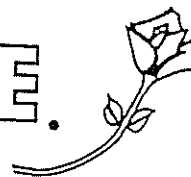




The Crystal CHRONICLE.



April 1990

Calendar of Events				
4/12	Transpitt	Social		Pittsburgh
4/14	Transpitt	Meeting		Pittsburgh
4/14	Alpha Omega	Meeting		Lakewood, OH
4/19	Cross-Port	Meeting		Cincinnati
4/21	Paradise	Meeting		Lakewood, OH
4/26-29	Emerald City	90 in 90 Weekend		Port Angeles, WA
4/28	Crystal	Meeting		Columbus
6/28	Crystal	Meeting		Columbus
5/4-6	Gulf Coast	2nd Fantasy Adventure Weekend		Houston, TX
5/10	Transpitt	Social		Pittsburgh
5/12	Transpitt	Meeting		Pittsburgh
5/12	Alpha Omega	Meeting		Lakewood, OH
5/17-20	CBS	Paradise in the Poconos		PA
5/17	Cross-Port	Meeting		Cincinnati
5/19	Paradise	Social		Lakewood, OH
5/26	Crystal	Meeting, Meral Crane		Columbus
6/6-10	Several Clubs	Be All		Pittsburgh, PA
6/7	Transpitt	Social		Pittsburgh
6/9	Transpitt	Meeting		Pittsburgh
6/9	Alpha Omega	Meeting		Lakewood, OH
6/16	Paradise	Meeting		Lakewood, OH
6/21	Cross-Port	Meeting		Cincinnati

April Meeting

Our April meeting will be on April 28 in the usual place. The doors will be open by 7:00 PM unless advance arrangements are made. Please bring a can of food with you to the meeting as a donation to the needy.

May Meeting

Our speaker for the May 26 meeting is Meral Crane. Dr. Crane is probably the best known counselor in the field of gender dysphoria in Central Ohio. She has counseled many transsexuals through the SRS process.

March Meeting

The following things were discussed at the March 24 meeting:

The Crystal Club needs a larger facility for the support meetings. We need a search committee and to set criteria for the new location. The April 28th meeting will be at the same place.

We need to think about expansion and growth.

Susan Pierce was elected Club Representative. Stephanie Leigh is the Alternate Club Representative.

The Crystal Club has business size cards to be given out in a discreet manner should the need and opportunity arise to inform an apparent CD about the Crystal Club. Please ask for them at one of the meetings if you want them.

The Crystal Club will have business meetings, all members are welcome to come.

The Crystal Club will issue membership cards to its members.

We are still undecided as to whether we should affiliate with the Renaissance Education Association.

The board will discuss the possibility of 2 meetings a month. Your input is needed here.

The Crystal Club was contacted by a radio talk show (WTVN, John Corby) about one or some of our members being on the late show to talk about crossdressing issues. If anybody is interested, talk to Stephanie Leigh.

Nancy Lucas

Our scheduled speaker Nancy Lucas of Lucas Pharmacy gave a very informative presentation on Breast Prostheses, brassiers, and supplies. Nancy is a Certified Fitting Consultant, she has considerable experience fitting mastectomy patients and seems very knowledgeable.

Nancy says a bra that fits right is very important. She carries several different bras including one with back support. (Fully weighted prostheses can get heavy after several hours.) One bra manufacturer does not recommend using Woolite for washing bras, it might kill the elastic.

As far as the breast prostheses, Nancy has 2 lines including a temporary dacron fiberfill at \$10 each, and they can be reshaped. She also has a PM leisure form (non silicone) for working around the house at \$21 each.

The lines she carries in 100% Medical Silicone are Airways and HPH. These are considerably more expensive but they are very good forms, a lot like the real thing. They're what you want if you're into passing a lot. Be very careful with them, if you puncture the forms they'll leak. The breast forms have a urethane skin with a fluid medical silicone inside. They also come in different shapes.

Airways has dark forms for black people.

The price ranges for the silicone breast forms start at \$80 each and go up to \$230 each.

There are some Do's and Don't's for silicone prosthesis owners.

Do use covers for silicone forms

Do use mild soap and put forms back in original box when not in use.

