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September 1997

Buffalo Belles

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BUFFALO BELLES

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NU PHI CHI

September, 1997

SISTERS IN CHARGE:
CAMILLE ■
JEAN ■
PATTI ■
~~KATHY LORRAINE~~

Dear Sisters,

We were blessed with a glorious evening for our Annual Picnic on August 2. Early arrivals were found scurrying about, arranging chairs, moving tables and setting up for this fabulous summer feast. Besides our own members who attended (12), there was Judy, the wife of Brenda, and a sister from the Erie Sisters chapter. Thanks go out to Judy for bringing two wonderful dishes. I especially liked the rainbow dessert.

The hungry faces were evident as they gathered around for the traditional lighting of the BBQ grill. Now before I go any further, I want to squash any rumors that I had

substituted jet fuel for charcoal lighter. It's just not true! As we were hungry, it was thought that a little extra fuel would help to hurry along the charcoal. And no, it's not true that our picnic site became the new visual navigation beacon for the nearby Buffalo Airport after the grill was lit. I did seem to notice that a few planes flew over our site as though they were temporarily blinded by our BBQ "distress signal". Well I hope the crew and passengers appreciated the sight of some pretty summer fashions! Soon after the fire "calmed down" we were enjoying some grilled treats lovingly seared by Janice, our Buffalo Belles version of Julia Child.

In due time, Jean called the meeting to order. No new business was discussed except to remind everyone about next month's elections. Soon all the girls were back enjoying the evening.

As the night was drawing to a close, we reluctantly packed things up, extinguished the fire and said our good-byes. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful picnic!

Not wanting that feeling to end, about half a dozen girls

ATTENDEES

PATTI
CAMILLE
JEAN
JANICE
HOLLY
SUSAN R ■
SHARON ■
CLEO

BRENDA & JUDY
MICHELLE ■
CATY
Kathryn
GUESTS:
BRENDA ■
DIANE

Hair today,

gone tomorrow

Took off to their favorite post meeting spot, the Stage Door, to continue the festive evening. Dancing was the order for the night as Jean, Patty and Sharon showed the crowd that they could line dance to any tune the DJ tossed their way. Patty and Camille, still had some energy left and headed over to Roxy's for some energetic dancing and stayed until last call. Oh, those aching feet.

Well, I'm sure I left something out, so come to the next meeting, where you can fill us in on the missing info. Or help to create some new memories.

Just another reminder, at the next meeting, September 6, we will have elections of new officers of the Buffalo Belles. Please come and participate.

Looking forward to seeing you there. Love, Camille.

The 3 worst things you can do to your face



BY NOW YOU KNOW IF YOU WANT to have great-looking skin, sunbathing and smoking are taboo. What you may not be aware of, though, are the little habits that also take their toll on your complexion.

● **Scrubbing too hard:** Zealous washing irritates the skin and can cause red blotches, reports D'Anne Kleinsmith, M.D., a Detroit dermatologist. The best way to cleanse? Wet your face with warm water, then apply soap with fingertips, massaging in an upward circular motion. Finally, wet a soft cotton washcloth with warm water, place it over your entire face and dab off the soap in an upward motion (this ensures that it's all removed). It is a good idea to slough dead skin cells once a week by using a *gentle* exfoliator.

● **Squeezing pimples:** Popping a pimple can make it redder and more swollen, and can cause permanent scarring, says Patricia Wexler, M.D., a New York City dermatologist. Instead, use an over-the-counter acne medication (with benzoyl peroxide). Or try this trick: Apply a few drops of Visine to the pimple using a cotton swab (this will help shrink it quickly).

● **Using old makeup:** Makeup that's been sitting around for more than a year may be contaminated by bacteria or fungi. Using such cosmetics can cause breakouts—or even infections. The smartest strategy: Replace mascara every six months, the rest of your makeup at least once a year. Also, wash makeup brushes and applicators once a week with warm water and dishwashing soap and let them air-dry.

Top: LISA PEARSON; Hair, Donald Mikula; Makeup, Emma Carter (3); Bottom: RICHAI Marks for Orbe at Elizabeth Arden; Makeup, Emma Carter; Stylist, Keki Mingus; Shopi

Being Spotted As Transgendered

By Fran Springfield R.G.N.

