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10-1997

### October/ November 1997

Buffalo Belles

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#### Recommended Citation

Buffalo Belles, "October/ November 1997" (1997). *Buffalo Belles Newsletters*. 21.  
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# BUFFALO BELLES



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P.O. Box 1701  
Amherst, N.Y. 14226-1701

HOTLINE: (716) 643-2626  
NU PHI CHI

Oct. & Nov, 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:

JEAN  
PATTI  
*Camille*



Dear Sisters,

A big hello to all of you. It's been soooooo long since our last newsletter that I don't know where to begin. Well, for instance, the greatest excuse to come along in awhile caused the cancellation of the September newsletter: "Computer problems". Specifically e-mail difficulties. For further trivia, ask me at the next meeting and I'll bore you with the details.

The October meeting has left me feeling a little troubled. The attendance was quite poor (11) for a meeting in the fall. We tried to come up with some reasons: previous commitments (so many of you?); the weather (it was decent for most of the evening); couldn't find a thing to where (not a good enough excuse!). One reason that was suggested is that the meetings are lacking direction and are becoming dull or non-productive. Do you find that the case or only partly true? A group is only as good as the sum of its parts and if something is missing we only have ourselves to blame. We need input girls. Ideas, inspirations, direction. We need you to tell us what you want! We could use a several of you to volunteer for a few of the many duties that keep a group like ours alive and well. For a long time its been falling on the shoulders of the officers

and one or two others to do everything and it becomes time consuming and burdensome after awhile. Burn-out often follows if there is no others to assist with some of the ongoing duties. Please, if you can't run for office or volunteer occasionally, then tell us what we can do to make the meetings more meaningful to you and hopefully to increase the attendance. Our group survives because enough of us care. Don't take it for granted.

Please take note that Halloween is on Friday this year. I was hoping that there would be a costume party at the Stage Door or some other downtown spot on Saturday, the day of our monthly meeting, but they will be holding their Halloween Party on October 31. It sounds like it will be a good time, along with prizes and food as well. Many of us who ventured down to the 'Door' after the last meeting thought it would be fun and are planning to attend. I know that I'll be there dressed as .... Well, why don't you come on down and find out. Hope to see you there and at the November meeting the next night.

Hugs, Camille

## A T T E N D A N C E

### SEPTEMBER

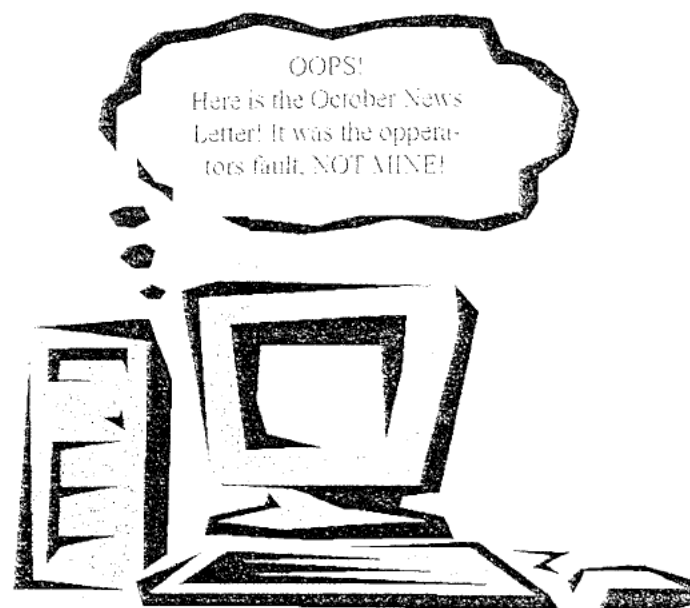
DENISE  
JEAN  
JANICE  
PATTI  
HOLLY  
COLLEEN  
KATHRYNN  
MICHELLE  
JOY  
CAMILLE  
SUSAN  
SHARON  
CATY  
CLEO\*

### OCTOBER

JEAN  
JANICE  
PATTI  
KATHY  
COLLEEN  
ANGELLA  
CAMILLE  
SUSAN  
ALICIA  
CRYSTAL  
KENDRA

KARL & Tiffany\* DEBUTANTES  
VAUGHN \*  
DIANE-Erie Sister

P.S. If Jean can squeeze it in, here's last month's column.



Dear Sisters,

As I sit here writing this, I find it hard to believe the summer is coming to an end. I was just getting used to enjoying the warm, sunny days and the delightfully cool evenings when suddenly I look at the calendar and its mid September already. Picking out something to wear for the warm weather is so easy and simple. A sundress and sandals or a pair of shorts and a T-shirt. Whatever it was you loved to wear this summer, that is all about to change.