Do Watch jewelry to avoid puncture

Do wear them in a swimming pool but

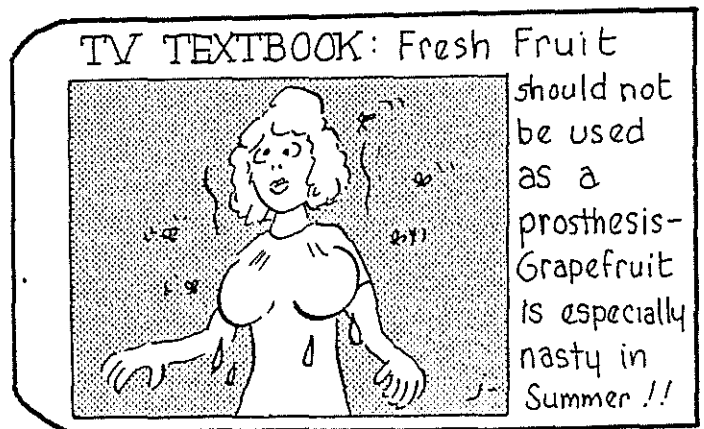
Do not wear forms on a sandy beach, sand is a problem.

To get your proper bra size, snugly pull tape around the base of the bra (while wearing it) and add 5 inches. Bras should always fit so they hook in the middle eyes. Then add your cup size (A, B, C, D) etc.

Nancy will be glad to fit members of the Crystal Club in privacy and give advice on selecting breast forms.

Nancy Lucas can be reached at 276-8098 or 237-7636. (They will take a message and page her, she'll usually call you back within a few minutes.) I was very impressed with the forms she carries.

Susan Pierce



Treasurer's Report March 1990

!Starting Balance	221.67	!
!Meeting Fees	320.00	!
!Membership Dues	30.00	!
!Advertising	50.00	!
!Total	400.00	!
!Food and Beverages	-61.33	!
!Meeting Rooms	-58.00	!
!Newsletter	-27.80	!
!Postage	-51.75	!
!Supplies	-41.72	!
!Total Expenses	-240.60	!
!		!
!Ending Balance	381.07	!

Susan

Let's Hear from You!

We've had some very nice letters from Michelle and Roberta this month. I'd like to extend a very special word of thanks to both of you for contributing to the newsletter. Let's make this more of a Crystal Club publication, and less of a "here's what's interesting from other newsletters."

People are encouraged to make suggestions for topics for discussion for the following month's meeting. You can either bring it up during the meeting, or write it down or mention it to an officer before or after the meeting. Ideas can be for speakers, or for subjects to discuss informally. It's fine to ask things, such as where to buy shoes, or how to cover 5 o'clock shadow, or the old nature vs. nurture argument, or whatever, too. Many of us have lots of good ideas.

Reminder

This is a reminder to all new members that your annual dues of \$15 are due and payable immediately. If you paid \$15 or \$20 at the March meeting, what you paid was the monthly meeting fee, to cover the cost of the meeting room, food, and beverage. If you paid \$30, you joined the Crystal Club and paid the meeting fee.

Your \$15 annual membership dues entitles you to receive the Crystal Chronicle newsletter. In addition, persons may attend only three meetings before joining. Once you join, you are entitled to attend unlimited meetings for \$15 (\$20 for couples, see the schedule on the last page) and to a \$3

discount if you preregister.

Because so many new people attended the March meeting, we've decided to go ahead and send everyone the April newsletter, even if you have not joined. Unless you do join, you won't receive the May newsletter.

To join, you can either send in a check or money order (made out to "Crystal Club") to the PO Box, or bring \$15 to the April meeting. We expect to have membership cards to give as receipts at the April meeting.

President's Column

I was overwhelmed to see such a turnout at the last meeting. I'd like to start out by thanking everyone for making the March 24th meeting the best that it has ever been. Having 30 people come out to the meeting was great. It was a joy and a pleasure to see everyone there.

I'd like to say a special thanks to Nancy Lucas, who talked about and showed us several breast prostheses. I'd highly urge anyone that is seeking this type of help to give her a call. Again thank you Nancy! You'll find her ad in the newsletter.

To announce my decision for the first committee meeting, this will be held April 18th at my apartment. This meeting place may rotate from month to month since Linda and Mary Ann have offered their homes for these meetings in the future. All officers are urged to attend as well as all interested members. This is a business meeting and only officers and members in good standing will be able to vote. You don't have to dress for this meeting but if you wish please feel free to do so. The meeting will start between 8:00 & 8:30 to give everyone time to get around. We have several topics to discuss.

Also I'd like to remind everyone about our food drive for the homeless. Please bring something to help those that are without. This not only helps those without but it shows the public that we care just as much about the community as they do and are trying to help. We need to do any & everything

positive to help ourselves inform the public.

Mary Ann thank you for having our business cards printed up. Anyone wanting some please come and see me. These will help when we approach professionals to speak to our group, seeking places to shop, and a new meeting place or party place. Hopefully we'll have our membership cards before too long.

I'd like to apologize for the inconvenience of not having our standard dressing room at the first part of the meeting. You all handled it in a ladylike manner, thank you all. We'll do our best to see that it won't happen in the future.

