

State University of New York College at Buffalo - Buffalo State University

Digital Commons at Buffalo State

Buffalo Belles Newsletters

Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual,
Transgender Archives of Western New York

4-1999

April 1999

Buffalo Belles

Follow this and additional works at: <https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles>



Part of the [Feminist, Gender, and Sexuality Studies Commons](#), [History Commons](#), and the [Museum Studies Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Buffalo Belles, "April 1999" (1999). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 108.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles/108>

This Book is brought to you for free and open access by the Madeline Davis Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender Archives of Western New York at Digital Commons at Buffalo State. It has been accepted for inclusion in Buffalo Belles Newsletters by an authorized administrator of Digital Commons at Buffalo State. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@buffalostate.edu.

APRIL MEETING DATE CHANGED TO APRIL 10



BUFFALO BELLES



Address Correspondence

To:

Buffalo Belles

P.O. Box 1701

Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

INFO-LINE:

(716) 446-2661

APRIL 1999

Sisters in Charge:

CAMILLE

JEAN

KATHY

PATTI

KATHY'S NOTES

Dear Sisters,

The March meeting was a great success. We had an excellent turn out of the sisters who were concerned about the future of the group. I guess it took a bit of a scare to get a few off of their couches and out into the night.

Renewals have come in at a good rate and currently we have 33 who have renewed and expect another handful to come in soon. We do have verbal commitments from a few and there are a couple of snow birds who should be wending their way back with the Robins soon and find their way to the mailbox.

One of the items brought up at the meeting was the fact that our next meeting was scheduled for Easter Eve. From a vote taken, and with approval of the church, our next meeting is moved to April 10th, the second Saturday of the month. Our next meeting will be held downstairs once more.

We may be changing our schedule to the second Saturday as often as possible in the future to avoid a conflict with Rochester CD Network, as they are locked into the first Sat. of the month. The idea is strengthen both groups by providing a chance for both groups to attract girls from each other. Girls just need more nights to have fun! For those who have April 3 already reserved for the meeting, time for a little RaChaCha road trip!

SOME OTHER GOOD NEWS!

One of our favorite members, Dana, under went some successful plumbing repairs to her heart last week. They did a little router rooting on four branches and repacked the stem on a gate valve. Now the real question must be asked: Dana, did you take advantage of the opportunity of having some implants put in while they had you opened up?

Seriously, Dana, we are so happy you made it through with flying colors and look forward to your return ASAP. Anybody wishing to drop her a get well card or message, her address is: Dana [REDACTED], [REDACTED] Amherst, NY 14228

WELCOME NEW SISTERS:

We wish to welcome two new sisters to our group - Jana [REDACTED] and Andrea Lynn [REDACTED]. Hope to be seeing you two at a meeting real soon.

MARCH MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Patti [REDACTED] Kathy [REDACTED] Joy [REDACTED] Becky [REDACTED] Camille [REDACTED]
Susan [REDACTED] Crystal [REDACTED] Vaughn [REDACTED] Debbie [REDACTED] Jennifer [REDACTED]
Nancy [REDACTED] Kelly [REDACTED] Joan [REDACTED] Wende [REDACTED] Melissa [REDACTED] and
guest Terry Lynn.

SURVEY RESULTS:

We have received 22 back so far. A pretty good response, considering what we usually get when something is asked! I don't know if we are going to go through with the threat of holding back the newsletter from those who didn't respond. That's Camille's decision. Let her take the heat. Maybe she's just playing tough guy!

Of these 22 surveys, 3 were from non-attendees. The others, from those who do make it to Belles' meetings, at least on an infrequent occasion. The results are shown on this revised form. Some respondents answered each question, others just checked a few or many. My comments are added in place. However, you know me, I can't let you off that easy. I'll even add more observations.

Number one, is how many of you really care and took the time to add some lengthy comments and thoughts. There is hope for the future.

Number two, is the desire for more activities, both at meetings and out. This is was overwhelming. Now we just need the people to help put some of these things on!

Number three, is that there is an interest shown by eight for a couples dinner/meeting. This has been tried pretty much without success in the past. The biggest problem has been the lack of a leader with a wife. Or at least a wife who wants to get involved. Hopefully out of this eight, there will be someone to spearhead this needed position. Along with this, were several mentions of help with family. They go hand in hand.

(Member survey results on Page 8)

CAMILLE'S CAPERS



Well, Kathy has got you caught up on the March meeting, so I'll give you a few thoughts on a some other items.