With fall weather, the amount of clothing a woman needs goes up as the temperatures go down. Trying to put together a reasonable outfit can be difficult (and expensive if one tends to follow the latest fashions). If you look at any of the dozens of women's magazines that feature fashion designs, its easy to see why Genetic Girl's have complained for years about not having reasonable looking and/or priced clothes available to the average woman. Then you throw in the fact that we transgendered

sisters have a more difficult time trying to find something that fits 'our' bodies properly and you can have a real dilemma. What's a girl to do?

Keeping an eye open and see what works for other women you see around on the street, at the shopping centers, window displays, even at the Buffalo Belles meetings. Check out some of the women's magazines we get. And don't be afraid to ask for some helpful hints. That's another reason what we're there for: companionship and friendly advice. Use those resources.

I don't want to dwell on the clothing issue too long. Sometimes that seems to be the only thing some crossdressers are concerned about. We fret about how we look and often forget that the active force behind much of our activities is a drive or feeling that is drawing us towards the feminine side of our personality. The clothing is a tool to get closer to the feminine but it should not be the only thing we do with this 'gift'. We can tap into that creative and fun part of ourselves if we strive to become more than "men in dresses". How can that be done you ask?

Just look around at the women that you know or have known. Most women, when they are with their friends or other women, are interested, concerned, friendly and sympathetic towards each other. They care about each other. Not that men don't. Men tend to lean toward a more argumentative "I'm right" or "I know more than you". It's more of a 'power' thing. With a woman its more of a 'getting along' thing. A lot of it is learned behavior that our culture throws at us. But something has given us that special 'gift'. An awareness that we can be more than what we appear to be. We can use it to become "prettier" or we can add to that and become "caring and concerned". At the next meeting, just make a little extra effort to speak to the newer girls and get to know them. Be kinder to the people that you see every day. Be gentle. You will have a lot less stress in your life. You will look marvelous and feel marvelous!

I'll get off my soap box now and let you know about our September meeting. Attendance

was lower than expected with 16 girls making their way to the meeting place. But we did another new member attend her first meeting this month. Welcome Karl! I hope that we'll be able to call you by your femme name as soon as you reveal it to the rest of the girls. It makes it difficult to call someone as lovely as you by your 'guy' name.

Does anybody know what happened to the lighted makeup mirror? I can't seem to locate it. I need all the help I can get to put on this face every meeting. The business end of the meeting was letting everyone know that the officer elections will be postponed until we get the nomination ballots posted in this issue of the Buffalo Belles newsletter. Please fill out the ballot if you intend to run for an office or if you know someone who would make a good 'sister in charge'. Once we have names we will post them in following newsletter and will have elections the next month. Mail in votes are encouraged if you can't make it to that meeting.

After the meeting ended, a bevy of beauties descended upon The Stage Door for more erriment, conversation and a few drinks.

Well my fingers are shot and I'm in the mood for a hot bath. So until the next issue, take care.

Love, Camille.

#### THE BEST OF TVIA cartoons



"Lipstick, powder, perfume, dresses... Golly George, if I had all that stuff at home, I'd quit the baseball team too."

From TVIA #10



## Nominate

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This is the update for the Seminar Program that was not in our Brochure for RGW 97.

### The Riverside Gala Weekend Continue

This brief article is an open invitation to all individuals associated within the Gender community, to attend another Riverside Gala Weekend that will be held this year in Franklin PA. We have moved the event from it's previous location to a larger, more modern and up to date facility we are confident you will appreciate this new location.

Saturday morning of the event will begin with sessions specifically for wives and couples issues. The usual vendors will be set up for those special needs and items you may want, and we will be recruiting participants for a talent show, which was a big attraction last year. JoAnn Roberts will be our Key note speaker who will be accompanied by Angela Gardner, the Editor of the Renaissance News & Views Newsletter. JoAnn will be giving a workshop on how to handle coming out to family, children and friends, in fact our entire seminar set up this year is geared toward a better self, social and family understanding, which will also include information to be presented by Dr. Darryl Hill from Windsor Ontario. Two other well known individuals who will give some very interesting forward view points. They did this at the International Congress on Gender Issues last June in Philadelphia, this will round out the afternoon with a fresh new format in rationalizing what we do,

If you wish to venture out shopping, the historic downtown area is only a short walk away, or you can drive out to a nearby mall. A Friday buffet will welcome you on that first evening after your arrival, with breakfast to follow the next morning. Saturday evening will include a dress up dinner, a Digital Photographer, Entertainment after the meal, and awards to be given out to the best dressed for the evening, accompany by the Couple Of The Year Award. All participants both male and female are eligible for the selections of the best dressed, and you may wish to top off both nights by mingling with the public in the hotel lounge,

This years Gala should surpass those that were held in the past, with a reduction in price from last year as well. So tune up that Ukulele, blow the dust out of your harmonica, practice your Juggling act, for the talent show or just plain relax for an enjoyable, as well as enlighten weekend. It will all take place on November 21st to the 23rd at The Inn In Franklin this years host location for the Riverside Gala Weekend.