Also I'd like to say Happy Birthday Crystal Club. We are a year old this month. I hope that with the help of the officers and others that attend the committee meeting we'll have something special for those that attend the next meeting April 28th. I hope to see you all there for the meeting.

Rochelle Richards

Notes from Susan

We have great news for those of you who haven't heard yet. We had a record turnout at our March 24th meeting. 31 people attended the meeting. Eleven of these were new to the Crystal Club; I hope they enjoyed the meeting and I want to welcome and encourage them to come back.

What is also very encouraging is that we had 7 SO's at the meeting. I think it's great that there are so many wives and girlfriends who accept and support their crossdressing spouses as such. This is a very encouraging fact that I can tell new people that I screen.

Stephanie Reeves has suggested that we encourage our members to make suggestions for Topics for Discussion for the meetings that we don't have a speaker scheduled. We could even break off into smaller group discussions if that's what people want. I think it's a great idea; if anybody has any ideas on this please share them with us.

We need your help! There are several members who have been coming to the meetings long enough to feel very comfortable and know what's going on. We've had a few new people come out for the first time and more or less be ignored because the officers of the club were too busy to welcome and acquaint them with the club. It should be the responsibility of the "regulars" to help these new people feel welcome. I know some of you help out but we should never let new people leave without trying to reach out to them.

We have reason to be excited. Meral Crane, a licensed clinical counselor who runs the Central Ohio Gender Dysphoria Program's group therapy and who has had considerable experience counseling COs will be our guest speaker at the May 26th meeting. I have known Meral for some time, she is very qualified and caring. We are privileged to have her as a speaker. I'm sure it will be very enjoyable and informative.

Balser Adoption Approved

Congratulations to Lee Balser are in order! The Ohio Supreme Court has granted his appeal and paved the way for him to adopt Charles B, an 8-year-old boy with leukemia. Dr. Balser is one of the helping professionals who has worked with members of our group in the past, and receives our monthly newsletters.

Charles was considered unadoptable, and Dr. Balser worked with him in his professional capacity. Eventually they grew close, and Dr. Balser took steps to adopt Charles. The Licking County Human Services Department turned down the request, on the grounds that Dr. Balser is gay.

Balser took the case to court and won the right to adopt Charles. Licking County appealed, and the Licking County Appeals Court overturned the lower court decision, and prevented the adoption. Balser appealed to the Ohio Supreme Court, and after a lengthy process, the lower court decision was overturned. Charles, who has been with Balser's sister Edna for about 15 months, is now back with Balser in Columbus.

The Supreme Court decision was not without incident. Justice Alice Robie Resnick objected to the adoption because "homosexuals run a high risk of AIDS and the boy's ability to fight off infection has been weakened by leukemia treatments." (Dr. Balser is in a stable gay relationship and has been tested for AIDS, proving that he does not have it. Unless Justice Resnick thinks AIDS materializes out of thin air near gay people, she's really reaching with this one!)

Various groups, such as the Licking County Coalition for Decency and the Christian Civil Liberties Union of Columbus have urged the Licking County Commissioners to appeal the decision to the US Supreme Court. Coalition President Eva Reibel of Granville said, "I don't think this is the best home situation for Charles." (As opposed to foster homes or orphanages?)

The various groups concerns will be forwarded to Russell Payne, the director of Licking County Human Services. Fortunately, Payne is putting Charles's welfare ahead of his own sense of morals. He says there are no "sour grapes" on his part, and that he does not plan to appeal to the US Supreme Court because Charles B needs to have "permanence" in his life. "I continually tried to focus this on the best interest of the child," Payne said.

Lee, our best wishes are with you, your partner, and Charles, as now you can hopefully get on with your lives!

But Did He Pass?

Bob Martin of AT&T: "We are proud to be salespeople. Selling is a service that helps customers get what they want. And it's a rare service in the consumer retail market."

Bob tests his sales teams by posing as a customer. In a Chicago area Phone Center, he posed as a bag lady. "They sold me a typewriter," he said. And in San Antonio, he posed as a "dirty cowboy," and "they sold me a word processor. The whole thing is to accept customers--not prejudge them."

Letter from Michelle

Dear Mary Ann.

My name is Stephanie Michelle Singer (Michelle), and I would like to thank the Crystal Club for inviting me to the meeting Saturday night. I had talked to Rochelle about it on the phone but had never met any of the members. I must say it was quite unnerving knocking on that door the first time, alone. I'm glad I did. It didn't take very long for the uneasiness to subside. Everyone was very nice and the ladies were dressed beautifully. I was amazed at the number of people who came. If this keeps up you definitely will need a larger place. I also noticed a few "significant others" were there and I think that impressed me more than anything else. It's nice to know that there are others who care and try to understand. A thanks also to those who brought food and drinks. They were quite welcome after lugging all that furniture around. I had to leave early, just after the presentation by Ms. Lucas, so I didn't have time to meet anyone else. I hope to have the opportunity to meet others at future meetings.

