



THE JOURNEY

NEWSLETTER OF THE BUFFALO BELLES

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COME FOR THE GAMES. STAY FOR THE FUN AT THE FEBRUARY 12 BELLES MEETING.

FLIP YOUR WIG ! OR GET A NEW ONE AT THE WIG PARTY HAPPENING ON FEBRUARY 19. FOR INFORMATION SEE PAGE 3.

NOW IS A GREAT TIME TO BREAK OUT THOSE RED ITEMS YOU HAVE AND WEAR THEM TO THE FEBRUARY MEETING.

KATHY'S NOTES



Dear Sisters,

We seemed to have survived the Y2K disasters, as a good turnout was had for our first meeting of the new millennium. It was a very pleasant night for January, especially considering how cold and snowy it would turn, finally, a few days later when this is being written. How good those 30's look now on an evening of single digits. It would be interesting to see how many would be turning out if tonight was the meeting night, in skirts and dresses this evening.

The January meeting hadn't any special program other than just a chance for the girls to gather and talk for the evening. Gina, formerly Becky, formally Angela, must have been doing some closet cleaning over the holidays, as she brought in quite a few garments for the girls to acquire for cheap or next to nothing. It got a little more interesting when someone tried to buy the coat hanging on the rack, not an item that Gina had brought in.

The word seems to have gotten out that we are starting earlier now, do to our vacating the premises early than before. The pizza was ordered by 7:30, and for those who arrived an hour later, missed out on having a couple of slices with the gals. However, we did have three guests paying a visit this evening, and were enlisted in our quest to consume that pie. We welcomed Janis, whom came all the way from Ithaca to join our party. Kelly brought along Ellen and

Marsha from the Rochester CD Net group. It was a pleasure to have all you three here and hope that you will return in the near future.

Kelly was rewarded with bringing along her two guests by winning the 50/50 split jackpot of \$11.50. Of course it would have been a little more worthwhile if her luck had been with her eight days previously, but I'm pretty sure she isn't a short order cook, and will have to be satisfied her meager reward for doing good.

Camille did hold a business meeting. She gave a general review of the year and what we hope to accomplish as a group. Her goal is that we have one hundred members by the end of next year. She will be doing her part, as an expanded effort will be made to reach out to the community at large to make our presence known.

We, both as the Belles and of the community at large, have been well accepted by the Gay & Lesbian community as a whole. For the last several months, we have been receiving a request that we have someone representing us at the Gay & Lesbian Coalition of Western New York, Inc.'s monthly meeting. How about You volunteering to be this person? They hold monthly meetings at Aids Community Services building at 206 South Elmwood Ave. by Chippewa St. The next one is January 27 at 5:30 PM. The meeting's topic is "Setting the Local Agenda for 2000 AD".

Here we have the largest, all encompassing group of the gay community reaching out and asking us to join them. They are also the publishers of the local newspaper "Outcome", which with the passing of Voices, is the last largely distributed publication of its kind in the area. More than one member of the Belles found her way here via that paper.

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CAMILLE'S CORNER

Dear Readers,

It's February, and it's way too cold. I'm bundled up so much I can hardly detect my body under all these winter clothes. What should one do to get through the 'cruellest' month of the year? For those in a relationship, it can be a wonderful time to work on improving the bond that connects the two of you. Perhaps a weekend away, or a special dinner, maybe an evening out dancing. Whatever you do, treat her like she's the most wonderful, sensuous, luscious woman in the world. And if she knows about your femme side, she needs to know you truly love her now more than ever. In other words, turning up the romance thermostat makes for a warmer relationship.

For others, like myself, who are not currently in a relationship, we need to discover, learn more about and play with our sensuous femme side. Some ideas that could help: take the phone off the hook, light some scented candles and take a bubble bath; send some flowers to yourself (you deserve them); make reservations to have a 'Glamour Shot' photo session (contact me for the name and phone of a photographer); fix a special meal and invite some other T-girls over or go out to a nice place for dinner; go to a Wig Party (see announcement on page 3); for those who like to travel, TG friendly Toronto has many hotels that give hefty discounts during the less busy winter months. You get the idea. Be good to yourself. It can build confidence, help you develop a positive attitude and give you a sense of well being.