NOV 21, 22, 23, 1997

# Lasers, a pricey new weapon against unsightly hair. It's not a one-time deal, either

By NICOLE PERADOTTO  
News Staff Reporter

**A**t Mary Lou Kean's old job, co-workers would scribble her name on shaving cream advertisements and hang them on the wall. It was a cruel joke targeting a woman whose sessions of hormone therapy — she had had three miscarriages and was trying to carry full-term — left her with excessive facial hair.

"It's embarrassing," says Ms. Kean, a machine operator in Lockport. "When people look at me I wonder: Are they looking at me — or are they looking at my chin?"

She tried everything: razors, electrolysis, waxing and depilatories.

Then, in May, she tried lasers.

"I still have to shave my face, but not as frequently," says Ms. Kean. After two treatments her hair is lighter and less dense. "Besides getting rid of the hair, the psychological healing is so beneficial."

Laser hair removal is the latest fuzziest buster in the hair wars. It works by exposing the skin to a laser light. The light generates heat, which stunts growing hair follicles.

The first laser for hair removal was cleared for use by the Food and Drug Administration in 1995; others were approved in the past year. Documents filed with the FDA claim only three months' effectiveness. Long-term effectiveness has yet to be proved, and none of the systems can guarantee permanent hair loss.

In Western New York, at least four dermatologists have introduced hair-removing lasers into their practice in the past few months.

"The response has been staggering," says dermatologist Kevin Kulick, who receives between 10 and 15 calls daily about the procedure, which he began offering last month.

"I would have never anticipated this. We've seen women crying during their consultations because they are so distraught about their hair."

In one of Kulick's examining rooms, registered nurse Katherine Crispo rubs a carbon liquid — which absorbs the laser into the follicles — over Franca Jesella's forearms. When the laser hits the black goo it makes a popping sound. Unlike electrolysis, which can zap only one hair at a time, laser hair removal can cover large body areas.

Twenty-five minutes later, Ms. Jesella's treatment is done.

It didn't hurt, she says.

But it does take a bite out of the wallet. Ms. Jesella's session cost her \$400. An upper lip can run between \$150 and \$300. Larger areas, such as the legs, can cost \$4,000 for five treatments.

Nor is it a one-time shot. Because follicles must be hit while they are actively growing hair, those in dormant stages must be treated during later sessions — between three and five, typically. In a study of one laser treatment, 12 volunteers demonstrated slower and thinner hair regrowth after one laser treatment. Six months later, the hair had grown back almost completely.

When used properly, doctors say, laser hair removal is safe. A

common side effect is slight redness, which usually vanishes within a day, or minor lightening or darkening of the skin. Some patients will blister. Most lasers are not as effective on dark skin, seeing best results on light-skinned people with dark hair.

"I think one group of patients that have been neglected is men who are into it for aesthetics," says dermatologist B. Dale Wilson, who owns a laser hair removal system. "Bicyclists and body builders have to shave and wax all the time. And many men suffer from razor bumps on their neck or beard area."

But the primary customer will always be female. By one estimate 15 percent of women between ages 18 and 45 have unwanted body hair.

"Most of our patients are women who have unwanted hair on their face," says dermatologist Stanley Hoffman. "After that it's women who want the bikini area treated."