Thanks again, you're all very nice people.

Michelle

[Michelle, thank you for coming, and for offering your letter for the newsletter! You and several others who lugged heavy couches and chairs from the other room so everyone could sit down, were a Godsend! Without you we'd have had several people standing around in heels, and just think of all the podiatrists we could have made rich! It's so nice to have gentlemen around! Also, thanks so very much for being nice enough to go by your middle name. It is amazing that "Stephanie" seems to be by far the most popular femme name chosen by our members and visitors. We're having to go by last name or initials now, and it gets confusing. Incidentally, the second and third most popular names seem to be Jennifer and Michelle, although you clearly have first claim to the name Michelle! - MAHJ

Encouraging Signs Department

Dear Rochelle:

In case you do not see the staid old New York Times or nobody else called your attention to an article in it this past Sunday, enclosed is a copy--the latest in executive apparel.

I really enjoyed the meeting last Saturday night. It was a great moment for me, and I think my wife too was glad she was there to see for herself. It is simply amazing to both of us to realize that most of the people in that room were "genetic/somatic males". You all looked great. The presentation by Nancy Lucas was enjoyable.

My wife and I plan to come next time, and I think I can dress, if the dressing room is available.

Kindest regards,
Roberta

[Roberta - many thanks for sending us the clipping. I'm reproducing it on the following page of the newsletter, it's great! We certainly expect to have the dressing room open, in spite of last month's mixup. We're going to take steps to ensure that it doesn't happen again. You haven't lived until you've lugged stuff from the next building, dressed, in 5" heels, and encountering various wedding guests along the way. Quoth the ravens: Nevermore! - MAHJ

Business

Section **3** Part 2



Herbert D. Kelleher, of Southwest Airlines.

Robert Goodale, president of Finevest Foods.



The Charlotte Observer

Managing

When the Boss Wears a Hula Skirt

It can make a point, lighten a mood or soften bad news.

By ANDREW FEINBERG

DAVE HOLMES realized that the meeting was turning into a disaster. After three uplifting days, the top worldwide managers in Du Pont's wire and cable unit had suddenly become defeatist and morose.

Mr. Holmes, who had organized the meeting, decided he had to do something dramatic to avert a fiasco. But what could he do, given the presence of his boss and what he calls Du Pont's "staid" culture?

Putting on a chicken suit was probably a bad idea.

Instead, Mr. Holmes, then a wire and cable technology manager, took the floor, spoke briefly and then smashed two saucers together like cymbals, sending pieces of cheap china flying. The 20 onlookers were stunned.

But the gloom lifted. Mr. Holmes's boss congratulated him. To commemorate the event, the head of the German office collected pieces of the shattered plates and handed them to his fellow managers as souvenirs.



David A. Sabey addressed his employees in a doorman's uniform.

Dramatic, silly, outrageous and baroque gestures are becoming increasingly common in American business. And those gestures, more and more, are winning praise from academics and consultants. "This is a very positive trend," said the consultant and author Tom Peters. "We need more dramatic acts and less stuffed-shirtedness."

Recent examples of such gestures abound. When David A. Sabey, a Seattle entrepreneur, bought the Frederick & Nelson department stores last year, he spoke to 3,300 new employees via video teleconference — dressed as a store doorman. He said it emphasized his bottom-up management style and the importance of customer contact.

William R. Berkley, chairman of Finevest Foods Inc. and chairman, too, of the W.R. Berkley Corporation, an insurance holding company, likes funny hats. At one board meeting, in a two-star general's hat and with a pistol and hand grenade next to his notepad, he presented grim financial news. The point: He wanted people to absorb the bad news, but approach the next day with a smile.

Other executives have put on clown faces (John B. Sias of Capital Cities/ABC) and dressed as Easter bunnies, cartoon characters and inarticulate movie heroes (Robert L. Crandall, chairman of the AMR Corporation, appeared as "Crandy" in an internal video). Some, like Herbert D. Kelleher of Southwest Airlines, have a whole array of costumes, ranging from wings to kilts. And an intriguingly large number of top male executives, including Sam Walton of Wal-Mart, Mr. Kelleher and Robert Goodale, president of Finevest Foods, have appeared in women's clothing. Only one chief executive — Al Neuharth of Gannett — seems to have succumbed to the urge to dress up as Jesus.

WHAT is most surprising about these actions is that they may not be as risky as they appear. "For Dave Holmes of Du Pont, the risk was perceived rather than real," said Linda Medin, a consultant with the Manitou Group of White Bear Lake, Minn., who helped set up the Du Pont meeting. "It almost always is."