Many's the time when I'm enjoying a quiet shopping trip into town, taking a break from work, when all of a sudden a woman walks by who catches my eye, and I do a double take; Is she or isn't she TS/TG? My sixteen year old son is now capable of joining in the debate and will often make very valid points.

What causes her to be "spotted"? I refuse to use the terminology "being read", as that belongs firmly to crossdressers who can truthfully be described—and thus can be "read"—as men dressed as women. This does not apply to MTF TS's—who are after all, women, no matter what stage of transition they are at—or TG's. But I do contend that TS/TG women can be spotted just as it can be possible to spot lesbians or gay men.

I have over the years met a very large number of MTF TS's, probably well over the one thousand mark, and there have been quite a number that I would regard as being virtually unspottable; their presentation is excellent, often they are many years post-surgery, and time does make a difference. There are some that even I, with many years experience, would pass by at close quarters and not detect.

I do often feel sorry for those TS/TG women that I do spot, who realize that they have been noticed; they frequently look puzzled, clearly wondering what it is that they have gotten wrong. For they would have been totally ignored by everyone else that they have met that day, and of course, I have no chance to tell them that because of my profession I have a rather more practiced eye than most transgendered women!

What creates "spotability"? Often it is not just one particular aspect of

WHAT "GIVES AWAY" A TRANSGENDERED PERSON IN PUBLIC? SOME ANSWERS MAY BE SURPRISING

someone's appearance that causes this, it can be a variety of things. The TG/TS woman may not have just made one glaring error, but have a number of small things "not quite right". If it is facial appearance that gives someone away, this could be due to problems with makeup. If there is too much, not enough, is it the wrong shade, does the lipstick clash with the clothes color? the list is endless. and I as someone who does not wear makeup (unless she has to, will be the last to attempt to give specific advice. There are plenty more qualified to do so than me. the best person is probably your electrologist who will have trained in all aspects of beauty care.

Hair styles are another area that can create difficulties. Why is it that so many "new women" insist on getting their almost shoulder length hair tightly over permed, full fringe across, whether it suits them or not? From my point of view it is on aspect of appearance that would almost guarantee "spotability". There are so many other styles that can be far more flattering. Get good advice from a professional hairdresser. Many are expert too at creating new styles for those who still have to oscillate between gender roles.

Wigs can cause any gendered individual to be spotted. Of course for some they are essential requirement to the total female

image. The loss of head hair does not make someone any less suitable to go through the process of gender reassignment. It is a person's intrinsic transsexuality that counts. If a wig is properly selected, fitted and looked after it can look as good as the natural thing... if not better in some cases. There are plenty of experienced and specialized firms around that are well worth using.

Of course it is sometimes undeniably masculine facial features that create the problem. If one has the money to deal this, all well and good, one only has to find a suitable qualified surgeon (via one's counselor or psychiatrist, of course) and then just go through the surgical process and all it involves. But for the fortunate, and that must apply to at least 50% of MTF TS population, life become as little more difficult. There have been occasions when I, as a gender counselor, have been in the situation of seeing someone whose

features combined with their overall size and stature would make it almost impossible for them to change gender roles and not be constantly recognized as being born male. Such people, if truly transsexual, are faced with an impossible dilemma. I am personally aware of one individual for whom the only answer was suicide. But, I remember only too well another such person, who lived nearby to me for a period, and whose appearance combined with her attitude and behavior constantly lead to altercations and involvement of the police.

She has already gone through surgery via an National Health Service clinic, and I still question whether the right decision was made by both client and professionals in that case.

(Continued on page 26)

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Being Spotted As Transgendered

(Continued from page 25)

Gender Identity Disorders produce no easy answers and it has to be remembered that what is right for one person may be not right for someone else. This applies as much to the decision to change gender roles as to what clothes to wear having done so. Making sure that accessories, handbags, shoes and jewelry are right for the outfit being worn is important too. getting a wardrobe together is lifetime experience: I certainly know non-transgendered women who have not got it right! It is essential to choose clothes that are correct for you, both in color and style. One of the best investments you can make, if you can afford it, is to visit a color consultant, specially trained to work out which of the seasonal color spectrums is right for you, i.e., spring, summer, autumn, or winter, and to advise on the best clothes containing those shades that you should wear.

