

MARIETTE PATHY ALLEN & NY POST SETTLE OUT OF COURT

June 10, 1988

Dear Members of the gender Community,

It has been almost three months since the New York Post attacked our community. Now that the shock has begun to recede, I think we'll see that:

- 1) The Post will not remember this as their finest hour.
- 2) This episode may serve to strengthen the community.

Let me tell you what has happened since March 16th. On that day I hired the first lawyer that was suggested to me because I felt that time was critical, and I was leaving for California the next day. This individual, knowledgeable and expensive, spoke lawyer-ese, (not my language) and passionately wanted to sue the Post; His reputation is based on "going for the jugular". My case, however was not as simple as it looked. Copyright infringement was questionable as this material was considered "news" even though it was the Post itself that created the news. Apparently, if something is news, it may be printed against the will of anyone involved. That left the willful destruction of a work of art and defamation of character as the two issues upon which to base a case. Since my photographs were cropped, their integrity as works of art was destroyed. The law created to prevent this kind of harm to artists was legislated in 1983 and had never been tested. Defamation of character would have required proof that my personal life had been severely damaged by this attack. In truth, because of everyone's lack of respect for the Post, my professional status was hardly touched.

Upon my return from California, I consulted several other lawyers who had more inside information and more professional detachment. As one lawyer explained it, the Post knew they were wrong, but because they had a new owner, and therefore, a new legal department, the legal department was itching for a fight to prove their worth.



"This will go on for the next ten years, and you could wind up going to the Supreme Court. I can't advise you strongly enough to settle out of court if you can." The other lawyer told me that the Post would have a field day with my deposition, and that they, most likely, would insist upon depositions from some of the people whose pictures they published. That was the final straw! I asked my lawyer to settle out of court, and, although he was disappointed, I was tremendously relieved, and even consider it a small victory that the Post paid me enough to cover my legal expenses.

While I was waging my personal battle, there was good news in the art world: the New York State Council on the Arts, chaired by Kitty Carlisle Hart, defined its grant awards eloquently and with great vigor. Other arts groups, and the gay and lesbian community came to the support of the council, and the hearings instigated by the Post turned into a total defeat for the Post.

Meanwhile, TIGER has been collecting money in support of my case. I am happy that I will not need this money, and, now we have a fund available for the next legal hassle that occurs within the community. This fund is something that was needed in the past, and is likely to become even more important as the community gains strength and takes steps toward acceptance and respect.

I would like to thank the many people who supported me, who gave me moments of wisdom and calm when I really needed it, the people who wrote letters to the Post and the New York State Council on the Arts, and sent donations to TIGER. I would like to thank Ginny Knuth of ETVIC in particular, and TIGER for taking on the tasks of informing you and creating the legal defense fund.

Warmly,
Mariette Pathy Allen

ed: the TIGER defense fund is an ongoing function of G.I.C. of Denver and can be contacted at: Po Box 17442; Denver Co. 80217, write LEGAL FUND on checks etc.

The End of an Era

By: Wendi Pierce

A little under two years ago I was embarking on a new phase in my life. I had been exploring a suppressed feminine side of my self for about 6 months mostly in private and for the first time I was meeting with another person with similar interests at a public place. This person was Diane, then first lady of Alpha Zeta, and a soon to be good friend. We met at Cafe Casino in



Scottsdale and I was accompanied by my then and now, best friend and companion Judee. Judee has been with me since the start of my exploration through thick and thin and we both have grown tremendously in the past few years.

At that meeting, Diane didn't notice (at least visibly) how shaky I was or how difficult it was for me to be out in public, believe me it was, but that was the beginning of my rewarding association with her and Alpha Zeta. Alpha Zeta is a group, better yet a fellowship of individuals that has an overriding goal, that to help us explore our feminine aspirations in a comfortable setting and, to grow from the experience. It has been perpetuated by a small core of individuals including Diane, Terri [redacted] and a few others that are willing to make great contributions of their personal time and money so that others may enjoy the act of exploring the feminine side of their nature.

Alpha Zeta is as Diane puts it, the guardian at the closet door. It can be much more and has been for some. In my case it has been many things. I got the chance to try my hand at writing and producing a publication, this newsletter, I became a public speaker on gender related issues through the speaking engagements the group was invited to make, I was introduced to many of the prominent figures in our gender community through it and I met almost all those I know locally in the gender community through Alpha Zeta. I owe Alpha Zeta a great deal and hope that in the future I will be able to contribute to it's perpetuation and expansion.