Some random ramblings: Two films with transgender themes are doing well winning awards. Golden Globe awards went to

Hilary Swank as best actress for her riveting portrayal of the F to M transsexual, Brandon Teena, in *Boy's Don't Cry*. The other award went to *All About My Mother* for best foreign film. I've seen them both and I highly recommend them.

Club Marcella is having their fifth Annual *Red Party* this Saturday from 10pm to closing. Last year's was a lot of fun. Wear something red and go.

At the February 12th meeting we've got a few interesting things going on. We're having some games to celebrate the time of the year (Valentines) and because winter can be so boring, unless you're a skier (guess who isn't one). Also on our agenda is an appearance by Tina Mack, who is one of the best seamstress's in town and friendly to the TG community. Come and meet her and discuss making arrangements to have some of your outfits altered. You know you've been meaning to have that little black dress shortened but didn't know who to take it to. Now's your chance.

One of the media people who has been supportive and kind to the TG community, is newspaper columnist, Ann Landers. Even though the following is unrelated to TG activity, it is good advice nonetheless: "A scent is not to be announced, but to be discovered." (from column on a guideline for applying perfume.) Another way of saying less is more.

Another person who supports the TG community and gets the word out about the Buffalo Belles is Miss Suzi and her Studio 430 store in downtown Buffalo. She has had a new website up and running for a few weeks. Give it a try the next time you have your browser fired up. Her URL is: http://www.geocities.com/suzis_studio/

Hope to see you at the meeting. Stay warm.

Hugs,
Camille



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NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

Hello Again,

Some endeavors are easier than others, but you knew that! My contribution this month will not be hard to write, that's for sure. I know it's February and cabin fever is setting in, so I won't bore you with some theory of mine on what makes up the universe. I'm going back in time, because as I may have mentioned, hindsight is always the best way to go.

For those who missed our Christmas gala, shame on you! We had a large crowd of ladies all decked out in their holiday

finery. I have not seen that much glitz in years. Too bad you missed seeing Patti because she was looking extra good! We had several girls attending who have not been to a meeting in some time, and I met one gal who was there for the first time. I finally managed to win a little door prize after buying many tickets. I can always use some lipstick even if it did cost me \$10! I also got a really beautiful jewelry box in the gift exchange. I love bringing a \$5 gift and walking out with one that probably cost 3 times as much. How does that happen?

The buffet table was loaded, Christmas music was playing.

(Continued on page 4)

ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU WENT TO A WIG PARTY?

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19,
FROM 6 TO 8 PM AT

NEWBURY STREET
HAIR, WIG AND
WELLNESS CENTER

Newbury Street will be open only for the members of the Buffalo Belles on this special night.

Karen of Newbury's will have over 100 wigs on hand for you to try on. Refreshments will be served.

Changing rooms will be available.

2884 NIAGARA FALLS BOULEVARD
NORTH TONAWANDA

694-4528

(Continued from page 3)

NANCY'S PERSPECTIVE

everyone was in a party mood, so I think it very appropriate to thank the powers that be for pulling this affair together. Camille, Kathy and Patti were at the forefront, I'm sure, and they didn't disappoint this old broad! Hopefully you will attend our next meeting and our next party. We would love to see you there.

My final comments are directed at our fearless leaders. As many of you know, Camille is stepping back a little from the everyday demanding/time consuming responsibilities she has been involved with for all our benefit. She will be around, and you will see her fingerprints in things we do, but she will be scaling back. We are in good hands since Patti is stepping up to fill some of the void being created. Camille has eluded to using her feminine charm to get the word out about who we are, and what makes us so special. I hope you will tell Camille what a great job she has done for us, and wish her the best of luck with the new undertaking she is about to face.

That's all for this time. COME ON DOWN!! See you at the next meeting.

Your sister,
Nancy

JANUARY MEETING ATTENDANCE:

Brenda D.
Camille H.
Crystal & Tanya
Danalyn D.
Denise M.
Gina A.
Giulia
Holly I.
Jo S.
Kathy L.
Kelly H.
Patti J.
Victoria
April (guest)

(Continued from page 1)

KATHY'S NOTES

Some people like to make the argument that we are not part of the Gay Community. After all, most of us in the Belles are heterosexual cross dressers, not gay. Technically you may be right. But to society as whole, you sure are queer! It is only through the united efforts of all factions that we can ever hope to get the power to help pass legislation that can help all of us. Both locally, and statewide.

