

Rose Buds



February 1988

Vol. II Issue I

'COMING TOGETHER' In Chicago

On Tuesday February 23rd Chicago will be besieged by a collective of crossdressers, transsexuals, significant others, and helping professionals as they participate and celebrate I.F.G.E.'s 2nd annual International "COMING TOGETHER - WORKING TOGETHER" convention. The efforts of many dedicated people and organizations have gone into making this year as informative and rewarding as the one previous.

It is geared as an educational experience for both professionals and members of the paraculture. It's workshops, lectures, and social events centralize on positive self image and using that strength to bind us all together so that our efforts can be focused on the benefit of all. The programs are at the same time informative and challenging and should prove a valuable vacation to any Tiffany member who can attend.

If you haven't already registered for the convention time is running short. You can attend all or part of the programs, whatever your schedule allows. Participation is essential in any group endeavor and your attendance will reflect your dedication to the global community.

For further information contact Merissa Sherrill Lynn; Convention Director, at P.O. BOX 19, Wayland, MA. 01778 (617) 358-2305. Ask about the American Airlines flight discount for conventioners who wish to fly.

NOTE: Transcripts of the results of last year's event has been published by I.F.G.E. It is important reading and practically a pre-requisite for this year.

Awards Banquet; A Blast!

On the night of January 16th, 1988 something very special happened in the suburb of Natick, Ma. At the posh Crowne Plaza Hotel a large gaggle of girls, all ages and styles, partook of good food, good service, and good company. Nothing unusual for a popular, busy establishment you say, but those women were us!!

First of all thanks go out to Stephanie Chandler and Jan and Diane Dixon who are responsible for the evening. The cuisine was Class 'A'. The hotel's personnel was always courteous and professional and all of the clubs members who attended were, in turn, on their best behavior. It was done with style.

During the evening the new officers of Tiffany Club were announced and are:

Catherine Elizabeth Stevens - President

Roberta Deerborn - Vice-President

The Board of Directors was expanded to 11 where there was once only 9. Those honored with seats that night were:

(1 year Board members)

Sherry Lorraine

Ann Donovan

Roberta Deerborn

Carol Jennings

Diane Dixon

(2 year Board members)

Joan Hoff

Helen Tibbets

Holly Cross

Siobhan Donovan

Also Toini McDonald & Sydney Tibbets were selected as Co-Chairpersons of the Tiffany Wive's Support Group (Cont'd pg. 6)

From The Editor's Desk

It happened shortly after I had enjoyed the delectable entree served at the Crowne Plaza. Laura Granger had just finished all of the well deserved thanks to all of the sisters who helped Tiffany have such a successful year. As I went around the function hall congratulating those honored our chair(wo)man of the board, Siobhan Donovan, took me aside and mentioned that the ROSEBUDS would be in need of a new editor.

I was surprised that Diane Dixon, who with the help of his loving wife Jan had produced the fine letter we received from month to month, was stepping down. Her Rosebuds, always informative and concise, seemed to me the one physical link that bound the group together as a whole. Her contribution to the club as editor will be missed but you can be sure that her energy and dedication will continue to fuel both Tiffany and I.F.G.E. in the years to come. Diane thanks for everything.

Since I have arrived on the scene at Tiffany I have constantly proclaimed that although I knew of the club's existence for more than four years I waited to join until a time came when I could be a service to the club and all it stands for. I thank the club for the Certificate of Appreciation the other night and of the honor of being on the electoral ballot in any capacity. Even though I did not want to assume an office this year I did find it a humbling compliment. I felt then and I do now that I can do more for

the club within the ranks. Still the question arose; 'but what?!'.

Then a need arose. As of this issue I will be the new editor of "ROSEBUDS". I hope that my presentation will be able to convey the same spirit as Diane's past issues had. Rest assured that do stand qualified having a background in graphics and group organization. I am also a writer and artist and hope to pass these over to Rosebuds in hope of producing a monthly newsletter that is both informative and entertaining. My greatest wish is that my fellow members will eagerly await each successive issue. After all it should represent us all.