Alpha Zeta, and Tri-Ess in general are going through a somewhat difficult time right now. The National leaders have instructed local chapters such as Alpha Zeta that all members of the local chapter must be members of national Tri-Ess. For some this is no problem, for others, myself included, this does present somewhat of a problem. I do not agree with some of the basic philosophies that the national Tri-Ess organization professes. This is a personal thing and I shall not go into it here, but the bottom line is that I can not in clear conscience affiliate myself with Tri-Ess national. This creates a dilemma for me in that I do not want to abandon Alpha Zeta but as of this month, I am not considered a member any more.

This fall the national Tri-Ess organization will be meeting, in conjunction with the "Holiday En Femme", and, along with many other topics, will address some of the issues that prohibit individuals such as myself from joining a Tri-Ess chapter. My hope here is that a compromise can be made. I suggest that the suitability of an individual to be a member of a Tri-Ess chapter be modified in such a way that personal preferences (sexual or otherwise) might be waved in light of a recommendation from the membership of the local chapter. Thereby, an individual might join a Tri-Ess chapter (paying any national and local fees) without feeling that they are compromising their own personal preferences.

I welcome other opinions on this subject. My goal is to get the thought processes churning both at a local and national level. Tri-Ess has been a very important force in the gender community and will, with proper foresight, be around for many years to come. Today we need to adjust some of it's constraints so that tomorrow it can thrive.

The gender community in general is a small yet dedicated and hardworking community. The community should not fractionate it's resources at this time or any time. We are starting to gain visibility and hopefully some form of tolerance from society, but we need to combine ranks and work together to accomplish this gigantic task. Gays and Lesbians did this and they were successful, now it's our turn. Excluding individuals is fractionation and is neither a necessary or productive activity.

This commentary has been brewing in me for some time and I hope that I have not offended any of my Tri-Ess friends by saying it, but I felt that it had to be said.

Until next month girls, GO FOR IT!

The First Lady's Notebook

By: Terri ■

First off, I'd like to thank those who attended the First Annual TV Dinner last month. It was a very positive experience, and I know that Diane was truly surprised. Special thanks again to Lynda and Jackie for getting us in touch with a most "hospitable" establishment. I felt a little nervous asking our hostess if it was alright for us to use the Ladies Room, but she seemed to take it in stride and cleared it with the management. The food was good (I ought to know!), the service very timely, and the evening most memorable. I look forward to "dining out" with my sisters in the future...



Speaking of the future, it is now! We have entered into a three month grace period, during which all Alpha Zeta members will be required to join Tri-Ess or update their membership. After September all members will present their Tri-Ess cards to Diane, who will be compiling a list of numbers to be mailed to Donna ■. For information or an application for membership, contact Diane or Terri as soon as you can. I realize that there will be a diminution of Alpha Zeta membership and we'll hate to lose anybody, but we are going by the rules. I would appreciate hearing from each member as to whether or not they will be in compliance. With or without a full compliment of members, Alpha Zeta will continue to move forward and to grow until we are again at full strength and renewed purpose. To all those who will choose not to be with us after September: we love you, we'll miss you, and let's always be friends.

Alpha Zeta Treasury Report

Balance as of 5/30/88.....	310.43
Paid Out (Tri-Ess pins).....	199.68
Income.....	15.00
Interest.....	1.35
Balance as of 6/30/88.....	127.10

A REMINDER

Have you forgotten anything lately? Your car keys, maybe you missed the rent or a mortgage payment? Maybe you left the house without a slip, a dab of blush or a swish of mascara. Have you checked your wig? No, you didn't forget any of these dear, so don't forget your Alpha Zeta dues! The full year 1989 chapter dues (only \$15.00) are payable at the July meeting. If you can't pay your dues this month, you do have a three-month grace period to pay local dues and be current with your national fees. So please, just don't forget yours.

Alpha Zeta Update

by: Diane ■

The June Alpha Zeta meeting was a dinner meeting at the Hospitality Inn in Scottsdale. Present at the meeting were Lynda and Jackie, Angela, Jackie, Terri, Ericka, Wendi and Judee, Monica, Cindy, Shelly, Rosalind and her guest, and Diane. The dinner turned out to be a lovely affair with very friendly hosts. This was our first formal chapter



dinner at a local hotel. The food was tasty and wine was served at every table. Lynda, Jackie and Terri are to be congratulated for setting it all up.