Camille also discussed some of the upcoming meetings. We hope to have hair and wig expert Freddie in to perform his magic soon. Also a color consultant has been contacted. A few other ones were mentioned. Perhaps there will be a note regarding next months meeting elsewhere in this rag about what is happening then. But even if nothing special is planned, just coming out to a meeting can still be such a pleasure.

Following the meeting, many, and I mean many, took in a few little imbibements at the usual watering hole, Secrets. Added to the 3/4 of the Belles girls who came down to enjoy, was another handful of gals to partake. At one point we made up half of the population of the place. We all enjoyed the excellent singing of Manty and the Shy Guys. He put on a good show. Maybe next month, we'll track down where Lance Diamond is doing his act, and let him serenade us!

DUES ARE DO!

A few took advantage of the opportunity and paid their dues at the meeting. But don't let not attending get in your way, feel quite free to send in a check to "Buffalo Belles" or "cash" or even send real cash to our PO Box. What, you still don't know how much you owe? The answer is right there on the envelope this missive of Msformation arrived at your hands in. Right next to your name is an amount needed to keep you in our good graces.

If you cannot afford to pay your dues, then a request for relief must be made to Kathy, Camille or Patti. There will be no carryovers made from last year.

THE LIBRARY has been cleaned up and an accounting made. Gone are all the 3-ring binders containing newsletters of other groups. Gone are multiple duplicate copies of videos. Girls, we are missing quite a few books and videos however. If you have any materials, please return them as soon as possible.

The 3-ring binders that survived the culling include one with all copies of this newsletter since inception seven+ years ago. Another contains our photo album. Do you have your photo in it? Or maybe some old photo you'd like to update? Check it out some time!

A separate listing of our materials will be made elsewhere, maybe.

BCNU February 12th,
Kathy

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

TRANSGENDER DELEGATE TO GO
TO THE DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL
CONVENTION

Chicago, IL — January 19, 2000 — On January 12, Miranda Stevens-Miller became the first known transgender woman to be slated as a Delegate to the Democratic National Convention. She is running as a Bradley Delegate from the 8th Congressional District.

There are several other delegates from Illinois to the Democratic National Convention from the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community. These include Ellen Meyers and Linda Turney, both of whom are Bradley Delegates from the 5th Congressional district, and Mary Morten and Michael Bauer, both Gore Delegates.

Stevens-Miller, who is Vice Chair of Equality Illinois and Chair of It's Time Illinois, said, "The Bradley team certainly took a risk in asking a transgender woman to serve as a Delegate. But I would expect no less from a man who has fought bigotry throughout his career. Every once in a while a Presidential Candidate comes along who makes you proud to be an American. Bradley is such a Candidate."

Stevens-Miller is running with three other Democrats in a district which is known as a bastion of conservatism. Nevertheless, the group of Delegates from the 8th Congressional District were easily able to get over 5 times the number of signatures they needed to file the required petitions on January 12.

BRITISH SOCCER STAR GETS A
KICK FROM HIS WIFE'S KNICKERS

Knickers was hardly the worst thing shouted at David Beckham by opposition fans. Until now.

The country's most gifted football (soccer) player, as well



known for his headscarves and sarongs as for his silky soccer skills, has endured months of cruel terrace taunts. But the Beckham baiters were handed extra material yesterday by his wife, Victoria, the Spice Girl.

Even in the public arena that is the world of Posh and Becks, did we really need her to inform us that David likes to wear her underwear? Victoria told Johnny Vaughan on Channel 4's *The Big Breakfast*: "He likes to borrow my knickers." She quickly corrected herself by saying her comment was a joke, but Vaughan pounced. He said: "I know you're not joking - you're trying to make out you are now, but he wears your pants. Is it thongs or big pants?" "Thongs," she whispered sheepishly.

It is only a matter of time before football fans compose words to the tune of *Air on a G-string*. But this would be gentler than the vicious barbs Beckham receives about his wife and baby boy, Brooklyn.

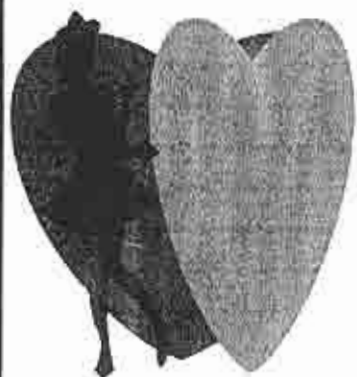
Beckham has said: "There are things that people say that upset me. In a couple of games it has been about my son. If people want to shout that then the only thing I can do to upset them is to go and score a goal or set one up, which I have done most of the time this season. That tends to keep them quiet."