If you cannot afford this, just take a look at how at how other women around you are dressed, and read the fashion pages in women's magazines. Also, cultivating the friendship of someone who runs a nearly new shop can be a great asset to the purse as well as your image. But please, avoid looking like a tart... it only answers the wrong kind of question. Try to blend in. The following rules should also help you be less stoppable.

- 1 Wear clothes suitable for your age.
- 2 Make sure they are appropriate for the activity you are undertaking
- 3 Check that colors and patterns do not clash.
- 4 Ensure hem lines are right and that skirts don't show below coats.
- 5 Correct fitting is important too, as is sizing
- 6 Don't wear shoulder pads, your shoulders are broad enough already and the pads make good bra fillers.
- 7 Your bust size should be in proportion to the rest of you, and remember they probably will grow post-surgery (if

you opt for that route)

- 8 clothes that are too drab are as likely to gain attention as those that are too colorful.
- 9 If you are tall, don't wear shoes with too high a heel, and don't stoop, either.
- 10 Keeping up with the latest fashion can be expensive and selecting one from the past is not helpful—the "classic look" is often best.

Always present a positive image.

TG's needs to portray. Many speech therapists are more willing to assist with deportment as well as voice training. Learning to move in the correct manner not only helps with presentation but also prevents problems created by muscle strain and bad posture. There can be a great deal of debate as to how a woman should behave and speak. Try you cultivate a voice that fits the person you would wish to be addressed. Remember too, more things that can cause "spotability" are deportment and demeanor. Movement, behavior and voice all go to help make up the image that the TS or ember that masculine gestures and swearing give you away, you need to make that bit more effort than the non-transgendered woman.

There are two more areas that you need to consider. The first is the "Marion Wells (my partner—a TS woman who is many years post surgery) Square Rule": If one TS or TG Female goes out on her own her chances of being spotted are very low. If however there are two TS/TG women together the chances of being spotted quickly rises to being four times more likely than one TS/TG woman on her own. If there are three of you the "spotability" ratio rises to experience has taught me that, as a non-transgendered woman, if I am part of a group of TS/TG women and one of them gets spotted, not only do the others, but I get spotted too. The final point is this: Don't Be Paranoid. Consider the fact that if someone is noticing you it may just be because you happen to be looking very attractive and are wearing an outfit that particularly suits you. Well dressed women are likely to attract the attention of others. If you happen to be dressed more smartly than those around about you this will not go unnoticed. You may find someone is looking at you because they are admiring you and not because you have been spotted. Keep Your Cool!

editor: Amy Astley

Voguebeauty

basic training

In her new makeup manual, *Cindy Crawford's Basic Face*, the supermodel shares the tricks of the trade. Vicki Woods picks up a few pointers.



WHO'S THAT GIRL?
CINDY SHOWS
ANOTHER SIDE
WITH HELP FROM
DARK LIPSTICK
AND NAIL POLISH.

I've just trashed \$2,000 worth of makeup. I can't believe all those teeny bottles and compacts and lipstick cases ever added up to \$2,000, but they did, even counting the fact that the original sums were paid in dollars, sterling, lire, francs, Irish punts, drachmas, and some Saudi currency I can't even remember the name of, during a four-hour stopover at Dubai airport when changing planes from Lahore. I handed the salesgirl a bagful of Pakistani rupees; she gave me a calculator and a math lesson in Arabic; a helpful passerby gave me a rough dollar equivalent; and I finally got my hands on the Chanel package containing Teint Pur Mat in Beige Mat O₂. At last! An international currency that everybody understands.