The program for the evening turned out to be the presentation of a plaque and some other gifts for me. Thanks to everyone in the chapter for their nice thoughts and generosity. Alpha Zeta has played an important role in my life during the past five years and being recognized by this group is a high honor. By the way, I do love the Betty Boop cartoon video and "symbolic" mother hen. I just love to watch Betty Boop, Bimbo and Koko romp to the tunes of Cab Calloway and the other great blues artists in those old cartoons!

My speech for the evening was on a "light" history of Alpha Zeta and... I hope I didn't offend anyone. I wished A Rose all the success in the world with their new organization, and sincerely see our groups as sisters working together to better serve the crossdressing community.

After the dinner, we all adjourned to Terri's room for a party and lots of conversation.

Alpha Zeta Monthly Meeting

By: Terri ■

The July meeting of Alpha Zeta will be held at Cindy's house on Saturday, July 16, 1988, beginning at 8 P.M. The program for the evening will be a video tape presentation of Christie Brinkley's makeup tips. There will also be clips of past Alpha Zeta and Tri-Ess meetings from the past few years. Please bring snacks and B.Y.O.B. if you like. See you there!

A Rose Update

By: Jackie ■

"THE SUMMER SPLASH WAS A BIG SMASH"

In celebration of the summer heat, the July meeting was a combination swim party and barbaque. We got to soak our bodies, float about, roust-a-bout and feed our faces with some great down-home cookin'!

Also present were some old time friends from the Spectrum group, Amie and Fleacia, who we enjoyed seeing again. All in all, I think everyone had a real good time and would enjoy doing something like that again.

If anyone is interested in a special function please let one of the officers know and we can try to organize a party. I know that there are several campers & boaters in the group, so a small group camping weekend might be possible. It sure would be nice to get out of the Heat!

In other news, on June 18th, we decided to close the checking account because Western Savings had changed their policy on business accounts. We would have to pay rather high service charges to keep the checking account. In place of the checking account we opened a savings account at Western Savings which will draw a higher rate of interest.

A Rose Treasury Report

Balance as of 5/24/88.....	397.96
Paid Out.....	25.00
Income.....	78.00
Interest.....	2.27
Balance as of 6/30/88.....	453.23

A Rose Events

The dog days of August will be broken up a little by a social gathering at Wendi & Judee's. Our theme this month will be a cool and refreshing Ice Cream Social including a batch of homemade ice cream and enough toppings to please anyone's palette. In addition, this might be a chance for you to try out that

french maid's outfit you've been saving for Halloween a little bit early and perfect your domestic skills, we'll need a few to serve the fare.

The date is Saturday 8/6 and the evening will begin at 8:00pm. As usual, an early RSVP at 860-9056 will be greatly appreciated. Also, the \$3 per person/\$5 per couple event charge will be collected.

In addition, we are now trying to get several locations lined up for the coming months. Here is the current schedule:

Date	Location	Theme/Activity
8/6	Wendi's	Ice Cream Social
9/3	Gwen'	60's Party
10/1	Charlotte's	Halloween Party
11/5	open	Thanksgiving Pot Luck
12/3	open	Christmas Party
1/7	open	After New Year's Party
2/4	open	Valentines Day Party

If you would like to host one of the open dates please contact us. Also if you have a theme idea, by all means let us know, we welcome your ideas.

Also, Wendi and Judee are avid campers and would like to know if anyone else would like to join them on camping or boating weekends. Let them know if you would like to join them, the more the merrier.

ASK NADINE

This new column should be an interesting column to read. Nadine's got what it takes...do you? Write to her if you dare! She'll take on all questions and then be ready for more.

TO ALL MY SISTERS

Now that I've moved up to the Great Northwest, I leave behind me many good memories. They will always be good to remember, and each of you made them possible.

I was very sad to leave Arizona and Alpha Zeta, but we all have our paths in life we must follow.

While I am grateful for everyone there and their support, both emotionally and spiritually. I feel I must give special thanks to those of you who went above and beyond the call of duty.

First and foremost, I'd like to say thank you to Mae, for without her I would never have learned the courage to come out of the closet and be comfortable with Vanessa. It was Mae who found out about Alpha Zeta and brought me in.

Diane, you have been so much inspiration to us all, and more than helpful to me numerous times. You always opened your heart, your mind, even your house to help me and others. You are, to me the model of what's ideal in a sister and friend. You shared your insecurities while helping me with mine. Your strength and drive are the pinnacle and lifeblood of our group. What we became, we learned from you.