Kathy mentioned that I may be playing the 'tough guy' because of my suggestion to hold back the newsletter of those who did not return their survey questionnaires. Ladies, I do not want to seem unreasonable, but requesting our members to fill out a simple 11 question survey is not too much to ask for. If you have a problem with that, then you're either too lazy or you don't care.

We do need to be a little more caring. And what can be done to show that concern? Many of you expressed an interest in helping out the members of the Buffalo Belles in some way such as being a Big Sister to a new member or handling the hotline or interviewing prospective members. And we will be getting those of you who offered to help more involved.

One item that was not asked was: do you want to get involved enough to run for an officer position in the Belles? I can hear you saying, I don't have the time or the ability to do that. But consider this. The last time we asked for nominations we got little or no interest from anyone. The present staff has been in their current positions for a long time and it's beginning to take its toll on them. It's not that the work is hard. It's not. They just have been there for a long time and it's time now to step aside and let some new faces share the caring. In any group it is important to get new perspectives and ideas. And a new source of energy that comes from having someone put their *concern* into that organization. Our organization. It doesn't run by itself. And that is why we will be having elections in the near future. You'll be helping others to help themselves.

If you remember a few months back I mentioned that Dr. Shiela Kirk, a renowned authority in the transgender community, wanted to come to Buffalo to speak on a number of subjects to the Buffalo Belles. Well, it looks like its going to happen in May. Details are being worked out and information regarding her visit will be in the next newsletter. Plan on attending that meeting!

Be good. Be kind. Have fun.
Hugs, Camille

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hi, ladies.

When first asked to write something for the Newsletter, I vowed to keep it light but informative. I'm honored to contribute something each month and will try my best. Let the more qualified tackle the serious news and views.

I hope you read the March issue and returned your Survey '99. A lot of points were raised in which we all have a lot at stake. Success depends on all working together.

Kathy's Notes points out I did a little standup comic routine. I don't have much material and won't be able to continue for long. Help me out here by coming to a meeting and taking the pressure off. I do love performing but I'm not sure everyone is ready for my next improvisation! Kathy's suggestion I change my name to Joan Candy is noted. I'm assuming that is a compliment because I have to consider myself an ample girl with a lot of plentiful attributes!

I had the chance recently to spend 7 days with another CD. I'm sure that most of us have only certain moments we can let our feminine side come to the forefront, and I'm talking hours instead of days. We go to the "meeting" each month, or out to party afterwards, and some of us are fortunate enough to enjoy the privacy of our homes; but we seldom have extended periods of time available.

I noted something we all take for granted, and I'm talking personalities. I had never been in such close company with someone who shares so much in common. I noticed that when the two of us were together...there were four of us present! When I'm alone, I'm either Nancy or I'm not. That viewpoint changed when my friend and I sat down to talk. At the time I didn't catch this as we slowly drifted from one personality into another, and back again. Our conversation would start out in one direction, and then move into an area that perhaps only a man would think of. I didn't take note at the time, and it's not really that new to many readers, but I found it very interesting. Is this your perception of how crossgendered personalities work, or am I off target? Let me know what you think at the next meeting, and what your own experience has been.

Until next time, your sister,
Nancy



Jennifer's

Corner

Hi everyone. If you attended the March meeting then you know the excellent turnout that we had (somewhere around 16), if not then you missed out on a truly great meeting. If you couldn't attend I hope that you returned your questionnaire, there are some very important issues that need to be addressed. If you did attend, did complete your questionnaire, and have paid your 1999 dues then we thank you. The 'we' is the Buffalo Belles and all of its members. We need direction, we need the support of our members, after all 'we' are here for you. The question is— How can we be a support group that's here for you if you're not here (at the meetings) to tell us what you need. We need input....You need support.....We need input—What a vicious circle. What goes around comes around. I can't speak for anyone but myself, but I really look forward to our meeting every month. It's the one time every month that I know I will be able to interact with others that have the same gift as myself. BFT (before

full-time) it was an excuse to have a night out to express my feminine side, after all how

many times each month do most of our members have this chance. One would think that every meeting would be filled to capacity, and all the ladies would be exchanging tips on how to be better at makeup, hair, coordinating clothing, and maybe even a monthly clothing exchange where members bring in clothing they no longer want, or no longer fits properly and are able to pick out clothing that other members no longer want. There are people at every meeting that enjoy helping others, people "that have been there" that have made it through with the help of others, and are willing to provide the same. That is what a support group is all about, members helping members. The last couple of months I have mentioned some of the excursions that myself and other members of the group have embarked upon. I have also left an open invitation to all members to join in on the fun. I really enjoy many social activities such as Shea's, BPO, Artpark, nightclubs like T-Birds, dinner at a nice restaurant, limo ride to an evening at *PEPPERMINTS* in Canada, or maybe something as simple as a movie. Bring your ideas and suggestions to the next meeting so that we can make some plans, or at least have some direction as to what our members would like to do.

