

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

1-1996

January 1996

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, "January 1996" (1996). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 65.
<https://digitalcommons.buffalostate.edu/buffalobelles/65>

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.



BUFFALO BELLES



Address Correspondence
To
Buffalo Belles
P.O. Box 1701
Anherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

HOTLINE: (716) 643-2626
NU PHI CHI

Pres. Denise [redacted]
Tres./VP: Janice [redacted]
Newsletter: Kathy [redacted]
Helper Wench: Jean [redacted]

JANUARY, 1996

Dear Sisters,

A wonderful time was had by those whom attended our annual Christmas Party. Although we didn't have a white snowy night; there was still a cold sharpness in the air. The seasonal spirit held us all in it's blanket of warmth and caring.

We had a nice turnout for the event. Sharing in the holiday cheer were three guest: Cheryl, Christina and Pam. It was especially nice to see Pam once again, as she hadn't been able to make a meeting since October '94.

seasonal favorites was wonderful touch to the meeting.

The highlight of the meeting was our annual "give a gift, receive a gift" exchange. Although we try to set a five dollar limit, The quality and appropriateness was often exceeded, or we have some really good shoppers in our midst! I know of only one swap made, and that was simply because of size. Most also brought gifts for the needy children. We had to make sure that Cindy put back the basketball before she left, it was amazing to see her doing those slam dunks with 4" heels on!



Louella sent along some delicious home baked goodies to augment our usual pizza. It was indeed a wonderful night. Before to long it was past eleven and we had to go off into the night.

Our first meeting of the New Year will be held on January sixth. This is an important for all of us to make. Denise has resigned as our president. See her letter elsewhere. We are finally faced with the long threaten election. Who, how, when etc. will have to be decided at the meeting. Please attend if at all possible, or make your feelings known.

Replacing Denise will be a near impossible task. Her leadership and drive is what got us here. Without her, there probably wouldn't be a Nu Phi Chi/Buffalo Belles at all. We are her baby, she nursed and guided us to the point we are today. Thanks Denise!

My call for volunteers to be 'big sisters' has been heard! Holly and Cindy have said that they

ATTENDEES

JEAN [redacted]	PAULA [redacted]
JANICE [redacted]	DENISE [redacted]
PATTI [redacted]	CINDY [redacted]
HOLLY [redacted]	
DANA [redacted]	GUESTS:
KATHY [redacted]	CHRISTINA, SHERYL,
FRANCES [redacted]	PAM [redacted]
MELISSA [redacted]	
NANCY [redacted]	

With Nancy's presence, we were assured of getting a special treat. Her playing of the organ for much of the meeting was fantastic! her renditions of the

would like to help.
So any of you girls
who need that
special friend to
encourage you,
sympathize with you
, advise you etc.



there is someone waiting to be there for you.

I know where many of you are at.
Even though I was an original member of
this group, and a member of our predecessor
attempt, I didn't attend until our sixth
meeting. Couple of times, I drove into the
parking lot but didn't dare venture forth.
Finally Holly took me under her wing.
Talked with me. Met with me and gave me
the encouragement to finally come. And I've
only missed two meetings since!

For those of you who need that
special someone, give the hotline a call or
write a letter and we'll connect you up.
Thanks Holly and thanks Cindy.

We all know what the end of the
Holiday season means. It means it is time to
pay our dues! As in the past, full membership
is only \$25.00 and associate dues are \$15.00.
The difference between the two is that full is
welcome to attend all meetings, will be able
to vote in any elections held and receive a
special mailing for last minute news. (Only
done once). Associates are welcome to the
occasional meeting and receive the
newsletter.

We are keeping our cost constant. We
are growing nicely. We now have 35
members. The treasury report will show that
we are in the black and have a small surplus.
We now have a "hotline". The couples group
is up and running and about to have another
meeting. Our meetings will be more
interesting with the reinvigorated programs
coming. The Big Sisters is ready to start. All
in all, we are doing very well. I hope this
merits your continued support and
participation.