Terri ■ now you're the first Lady and you deserve it. Your level-headedness and understanding of yourself is something we all can learn from. Thank you for going out of your way to help me at times. I can't tell you how thankful I am.

And last, but definitely not least, Angie and Cindy, you have both been helpful and shown me a lot about charity. You have offered when not asked, and given when not requested.

As for Vanessa, she is like a child now, growing and learning. All of you are a part of her, for that is who she has learned from. When I hear the word family, I will always be reminded of you.

So then I'll close this letter with some sadness. If any of you are up in Seattle, you know you have a sister here who will be more than happy to help you.

My love and best wishes to you all.

Your Sister,
Vanessa

Boys Will Be Girls *

or

Standards and Self-Expression

by: Dee Dee ■ (NWGA)

Are Standards of behavior and self-expression contradictory? Of course they are! We have chafed all our lives against society's standard of behavior and certainly dress.

I freed myself from the proscriptions against wearing dresses so I could be myself. Having taken that step I, for one, am not about to subscribe to anyone else's standard of what it means to be a crossdresser, let alone how to be one.

Despite the quarterly rantings of one of our leaders, I don't accept the notion there is only one right way to be a crossdresser. Frankly, I find plenty that is admirable and even helpful to our cause in the people and actions that are most loudly declaimed. For instance, some of the TV's I know who pass the poorest are also the least fearless on where they go and what they do when "En Femme". If you apply an arbitrary standard to how we should appear in public, they are a scandal.

If you judge the individuals and the situations as they are, you will see people dressed as they choose, matter of factly being themselves. What stronger statement could one make of our normalcy.

In one sense, attempting to achieve a perfectly acceptable feminine appearance is acquiescing to society's right to define and control us. Appearing in public when obviously in drag, asserts our right to be who we are and do what we want. If nothing else, it is more honest. There is no way we can go out in public and not be read, so why should we kid ourselves and be obsessive about meeting an arbitrary standard of femininity instead of our own?

Equally important, setting a standard for femininity is sexist. It is saying there is only one way to be a woman. That is as stupid, narrow and hurtful as saying there is only one way to be a man. Perhaps that unconscious realization is what made me a long-time feminist. One simply can not say women do not do this, that or the other, because they do!

Even if no women did some of the things we are admonished not to, what difference would it make? If it fits one's own personality and image of femininity, why shouldn't one do it?

That includes being attracted to other women: why shouldn't we be? There are far too many women who reject us out of hand, when we find one who's intrigued by our duality, why shouldn't we pursue the opportunity as far and fast as discretion will allow?

I certainly intend to and with no apologies to anyone!

* reprinted from the July 1988 issue of the
Northwest Gender Alliance newsletter

National Events

Fantasia Fair

In October, the 14th annual "Fantasia Fair" will be a high point. This gathering promises to be a repeat of years past and from personal experience I would say is well worth the trip. Look for more information in newsletters to come but in the meantime, the dates are October 14th through the 23th and the mailing address is:

Fantasia Fair
Lincolnia Station, POB 11254
Alexandria, Va 22312
Atten: Eve ■

Holiday En Femme

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.

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 [REDACTED] President

Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess

Po Box 342

Chicago, Ill. 60690

or

Deanna [REDACTED] secretary/Treas.

Chi Chapter/Tri-Ess

Po Box 40

Wood Dale, Ill. 60191

or

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

* * * * *

"First Annual Texas T Party"

The Boulton & Park Society wishes to announce this event, a three day weekend "En Femme" to be held February 24th to the 26th 1989 at the beautiful Sheraton Seven Oaks Resort & Conference center in San Antonio, Texas. The event will have a full program of fun, self improvement, outings and just visiting and being a girl. Registration is \$75 with discounts for advance payments. The hotel should be contacted direct at 800-346-5866. For more information contact:

Boulton & Park Society

Atten: Janice [REDACTED]

Po Box 169652 (T)

San Antonio, Texas 78280

Questions of Law

by Jan [REDACTED]

"Questions of Law" is an occasional column written by Jan [REDACTED] an attorney and published legal author. The column will discuss legal matters of interest to our community.

If you have any legal questions relating to crossdressing or transexual issues, forward them to this newsletter and they will be passed on to Jan. Replies to all questions can not be promised but yours might be answered in this column if it is felt the community in general will benefit.

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Scottsdale, Arizona 85261
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