This months Web Link

<http://www.nwart.com/espritest/>

This is the address for ESPRIT 1999 10th Anniversary Gala. This is one of the very best Transgender Events, and was rated #1 last year. The event runs from May 19-23, 1999 in Port Angeles, WA. If you have the desire to attend a Transgender Event in 1999 this one deserves your consideration. From this site you can do everything from make reservations to see what's happening to seeing a list of Presenters and Speakers.

Quote of the Month

The Body

Our own physical body possesses a wisdom which we who inhabit the body lack. We give it orders which make no sense.

Henry Miller (1891–1980), U.S. author. *Big Sur and the Oranges of Hieronymus Bosch*, pt. 3, "Paradise Lost" (1957; also published separately as *A Devil in Paradise*, 1956).

Remember you can E-Mail me at:

Or visit my Web Page at:
[Http://members.TGForum.com/](http://members.TGForum.com/)

See you all at the meeting!
Hugggggggs

Jennifer



This newsletter is a monthly publication of the Buffalo Belles. All articles and information contained in this publication may be reprinted in full by any non-profit gender community organization without permission, provided credit is given to this newsletter and the author. The material contained herein does not necessarily express the views or opinions of the Buffalo Belles, its officers or editorial staff. Contributions of articles are welcomed. The Buffalo Belles reserve the right to edit submissions for publication for suitability, spelling, grammar and/or length. Submissions or comments should be addressed to:

Buffalo Belles, PO Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226-1701

Or E-mail to:

FOR A BETTER YOU...



Building Your Wardrobe

BASICS

Separates are the key to versatility for everyone. Most of us T-Girls don't have the time or money to buy different wardrobes for every aspect of our glamorous lives. We still want to look great, and we want it to be easy and as inexpensive as possible. Selecting wonderful pieces that mix and match allows one to combine pieces in one's wardrobe for every look. Keep an eye out for beautiful fabrics in more streamlined silhouettes. The long, lean look includes longer skirts, lots of pants and long jackets. The jacket has always been a key piece for a great look. With a matching skirt it's perfect for a sassy business look. With coordinating trousers, still the look works. With stirrups, it goes casual. A new jacket is the shirt jacket that goes easily from the business look to the casual look.



If we could build our dream wardrobe it would include enough combinations to allow us to dress until we found the perfect combination rather than just settling for what's in the "trunk" (which usually isn't much). A wardrobe consists of a lot more than just the "hoochie" clothes that make us look so slutty. A good wardrobe will contain everything from casual to glamorous; from hoochie to business. If you ever hope to actually build a wardrobe this is what I recommend:

Two basic outfits:

These should be 2-piece outfits that interchange. If you wear business suits, these should be two suits that interchange, one patterned and one solid. If you prefer more casual these should still be top and bottom sets.

- One pair of hot looking black hoochie pants
- Two really hot, short hoochie skirts.

Four blouses or two blouses and two sweaters:

- One White in a simple style
- One Solid to go with the two outfits
- One Print to coordinate in a simple style
- One Solid color, dressy style

Two dresses:

- One 2-piece print to work with the basic outfit
- One with long sleeves in a simple style (can also be a 2-piece dress) that can be accessorized for evening.

Eveningwear:

- Elegant pants, skirt and dress in a basic color.

With basically 12-15 pieces you can wear them in different combos to create about 25 - 30 outfits. Select neutral colors that you can wear well: black, brown, blue, gray, green, etc. Since you'll be wearing these pieces in a variety of ways you don't want many pieces that are too distinctive (or memorable). If you keep the wardrobe as basic as this you will still be able to add to it with a variety of brighter more distinctive colors to accent your look. After you've assembled the basic pieces, you may want to add an additional skirt or pants that will still go with the tops of your basic outfits and additional blouses for more variety.

A good shopper should be able to keep the budget of her wardrobe under five hundred dollars. By shopping at outlets, used clothing shops, watching the sale papers and such you could do even better. Don't forget swap meets and flea markets either.