For Beckham's hordes of teenage devotees, male and female, his adoption of a Spice Girl thong will be a fashion statement too far. Lisa Armstrong, fashion editor of *The Times*, said: "I just don't understand physically how he can fit into her G-strings."

John Morgan, author of *The Times* weekly guide to etiquette, *Modern Manners*, refused to condemn Mrs. Beckham. "Celebrities live their lives by a completely different rule-book... For them it is undoubtedly an expression of their own togetherness."

Written by David Charter
Times Newspapers Ltd.

Games, Prizes,
Fun and You! At the



Feb. 12
Belles
meeting

TRANS COMMUNITY NEWS

THE 'MARTHA STEWART' OF DRAG

Brini Maxwell, the svelte and stylish creation of Ben Sander, is a drag queen's answer to Martha Stewart. Dressed in a meticulously coiffured blond wig, patent leather pumps and an array of vintage dresses, she gushes over obscure household tips, etiquette and recipes on her weekly television show.

Annoyed by the black heel marks on the kitchen linoleum? Try a dab of lighter fluid on a paper towel. Want to save money on paper plates? Wash and reuse the trays from TV dinners. Interested in a new dish to delight your guests? How about a crown roast of cheese?

"Cheese," says Brini, stealing a line from the critic Clifton Fadiman, "is milk's leap to immortality."

"The Brini Maxwell Show," taped in Mr. Sander's small Chelsea apartment by his mother, the actress Mary Jane Wells, appears in Manhattan on a leased access television channel on Friday nights. Though there are no viewer ratings systems for leased access cable shows, Brini (rhymes with "teeny") has received hundreds of letters and e-mail messages since the show began in January 1998.

"My husband and I always enjoy your show and try to watch it every week," Brenda Dally said by e-mail.

"I must admit, though," she continued, "that after one of your episodes, I feel quite inadequate to my role of wife, and know that my hubby probably feels a twinge of regret at marrying a modern career woman instead of an efficient, elegant nest builder like you."

Mr. Sander says his alter ego's appeal lies in her polish.

"Brini is a terribly good cook and hostess," he said. "She is the perfect homemaker. She slips in the door because she isn't threatening. She ushers in gay culture in an acceptable disguise."

Men in heels are nothing new on television. Milton Berle regularly donned a dress on "The Texaco Star Theater" in the late 1940's. Ru-Paul had a talk show on VH1 from 1996 to 1998 and has appeared in Old Navy commercials.

But if drag makes steady appearances on nationwide television, it has flooded Manhattan cable television: there are now four weekly programs with drag queen hosts and one with a woman dressed as a man.

Brini was one of four drag queens nominated for the Glammy Award for Best TV performer, given by the drag queen community last month.

Some 300 drag queens and their guests burst into applause as Brini, dressed in an ivory floor-length skirt with a side slit, a black sweater and a Mongolian lamb's wool wrap, swooshed through the crowd and onto the stage to accept the award.

"It is wonderful how supportive the drag community is of each other," she said, her white rhinestone necklace flashing in the stage lights.

Brini has appeared in 28 episodes. The program started as "At Home With Tigs" and centered on a jet-setting drag character. But Mr. Sander felt the character was "too tony" and turned to his fourth-floor walk-up for inspiration; his apartment is filled with furniture, artwork and dishes that are decades old.

He then took the name Brini from a character in a Stephanie Powers mini-series called "Deceptions" in which she played twins. The name Maxwell came from Barbra Streisand's character in "What's Up, Doc?"

Brini's outfits include capri pants, produced on Mr. Sander's sewing machine, and billowy skirts with garish bows.

The result is a composite of television characters played by Donna Reed, Marlo Thomas and Mary Tyler Moore.

"Ben is trying to recreate his childhood," Ms. Wells volunteered from the kitchen.

"Mom," he says, "I was born in 1969." Although the fictional models were long gone by the time Mr. Sander became a dedicated television viewer, he reaches out to recreate the security and innocence of their worlds.