So why have I just tossed out all this makeup? Because after years of hanging around cosmetics counters searching for the secret of eternal youth, I have finally seen the light. Been converted. Taken a giant step. I have discovered how to do a Basic Face and have been murmuring to myself the helpful little mantra: *Makeup should never take more than five minutes, tops! Fifteen if you're going to a black-tie dinner every time I leave the house. I've been doing this for a week now, and it's working beautifully.*

It was Cindy Crawford who converted me, and that's her mantra. I didn't think she would convert me. I was resistant. Her newly published beauty workbook, called *Cindy Crawford's Basic Face* (Broadway Books), fell onto the step of my country cottage with a fat thump on a morning when I was feeling not very beautiful, nor was I feeling like taking any unsolicited advice from some airhead model. It was raining. Two workmen were wrestling with my wood-burning stove in the kitchen, and two cats were beauty ▶ 242

beauty

wrestling with a baby pigeon on my new beige rug. By the time I'd dealt with both the carbon deposits and the pitiful corpse, I felt about 90 and looked like I'd been tarred and feathered.

(Here follows a necessary pause while I lie in the bath for two hours and get a grip. The first thing I do when I get out of the bath is look in the mirror, like every other woman in the world. The second thing I do is run downstairs in my bathrobe and read *Cindy Crawford's Basic Face* from cover to cover. And so would you, if you'd looked in my mirror.)

Then I emptied every drawer, every discarded evening bag, every purse, and every shelf in the bathroom of every bit of makeup I've ever bought. Some items were so shamefully old and disgusting that I hurled them into the garbage straightaway. Some were purple and cyclamen (and that was just the blushers—am I insane or what?), and they went, too. Even so, I was left with 132 items. We are not counting skin-care here, just lipstick and mascara and Lancôme Maquimat and Elizabeth Arden powder compacts. (In fact, we're not counting at all—it's too embarrassing to add up the cost of this stuff.) Then I divided them

up into six clumps: foundation, concealer, powder, blusher, eyes, and lips. That's how Cindy's book is organized. Then I got a mirror, propped open the book, and faced the daylight.

Cindy Crawford's Basic Face is briskly written and full of robust good sense. Big headlines; short, pithy copy; lots of white space; pretty pictures. It's quite wittily written at times, too, in a grown-up, self-deprecatory style. She thanks her publishers for "a book deal that didn't involve my having to kiss and tell"; she explains why it isn't an autobiography ("I'm only 30, for God's sake"), and she devotes one entire page to a cartoon of herself and the laconic observation too long ago, I was in a cosmetics department, woman behind the counter said, "Honey, you could be real pretty if you wore a little makeup."

She doesn't waste much space on beauty tips: female over ten years old has been told a million times—don't smoke; drink water; get enough sleep; wear sunscreen. She moves pretty quickly on to beauty tips I didn't know and am pleased to find out. These include not moisturizing if you don't need it. "Wait 30 minutes after washing (on a day when you have the time), and let the natural oils return to your skin. If skin still feels dry and tight, then apply moisturizer. But if skin feels soft and smooth, says Ernie (Benson, the facialist she sees in Los Angeles), don't moisturize, as it may cause makeup to run after a while." This was a revelation to me. And, lo—it works, it works.

Also, "Consider using foundation on eyelids even if you don't wear eye shadow. It eliminates any redness or darkness, giving eyes a cleaner, fresher look. Immediately set with powder so that creases don't have a chance to form." This was another revelation, as were Cindy's brisk notes on choosing foundations. I had a dozen on the table in front of me and started on them. Cindy's book says, in capital letters an inch high, "If it disappears on your face, then you know it's the right color." Well, I thought I knew that. Everybody knows that. So how come I've bought a dozen different foundations across the world, all in different colors? It takes me an hour, with much tussling and cleansing, to rub them all on and rub them all off again. Some are the teensiest bit not quite the right color. Out go six. "If you find yourself between shades, go with the warmer, or slightly darker shade. A lighter tone can make the skin appear chalky." Out go three more, and I'm left with the Dubai-bought Chanel, which I'm longing to keep, and two others. But hang on a minute. "Stick with yellow-based founda-

tions. Even if your skin has pink in it, the yellow will help to neutralize it." There goes the Chanel. Now I'm left with two, by Estée Lauder, and on close examination of the microscopic writing on the labels, I realize that they're both Lucidity Light-Diffusing Makeup in Tender Beige, except one is so old it's separated, and out it goes. I rub on a final daub from the last bottle, and I can't see where I've put it ten seconds later. Success. After two hours—or ten years and nearly \$500.