From Dee Dee's Make-up Tips and Fashion Suggestions <<http://www.usatransgender.com/dd8m.htm>>



Defining Your Body Line

WAISTLINE

Part of actually *really* looking femme is having the right body shape. I don't mean we all have to have the Betty Grable perfection but what ever our size and weight we should at least curve where we should *curve*. If you take a close look at the pics below you'll notice that the actual female waistline is almost exactly where the crook of the elbow lands when the arms are held straight down at the side. You'll notice, by doing your own "arm hanging" experiment that the male waistline is significantly lower. In order to improve our "front view" curves one should "move" the waistline to the proper point of our body trunk (up about three to five inches). The easiest and surest way to get that "look" is by using a "waist nipper" or a "waist corset". One should settle on *no less* than 4 inches off the waist but *no more* than 6 inches (lest the lady gets a case of the vapors i.e. passes out from not being able to breathe!) Once you have established the correct waistline curve you will notice that your skirts and blouses will fit much better! The hang of your skirt will fall at just the perfect point on your legs and pants will not droop at the crotch. Oh yeah...the crotch.

CROTCH



You G.I.R.L.S. ever notice one has that annoying bulge at the front of our pubis? Well there are two things that will make it go away and one of them isn't surgery. The first thing one must do is to tuck that thing, ever so gently, out of the way. It usually goes straight back and under (you know yourself better so do what you have to). It can be restrained using an assundry of items but probably the most practical is a pair of control or body shaper briefs plus your panty hose. This will restrain that beast rather well. The second part of the vanishing trick happens when we take a *ladylike posture*. One doesn't stand like a gorilla with our shoulders slouched forward and bent slightly forward at the waist. The proper way of standing will cause one's pelvis to tilt back, the rear to stick out, the shoulders back, and your chest out with your head able to balance a book as you walk (how many times have we done that?). The natural pelvic tilt of a proper stance will have the beautifying effect of having your clothing hang more from your tummy than from your pelvis. Try it and see what I mean.

TUSH



The female anatomy is such a wonderful thing! To sit and study tushes...hmmm what a task! One of the things you notice about Genuine Girls is there tush "rides" up slightly (not like the waistline) higher than their male counterparts. The major reason is their posture. One doesn't have to have a "big ol butt" to look femme (I certainly do not) although how one carries "it" will definitely make a difference in your overall appearance.

HIPS

The bottom half of the "hourglass figure is the hips. As the sign language for a really well built woman goes...well do it...wave your hands in the air starting at the top (breasts), moving to the middle (waist), and then on to the bottom (hips). That curvy move outwards with the hands at the bottom represents the genetic build up of padding at the hip joint of GG's. If you have enough "padding" your own self you probably don't have to "add" anything. If there is absolutely

nothing one may want to add something...namely padding. You don't have to have an hourglass figure but it's important to keep in mind the overall appearance of a true femme.

BREASTS

One simply loves her breastline. As we are seated at our vanity we don't notice our waistline or tush too much but we certainly notice our "BOOBS". That is probably why most of us come up with more boob than actually looks natural. "The more the merrier". Not so. The actual average cup size of GG's is a "B" cup! Yepper. A "B" cup. How many Sisters I've seen with "D" or larger is silly. If you want to go overboard try a "C" before a "D" cup. Remember to keep a "normal" femme balance from one feature to another. Try and work on natural. There are so many ways to "stuff it" that it would take a complete separate page to list them so I won't try...but...stockings filled with birdseed or condoms filled with water are two of the more popular methods. G.I.R.L.S. please...make yourself happy and spend two hundred bux on a decent pair of silicone prosthesis. You'll be happy you did. Once you have your "breasts" you have to wear them right in order for your clothes to fit. The "points" should be approximately even with the middle of one's bicep in order for them to look natural. Higher looks silly. Lower looks tacky. The next time you dress experiment and see. Usually all it takes is an adjustment of your bra straps to achieve the right results.

SHOULDERS

If one has ever seen a female Marine you will know how much shoulders really play in the overall femme appearance. While standing at attention, with her shoulders held high and straight back "she" looks like "he". While serving in the Army in 1972-73 we trained close to a WAC unit. You couldn't tell them from the boys (well almost couldn't - and I mean almost). We have to think just the opposite. Lose our shoulders is what I'm telling the G.I.R.L.S. High, thrown back shoulders is a physical sign of aggression (read that masculine... whatever) and low, "drooping" shoulders is a sign of submission (read that feminine...whatever). Drooping doesn't mean slouching by the way. Let your shoulders naturally drop *straight* down. Don't hold them up (which is a masculine trait). Try it G.I.R.L.S. You'll see.