It will take all of us to make it a real success. Like any other facet of Tiffany, participation is the key. React to the Rosebud, respond pro or con. We all have different interpretations on what the group should be and what it means to each of us. Let the Rosebuds be a forum to address these opinions and concerns as well as being a bulletin of upcoming events. If you have anything; club info, news items, artwork, articles (both serious and amusing), or photos (with consent of subjects in writing), do not hesitate to send it to Tiffany Club c/o 'Rosebuds' or give it to me personally and let's talk. It's your newsletter so enjoy it and make the best of it.

- Stacey G.
Editor

"Rosebuds"

"ROSEBUDS...
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Plugs

Tapestry

"Slowly, our message
is coming through"

Crossdressers seeking information on themselves so often find themselves resorting to pornographic publications in search of 'something' that they can identify with. It is a sad dilemma. Because the society they live in views inclinations as sexual and the few resources they manage to find on the subject refer to crossdressing in strictly a fetishist's perspective, the gender dysphoric individual begins to view his own actions in the same way. It is a tragedy that groups such as Tiffany have strived long to relieve.

In February's "PENTHOUSE FORUM" magazine the editor, while keeping their thwarted sexual categorization, did succeed in admitting quite frankly their ignorance to the TV/TS phenomena. The following is an excerpt from the letter by Mr. H.L. of Penn. that they wisely published:

"I was a bit disappointed, therefore, in your response to Ms. P.D. Ms. P.D.'s husband is a TV and, although she was apparently trying to accept the situation she was seeking an organization offering support for wives of TVs with whom she could sort out her feelings. You said that you knew of no organizations offering such support.

Most local TV organizations I know of including the two to which I belong, encourage the active participation of and provide support groups for member's loved ones...

A good source for information on local TV organizations is the well-written and non-sexual quarterly magazine THE TV/TS TAPESRTY...

Ms. P.D. is to be congratulated for having the foresight, commitment and courage to try to deal with her situation. It takes a special person to have that kind of love and generosity. As any transvestite will testify, feeling alone in the world is a bad enough way to live. The only solution is to find others of your kind, whether you are a TV or a TV's loved one. I wish her all the best and hope this information helps."

For simply allowing this information to reach the tens of thousands of people that it may help I give a tip of the hat and a dainty curtsy to all of the Penthouse 'experts' who, using their best judgement, printed the letter. It seems that slowly our message is coming through.

It is also important that the general public be made aware that groups such as our own Significant Others Group exist. They are a great group of gals filled with love and an inexhaustible spirit and prove to be one of Tiffany's greatest services. Hopefully now, more in need of comfort and understanding will learn of the console such a group can offer. That was the hopes of the letter, and the hopes we have when we appear on shows such as Nancy Merrill and The Today Show. Get the message through!

THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I first, before boring you, wish to thank those who elected me; those who worked for me and those who did not. Why for those who did not? Because they participated and I hope they will continue to participate in our dream.

What is our Dream? It is the same as the first human who refused to do what someone stronger told him to do. Personal freedom. It is the freedom to be ourselves and not the appendage of some giant octopus of a power structure. As long as you harm none, none should harm you. Why must society use fear to suppress what is different?

In this struggle we are not alone. We are spiritually allied with Women, Labor, Blacks, Hispanics, Gays and all outcasts who are denied a voice in decisions affecting their survival. Because we are at once both members of the 'respectable' part of society and one of it's most despised and misunderstood minorities we are in an unique situation. We cross all boundries, we are everywhere and we can plant the seeds for a new Human Equal Rights Society (so it's cute. H.E.R.S., so sue me but don't ignore the concept).

Now you must decide and you must act. What is your dream of our future? We must have a coherent purpose, built of our individual dreams, in order to work together.