Almost. The Xerox sales manager who dressed up as Hitler for his pep talk was not received well, said Mr. Peters. And while it may be hard to know where to draw the line, many consultants agree Mr. Neuharth crossed it. (In a 1989 book, he called his restaging of the Last Supper a success; it made USA Today executives realize "the days of an open cash register were over.")

Andrew Feinberg is a New York-based writer specializing in management subjects.

True believers in grand gestures say that even when they bomb, good things may result. "When you bring the authority figure down to earth an important bonding takes place with employees," said Warren Bennis, professor at the University of Southern California School of Business. And that may make chief executives feel a bit more human. "I have two photos on my office walls," said Mr. Goodale of Finevest Foods. "In one, I'm shaking President Reagan's hand. In the other, I'm wearing a hula skirt. The real me is the one in the hula skirt."

But there is a darker side to all this. "A lot of C.E.O. grand gestures are really a celebration of their own glory," said Jeffrey Sonnenfeld, a professor at Emory University's business school. And by focusing on theatrics, some executives may miss the small day-to-day symbols, which can be more important. Dressing in drag, for example, won't help a chief executive who is cutting workers' salaries while raising his own — no matter how good he looks on stage.

Choosing a Femme Name

We've had a lot of people write in recently asking about the Crystal Club. Many of them have been crossdressing privately for some time, but have never had to tell anybody their name. As a result, we've heard from a lot of Bills, Johns, and the like.

We keep track of members and potential members, and it's helpful if we have the right information so we can tell who has paid their dues or meeting fees, who to send the newsletter to, and the like. In some cases, members fear what might happen to their marriage or their job if their crossdressing became public. Our records are highly secret and only a few officers have access to them, but still it may be preferable if we refer to you by your femme name rather than your male name.

I remember when I first went into a cosmetics shop, dressed, and the lady asked my name. I had to come up with something fast, because I didn't want to give my real name, or any male name, for that matter. Out of desperation, "Mary" popped out. It wasn't until I wrote to Tri-Ess nearly a year later that I became "Mary Harris", which was the name of a childhood friend. I didn't become "Mary Ann Harris" until a year or so later, when I wanted a more feminine sounding name, and found I was running into other Marys in Ohio.

Most male crossdressers choose a femme name and introduce themselves by that name. If they are dressed, they'll go by the femme name, and if not dressed, by their male name. (On the phone or in writing, however, they'll usually use their femme name to protect their male identity.)

How does one choose a femme name? Well, there are as many ways as there are people. Some choose only a first name. Others choose a first name and last name that are different from their own. Others use a femme first name and their real last name. Some use a femme first name and a last initial, possibly their real initial.

It's pretty common to choose a first name similar to your male name. A chosen last name is also frequently similar. For example, the initials may be the same. In many cases, there is even closer resemblance, such as Georgia for George, or Stephanie for Steve.

Another approach is to use initials. A name such as P. D. Eastman is ambiguous, and could apply to either gender. For real life situations, such as those faced by transsexuals, using initials is a good way to slowly phase your new role

into real life, without freaking out the world.

Another consideration is how many other people use the same name. It's quite common to go by first name only, even in the newsletter. If you have the same first name as 20 other people, it will be confusing when people talk to you. If you write something in the newsletter, it will be hard to tell who the author is. It's a good idea to choose a name that isn't so common that everybody else is using it.

For some reason, the most popular femme name in Central Ohio is Stephanie. I count 6 Stephanie's in our mailing list, 7 if you count Stephanie Michelle (who was kind enough to start using Michelle.) Two of our officers are named Stephanie. Several people share their name with one other person.

Here is the current list of people who have joined or inquired so far: A., Alicia, Annette, Barbara, Beth, Carol, Charlotte, Cheryl Marie, Christine, Cindy (2), Connie, Debbie (2), Dene, Erika, Fran, Gina, Hillary, Jackie, Jane, Jennifer (3), JoAnne, Julie (2), Karen (2), Kathy, Kelly, Kimberly, Kristi, Lana, Leslie, Linda, Lynda, M., Mary Ann, Michelle (2), Micki, Nina, P. D., Pam, Paula, R. E., Raquel, Rebecca, Renee, Richelle, Roberta, Rochelle, Stephanie Ann, Stephanie (5), Sue, Susan, Suzanne, Sylvia, Terri, Virginia, Yvonne

The bottom line is that it's your name. If you're already calling yourself Stephanie and you like that name, you certainly shouldn't change it. Just make sure we have an initial or last name so we can keep you straight. Or pick a nickname; plenty of other Stephanies do. If you haven't chosen a name yet, we'd like to encourage you to choose one you like. It's a plus if it's your name alone, but certainly not required. Choose a name you like, and introduce yourself!