LEGS

If one doesn't exercise than one is stuck with the legs God gave her. If one doesn't wear too many "hoochie" skirts than the main thing to worry about is one's calves. The calves are about the same from gender to gender so a G.I.R.L. should highlight that portion of her anatomy as much as possible. The wearing of high heels will cause your calf muscle to protrude naturally. That's exactly what one wants.

BODY LINE REVIEW:

Waistline higher than males.

Tuck your crotch - No protrusions.

Tush rides higher from posture.

Breasts are in right proportion.

Shoulders are not aggressive.

From Dee Dee's Make-up Tips and Fashion Suggestions <<http://www.usatransgender.com/dd11m.htm>>

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

HEDWIG
AND THE
ANGRY INCHBy PETER MARKS
NEW YORK TIMES

On one level, it's an all-out show-business spoof. "A slip of a girly boy becomes the internationally ignored song stylist" is how Hedwig, in clipped German accent, describes herself. Mitchell can be uproariously droll, as in the moment when Hedwig gets a call from her agent, who informs her that she has been made the spokesman for tourism in Greater Serbia.

Or, putting on a fur, she recounts a confrontation with an animal-rights activist who demands to know what living thing had to die for her to wear it. "My Aunt Trudy," Hedwig replies.

It is in the admirable desire to go for more than laughs, however, that the musical runs into a few rough patches. The long passages between songs, in which Hedwig recounts her journey from disturbed boyhood in a cramped East Berlin apartment to bored Midwestern homemaker to discarded transsexual rocker, sometimes go on too long. Mitchell indulges Hedwig's need to explain herself, and at times the complicated exposition becomes, no pun intended, a bit of a drag.

Your impatience for the musical numbers to come will be magnified, because so many of them are so good, and two great ones, "Wig in a Box" and "Wicked Little Town," will quickly end up stuck on replay in the minds of rock musical fans. "Wig in a Box" is a ballad with narrative echoes of Billy Joel; "The Origin of Love" brings back memories of coffee-house folk; "Sugar Daddy" is enlightened country. If this one-act musical could use anything, it would be two or three more songs of the same resonant caliber.

The lost-in-America motif of "Hedwig" allows Mitchell -- who two years ago directed the Drama Dept.'s inaugural production, a nervy deconstruction of Tennessee Williams' "Kingdom of Earth" -- to tweak the conventions of pop culture. Hedwig, as she explains to us, was the driving force in the career of the rock sensation Tommy Gnosis, a boy she met in the trailer park in Junction City, Kan., where her GI ex-husband abandoned her.

It so happens that as Hedwig is starting her set in a third-rate dive, Tommy, who also dropped Hedwig, is performing to thousands in the Meadowlands. Her failure with Tommy literally pounds in Hedwig's ears; she opens the stage door occasionally, and in, amusingly, floods the booming sound of Tommy's concert across the river.

As with "Kingdom of Earth," "Hedwig" is a commentary on itself. Sometimes this gets a little confusing: Are we supposed to laugh at Hedwig's take on things, or at Hedwig? Mitchell leaves that up to us. However you choose to look at it, his Hedwig is a singular creation, and "Hedwig and the Angry Inch" the kind of "Rocky Horror Picture Show"-style event that may inspire a rabid cult following.

(continued on next page)

NEW YORK -- Tired of the same old Teutonic characters in musicals, those mountain-bound Austrian nuns who rhapsodize about their favorite things, those Berlin MCs who welcome you to sleazy cabarets teeming with Nazis? Well, then, meet Hedwig Schmidt.

Hedwig is definitely a child of a newer Germany. She's a former he from the former East Berlin, a rock singer who immigrates to a marginal existence in trailer-trash America. She carries with her the tangible and psychic scars of her former life: the butchered appendage from a botched sex-change operation and a fragmenting sense of self.

Not very "Sound of Music"-sounding, huh? But as magnetically impersonated by the thrilling John Cameron Mitchell, Hedwig, the pouting headliner of "Hedwig and the Angry Inch," brings a theater alive with the pounding sounds of rock and the funny-sad voicing of a painful past.

"Hedwig and the Angry Inch," which opened on Saturday night at the newly refurbished Jane Street Theater, a cozy house in the Hotel Riverview in the West Village, is a make-believe, 90-minute club gig by Hedwig, backed by her band, the Angry Inch (the rock group Cheater), and a backup singer of uncertain gender named Itzhak (Miriam Shor).