How do we reach our goals? We must have tools to work with; financial of course, but

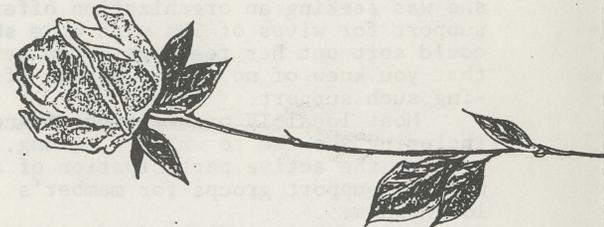
also education, physical work, time and member's presence whenever possible. I am not asking you to bring harm to yourself, your family, friends, or neighbors. I am not asking you to deny them what they need from you. I only ask you to take what you can of yourself and join with others to work for what you want.

The first tasks have been completed. For that you must thank my predecessors. Together we have established a means of communicating (Tapestry, Rosebuds). We have formed a basic organization (Tiffany Club, I.F.G.E.). We have acquired facilities via N.A.C.D. These must be improved; strengthened.

Solution. We must now grow in size and strength. This can only happen with unity of purpose, hard work, and by practicing a policy of inclusion rather than exclusion. We must grow.

More women should be urged to become part of our infrastructure. Without the wives who allow those of you to give of yourselves to Tiffany, you wouldn't have the time, energy, and resource to devote. Without the tolerance of the gay community most of our 'safe' places to go would be closed to us. Without those members of the business community who serve us without passing judgement we would be forced to use subterfuge and stealth, like thieves in the night. Without health care professionals we would be prey to alcoholism, drugs, suicide, ect. Without the support of groups such as American Civil Liberties Union we would not be able to protect

(Cont'd on Pg.8)



THE OTHER SIDE

REFLECTIONS OF A PAST WSG CHAIRPERSON

For the past three years I have either been one of two Co-chairpersons or the sole chairperson of the Tiffany Wives Support Group (WSG). It has been three years of ups and downs, highs and lows, of harmony and unrest. I have seen the WSG go from about four couples meeting on a regular basis to eight or ten couples meeting regularly with another for to eight attending at various times of the year (the mailing list consists of about 60 couples in all). For any of you who are reading about the WSG for the first time, in particular, spouses/partners who are not active with their spouses/partners crossdressing, let me take a few lines (or so) to explain what the WSG is all about.

It is a support group NOT for the crossdresser (although they do get support just by having their spouse/partner involved with the group) but, for the spouse/partner of the crossdresser.

One of the biggest problems I have seen in the four years I've been involved with the group is that the crossdresser has the tendency to explain the group to their spouse/partner in just the reverse order. They are so anxious to have them involved that they make it seem that the spouse/partner is involved with this group because they enjoy the crossdressing and are in the group to support it whole-heartedly. This is not the case. In many cases it couldn't be any further from the truth.

Couples join this group because they have a problem dealing with the cross-dressing in the relationship. They join to get support from the spouses/partners of cross-dressers. They join sometimes in desperation. They join finally to meet someone else, who had, for some twist of fate, been linked to a crossdresser. They join to get some solace that they are not alone.

Once in the group, there is a tremendous feeling of relief. A feeling that everything they have been dealing with, in the privacy of their heavy hearts, is somehow not as bad as they had previously thought. The group is not a cure for crossdressing, but rather a tool for working out problems that may occur in the relationship caused by cross-dressing. It is a social group that has found a way to deal with a very un-acceptable lifestyle.

The group is made up of couples (either married or in a committed relationship), who may be; professionals, blue collar workers, secretaries, working wives, ect.. At least while in a meeting we are not social workers, councillors, psychologists, ect. What we are, is a group dealing with cross-dressing on a daily basis, who can offer suggestions for making life a little easier living with a crossdresser. (Cont'd next page)

"The first meeting
is the hardest.
The unknown is
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(The Other Side cont'd)

The meetings themselves are broken up into three parts. The first half hour is just for the spouses/partners of the crossdresser. This gives anyone who is uncomfortable about airing some feelings or asking questions with all the members present a chance to have their say. The second part of the meeting is with the entire group. The entire group consists of all couples who have come to the meeting (with very few exceptions, we require that only COUPLES be allowed to attend a meeting). This part of the meeting last approx. 45 minutes. This is a time for many topics of conversation to take place. The last part of the meeting is social. Each couple is to bring a "munchie for the bunchie". Nothing is assigned; we just bring what feel like making or buying. It is surprising what we have come up with for combos. It is not unusual to have a full course meal on one night and coffee and sweets the next. Technically, the meeting is over about 11.00PM. The time varies according to who happens to be in a talkative mood. There have been nights when at 3.00 people are still drinking coffee and talking. This, however, is not the 'norm'.

