

# Alpha Chapter of Tri-Ess

## Alpha-Bits

March, 2003

### Linda's Fem/Mail

I hope you enjoyed our rap session as well as I did. I really think that this is a productive format once in awhile. It seems to me that this gives us a chance to communicate our feelings with each other and to educate ourselves even more.

At press time I haven't secured a presenter yet, but I will. I have feelers out and expect an affirmative response probably as this newsletter is being published. PLEASE GO TO OUR WEBSITE <http://geocities.com/alphatriess> AND CLICK ON MEETING TO FIND OUT WHO OUR PRESENTER WILL BE.

So far the schedule year (subject to change) looks like this:

**March 8th** Again, click on meeting at our website

**April 12th** TBA (also we have Trailblazer Awards)

**May 10th** Marie Keller and Elise Turan (LA Gender Center)

**June 14th** Gillian Cameron (Jill) (Story Teller)

**July 12th** Rap Session

**August 9th** Annual summer pot luck get together (at Janyne and Gingers)

**September 13th** TBA

**October 11th** Rap Session

**November 8th** TBA  
**December 13th** Annual Holiday Party

Our dinner choices for March 8th are: Sautéed Boneless Trout OR Roasted Tri Tip



Please contact me by Wednesday March 5th as to your choice of meals and how many in your party.

Linda:  
[damelindatg@hotmail.com](mailto:damelindatg@hotmail.com)  
or (310) 798-5637

*Linda [ [ [ [ ] ] ] ]*

### Alpha Contacts

#### President

Linda Wade  
[damelindatg@hotmail.com](mailto:damelindatg@hotmail.com)

#### Vice President

Loretta  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Secretary

Darlene  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Treasurer

Charlene Day

#### Member-at-Large

Janyne Cresap  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Editor/Webmistress

Kathi Barnes  
[katba@attbi.com](mailto:katba@attbi.com)  
fax: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Outreach Chair

Michelle  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

#### Mailing Address

Alpha Tri-Ess  
c/o Linda Wade  
409 N. Pacific Coast Hwy.  
#320  
Redondo Beach, CA 90277

### About Alpha

Alpha meets on the second Saturday of each month. We offer safe caring support for heterosexual crossdressers and their wives or partners.

If you have any questions regarding meetings, contact Linda Wade at (310) 798-5637 or E-Mail at [damelindatg@hotmail.com](mailto:damelindatg@hotmail.com)

For couples issues Ginger Rogers is available at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx or E-Mail at xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Visit our web site at <http://geocities.com/alphatriess>

This newsletter is available on our web site. Ask an officer how to access it.

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## Mirrors

Several years ago, one of our dear Alpha sisters told me the following riddle; "How do you entertain a cross-dresser?" she asked. The answer, of course, is to give her a mirror.

So why do we have this fascination with looking at ourselves in the mirror? Naturally, just like every other woman, we like to be sure that our makeup is fresh and our hair is in place. It seems to me, however, that our love affair with the mirror goes far beyond that of genetic women.

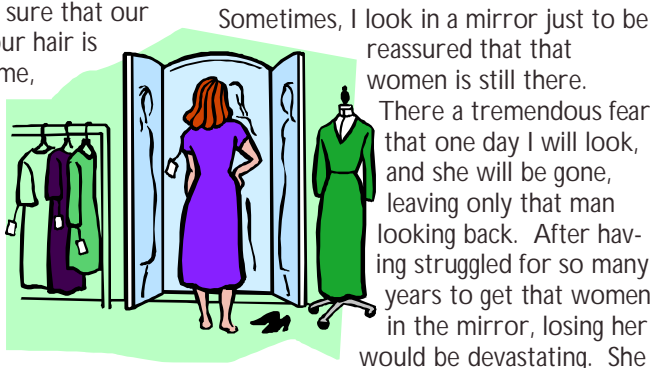
The first time I fully crossdressed, (head to toe in a dress, heels, makeup, earrings and wig) I was astonished at how "female" I looked. "Oh my gosh!!!! Is that really ME in the mirror????!!!"

Yes, it was me, but I could hardly believe it. When I looked in the mirror, there was a woman looking back at me!!