It is also an adult, thought-provoking musical about the quest for individuality, the attempt to forge an identity that works for both the head and heart. And it is terrifically served by a fresh and tuneful score by Stephen Trask, who meets the difficult challenge of creating rock-, folk- and country-influenced songs that help tell a story. The most impressive achievement, however, is by Mitchell, who transforms what might have been just another campy drag act into something deeper and more adventurous.

His Hedwig, all glittered up in her denim outfit with the pink leather fringe, is in hiding up there in front of us. Embittered by a sexually confusing German childhood and a lifelong series of disappointments, especially the mutilating surgery that leaves him/her with an "angry inch," Hedwig spends her time onstage coming to terms with the implications of mistakes she made, of her self-denying masquerade.

Mitchell, who also wrote the book, has given himself an ambitious assignment. There is a lot of ground to cover in 90 minutes of songs, storytelling and banter with the audience, because "Hedwig," as directed by Peter Askin, is satire with a serious intent.

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

(continued from previous page)

Mitchell makes for a captivating presence. Slim, fine-boned and parading the stage in a black bustier, he could pass for the glamorous sister of the actress Juliette Lewis. He also has the versatile voice to pull off the demanding score.

So, how do you solve a problem like Hedwig? You sit back and enjoy her show. In the end, that's really all she asks.

At the Jane Street Theater, Hotel Riverview Ballroom, 113 Jane St., Greenwich Village.

(Editor's Note: The soundtrack has just come out and is getting good reviews. There are currently indications about making the play into a movie.)

OTHER NEWS ITEMS

In December, the chief surgeon at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn Hospital told reporters that Thailand is now the pre-eminent country in the world for sex-change operations, which could, if exploited, help the nation's anemic economy, considering that more than 35,000 transsexuals world-wide are now on Thai surgeons' waiting lists.

In January, a union filed a complaint on the behalf of a male civilian employee at Elgin Air Force Base in Florida who

was recently barred from wearing earrings, makeup and a bra to work as an airfield management specialist.

On the other hand, the Canadian armed forces last year approved the application of a 35-year-old male combat leadership instructor to continue his career as Sergeant Sylvia Durand by undergoing hormone treatment and surgery.

TRANS VICTORY IN MICHIGAN

Rudy Report

The Open Justice Commission of the State Bar of Michigan voted on January 26 (1999) to change the name of the "Sexual Orientation Committee" to the "Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity Committee."

This represents the first time that a state bar organization has officially recognized the interests of the transgender community. Dr. Sandra Cole, Director and Professor at the University of Michigan Comprehensive Gender Services Program, serves as a member of the Committee. Dr. Cole told the Commission that there are already transgender attorneys in practice in Michigan. Committee Chairperson Rudy Serra joked about being known by the acronym "SOGI" but observed that "the Michigan Bar Association is a nationally recognized leader in tackling race and sex discrimination. Now, the Michigan State Bar has become an international leader in recognizing an institutional voice for the transgender community."

Shave The Legs

(sung to the tune of the song "Turn The Page")

By Amber

From Erie Sisters' *Mirror Images*

On a long, lonesome highway, west of Buffalo,
You can listen to the engine moaning out as one long song.
You can think about the woman or the girl you were the night before.

Buddy, your thoughts will soon turn feminine the way they always do

When you're driving to the meeting to see a friend or two
And you don't feel much like riding
You just wish the trip was through.

(Chorus)

Say here I am - dressing up again.

There I am - up on the heels.

Here I go - painting my face again.

There I go - shave the legs.

Well, you walk into a gay bar, dressed up to the nines

And you feel the corset binding you
as it softens up your lines.
You pretend it doesn't bother you
but you just want to implode...

Most times you can't hear 'em talk
Other times you can
Oh, the same ol' clichés, is that a woman or a tran
And you always seem outnumbered
You don't dare make a stand....

(Chorus)

Out there on the dance floor you're a million miles away
All your femininity, out on display
as your skirt rides up your stockings
on your smooth shapely legs.

Later in the evening, as you lie awake in bed
with the stinging of the razor burn still on your chin
you smoke the days last cigarette
remembering how you looked...