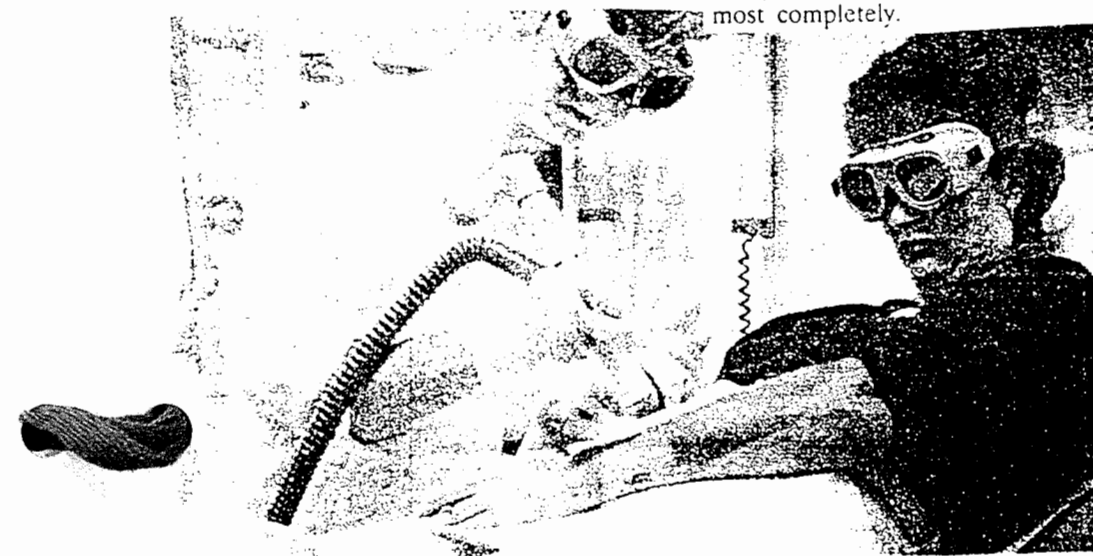
Hoffman's excitement about the technology is tempered by concern about who will get his hands on it.

"As long as a doctor signs the purchase order, at this time anyone can get office space, plug it in and turn it on. You need a license

for painting nails or waxing or sugaring, but you don't need one to operate a laser that can blind someone at 36 feet."

Ms. Kean was Hoffman's first patient. She expects to go back for a third treatment soon.

It hurts to spend half a week's paycheck on hair removal, but having the hair hurts her more. "A girl has to be a Barbie Doll in this society," she complains. "If you have a mustache, it's embarrassing. If you have hair on your chin, it's embarrassing. If people can do this not even to look prettier, but to make their mind feel prettier, it's a great big pill."



MARK MULVILLE/Bufalo News

Katherine Crispo uses a laser to remove hair from the arm of Franca Jesella, who said when it was over that the procedure didn't hurt.



## THE GREATEST ILLUSION

*Donna Delbert - The TG Magician Who Fooled The World*

She appeared on the British theatrical circuit soon after World War II ended. "America's Outstanding lady magician and the Only Lady Fire-Eater in the World" was her billing, and the agents signed her at once. Audiences flocked to watch this sultry American woman breathe fire, conjure the cards, and snuff out candles with a flick of a whip. Rumored to be the widow of a British soldier killed on DDay, Donna Delbert was one of the stars of the English music hall until one day in 1949 when the sultry Donna was revealed to be the AWOL private Delbert Hill and arrested for desertion from the United States Air Force.

Serving in the USAF Special Services as an entertainer, Hill was a considerable success performing his magic act for the troops stationed in England, arriving there in 1942. In 1944, Hill finished his act despite being in the midst of an air raid, continuing to entertain as a fellow soldier burst from the wings and jammed a helmet down on his head! This heroic performance earned him the honor of performing for the Queen Mother on the Fourth of July.

However, as the war ended in Europe, the USAF bureaucracy took him out of special services and reassigned him duties as, of all things, an on base latrine orderly! Hill immediately collected a paycheck, got drunk, and vanished from the base. Soon after this, Donna Delbert and her amazing feats appeared, long dark hair framing a sultry smile in promotional photos. In an age when the ideal female form ran slightly to the plump, Donna's build was perfect, and no one suspected Donna of being a male, not even one of her female assistants who worked for Donna for over a year.

Like all performers, Donna had her periods of unemployment, but the unflappable Delbert simply took a job as a tobacco packer in a factory, working side by side with unsuspecting female coworkers. Her un-interest in dating led to rumors of lesbianism, which worked fine when Donna moved in with another theatre girl, Betty. Betty learned about Donna's secret, which didn't seem to faze the English lady at all. They became lovers and lived together for some time. Unfortunately, Donna became attracted to another woman named Edna, and this was the downfall for Donna Delbert in England.

One spring night in 1949, Donna was eating a late dinner at her boarding house in Newcastle-upon-Tyne, when a police inspector came in and informed Donna that he believed she was a fugitive. Betty had informed upon Delbert to the authorities. A search of Donna's purse revealed Delbert Hill's pass card, and several hours later Donna confessed to being the AWOL soldier at the police station. At which point, the USAF sentenced Delbert to two years hard labor at a British prison. Proving to be as cool under fierce questioning by tabloid reporters as he was under fire from German bombers, Delbert answered with these words the question of what he would miss most in prison: "My corset. I can do without my high-heeled shoes, but when you wear a corset for almost four years, you get kind of used to it. That's why I'm looking fat today".