Cindy is big on powder. "You need powder at every stage of the game. (1) It finishes a bare face. (2) It blends and corrects makeup. (3) It sets makeup. (4) It promotes longevity. (5) It stops shine." She powders her eyelids, her lipstick, her eyeliner. Powder makes most women feel like their grandmothers, but here I am, primping in my mirror and benefiting from yet another revelation.

Finally, Cindy gives beauty tips you know you ought to know but have maybe passed on up to now because of the travails and strains of modern life. These are the best and what cost me all the time and money. Don't be dirty, she says, for example. "Hygiene aside, a filthy utensil will get in the way of texture and color. Be zealous. Even if you use the same colors over and over, regularly clean all your tools. If



cleaning becomes difficult, it's time to buy a replacement." On new mascara: "Don't pump wand." (Because it dries the mascara in the tube using.) (Because it ruins lashes.) On old mascara: "Wipe wand with tissue before moves clumps before they get to your eye." (Because it ruins lashes.) On old mascara: "Just throw it away." If a dot of mascara falls on your face: "Wet the tip of a Q-Tip and twist it directly on the spot. The dot will disappear."



On eye pencil: "Keep pencil softly sharpened." She adds, rather dazzlingly, "though it may be an oxymoron, you want a dull point." (Because it gives a better line for smudging.) On eyebrow tweezing: "Suggests snipping a stray hair into line rather than tweezing it: 'To remove such hairs could cause holes.' Cindy's best tips are like candy, and you find yourself passing them round all day: "Black mascara is makeup's little black dress"; "Pinch your cheeks if you're not sure of the color. Nobody blushes in... eggplant."

Things I did as a result of reading this book:

Washed the sponge applicators in my (matte, brown) duo-color eye shadow until they were squeaky clean. Threw away my strange assortment of pinks, greens, blues, and purples.

Washed my powder puff.

Started carrying a powder compact in my bag. What with this and my sudden addiction to concealer, people keep saying, "Your skin's looking great. What are you using on it?"

Bought yet another foundation (my tan is fading), two new mascaras, and an eyebrow pencil in a horrible grayish-ocher shade. Cindy says, "Choose a color a few shades lighter (Trust us on this one) than eyebrow hair."

How I feel as a result of reading this book:

Prettier (it's amazing how much better-looking anybody is if her skin is the right color and her lips and eyes are competently but subtly defined).

Bossier (it's hard to stop yourself from passing on great makeup tips, and my housekeeper is at the end of her rope).

Tidier (especially around the handbag area).

And finally—very, very sorry that I called Ms. Crawford an "airhead model" a few paragraphs up, when in fact, on the evidence of this book, she's a savvy, practical, amusing, down-to-earth, grown-up, and interesting superstar. She should sell a million copies. *vogue beauty* 244

He said

Congratulations on your election as of peace and my hats off to those who have relinquished their titles (and the work that goes with it!).

Since I now live in the Albany with the Saturday meetings are really tough - hopefully you have more interest in the off-site meetings in the future and I can make one of those and meet all the new girls.

My thanks go out especially to Denise who was always so friendly - particularly when I was a newcomer and Denise who really made every thing happen. The support and encouragement they provided to me and many others was very much appreciated.

The Albany scene isn't as bad as the club here. TGIC has its own club room and meets on Thursdays. There are a couple places to go - JD's (always) and the Waterworks (usually - but don't buy it on Saturday night when wearing a leather mask!).

Well, all for now - please note my new address for the newsletter.