Mary Ann

Yeast Lib

Liberation movements have a way of creating an environment that isn't exactly conducive to humor. But an exception is reported by the UC Berkeley's Coalition for Animals and Animal Research. Among their recent incoming mail was a flier announcing "OUR NATION'S SHAME-EVERY TIME A LOAF OF BREAD IS BAKED, APPROXIMATELY 150,000 YEASTS ARE KILLED. Come to the award-winning 1987 film, 'The Very Small and Quiet Screams'-a cinematic electron micrograph of yeast being baked." Among the sponsors: the "Anaerobe Liberation Front," "People for the Ethical Treatment of The Yeasts (P.E.T.T.Y.)," and "Single Cell Rights Eukaryotic Action Movement (S.C.R.E.A.M.)."

Laundry Tip

Because of our beards, most of us must apply base makeup to our necks. This often causes makeup to transfer to clothing. I just discovered a great product to deal with this problem. It is called "Spray N Wash Stain Stick." Just rub it on the stain and wash as normal. I recently had a chance to really try its powers. My ivory blouse was stained by makeup and then forgotten in my garment bag for three weeks! I rubbed in the "Stain Stick" and washed as usual. Everything came out perfectly. Try it.

Courtesy Alpha Omega Outreach

Towels

Ladies, if you're dressing at the motel, please don't use the motel towels to remove gobs of makeup. It leaves stains on the towels that are hard to get off. It's better to use makeup remover or tissues to get the bulk of the makeup off. This will keep the motel happy with us. Our motel hasn't complained, but the motel of a sister group has. It's good to know that it can be damaging before we start to cause problems. There is a box of tissues at the sink in the changing room. Thanks.

Mary Ann

Sixty Minutes, More or Less

The last issue of the [Alpha Omega] Outreach carried an ad for Donna Mobley's video tape of the 1989 Holiday En Femme. I recently had a chance to see some of the tape and was most impressed. Donna is a professional in the video biz and that is exactly the quality of the tape: professional. The visuals and editing are excellent, the sound top notch, the music perfect, and the graphics most humorous. See all the things Michelle talks about in her articles. For that matter, see our own Michelle and Jennifer! The tape is an hour and forty minutes long and costs \$25, postage included. Specify VHS or Beta. Send your check to: Donna Mobley, P.O. Box 1842, Farmington, NM 98499.

One warning: In the long run, this tape may cost you a lot more than \$25. Once you watch it, you will begin saving your money so that you, too, can enjoy the 1990 Holiday En Femme!

Courtesy Alpha Omega Outreach

Diane's Thoughts

After the February meeting, having listened to Sharon, wife of new member Heather, speak, my thoughts went back to when my wife was alive and all the wonderful times we had together. Like Sharon, when my wife learned of my crossdressing, and the shock wore off, we could then talk. We were married about nine months before she learned of my situation. We remained married for 21 years and three children.

Like Heather, I took a chance in telling her. I only asked that she keep an open mind and remember that I loved her and always would. Like Sharon is to Heather, she was the most important person in my life. And just like Heather, I could not go on with the lie any longer. If we believe we are somehow protecting our wives from reality, we are only fooling ourselves.

Our situations are similar in that, no doubt, each of us was the first crossdresser our wives had ever known. As I listened to Sharon's questions, I heard the same ones asked so many years ago. Such questions and their answers were the first step in communication.

After my wife's preliminary shock wore off, her first question was: "Do you want to undergo a sex change?" I remember I said, "I love you but I do not want to be you. Please let me be me and love me for who I am, however hard that may be to accept."

Her second question was, "Are you a homosexual?" I thought that was the dumbest question I ever heard. Years later, it doesn't appear so dumb. It was a valid question, a question I asked myself around the age of 10. "No, I am not."

"How long have you been dressing?" "As long as I can remember." One experience at a young age told me that this was an "unacceptable behavior." Who was I going to talk to? My friends who had made fun of me? My parents who loved me but wouldn't understand? When I asked in a round-about way, I learned where they stood on the matter and it was not good.

I could go to my minister but just asking the question got bad results. My teacher? No way! I was alone. I had a secret I couldn't share and no one to talk to. And though you hope it will go away and never return, it does. When you think you may have outgrown it, it's back.

Sharon said, "We don't have children yet. What will we do when we do have kids?" My wife was adopted, and knew it from day one. As a child, she thought all children were adopted. She grew up with it and it was OK. One of her friends, also adopted, did not find out until later in life. She felt lied to and deceived. It was our decision to not hide my crossdressing from our children. This way they would not be devastated by an inadvertent discovery and, as a family unit, we would be strong. For us, it worked out. Our children turned out OK and our family secret was kept safe. This doesn't mean all approved but all understand. My relationship with my children is more solid than most because, as with my wife, they can talk to me about anything - no secrets. But to Sharon and Heather I must say the decisions of if and when to tell your children is yours alone.