Interspersed with this exhilaration, was a feeling of inner tranquility. This was something I had never before experienced on this level. Seeing for

the first time that my outward appearance matched my internal feelings, was nothing short of profound.

To this day, even after seeing my female self in the mirror hundreds, if not thousands of times, the disbelief that it is really me, still exists.



Sometimes, I look in a mirror just to be reassured that that women is still there.

There a tremendous fear that one day I will look, and she will be gone, leaving only that man looking back. After having struggled for so many years to get that women in the mirror, losing her would be devastating. She has become so much a part of my life, I often check not only to make sure she is still with me, but to again try to comprehend the fact that she is really me.

Somehow, I doubt that this "is that really me in the mirror" feeling will ever go away.

And somehow, I hope it never does.

*Carolyn Scarpelli  
aka Miss Kookee*

## Sad News for T G Clubbies

The Queen Mary (the night club, not the cruise ship) has shut down. It has been sold and the new owners intend to convert it to a "straight" restaurant.

For those who might not know, the Queen Mary was the ONLY full-time transgender night spot in the Los Angeles area. It featured drag shows, a friendly bar, and an all-TG staff. Everyone who has been there reported it as a really fun place to go out in L.A. If you missed it, it's gone!

Some GLB night clubs do TG nights once a week or month. Rumors are that people are trying to create a new full-time TG club. If anyone knows any specific details of those efforts, please contact Kathi, who'll post them on our web site.

## Laugh It Up

I grew up in a low to middle class neighborhood in Chicago. This was in the 1950's when, it seemed, all people were full of prejudice against anyone who was "different" in any way.



Gender and orientation were closeted. Racial civil rights were for the future. Ethnic prejudice abounded.

One of my closest friends was Polish. Poles were just moving into mainstream society. My friend was an incessant joke teller. He remembered and retold every joke he heard and invented his own. His favorites were "Polack" jokes.

Though I didn't realize it at the time, I learned a life lesson from my friend. A prejudiced-against minority earns a place in society only when they relax and stop taking themselves so darn seriously. When people laugh at themselves, the world laughs with them. Laughter cures prejudice.

Now, as a member of a prejudiced-against minority, I see us at a pre-joke stage. I searched the Internet and asked around at online groups. There are very few crossdresser jokes out there. Yet, is there not something inherently comical about a "guy in a dress?"

Crossdressers, Lighten Up! When out en femme and we get "the look"—that frown of disgust so often worn by bigots—let us counter it with a big, broad smile that says, "I am who I am and I'm having fun!" He's sure to either return the smile or go away. No one can smile and hate at the same time.

With smiles and laughs in mind, I offer some TG jokes on page 4. Enjoy!

*Kathi*

## Next Meeting

**Saturday, March 8**

**7:00 pm social,**

**7:30 pm dinner**

AT: xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx.  
xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx  
Phone: xxxxxxxxxxxxxx

Menu: Sautéed Boneless Trout  
**OR**  
Roasted Tri Tip

Program: To Be Announced. Please visit our website for the latest information.

RSVP: By Wed, March 5  
**TO**  
Linda Wade,  
damelindatg@hotmail.com,  
(310) 798-5637

Please tell us the number in your party and your menu choices.

Cost: \$21.00 single  
\$36.00 couple

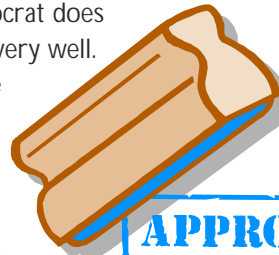


## Designer Label

I enjoyed Linda's article on labels and our using labels to describe one another. Linda, as she always does, makes good points and I tend to agree with her. I do, however, think that as human beings we need and use labels.

All people transgendered or not seem to need a word to accurately describe what they are doing. People who cross-dress have been playing with labels for as long as I can remember and I am sure well before that. It isn't the label that constricts us it's the definition that implies a limit on us and what we do.

To use the political metaphor as an example, I am a mostly a Democrat and mostly a liberal, but to just call me a liberal or a Democrat does not describe me very well. There is no single word that describes my politics. Just as there is no single word that describes my gender or my clothing choices.



Do I crossdress? I wear clothing designed for my opposite sex but it is my clothing, and I don't feel I am cross-dressed. I feel I am dressed correctly for me.