Delbert survived his prison time with seeming ease, performing his acts in the prison theatre. Upon his release, he returned to the United States, where he once again hit the performing circuit, this time the innumerable Lions, Elks, Moose lodges, retirement communities, even a show at a New Jersey mental home! Sometimes he billed himself as Colonel Don Q, an Old Western-esque showman. Other times he performed as Donna Delbert, the Celebrated English Magician and Fire-Eater. Philadelphia became his base of operations, where he made many friends both in and out of show business.

On January 10, 1991, Donna Delbert Hill died at the age of 77 in an apartment surrounded by the memorabilia of a remarkable life - photographs, magic paraphernalia, show posters, and the closet full of Donna's clothes. Aside from Donna's greatest illusion - fooling both close friends and the general public for over four years, perhaps the most marvelous thing about Donna Delbert/Delbert Hill was the incredible friendship so many people had for her/him. Many English theatre compatriots wrote Delbert in prison, praising Donna for fooling them and encouraging Donna to visit them again. The two volunteer hospital workers who cared for Delbert in the last years of his life recall him being independent, cheerful, and always friendly. Finally, another magician recalled that you never really knew if you were going to meet Delbert as a man or a woman, but summed up Donna in the best way possible, and that was "classy"

Excerpted from THE NEW YORK TIMES MAGAZINE, April 24, 1994

## Crossdressing and Sin

From Gemini's Newsletter, June 1997.

by Victoria S. Powers

A GG friend said the following to me in a recent email. My response to her follows. I deliberately tailored it to her point of view as a modern woman who loves it when I email her stories of firsts for women, such as the recent promotion of a woman to 4 star general. I've put my friends words in red.

*I have trouble with the crossdressing too Victoria. I try not to judge you by it and I try not to encourage you to do it. Sometimes I think that by lending you a willing ear I too am committing a "sin". But if I am it is because I value your friendship and God does know my heart.*

That's OK. I don't judge you when you wear pants. I think you look better in a skirt or dress, but you have the right to dress in whatever fashion tickles your fancy.

God forbid that by listening to friends you would be committing a sin. The apostles thought Jesus was doing wrong when He hung out with the sinners, but He knew what He was doing.

As far as crossdressing being a sin, I'm now sure it's not.

1) There is only one scripture that directly addresses it: Duet 22:5. It states that a man shouldn't wear a woman's garment, and that a woman shouldn't wear a man's garment. You have to take the scripture in context. In the same chapter you discover it's sin to have a roof without a fence, or to wear garments of two different fabrics together, or to not have tassels on your coat. These are Old Testament laws that no longer apply now that Jesus has risen and we're under the "new" covenant, the era of grace. I like

to call them the fashion laws. 22:5 was there because of the cult of the goddess Ashereth. Part of worshipping her involved the men dressing as women and performing sacrifices and fertility rites, which, if I'm not mistaken, involved sexual acts.

2) If it were a sin, it would apply equally to women and men. The Churches would all be telling women it was a sin to wear pants. Maybe they DID tell women that 30 years ago, I don't know. Change is always difficult for society, and a lot of changes get fought over in the Church first.

3) How do you define what is women's clothing & what is men's? In the Victorian era, lace was a normal part of men's clothing. In the 1700's, tights were invented in England. They were worn by the men. If it were a problem, you would have to define it as whatever the customs were in the society and time in question, since clothing was certainly much different when that particular scripture was written.

4) I think it flies in the face of equality. Equality in the eyes of God. Equal pay for women of equal talent to men. Equal respect socially for women and men. Equal right for men to choose to wear whatever "fashion" they like, just like women do.

So, yes, it's a social taboo. Yes, it flies in the face of the traditional trappings of male power. Yes our society thinks it's weird.

Yes, it's an attitude that's so deeply ingrained that most people never analyze why they think it's wrong. But don't equate societies preconceptions and stereotypes with sin. That's a big mistake. God gave us brains to help with this kind of stuff.

Think really hard about why the attitude is what it is. IT SHOULD MAKE YOU VERY ANGRY and make you think hard about your stereotypes. The underlying attitude is that it's OK for a woman to emulate a man, because men are something worth emulating. An aspiration to greatness, if you will. But when a man emulates a woman, he's "sick" or "perverted". Why? The unconscious attitude is that women are somehow not worth emulating. They're second class. Why would a man want to step out of his position of power and emulate a "creature so pale and pathetic as a woman"? The phrase I just quoted was written by the wife of a crossdresser in an article on this very topic.