(Chorus)

RESULTS OF MEMBER SURVEY

THE GREAT BUFFALO BELLES SURVEY '99

Members Name _____ Is your name correct as shown and how you wish it to remain? _____
 Address _____ *only one small correction needed*
 City, State, Zipcode _____ Is your E-mail address correct (if shown) or do you have one? _____
 E-mail Box insert _____ *We picked up one more, for a total of 13 members with E-mail addresses. Or about 1/3 of members have same. Will run new E-mail address list next month.*

Meeting attendance

1. Have you ever attended a meeting? If not, why?
 - 3 answered no, Carolyn, Jean, and Elaine - We miss you!!!!

- A. Wrong day? _____
 B. Wrong time? _____
 C. Location? _____
 D. Work conflict? _____
 E. Family conflict? - one
 F. Still too scared? - one
 G. Prefer the safe closet at home - one
 H. Your real reason - to close to home

2. For those who are over the initial fear:
 Do you expect your attendance to:
 A. Increase? - six
 B. Remains the same? - twelve
 C. Decrease? - none

3. For most of you, why are you coming less often?

- A. Work conflict? - six
 B. Family conflict? - four
 C. Return to closet? - none
 D. Felt uncomfortable at meetings? - one
 E. Lost interest in dressing generally - two
 F. Support sought not found - one
 G. Out on own, not needed - three
 H. Boring, repetitive, etc. - three
 I. Your reasons: - felt ignored, not part of the clique

4. What is needed to get you back?

- A. Demonstrations - six
 B. Activities - six
 C. Speakers - nine
 D. Outside activities - eight
 E. Discussion sessions - four
 F. What would you like? - Planned format (2x), legal speaker, video camera night again, CD/TS discussion

5. What are you willing to do at the meetings?

- A. Activities director (really needed) - none, zero, nada
 B. Snack girl - four
 C. Raffle mistress - four
 D. Librarian - two
 E. Meeting fees collector - five
 F. What you'd like to do? - Whatever, pick one needed, foot massager (take your shoes off and maybe she'll find you), fluff girl (ok, do it, and when you are, point it out so we'll know what you meant!)

6. What will you do "offsite"?

- A. Hotline phone (needed): - three
 B. Be a big sister (needed): - four
 C. Interviews: - seven
 D. Outside activities director - none
 E. Newsletter editor - one
 F. Web site mistress - two
 G. Your ideas - advertising director

7. Newsletter-what do you think?

- A. Read it cover to cover - thirteen
 B. Leaf through it - three
 C. Seldom read _____
 D. What do you like best? _____
 E. What is its worst part(s) _____
 F. What would you like added? - 4-sale/wanted column, world events, discussion, family problems info, In general, the newsletter is well received, for Allyson it is the month's highlight! (you need a life)
 H. Comments _____

8. Would you be interested in a couples dinner meeting?
 - eight - this will be enacted ASAP for you.

9. Or a wives/S.O. only meeting? - five answered yes. See above.

10. What outside activities would you like to participate in?

- A. Dinner - fourteen
 B. Movies - twelve
 C. Shopping - thirteen
 D. Beauty Salon - fourteen
 E. Glamour shots - fourteen
 F. Bungee jumping - after I grow my own hair, when pigs fly, no way. Parachute jumping preferred
 G. Your suggestions - Toronto(2x), Rochester, Erie trips, Night out at friendly nightspots.

11. Essay Question: Tell of your feelings about the Buffalo Belles. What is good and what is wrong with the group? What do we need to do to make this a better group for you? There are no wrong answers, other than not answering! If you are not renewing, tell us why or what we did wrong.
 - We received some very good replies, some letter length and will run them next month.

Thanks to all those who replied. You show that you care about the health of our organization.

MISS...CELLANEOUS
FILES

Dueling Events

CORONATION '99 WEEK
IMPERIAL COURT OF BUFFALO

April 21 - 25

April 21 - State Dinner - 7pm - Frank's Sunny Italy, 2491 Delaware Ave., Bflo. 876-5449

April 22 - In Town Show - 10:30pm - Buddies 31 N. Johnson Park & Elmwood Ave. 855-1313

April 23 - Out of Town Show - 9:00pm - Club Marcella, 622 Main St, Dwntrwn. Bflo. 847-6850

April 24 - "Reigning On Prom Night" - 8:00pm Hamlin House, 432 Franklin St. Bflo 855-8084 (\$45 includes 4 hour open bar)

April 25 - Tough Drag Show - 9:00pm Secrets, 20 Allen St. Bflo. 886-9323

XPRESSSION'S 'SPRING GALA'
NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO

April 22 - 25

- Learn-how workshops, Friday & Saturday
 - Visit the Casino
 - Visit the wineries in Niagara-On-The-Lake
 - Gala Banquet & Show on Saturday Night
 Xpresssion's entrance fee of \$100. (US) for non-members, will cover workshops, hospitality party Thursday evening, Friday dinner & your ticket to the Gala Banquet & Show. Call (416) 410-6949 for tickets. Host Hotel: Ameri-Cana Resort & Conference Centre. Room rates from \$60 (US). To book a room call (800)263-3508.