While making out your check
("Buffalo Belles" is fine, or made out to

cash), check your mailing address to see if it is how
you want it. Any comments, suggestions, etc. are
always in order. Hope that you renew! Otherwise,
your newsletter will stop with the March issue.

Don't forget, the next regular meeting of the
Belles is **January 6th**. See you there!

The Niagara on the Lake, Xpressions, outing
on December 1st was attended by Patti, Janice, Jean
and I believe Dana briefly. I understand that there
were about two dozen ladies taking part in the
festivities.

This is a lovely facility. Attendance at one of
the events there can be a real joy. Your next chance
is the 2nd annual Spring Fling. I, along with seven
other of the Belles, attended this last year and had a
grand time!

These types of events are a great way to get
out in the 'Public' but still be the relative safety of a
friendly environment. This beats the bar scene any
day, in my opinion. Then again, this is being said by
someone who was the last out of the bar each night
at Riverside! Mark your calendars for the last
weekend in March. It isn't that far off. If enough
interest is shown, we could book a club suite for
changing, etc. Let us know your intentions by the
end of the month.

You don't have to wait until March to make it
out, for the next Buffalo Nite Out is upon us!!
January 20th we will be reserving the upstairs
lounge area at the Stage Door bar on Allen St. for
our get together. We will have exclusive use from
6pm till 10pm, There is a lavatory upstairs for our
use as a changing area. Many details to be worked
out yet, but should be jelled by the next meeting. If
you can't make the meeting, let me know and I'll
keep you abreast.

While I've got you thinking of future events,
the weekend of Feb. 10-11th Virginia Prince and Jo
Ann Roberts will be in Toronto, participating in a
few events. More details to follow.

For those who have premium channels on
their cable TV, "Priscilla, Queen of the Desert" has
been on Showtime. Anyone who can make a copy for
our library, please do. I now see that the Movie
Channel is carrying this flick.

Dolly Parton to Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show":

"I've always said if I hadn't been a woman, I'd have been a drag queen. I think I would have because I love all the fancy hair... I have a lot of male impersonators. In fact, it's great here in California. Every year at Halloween, I can go right down Santa Monica Blvd. and nobody even knows it's me. There's about 40 of me walking around - Dolly's everywhere".

TOP TEN LIST OF HOW TO TELL IF YOUR A CROSS DRESSER!

by Diane ■ of Alpha Omega:

10. You can operate the self timer on your camera.
9. You know Virginia Prince is not a pipe tobacco brand.
8. You can actually buy clothing for your wife that fits.
7. You have two closets, one public, one private.
6. You know what Dermablend is.
5. You keep pulling up the straps of your 'undershirt'.
4. You know "pluck" is a four letter word.
3. You have several filled fishing tackle boxes, but don't fish.
2. You look in the mirror at work Monday morning for leftover eyeliner.
1. You tell stories of "getting into her pants" - Literally.

WHAT DO DRAG QUEENS WANT?

by Tim Denesha
(Re-typed from QNEWS)

What do drag queens want? This question has fascinated me since a good friend became one several years ago. Through him I've seen into their complex and paradoxical world. Perhaps simplistically, I always assume that people do what they do for love-either to give or get it. (which I come to the same thing, they say). So I look at the choices drags make, and ask, "What's this got to do with love?" The answers are sometimes clear, sometimes not.

These are gay men who want to become, at least part of the time, glamorous women performers. This distinguishes them from women and men of all sexual orientations who cross-dress simply to pass as the other gender, and not to perform. Drags are also distinguished from straight male performing transvestites, most commonly seen in England and Australia, Dame Edna being a prime example.

Drag is performance art... a form of self expression. By transforming themselves into hyper-real, larger-than-life women, drags embody aspects of femininity... some would say it is caricature. Unlike gay men who are content merely to form cults around pop goddesses like Bett, Joan, Judy, and Brabra, DQs worship by becoming the adored ones, adopting their style if not their very identity. So they are gay men, only more so.

And these queens are literally royal. Their fantasies is the international Imperial Court system, seriocomically modeled on European monarchies.

