduced Christine Jorgensen at the banquet. In her introduction she explained that they are good friends and Christine was the individual that helped her during some of the more trying times she has lived through.

Sister is a very active outreach member of our community and willing to help all that seek her assistance.

*(ed: copies of both articles will be available at the next Alpha Zeta and A Rose meetings)*



## GLAMOUR ON CROSSDRESSING ?

by Diane I.

It's fun to keep an eye open for stories in the media dealing with crossdressing. In last month's Glamour Magazine, March 1988, an interesting letter appears under the Sex & Health Section, page 342. See if you agree with Glamour's reply to the letter. They may have some of their facts mixed up, but for the most part it's interesting.

### MY BOYFRIEND DRESSES IN WOMEN'S LINGERIE. IS HE GAY?

**Letter:** I recently discovered women's lingerie among my boyfriend's clothing. At first, I thought the silky underpants, bras and garters belonged to another woman. But when I confronted him, he confessed that he dresses in these garments for a sexual thrill. I'm disgusted to think he does this, but he says many "normal" men enjoy "dressing up" occasionally. Is this true?

**Glamour:** I can understand your reaction to your boyfriend's confession; it was probably not only disturbing but confusing. Men who are sexually stimulated by wearing women's clothing (crossdressing), or even just fantasizing about wearing it, are called transvestites. Interestingly, these terms refer only to men. Since it is fashionable for women to wear men's clothing, it's hard to know whether any women cross dress for a sexual thrill. Very little is understood about the origins of crossdressing, but the behavior is thought to reflect concerns about gender identity. It usually starts in childhood or adolescence, is carried on in relative secrecy and is often accompanied by masturbation. Although cross dressers are often thought of as gay, most are heterosexual and typically masculine in their everyday appearance and behavior. (Transvestites are not to be confused with transsexuals, who feel trapped in the "wrong body" and dress up to help themselves feel like a person of the opposite sex.) A transvestite's fetishistic activity may seem strange, but it does not mean that he doesn't want to, or isn't able to, sustain a sexual relationship with a woman. Your boyfriend tells you that many "normal" men enjoy dressing up occasionally. There are no exact figures on how common cross dressing is, and one can never know for sure what people do in private, but most men in our culture do not dress up in women's clothing, even occasionally. Many methods of treatment have been attempted with men who wish to overcome transvestism but with little or no success. So it is

probably unrealistic to expect that your boyfriend will be able to give up crossdressing. If you continue to feel "disgusted" by it, even if he does it strictly in private (as most transvestites do), your relationship may not survive. But if you can tolerate the behavior as an expression of a special need, it need not lead to a breakup. Counselling could be of value in helping you deal with your boyfriend's behavior.

## Food For Thought

This month we at the news offices are dieting again, swimsuits are out of the question unless several pounds disappear, so it seemed a good idea to have a tasty (is that possible?) diet meal featured this month. This one is very flexible as far as ingredients so feel free to experiment. It's even good meatless.

### Mexican Pizza

1 flour tortilla (12")  
 1 small tomato (chopped)  
 1/4 cup sliced fresh mushrooms  
 1/4 cup chopped onions  
 1/4 cup chopped green peppers  
 1/8 cup salsa  
 1/4 cup shredded longhorn cheese  
 1/4 cup cooked meat (beef, pork, chicken, etc.)  
 garlic powder  
 cilantro

Place ingredients on the tortilla, bake in 400 deg. oven for 15 mins, lower to 350 deg., bake for 10 mins., or until onions and peppers are tender, enjoy!

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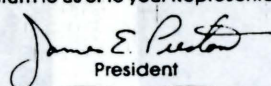
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