With fond memories,

Michelle

Michelle

PO Box

Albany, NY 12212 6072

Imperial Court of Buffalo
presents

Dish With Royalty

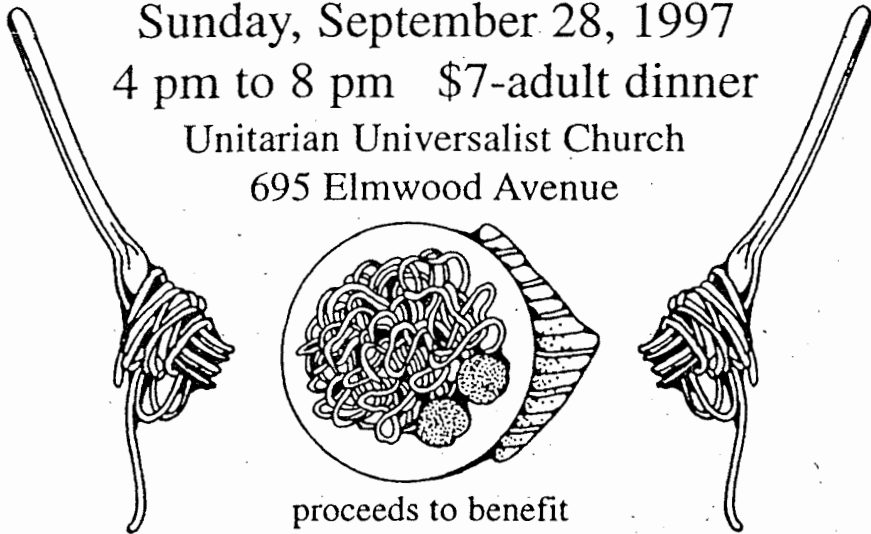
Seventh Annual Spaghetti Dinner

Sunday, September 28, 1997

4 pm to 8 pm \$7-adult dinner

Unitarian Universalist Church

695 Elmwood Avenue



proceeds to benefit

The Food Pantry of the AIDS Alliance

*Dinners include all you can eat Spaghetti, Meatballs,
Salad, Bread & Butter, Beverage and Dessert*

ARTIST SCORES BIG WITH GAME THAT'S A REAL DRAG

By SUSAN CARPENTER, Los Angeles Times

If Elton John is pinball's wizard, Michael Brown is its queen. A gay, 36 year old artist from San Francisco, Brown is the creator of *Go Girl!*, a pinball machine with a homosexual theme. The winner of the custom game competition at the Pinball Fantasy '97 convention in Las Vegas last month, Brown has given pinball a face lift with his use of wigs, makeup and campy commentary.

To begin the game, one must step into Brown's shoes... a pair of red, metal stilettos welded to the machine's platform. Pulling the plunger sends the ball up a ramp where it rolls by a miniature Ken doll wearing makeup and a pink feather boa. The ball then makes its way into what Brown calls "the protest area," a series of bumpers marked with such gay political icons as Act Up and Queer Nation, before careening toward the drop targets... renowned homophobes Jesse Helms, Lou Sheldon and Fred Phelps.

If you mess up and lose your ball down the center hole, a dark haired drag queen pops up on the video monitor, teasing, "It's always better the second time." And if you do well, a queen cheers you on with "She is on fire!" or "Go girl!" All the while, a disco soundtrack throbs in the background.

High scores result in "wig mode", which freezes the game's action and places a number of wigs on the screen (an auburn bob, a curly perm). A built-in video camera then photographs your face, placing it in the wig of your choice and storing your image so that it actually becomes part of the game. Before the action resumes, a drag queen whispers naughtily, "That's the biggest wig I've ever seen!"

"Drag is such a fun thing, and that's sort of the whole nature of what this is about," Brown says.

Brown used the infrastructure of the classic *Earthshaker* pinball machine as his base, swapping out components. Brainstormed about four years ago, *Go Girl!* was constructed as an art piece and was shown in a few galleries, but last month was the first time Brown took his machine "into the pinball world, and everybody loves it.

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DEADLINE Fri., July 25th 12 noon

Abbreviation Key

SSingle	GGay
DDivorced	WWhite
MMale	BBlack
FFemale	JJewish
NDNon-drinker	HHispanic
NSNon-smoker	AAsian
PProfessional	YOYear-old
ISOIn Search Of	
LTRLong term relationship	
CDCross Dresser (not Catholic Dad)	
HWPHeight Weight Proportionate	

Now we know why Kathy has disappeared! Only took her five years to figure out that we weren't all Catholic Da



"My wife doesn't understand me."