Am I transgendered? I don't even know what that is. I know what I think it is and I am that.

Am I transsexual? I have been diagnosed as that, but I don't desire sex reassignment.

All the words that have been made up by us to describe us have such limiting definitions applied to them by the inventors of the word that they only describe the inventor and not the community. And each of us redefines the word to suit ourselves so that the word becomes a catchword and has no real meaning. The words that have come along—like transgender, transgenderist, t-girl, crossdresser and femophile (whatever)—are worthless as descriptions because they have no legitimate definitions. If we use a word and then have to define it to whom we are talking to, what good is the word anyway?

I can't remember how long it's been since somebody asked me why I wear women's clothing. If I was to be asked that question I couldn't give them a one-word answer. I think we are all too complex for one definition to fit us all. But I can understand the human need for a simple word that puts it all together nice and neatly.

What I do know about me is I am a human being blessed with the capacity to love, think and feel. As a human being I have God given wants, needs and rights. One of those is the right to not have to explain my clothing choice or gender to anybody unless I want to.

Linda said it well—if we remember our humanness, we don't need the labels.

*Janyne Cresap*

### Moving? Changing Your Email Address?

Let us know so Alpha-Bits can follow you! Contact Kathi at [katba@attbi.com](mailto:katba@attbi.com) or fax her at xxxxxxxxxxxxxx. You may also snail-mail to our mailing address on the first page. Thanks!

## Summer Camp

I sent my boy to summer camp,  
In the wilds of Eastern Maine,  
Since he came back, he's vastly changed,  
His actions cause me pain.

A counselor strange got hold of him,  
And changed him drastically,  
My boy went up there known as Jim,  
and returned with the name of Marie!

## Entertainment News

The studio had to re-shoot the final episode of *Joe Millionaire*. They forced him to choose a different winner. Here's part of the dialogue from the original version.

Joe finally admits, "I'm not really a millionaire, just a low-paid construction worker."

"That's okay," the original winner tells him. Removing her wig, she says, "I'm not really a woman."



## The River

Three men were hiking. They came to a wide, raging river that they had to cross.

The first man decided to pray to God. "Lord," he loudly plead, "please give me the strength to cross this river." *Flash!* The man grew massive arm, chest and leg muscles. He jumped into the river and swam across, though he almost drowned three times.

"Hey, that worked," the second man observed. "Dear Lord," he fervently prayed, "give me the strength and the tools to cross this river." *Flash!* A rowboat with sturdy oars suddenly appeared. He boarded the boat and, though he nearly capsized twice, he rowed it across the river.

"Okay," the third man said, "I'll give it a try." In his most humble tones, he prayed, "Dearest God, please give me the strength, the tools, and the intelligence I need to cross this river." *Flash!* God changed him into a woman. She took out her map and examined it. She then hiked a hundred yards upstream and walked across the bridge!"

## Wife's Good, Bad, and Worse News

### Good:

Your husband understands fashion

### Bad: (But not all THAT bad.)

He's a crossdresser

### Worse:

He looks better than you

## Bubba and His New Truck

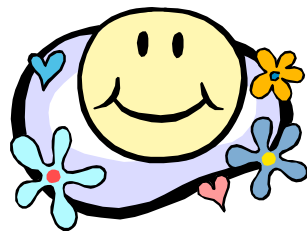
One day, Jimmy Joe was walking down Main Street when he saw his buddy Bubba driving a brand new pickup. Bubba pulled up to him with a wide grin. "Bubba, where'd you get that truck?!?"

"Bobby Sue gave it to me" Bubba replied.

"She gave it to you? I knew she was kinda sweet on ya, but a new truck?"

"Well, Jimmy Joe, let me tell you what happened. We were driving out on County Road 6, in the middle of nowhere. Bobby Sue pulled off the road, put the truck in 4-wheel drive, and headed into the woods. She parked the truck, got out, threw off all her clothes and said 'Bubba, take whatever you want'. So I took the truck!"

"Bubba, you're a smart man!. Them clothes woulda never fit you".



## Cross Dressing is not Contagious.

It is like pregnancy. You do not catch it from someone of the same sex.

Ladies... It is all your fault !

Think about it!