"With Brini I have more self-confidence," Mr. Sander said. "I express myself more freely. I think of myself as an icon. Without Brini I am a loner who finds it difficult to make lasting friendships. Parts of me are so disparate and there is some shame associated with them. It is difficult to let all of myself be known to people. I guess part of me is ashamed of being gay."

Each show opens with a montage of shots of Brini: posing in Central Park on the Alice in Wonderland sculpture (as did the television character Rhoda); standing in front of Bergdorf Goodman in a bright checkered coat and turquoise hat; wearing a blue and white dress, along with a red, white and blue pillbox hat, in front of the Queensboro Bridge.

Episodes revolve around tensions between Brini and her neighbor Mary Ellen, played by Thom Hansen. Mary Ellen, whose acerbic asides are lost on Brini, is recruited into various household tasks she would prefer to forgo. When Brini makes Swedish meatballs, Mary Ellen is ordered to knead the ground meat, but finds that her fake fingernails come off in the dish.

"A wise woman will prepare her nails after dinner," Mary Ellen intones into the camera.

Brini inserts 30-second shorts that give household tips, like boiling spices in a pan to get rid of the smell of stale cigarette smoke.

Sadness is held at bay, even when it intrudes in the lives of the cast. Mary Ellen is the willing victim in an episode on how to care for an invalid, taped while Mr. Hansen's real-life partner was dying of lung cancer. Brini calls the delivery of the food to the bedridden Mary Ellen "Meals on Heels."

"Donna Reed's mother would never have died," Mr. Hansen, 46, said in an interview.

Last night's show was "A Salute to Wine and Cheese," although Brini slips cheese into nearly every episode. Brini told viewers how to store cheese and how to make toasted sesame cheese wafers and classic cheese fondue. Mary Ellen warned viewers how not to be taken in by the pretense of wine, although she mispronounced every label she picked up. For example, she pronounced the "t" in merlot. The half-hour program ended with a wine and cheese party in the apartment.

But the show isn't all cooking and cleaning. "Ladies, what do you do with your free time?" Brini asked in one episode, wearing an ivory short-sleeve sweater and a plaid skirt and dangling a black pocketbook from her ankle. "I mean the time you spend waiting for the dentist, or on the subway, or at the plastic surgeon's or gynecologist's office? Well, here is an interesting option. Why not get beneficial exercise and use your purse as a leg weight. No one wants cottage cheese thighs."

FOR A BETTER YOU...



MAKING YOUR OWN HIP PADS

This is how I did it. Fairly simple, quick and cheap.

Get a piece of dense foam rubber 2-4 inches thick and 2 foot by 2 foot. I used an old cushion off of an easy chair that was being thrown away. It was free.

Cut the cushion into 2 symmetrical pieces shaped like: holsters/ pork chops/ the continent of Africa. Pick the image that is easiest for you to picture. Taper one side of the foam a quarter inch or so thick at the edge and tapering in perhaps 4-6 inches. An electric carving knife is ideal for cutting foam rubber but scissors work.

The hip padding is worn with the long section extending down the outside of the leg and the wide portion wrapping around the buttocks. Wear them with the flat side out and they look smoother than the tapered side outwards. I try to

make them thick enough that the width of the hips balances the width of the shoulders. It makes me look 15 pounds heavier but in most women, extra pounds are normal.

I wear mine under body shaper garment that goes from the waist to the knee, but then I usually wear long skirts and slacks. If you wear short skirts try making a shorter set and wearing them under a long leg girdle. You can make pads that just wrap around the hip area and wear them under a panty girdle. If you use a foam that is not dense enough, try wearing them under control top panty hose instead of a foundation garment.

Find some photos of full frontal shots of female nudity or in bikinis. You will see that the widest point is not at the hips. The widest point is on the side of the leg, bottom of the crotch level, where the leg bone angles into the hip socket.

-Wendy Bernadette



VACUUM YOUR MAKEUP BRUSHES

Try this discovery. By using the hose part of the vacuum cleaner and holding your brushes tightly, you can clean the brushes very well, even the small ones. You will have to work the brushes around and flare them so that the built up make up will fly off and get sucked away into the vacuum cleaner.

Fashion Tips

FROM "INSTANT STYLE"

By Emily Cho and Neila Fisher

If you really want your perfume to last, spray some on a piece of cotton and tuck it into your bra.

Don't use non-waterproof mascara on lower lashes. It smudges into makeup and under-eye cream.