Being "girls," drags just want to have fun... and it's true much of the time. They frequently satirize themselves and each other quite delightfully. look at the names some of them choose, like Patsy Decline, Bertha Vanation and Virginia Hamm. DQs create alter egos for themselves. As a technique for freeing oneself from inhibitions, I think drag is much more positive and creative than substance abuse, although the latter as prevalent among drags as elsewhere in the gay community. Drag is a mask. Any true mask is created from within oneself and thus it both hides and reveals. As a woman, my friend seems a different person, yet on a deeper level, he seems more truly himself, as if he has isolated and brought forth certain parts of himself. It involves both safety and risk - serious fun!

DQs also want sex. Costuming is a large part of queer sexuality. Looking and feeling gorgeous is sexy, perhaps more so for a man who feels quite plain unadorned. For some, clothes themselves are erotic. "The sound and feel of my legs rubbing together in nylons is a real turn-on," my friend tells me.

However, attracting sex partners can be dicey. Some straight men want sex with drags. Decades ago in Bufffalo, drag was apparently about attracting hetero men. Some gay men want drag sex, too, but they are usually "masculine" men who never cross-dress, for sex between DQs is

apparently rare. Most gay men though, want "men," which is why many of us adopt leather/clone/muscle drag. All in all, dressing as a woman can be, Sexually, both adventurous and costly for a gay man.

Something else drags want is to make the world a better place. Organizations such as the Imperial Court, through public performances and internal functions like coronations, rise many thousands of dollars annually for charity, especially related to AIDS. This seems to me a healthy balance between having a ball helping out. Benefiting others isn't unique to contemporary drag. In many ancient, traditional cultures, cross-dressing males who may be sexually active with other males are often medicine men, shamans and healers. The Native American berdache is one example.

But what DQs seem to want most is to define and express a sense of womanliness they feel in themselves. In writing Kiss Of The Spider Woman, Naniel Puig said he wanted to explore what it meant to be a woman. Puig based his central character on a DQ friend because he felt none of his female friends knew as much about being a woman as this man did.

This extraordinary statement may say more about Puig, a gay man, than it does about anything else, but one branch of psychology would concur in a general way. Gay-friendly followers of Carl Jung believed gay men are more aware than straight men of the female element in the male psyche, which is called the *anima*. This would explain supposedly female traits of

sensitivity, creatability and emotionality attributed to gay men.. as well as our media-goddess cults.

In this sense, drags submerge their masculinity to external an archetypal woman within. There can be great power in tapping into such an energy; we saw it at Stonewall. But all subconscious forces have their world can be quite sharp of tongue and nails.

But I still insist it's all ultimately about love.. having fun, having sex, feeling sexy, helping others and expressing who you are. I believe drag queens know a lot about self-acceptance. Maybe that's why so much of America has embraced La Cage, RuPaul, Priscilla and Wong Foo. They show America a face of love they have never seen before. We all have closets we need to come out of, whether they're full of sequined clothes or not.

The End,

(mabe not)



Hi,

Enclosed is a letter that I sent to the Stage Door concerning renting their upstairs room. There will be the regular \$5 meeting fee for this event. This is in response to the Belles members who said they wish a second meeting during the month. In the past several months we have had: Attending members in (): October - Halloween get together (7), November - Riverside (6), December - Xpressions Xmas party (3), and for the future: January - Arts Attic (?), February - ??? (?), March - Xpressions 2nd annual spring gala (7 last year). Two from the Belles has made all three of the last events. Any guess on who these two were.

Enclosed is a Treasury report from 4/15 to 12/12/95 and a cash receipts/disbursements summary for 1995. This is primary because the treasury report was long, long overdue (my full responsibility) and partially due to 1996 fast approaching and yearly memberships are due once again. As you can view from the summary we finish 1995 slightly ahead in our cash situation. However the reserve of only 4% over expenses (not counting the extra donations) doesn't seem to justify any decrease in the dues or meeting fees.

This will keep the yearly membership at \$25 for full members, \$15 for associate members and the regular meeting fees at \$5.

The membership fee is now due and payable, it can be paid either at the next meeting or by mail with checks or money orders made out to either Buffalo Belles or cash. I caution about sending cash through the mail.