Hi ladies.

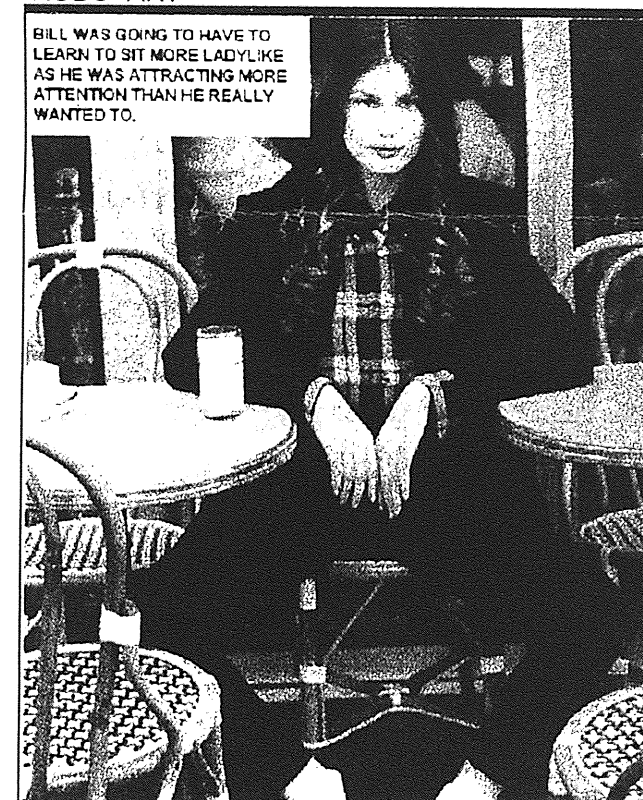
Just want to tell you about a new service the Belles Newsletter is offering its' members. If you have clothing, jewelry, accessories, wigs, etc. that you have no need for anymore, we will run an ad for you at no charge. Send the information about the items along with a phone # or mailing address to: The Buffalo Belles, P.O. Box 1701, Amherst, NY 14226

For Sale: JC Penney Perma-Form Bra (built-in breast form), 36B, color - beige. Originally \$160. - asking \$35.

For Sale: Nice black wig, medium length, with head form and carry case - asking \$25.00

Contact Joy at 692-6649

ROBO ART





COMING EVENTS



DUE TO THE POSSIBILITY OF LAST MINUTE
CHANGES, CALL TO VERIFY THE TIME AND
PLACE OF EVENTS

- | | |
|--------------------|---|
| APRIL 3 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:00pm
contact the info-line to arrange for ride or directions |
| APRIL 10 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm |
| APRIL 18 | TRANSGENDER DISCUSSION GROUP 2:00pm
367 Delaware Ave.(near Tupper St.), Buffalo |
| APRIL 21-25 | CORONATION '99 WEEK- IMPERIAL COURT OF
BUFFALO "REIGNING ON PROM NIGHT" (see page 9 for details) |
| APRIL 22-25 | XPRESSIONS 'SPRING GALA' - NIAGARA FALLS, ONTARIO
(see page 9 for details), also at: www.xpressions.org |
| MAY 1 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm |
| MAY 13-15 | TRANS AMERICA TRANSGENDER CONFERENCE
CHARLOTTE, NORTH CAROLINA (brochures available at meeting
or call Belles' info line), also at: www.q-notes.com/transamerica.htm |
| JUNE 2-6 | 17th ANNUAL BE-ALL CONVENTION
CLEVELAND, OHIO (brochures available at meeting or call Belles'
info line), also at: www.beall.net |
| JUNE 5 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 7:00pm |

**YOU'VE HEARD THE CALL:
WE NEED YOU TO HELP THE BELLES!!**
**SOME OF YOU EXPRESSED INTEREST IN THE MEMBER-
SHIP SURVEY IN ASSISTING & HELPING. ONE WAY TO
DO THAT IS TO BECOME MORE INVOLVED IN THE
BUFFALO BELLES. WE'VE BEEN HERE FOR YOU. WILL
YOU HELP THE NEXT ONE WHO REACHES OUT FOR
SUPPORT? THINK ABOUT IT. IF YOU DON'T, WHO WILL?**
BUFFALO BELLE ELECTIONS - COMING SOON.