If you are heavy, don't wear:

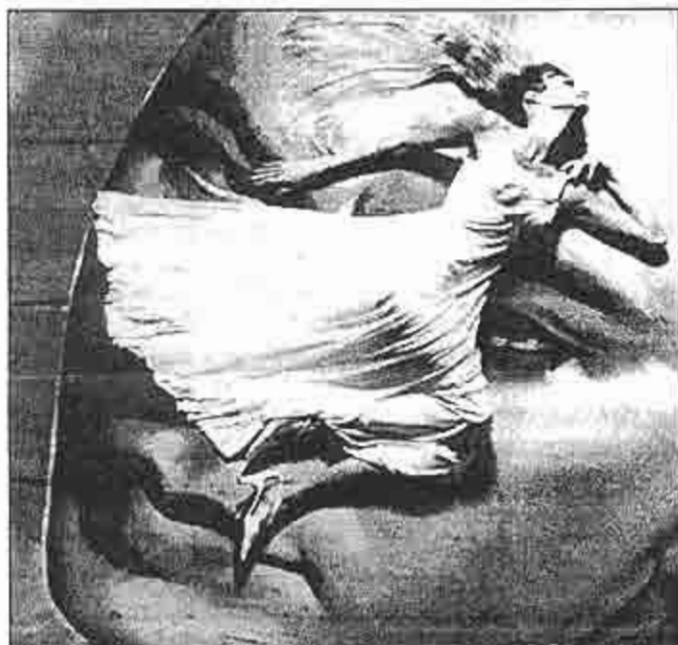
- small floral prints
- ruffles
- small bows
- sweet pastels

You'll look larger in contrast.



CROSSDRESSERS - AND THE MEN WHO LOVE THEM

by Yvonne Sullivan



Know where to draw the line between fantasy and reality

About two or three times a month I get a letter from what we in the transgender and crossdressing community refer to as an admirer. Typically, these men either would like to meet me and take me out on a date, or want to know where they can meet crossdressers and transsexuals. Typically, they are not crossdressers themselves, although some admit to having tried crossdressing.

At first I pretty much ignored this e-mail. I myself was not interested in meeting men, even for friendships. My detachment, however, gave way to curiosity when I realized that there were quite a few admirers out there (a rather large percentage of them were right here in my area of Albany, NY). I started to feel that I needed to take the subject more seriously. I don't want to close my mind to issues around crossdressing that are personally not important to me, or personally objectionable. In this case, dating men is just not important to me, mostly because I am involved in a long term, monogamous relationship.

I also came to the realization that many male-to-female transgender persons have a need at some level to experience being in the female role in what appears to be outwardly a heterosexual relationship. Not that this necessarily means having some kind of sex with a man. It may be as simple and

as harmless as being taken out for coffee, dinner or a drink.

While almost all of us *fantasize* about playing the female role, a much smaller number of us act on that fantasy. And with good reason. Many crossdressers are married, and view such actions, rightly so, as a form of cheating on their wives. Others feel guilt and shame over having some kind of homosexual fantasy, even though this is common among men, including many men who are not crossdressers.

Yet the reality is, that as we spend more time in a female role, the desire to explore this role further does grow. Perhaps not to the point of wanting to go the route of full SRS, or to even necessarily want to spend significantly more time crossdressed, but to spend the time crossdressed more immersed in a female role.

To a certain extent, the Internet and the Web have allowed some of us to play out this role in a virtual world. Many of us never venture out into the real world *en femme*, and cyberspace is the only place where others get to see the inner woman. But many of us do meet the public and have discovered that a crossdressed man out in public does not cause the world to stop spinning. And we begin to feel that we have a right to do what we do. Our sense of self, who we are, changes. As our comfort level with being out in public grows, we start to imagine more of the possibilities that are opening up to us. We begin to think of ourselves, if only temporarily, as women. Others may not think so, but we do.

So I can understand why crossdressers would want to spend time with a man, wanting to explore a new role, fulfill a fantasy. However, I hesitate to ask why a man would want to pursue a relationship with a transgendered person. Simply asking the question implies that there is something wrong with it, that it somehow doesn't fit into a cultural norm. So I don't ask these people why they want to meet crossdressers. I take for granted that they do. After all, everyone wants to meet *someone*.

But relationships can be battle zones, full of land mines. People can, and often do, get hurt. You may get what you asked for, but not what you wanted.