Any disagreements, comments or questions would be gratefully appreciated, if only to show you are reading the financial report.

The toys that were donated at the Christmas party were turned over to the agency where I am working full time as Janice (this was approved by the members at the meeting). This agency is a non-profit agency supplying various programs and services to the learning disabled and neurologically impaired individuals and their families. A portion of these programs includes family support services and a inner-city outreach program for children ages 6-18 and their families. A number of these children receive few if any toys due to their family financial situation. Your gifts were very gratefully received and distributed at the agency Saturday Recreation Christmas party for these children.

JANICE

TREASURY REPORT

BALANCE FROM 4/15/1995					\$448.00
Yearly Dues	7 at \$25.00	\$175.00			
	1 at \$15.00	\$15.00			\$190.00
Meeting Fees	May 10	June 13	July 8		
	Aug 8	Sept 13	Oct 14		
	Nov 15	Dec 12			\$465.00
				Total	\$1103.00

Month	Printing	Stamps	Pizza	Refreshments Supplies	Other
Mar.	\$21	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Apr.	\$19	\$16	(paid prior to 4/15)	\$35	\$0
May	\$16	\$17	\$18	\$0	\$35 Phone
Jun.	\$16	\$26	\$26	\$0	\$30 Box Rental
July	\$11	\$18	\$0	\$16	\$57 Phone
Aug.	\$19	\$18	\$28	\$3	\$80 Room Rental
Sept.	\$19	\$16	\$28	\$22	\$30 Box Rental
Oct.	\$18	\$18	\$28	\$43	\$56 Phone
Nov.	\$20	\$18	\$28	\$6	\$80 Room Rental
Dec.	\$0	\$0	\$28	\$8	\$0
Totals	\$159	\$147	\$156	\$136	\$368 \$966

1995 SUMMARY

Cash Receipts:

Dues	28	at	\$25.00	\$700.00
	4	at	\$15.00	\$60.00
				\$760.00
Meeting Fees	144	at	\$5.00	\$720.00
Donations				\$75.00

		Total		\$1555.00

Cash Disbursements:

Meeting Room	\$240.00		
Phone - Voice Mail	\$252.00		
Box Rental	\$60.00		
Printing	\$239.00		
Postage	\$204.00		
Pizza	\$248.00		
Refreshments/Supplies	\$175.00		
		Total	
			\$1418.00

Year End Balance \$137.00



*Thanks
Janice!*



Stage Door
20 Allen Street
Buffalo, NY 14202

Dear Walt:

This is to follow-up and expand upon what we briefly discussed a few weeks ago concerning the rental of Arts Attic for a meeting of the Buffalo Belles.

The conditions would be as follows:

1. The tentative date would be January 20, 1996.
2. The time would be from six to ten for the meeting although I would appreciate being able to enter at five.
3. The cost would be \$40.00.
4. Estimated size of the meeting would be ten, plus or minus two.
5. You indicated bringing someone in early to pick up the empties & other miscellaneous chores that would be required on you opening the upstairs several hours earlier than normal. This is your option but I don't believe it will be necessary due to the limited group size and we can clean the area prior to ten.
6. Permission to use the upstairs restroom as a changing room if any member need to utilize it - this is why I would appreciate availability to the space at five.
7. Permission to bring refreshments in (including soft drinks) with us or send out for pizza, etc. There will be no alcoholic beverages brought in - all this will be purchase downstairs if needed.
8. Permission to use the piano if our member Nancy should attend.
9. The upstairs would be off limit to the other patrons until 10.
10. The upstairs will be open at 10 for your other patrons although we will be under no obligations to vacate the premises.
11. In case of incimate weather we can reschedule for the third Saturday of February.

Please contact me by phone or by mail if the conditions is agreeable, or if there is any further questions, clarifications, or conditions that might be required

Very truly yours

Janice [REDACTED]

P.S. Waiting to have my picture taken with Santa later this week as long as he doesn't ask me of I've been naughty or nice.

cc: Buffalo Belles newsletter