My wife's next question after I told her was, "Is this about sex? Do you have to dress to have sex?" That was a simple answer. "No. My dressing has nothing to do with sex."

"What seems to bring on the need to dress?" To one who does not cross dress, this may seem like an easy question to answer. After all these years, I do not know an answer. I prayed to God I did so I could avoid that place or time.

As a final thought, I would like to thank each and every one of you for allowing me to share my memories. Words can never express my feelings or the emotions which are deep down inside. Like Nancy and I, Sharon and Heather are on the road to understanding. We did not have a group like Alpha Omega then, only ourselves to share what we felt for each other.

Sharon, let your love grow and it will grow in ways other couples will never experience. Now your marriage can be all it can be.

Heather, a very important part is your understanding of your wife and her needs. Now that your secret is out, you may believe that your problem is solved. But keep an open mind and listen. Keep her concerns tight to your heart. As a team, you can't lose.

Thank you,
Diane

P.S. Being trapped is a terrible feeling - you can explode inside. No one to talk to and you must be cool and calm on the outside. Think about this the next time you close the door on someone you love and don't communicate.

Courtesy Alpha Omega Outreach

Sick Day

Watching the others trudge to the morning bus,
like linked elephants past my living room windows,
I danced in my head, great arching leaps, then down
en pointe, 12 liquid twirls, and grateful applause.

My mother had called in. I was "sick." She was gone to work.
Here was a day without pain.

Up to the drawers, closets and small hiding spaces.
Panties from here, a scarf from there, a skirt rolled up at
the waist to show a saucy glimpse of leg.

Rouge, lipstick, a touch of perfume.
Dressing, dressing, but never looking in the mirror.
Just feeling. At home. Comfortable. Appropriate.

Not until hours later, when passing a hallway mirror,
I stopped and looked. And my eyes met a new face.
My face. And there was a rush of recognition.
A big sister? An old acquaintance?

No, me. But a me with such a calm, cool, clear sense
of identity that I stared in disbelief. Here was
a girl who could do anything. Anything? I asked.
My eyes looked back, understanding and warm, like the doctor
who knows the answer to a familiar question and is ready to
reassure a fearful and flighty patient.
"Yes," my eyes said, "anything. It is all possible.
But I have to be here. You can't just pull me out in
bits and pieces from behind a drawer
on an odd Thursday in March
and expect me to help you."

I looked and looked. I looked: diving into a cool lake,
deep into a trackless, welcoming infinity.
A sense of complete security flooded me,
a great wave of energy and purpose.
It was all there. I saw it so simply.
In my eyes, in my new face.
In the person I was.

And the joy was so terrifying I ran to put all the clothes
away and spent the rest of the day in
bland and aimless activity
trying to forget
what I had just
seen.

Chris

Courtesy Alpha Omega Outreach

Gender Rhymes

What two strange people do to keep each other awake on the way back from an IXE meeting, or Please Goose Me Dear.

Little Miss Muffet,
decided to rough it
wearing a shirt and tie
she went on a date
and thought it was great
that she felt just like one of the guys.

Peter Peter
felt much sweeter
than his wife Michelle
now he wears
her skirts and hose
and passes very well.

Humpty Dumpty
went to the ball
Humpty Dumpty
wore a long fall
all the king's horses
and all the king's men
never saw Humpty
the same way again.

Ol' Jack Hubbard
went to the cupboard
to find something to stuff his brassier
He went out one day
dressed just that way
and everyone thought we was weird.

Jack as Jill
went up the hill
to fill her bra with water
Jill fell down
and tore her gown
and soaked her brand new halter

Little boy blue
your dress is torn
your makeup is running
your shoes are worn.
Get out of the bar
you look too cheap
you need to go home
and get some sleep.

By Sharon and Alice.
Courtesy IXE Newsletter.

Human Rights

The folks at **Gender Dysphoria Support** in Kansas City are participating in the fight for human rights for all people in their city. The **Kansas City Human Rights Ordinance Project** (HROP) is recommending to the city council that specific wording be amended to the existing civil rights ordinance to afford equal protection for people on the basis of "actual or perceived" sexual orientation. The wording of the amendment includes transvestites and transsexuals.

This is the same approach taken by the good folks up in Seattle and it seems to have worked there. The HROP, however, was under the impression that only Seattle has an ordinance protecting transgendered people. That's only partly true. While Seattle may currently be the only city to specifically mention transvestites and transsexuals in their ordinance, North Hollywood, CA and Cambridge, MA are the only two cities in the country that have all-inclusive ordinances protecting the civil rights of everyone, gay, straight, or transgendered.