The whole mindset just underlines how many people still think women are second class citizens. Even the women have allowed themselves to fall prey to it, if unconsciously.

I mean, are we equal or not? If we truly are, I should allow women the same rights as men, and you should allow men the same rights as women.

*I don't mind a little nail polish or a silky blouse when you come to see me. What you wear under your clothes is nobody's business. But like your wife, I don't think I would want to go and meet more crossdressers. It's hard to explain, but I know I wouldn't want to do it.*

I really appreciate that you're so tolerant of my quirks. I don't understand your (or her) reticence about meeting people though. I always look forward to meeting new and different people. I would meet almost anyone and get to know them at least a little. If I discovered a person of good character and integrity, we might go on to become friends. For her to refuse to meet a couple where the man is a crossdresser is illogical, and shows that she's still a prisoner to her own prejudices.

I mean, has she convinced herself that I'm the only OK crossdresser? Or am I lumped in with the "perverts" too, but she just has no choice but to be with me?

1 11 11 12 12 12

HOLIDAY AT SEA - JAN. 15 -19, 1998  
REGISTRATION

1. Name as it appears on Passport, Driver's License, or Birth Certificate.

2. Current Address

3. Telephone Number

ROOMING WITH:

1. Name as it appears on Passport, Driver's License, or Birth Certificate.

2. Current Address

3. Telephone Number

I wish to be assigned a roommate.

I prefer Single Occupancy.\*

I/ We prefer a non-smoking cabin.

I/ We prefer a smoking cabin.

Rates below are Cruise only, per person, double occupancy.

INDICATE CABIN CATEGORY	Group Rate	Port Charges	Less Deposit	Balance Due
L INSIDE CABIN	\$329.00	\$78.50	\$250.00	\$157.50
G PICTURE WINDOW	\$379.00	\$78.50	\$250.00	\$207.50
C DELUXE	\$589.00	\$78.50	\$250.00	\$457.50

Price includes cabin, port charges, all food, and entertainment on board.

\* Single Occupancy is 150% of selected category, plus port charges.

AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, SEND \$250.00 PER PERSON DEPOSIT,  
PAYABLE TO CRUISES, INC., TO:

Brenda Cyrus  
5111 Rogers Ave # 551  
Fort Smith, AR 72903

Payment may be made by Check, Visa, Master Card, Discover, or American Express. If you plan to use your credit card please include the account number, your name as it appears on the card, expiration date, amount of payment, and the address where the bill is to be sent if different from the address above:

CREDIT CARD PAYMENTS AND REGISTRATIONS MAY ALSO BE FAXED TO: 1-501-452-7072

Add \$59.00 if you plan to book an extra night in Miami on January 15th. The \$59.00 includes transfer to the ship. THE BALANCE IS DUE NOVEMBER 7, 1997.

SINCE WE ARE DEALING WITH A MAJOR CORPORATION, ROYAL CARIBBEAN CRUISE LINE, WE WILL FOLLOW A MORE STRICT TIME FRAME FOR REGISTRATION AND PAYMENT. ALL AVAILABLE SPACE WILL BE SOLD, THEREFORE THE CRUISE LINE MAY RELEASE OUR SPACE TO OTHERS IF OUR ACCOUNT SHOWS LITTLE OR NO ACTIVITY. MAIL OR FAX THIS FORM WITH \$250.00 AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION, OR TO REGISTER BY TELEPHONE, CALL BRENDA TOLL FREE AT: 1-800-247-7021

Actually, this man is quite passable as a woman, but only dresses 3 or 4 times a month, and is in complete male mode the rest of the time. For the get-together in question, there was not going to be anyone crossdressed anyway, to give my wife a chance to see that here is another happy couple of two normal, nice people, where the man happens to crossdress at times. I know my wife would like his wife - she's a lawyer and my wife loves talking to lady lawyers. Her best friend is one. It would also give my wife someone to talk to with questions and concerns about crossdressing. She talks to no one about it, and that bothers me greatly.

Again it's the whole bigotry thing that has me blown away. Many people in our country have finally figured out that all black people aren't lazy or criminals. If it were a black couple, I'm sure she wouldn't have a problem. But you say crossdresser to many people, and they have fears of a pervert, or a sex criminal.