In the four years I have been a member of WSG, I have seen couples come and go, but the important thing to remember is that the group will always be there. If a couple is not ready in 1987, the group will still be going strong in 1988 to serve them. The WSG is available to help us help ourselves. It has been a great aid to me, as well as to countless

others. It's emphasis is on the spouse/partner of the crossdresser, but as previously stated, the crossdressers also get alot from the group.

I cannot force anyone to join the group, but I would be neglecting my duty as the spouse of a crossdresser, if I did not strongly urge anyone who is looking for a little 'tea & sympathy' to attend at least one meeting. The first meeting is the hardest. The unknown is always a little Scccaaarryy. Once you've attended your first, it's all downhill. It gets better and easier having a little support from your fellow members. Try it, you just might like it.

-ANN DONOVAN -TWSG Chairperson 1985-1987

(ED.- "THE OTHER SIDE" will be a monthly column used to voice the opinions of and to come to the aid of all significant others as well as their loved ones who are crossdressers and TS-inclined)

(Awards Night Cont'd)

There were also numerous Certificates of Appreciation handed out to those who actively aided the club in 1987. The names are too numerous to mention here but congrats go out to all.

Two special awards were also presented that evening as voted by we, the members. First is the Miss Friendship Award that went to Joan Hoff who's endless efforts and concerns have helped so many of us through the year. The Miss Tiffany Award this year went to Gloria Williams who was chosen for embodying both physically and emotionally the spirit of the club. We thank both of you for being there, for giving us a role model of self-worth and goodwill and, mostly, for just being yourselves.

After the ceremony there were laughs, handshakes, and hugs that closed a memorable evening.

BOARD ROOM

In 1987 your Board of Directors handled some tough issues and helped improve all of the activities that Tiffany ran. In a sense, Tiffany grew up. A team concept developed and that team worked for you. It was one of the most successful years Tiffany has ever had.

1988 promises to be even bigger and better, but we need your help to do it. The Board is hoping to finalize the year's calendar on February 12th, the first board meeting of our new expanded board. New committees will be formed and your input is necessary for the board members to provide you with the services you want. Remember, Tiffany is your club, not the boards or any officer. The board members are elected to serve you.

I would like to congratulate all those who ran for office this year. It was the most expansive list of candidates I can remember. It was unfortunate that anyone has to lose but, in reality, Tiffany won because the ballot shows that more people are taking an active interest in the club and it's management. We sincerely hope this continues and people will volunteer to run activities and help with communications and education. I invite you to come and sit in on your Board meetings and to submit proposals. Let's together bring Tiffany to new and exciting heights!

- Siobhan Donovan



"P-TOWN" Bound

Time flies and Spring is just around the corner and you know what that means. Flowers bloom, love is in the air, and yes, time once again for the infamous Tiffany Club Spring Outing!! Unlike the Fall Outing which is geared specifically with couples in mind, the Spring Fling is for anyone affiliated with Tiffany Club who has an interest in the TV/TS community.

As it was in the Fall we will be staying at the Boatslip in Providencetown, Ma. but this time we would like to occupy the entire resort. Imagine the whole place to ourselves! It is ambitious but I know we can do it. File for your vacation time now and don't be left out.

The earlier your response the better your chances are at being booked in a 'room with a view'. The waterfront is pure New England especially when you are overlooking it from your varanda! Also all of the early birds will get a discount on the outing's costs.

The outing will start on Mon. May 30th and run through a fun filled week until you depart on Sun. June 5th. A flyer with all of the activities and price breakdowns is heading your way now. I hope it answers any questions you may have. The main purpose here is to let you know about the great experience you'll be missing if you don't put this time aside for yourself. It is sure to be informative, exciting, and most of all fun, Fun, FUN!!!