And this is really the most important thing: there is a strong element of exploration on the part of both the transgendered and their admirers. Some people know exactly what they want, and many don't. And some don't know they didn't want something until it's too late.

I know that this is starting to sound very negative, as if I am trying to persuade you. I'm not. But whether you are a crossdresser or an admirer, I think your expectations should be realistic. Some men look very good when they dress and wear makeup, some look better than many women. Many of us don't, which is why crossdressers sometimes turn to hormones, hair removal and cosmetic surgery despite having no plans to live full time or transition.

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An admirer may find himself out with, dare I say it, a guy in a dress. If that's what you are looking for, then you won't be disappointed. But if you have only admired from a distance, and have never really met a crossdresser, then you are pursuing a fantasy. Reality often fails to rival our fantasies. On the other hand, if you are a crossdresser looking for validation from an admirer, you may instead find yourself in the role of sex object.

One of the things, I believe, that attracts some men to crossdressers is the "hyper-femininity" that crossdressers often express through their choices in clothing, makeup and wigs. Crossdressers rarely, if ever, don shorts, t-shirt and sneakers when they want to cross dress. Makeup is almost never applied lightly, so as to not be noticeable. For most crossdressers, crossdressing usually means dressing up.

Being wanted only as a sexual object may be thrilling at first to a crossdresser, especially one who has been in the closet for the most part, but it won't satisfy anyone with a reasonably healthy self esteem for very long. Being told by an admirer you are beautiful and sexy is nice to hear.

If you are a crossdresser who has an unsupportive or hostile partner, then the desire for validation and acceptance will be even stronger. This kind of circumstance is not limited to the crossdressing community. If you have ever worked with troubled adolescents, you know that they often engage in reckless, risky behavior as a way to get attention and affection. This is especially true in highly dysfunctional families. The need to fill a void left by unsupportive parents is a major factor in teenage

pregnancies. These girls want *someone* to love them.

I'm not implying that every crossdresser who seeks some kind of relationship with a man is in a dysfunctional relationship. But you should answer that question for yourself and realize that if this does apply to you, you need to be pursuing other solutions to your problems.

In a similar vein, admirers may also be vulnerable to being used by crossdressers who only want to act out a fantasy or satisfy their bisexual curiosity. I have seen personal ads from men who want a long term relationship with a transgendered person. A crossdresser may be seeking a one night stand.

Sexual fantasy rarely takes into consideration consequences. That's what makes them so much fun. That's part of the fantasy. Like Isadora Wing's "zipless fuck" in *Fear Of Flying*. No name. No face. But the reality is too scary to ignore. In the '90s, casual sex kills, so you really have to know the person you're with. That's called a relationship. And there's never anything casual about relationships.

I think it's important for us to explore our gender, to experiment with sexuality, to live life with no regrets. But no one is so completely free from all responsibility and commitment that they can do so without a thought for the consequences.

Yvonne Sullivan lives in the Albany, NY area and more of her writings can be found on her website: <http://www.albany.net/~yms/yvonne1.htm>

QUESTION: WHY DO SOME MEN DIE YOUNGER?
ANSWER: SEE PHOTO.

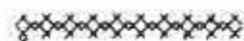




COMING EVENTS



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



- | | |
|------------------|---|
| ❖ FEBRUARY 5 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:30pm |
| ❖ FEBRUARY 12 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 6:00pm |
| ❖ FEBRUARY 12 | THE RED PARTY 10:00pm to 4:00am
Club Marcella, downtown Buffalo |
| ❖ FEBRUARY 18-20 | FOURTH ANNUAL TRUE SPIRIT CONFERENCE
Alexandria, Virginia |
| ❖ FEBRUARY 26 | CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION 10:00pm – 2:00am
Buffalo State College, 1300 Elmwood Ave |
| ❖ MARCH 1-5 | COLORADO GOLD RUSH TG CONVENTION
Denver, Colorado |
| MARCH 4 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:30pm |
| ❖ MARCH 11 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 6:00pm |
| ❖ APRIL 1 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:30pm |
| APRIL 8 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 6:00pm |
| APRIL 30 | MILLENNIUM MARCH ON WASHINGTON FOR
EQUALITY |
| MAY 6 | ROCHESTER CD NETWORK MEETING 6:30pm |
| MAY 13 | BUFFALO BELLES MEETING 6:00pm |