The new CD club I've joined (The Gemini Club) has an interesting statement. The club is for Transgendered persons or spouses of either gender, gay or straight, as long as they are people of good character. Using the club as a hunting ground for your next sexual partner is prohibited. Many clubs are for het male CD's only. No TS's, no gays. I love the "good character" clause. They are focusing on the right thing.

Inner Discovery Network Web Site now available

Inner Discovery Network is a non-profit organization dedicated to the spiritual aspects of crossdressing and cross-gender identification. Inner Discovery believes and teaches that we are all put here on earth to learn to let go of fear, experience unconditional love, and to find our way back to the Source of All That Is. This organization has been a blessing to many people who in the past felt like there was something wrong with them, but found out through Inner Discovery that they are gifted and equipped to experience the spiritual destiny that was intended for them. It is still under construction, but you might want to check out their website: [www.innerdiscovery.org](http://www.innerdiscovery.org)

PRESS RELEASE

SEPTEMBER 1, 1997

As most of you know by now, the 1997 HOLIDAY EN FEMME was cancelled due to circumstances beyond anyone's control. In its place we will sponsor the first ever HOLIDAY AT SEA. The event will be a cooperative effort of the Tri-Ess International Board of Directors and Dignity Cruises.

Those who have saved money and vacation time in anticipation of the Holiday will not be disappointed, for the Holiday at Sea will be in the same affordable price range, and fill about the same amount of time as the Holiday En Femme. The base price is \$329 plus port charges and taxes of \$78.50. Thus \$407.50 is the total cost, since you will have no additional room, entertainment or food charges. We believe you will be experiencing the best of both worlds: The Holiday, known for quality, education and pleasure, plus the Dignity Cruise which represents a dream come true for cross dressers around the world, the ultimate in femme expression.

The traditional activities of the Holiday will be scheduled - including the Awards Ceremony which recognizes the Leader Servant, the Chapter of the Year, and Commended Chapters. The Tri-Ess National Board will have its official meeting Saturday morning while the ship is in port at Nassau. When the brief meeting is over, there will be ample time to explore Nassau and Paradise Island, since the ship remains in port until 3:00 A.M. While there will be some serious programming, the emphasis of this Holiday will be on fun.

There will be a few noticeable differences between the Holiday En Femme and the Holiday at Sea. The vending area will be replaced by a spectacular five-story Centrum Lobby lined with boutiques featuring clothing and jewelry. The entertainment will be on a grand scale with beautiful Las Vegas or Broadway stars. Traditional convention food will be replaced with gourmet meals, featuring more options than you can imagine! You can even stay with your diet if you choose to do so, since the menu offers "heart-smart" and vegetarian selections. The added touch is the waiter who helps each lady with her chair and napkin and addresses her, "Madam." Other features will include a beauty salon, a casino for those who want to spend a bit more on the cruise, two cinemas if you want to catch up on the latest films, a health club with classes in aerobics, a sky walk for joggers, and a fun-filled excursion to our own private island, CoCoCay, where there will be a delightful picnic. The Conference Center has been reserved for special programs and activities. If you want to start the fun sooner we will have a hotel reserved near the pier for Thursday night. The cost will be \$59 per person, which includes the transfer to the ship on Friday.

Cruise lines tend to sell all available space, so IT IS VITAL THAT WE RESPOND QUICKLY. Call Brenda at 800-247-7021 for details about your deposit which will guarantee space. Final payment will be due near the time you had planned to pay for the Holiday En Femme. Hurry! We are saving a deck chair for you!

HOLIDAY AT SEA

SPONSORED BY TRI-ESS INTERNATIONAL  
aboard Royal Caribbean's

SOVEREIGN OF THE SEAS

January 15-19, 1998

Roundtrip from Miami to the private island, CocoCay, and Nassau, Baham

FINE DINING, PAMPERED SERVICE, SPECTACULAR SCENERY  
PLUS: ENJOY THE FREEDOM TO EXPRESS YOURSELF WITH OTHER  
MEMBERS OF THE GENDER-GIFTED COMMUNITY!