[Courtesy Renaissance News.]

Fantasy Adventure Weekend

It seems the weekend in Houston has been not without controversy. It was originally canceled due to a rift between the host groups, Gulf Coast TV and the Tau Chi chapter of Tri-Ess. The ruckus was about allowing children to attend the event. The Tri-Ess side was to allow children, but Gulf Coast wanted them banned. Renaissance comments that Jane Ellen Fairfax, Tau Chi leader, was the most involved since last year her two children were the only ones present.

Now that Tau Chi has withdrawn, GCTV will host the event by themselves. The dates are May 4-6, 1990. For more information, contact Jackie Thornton, PO Box 441754, Houston TX 77244.

[Courtesy Renaissance News.]

Alien Nation

A television show, based on a science fiction movie, has probably done more to foster the understanding of transgender behavior than all the transvestites and transsexuals on all the talk shows combined.

Alien Nation, a Fox TV show based on the movie, has taken the opportunity of using an alien species to explore our concepts of masculinity and femininity. The Newcomer aliens share the birth of their children. The fetus begins to gestate in the female alien and is then transferred to the male alien, who then carries it to term.

The two-part show dealing with the birth of Vesta, the baby alien, brought into question many of our society's inconsistent views of gender roles. At one point, George Francisco, the alien father played by Eric Pierpoint, says "Many Newcomer males don't feel truly masculine until they give birth." The second show ends with Francisco's partner Matt Sikes, played by Gary Graham, helping to deliver a premature Vesta.

The writers and producers of Alien Nation are to be commended for their courage and foresight to explore these sensitive issues.

Congress Did It

In case you missed it, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1989 specifically excluded transvestites and transsexuals from the definition of disabled persons. Louise L. Raeder, writing in Twenty Minutes thinks that we need some kind of legislation that would specifically forbid discrimination against us.

We see no advantage to being classified as "disabled" and we see no reason to expect special treatment for being a transsexual or a transvestite. We also do not see any progress to be made in the area of transgender rights until people in this community are willing to say out loud, "My name is Joe (Jane) Public and I'm a transsexual (or transvestite)."

Gay and lesbian rights were not earned by whining but by coming out in the open to fight. Take a lesson from their experience.

[Yeah, but who's gonna go first?]

[Courtesy Renaissance News.]

Policies

The Crystal Club is an open support group for cross dressers. We welcome TV, TS, TG, FI, and others who assume a complete trans-gendered identity. We welcome their spouses and significant others (SO's.) We welcome guests from other cross dressing organizations, when cleared through an officer.

Meetings are the fourth Saturday evening of each month. Meetings are open only to cross dressers who have been screened or approved by an officer, and to cross dresser's spouses/SO's, helping professionals, and approved guests. The location of the hotel is given out after the screening process. There is a monthly meeting fee (see schedule below) to cover the cost of the room, food, beverage, and general operating expenses of the group. This fee is above and in addition to annual membership dues.

Nonmembers may attend as many as three meetings before joining. Usually a new member will join at their first meeting, making a total payment of \$30 (\$35 for couples) at their first meeting.

We do not care about the sexual preference of the members and attendees. We do, however, require that all attendees behave like ladies or gentlemen at all times. Everyone has the right to feel secure, knowing they will not be ridiculed for their dressing or their appearance, and knowing they will not be "hit on" by anyone present.


We require that all attendees come completely dressed as the gender they are presenting, i.e. entirely as a woman or entirely as a man. Members will usually dress, but this is not required. Persons are not permitted to arrive partially dressed, for example, a dress and male hair, or a dress and an unshaven face, as this may draw unwanted attention to the rest of the group. Ladies' pants and casual wear are fine. An adjacent changing room is available if you prefer to come in male clothing and dress at the meeting site.

Membership is \$15 per year in advance. After the first

complementary copy of the newsletter, additional newsletters are sent only to members who have paid their dues. First year membership will run for 12 months from the date of payment. Second year membership will be pro-rated to run out at the end of the Crystal Club fiscal year, June 30. Additional years will be from July 1 to June 30.

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Cancellation policy: up to two days before an event: 100% refund. From two days until noon of the event day: 50% refund. After noon on the day of the event: no refund.



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Reservation Form

For April 28 meeting, reservations must be received in the mail by April 24, at Box 287, with payment, to qualify for the "early bird" rates. You can also pay at the previous meeting if you wish. Include your femme name, mailing name and address.

Before April 24:

Members	\$12.00
Member couples	\$17.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

After April 24:

Members	\$15.00
Member couples	\$20.00
Non-members	\$15.00
Non-member couples	\$20.00

Mail To:
 Crystal Club
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 Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-0287