SPECIAL PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES

JANUARY 15, 1998 THURSDAY  
OPTIONAL PRE-CRUISE HOTEL AVAILABLE  
\$59 including transfer to the ship

JANUARY 16, 1998 FRIDAY  
9:00 A.M. BREAKFAST AT THE HOTEL for those with the optional extra ni  
BUFFET LUNCH AS YOU ARRIVE ON BOARD  
CONFERENCE CENTER OPEN, deck 7 near Champagne Bar  
7:30 P.M. MEET IN THE SCHOONER'S PIANO BAR, deck 5 near the Casino,  
for drinks before dinner.  
8:30 P.M. DINNER

JANUARY 17, 1998 SATURDAY  
9:00 A.M. TRI-ESS BOARD MEETING, CONFERENCE CENTER, deck 7  
7:30 P.M. CAPTAIN'S COCKTAIL PARTY  
8:30 FORMAL DINNER  
VISIT NASSAU UNTIL 3:00 AM SUNDAY

JANUARY 18, 1998 SUNDAY  
VISIT THE PRIVATE ISLAND  
CONFERENCE CENTER OPEN, deck 7  
7:00 P.M. AWARDS CEREMONY AND PRIVATE COCKTAIL PARTY Location TE  
8:30 P.M. DINNER

JANUARY 19, 1998 MONDAY  
SAY GOODBYE TO YOUR FRIENDS AND HEAD FOR HOME.  
NEXT WEEK: POUR YOUR OWN JUICE AND MAKE YOUR OWN BED!

## SAME STRUGGLE, SAME FIGHT

I am a 47 year old transsexual. I hold down two jobs, one full-time and one part-time, in order to pay for upcoming surgery. Whether on the job or out in public, as a transsexual I face the same bigotry that gay people deal with. People, especially men, can be unfeeling in a lot of cases. It seems that they have something to prove to each other by the way they respond when they see transsexuals. They have little regard for the feelings or the rights of others. They feel they can compromise another person's identity in any situation.

I was working in a convenience store in West Seneca when two men approached the counter and remarked, "I can tell them anywhere." He asked me if I was a faggot.

Prospective employers are the same. They will give you a dozen reasons why they will not hire you. My favorite is, "The position is already filled." Two weeks later you might drive by and the help wanted sign is still out.

Recently, my partner and I went to McKinley Cinema. She went to the concession stand to purchase popcorn while I waited. The clerk started to laugh loudly and uncontrollably and also made gender comments. Both my partner and I were quite embarrassed since the clerk's behavior brought a lot of attention our way. After the show, I discussed this matter with the theater manager and mentioned legal action against them should this sort of behavior occur again.

No one should tolerate behavior, comments and actions that shows a lack of respect... not only for transsexuals but for all of us. We must all fight this bigotry together and we must fight it everywhere it is found. We must unite and tell people that transsexuals are not the ones to be feared, but our harassers are. Their hateful view of the world is similar to the Klan's.

I especially ask other transsexuals not to tolerate this. The problem can no longer be ignored. We transsexuals demand the rights and respect that others enjoy. I am tired of those cross-eyed looks and smirks and giggles. Most of all, I am tired of people viewing me as "something other." I am not a pedophile. I am not a sexual deviant. I am a human being, a person with feeling, with needs and dreams. I am entitled to that. I will no longer step aside nor tolerate those comments.

I do try to be understanding and caring but I know that harassers rely on victims being too civil and too reluctant to create controversy. Don't let them get away with it.

I would like to start a group for transsexuals to help each other and support each other in the face of bigotry and discrimination. Transsexuals interested in this may contact me directly by phone at (716) [redacted] or mail through this newspaper at 266 Elmwood Avenue, Suite 167; Buffalo, New York (14222).

Cindy Marie [redacted]  
West Seneca, New York

Sept. 8 news

The Buffalo News/Friday, October 10, 1997

## Sexual harassment suit filed by transsexual will proceed

Associated Press

NEW YORK — Sexual harassment is sexual harassment — even when the true gender of the intended target isn't clear, a federal judge has ruled.

U.S. District Judge Whitman Knapp ruled Thursday that a transsexual can go forward with a \$14 million lawsuit against New York University, saying the claim is protected by federal law.

The plaintiff, Jennifer [redacted], was in a graduate studies program and undergoing hormone treatment when Professor Cliff Eisen allegedly began the harassment in February 1993.

Eisen fondled Ms. [redacted] breasts and buttocks, forcibly tried to kiss Ms. [redacted] and repeatedly requested a sexual relationship, Ms. [redacted] lawsuit claims.

NYU sought to have the law-

suit dismissed.

"There is no conceivable reason why such conduct should be rewarded with legal pardon just because, unbeknownst to Professor Eisen and everyone else at the university, plaintiff was not a biological female," Knapp wrote.

Ms. [redacted] filed a complaint against the professor with the school's Sexual Harassment Committee in March 1993. The school gave Eisen a written reprimand but let him continue to teach.

The school later assured the professor that the reprimand would have no effect on its decision to award him tenure, the judge said. Knapp called the assurance "bizarre" considering that four female students had previously accused the professor of inappropriate sexual advances.

The professor was not awarded tenure and his contract was not renewed.

