



Desert Reflections PV

Theta Upsilon Gamma Chapter of Tri-Ess

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Contributions by any member and/or SO are welcome. Please submit to rlynn9@earthlink.net.



From the President's Desk

Well, summer is just about over and soon the weather will start to cool off. Welcome back to those who are returning from vacation, please consider writing an article for the newsletter letting us know what you did over the summer. Remember, the newsletter is only as good as you the members make it, without any articles there is no newsletter. I am remaining committed to my pledge of writing an article for every edition of the newsletter, how about you? Our normal meeting schedule will resume starting in September. I look forward to seeing you all again.

Susan

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T.U.G. Events Calendar for Sept. 2011



| | |
|--|----------------------|
| Monday Nights: Girls Mainstream Night Out – venue varies | – 7:30 pm |
| Second Saturday: Regular monthly T.U.G. Chapter Meeting | – Sept. 10 - 7:30 pm |
| Wednesday After T.U.G. Chapter Meeting: | |
| Friends and Family Dinner – en drab | – Sept. 14 – 7:30 pm |
| Third Sunday: Newsletter article submission deadline | – Sept. 18 |
| Last Sunday: Newsletter goes live on web site. | – Sept. 25 |



Other UpComing Events



[Just You - Glamour Boutique 2 - Upcoming Events](#) - Las Vegas, NV

- Third Saturday of each month is Girl's Night Out
-

[Southern Comfort Conference](#) - Atlanta, GA - September 21-25, 2011

[Femme Getaway Reunion](#) – October 29 to November 3, 2011

Will be held in conjunction with Dignity Cruises for the
Dignity Femme Getaway Halloween Cruise

[Access Clark County Las Vegas](#) Community Affairs, Government and more.





Desert Reflections

Fun ny Page



He grasped me firmly, but gently, just above my elbow and guided me into a room, his room. Then he quietly shut the door and we were alone. He approached me soundlessly, from behind, and spoke in a low, reassuring voice close to my ear. "Just relax."

Without warning, he reached down and I felt his strong, calloused hands start at my ankles, gently probing, and moving upward along my calves, slowly but steadily. My breath caught in my throat. I knew I should be afraid, but somehow I didn't care. His touch was so experienced, so sure. When his hands moved up onto my thighs, I gave a slight shudder, and partly closed my eyes. My pulse was pounding. I felt his knowing fingers caress my abdomen, my ribcage. And then, as he cupped my firm, full breasts in his hands, I inhaled sharply. Probing, searching, knowing what he wanted, he brought his hands to my shoulders, slid them down my tingling spine and into my panties.

Although I knew nothing about this man, I felt oddly trusting and expectant. This is a man, I thought. A man used to taking charge. A man not used to taking 'No' for an answer. A man who would tell me what he wanted. A man who looked into my soul and said . . .
"Okay ma'am, you can board your flight now."



A young brunette goes into the doctor's office and reports that her body hurts wherever she touches it.

"Impossible" says the doctor. "Show me what you mean."

So, she takes her finger and pushes her elbow and screams in agony.

Then she pushes her knee and screams, pushes her ankle and screams, and so it goes on. Everywhere she touches makes her scream.

The doctor says, "You're not really a brunette, are you?"

"No, actually I'm a blonde," she replies.

"I thought so" says the doctor. "Your finger is broken."

"There are only two ways to live your life. One is as though nothing is a miracle.

The other is as though everything is a miracle."

- Albert Einstein (1879-1955)

"What we fear comes to pass more speedily than what we hope."

----Publilius Syrus - Moral Sayings (1st C B.C.)

Profiles En Femme!!

This months T.U.G. Girl - Holly.



Just Saying Hello

For the few of you who do not know me, my name is Holly and my wife and I are new residents of Las Vegas. We are so happy to be a part of the community here.

Although we are new residents, my association to Las Vegas goes far back to my parents. They were married here at the Wee Kirk of the Heather Wedding Chapel on South Las Vegas Boulevard near downtown in 1945. I arrived on the scene about one year later in Hollywood, California. I spent the first 7 years of my life living in Burbank, California. Just before the beginning of 3rd grade, my dad, mom, and new little brother moved to the San Bernardino Mountains where I lived until after completing high school.

I first realized that I wasn't like the other boys not too long after moving to the mountains. Oh, I made friends okay. But I didn't much like playing basketball, football, baseball, and so on with the boys. And I wasn't very good at any of the sports, really. I felt more comfortable with the girls playing hopscotch, jump rope, jacks, etc. Luckily for me, most of the time they tolerated my presence and I played with them. I remember once they wanted to do a play, *The Wizard of Oz*. I so wanted to be Dorothy but I didn't have the courage to ask. That's why it seemed fitting that I was selected to be the cowardly lion. We practiced for weeks during recesses and lunchtime. And we made our own costumes. My manewas made out of yellow yarn and my whiskers were drawn on with a grease pencil (my

first make-up J). I really don't remember too much about the play but I do remember how much fun it was skipping around the playground holding hands with the girls. It felt right.

I was in 5th or 6th grade when I talked my mom into dressing me up as a girl for Halloween, the latter part of the 50's. The Sack dress was all the style and my mom made one for me out of a real 50 pound potato sack! To this day, I remember how itchy that burlap was but I loved it! When the big night came, I wiggled into my sack, put on the most hideous brunette wig you can imagine, and found some sandals that sort of passed as gender neutral. Then the best thing in to ever happen to me up to that time happened. My mom sat me down at the kitchen table and she put real make up on me! Eyeliner, eye shadow, and mascara. She brushed and defined my eyebrows with a pencil.

She made my cheeks look rosy and colorful by streaking some lipstick on my cheeks and then smudging and blending it together with her fingers. Then she placed that tube of bright red color on my lips. I had imagined it would feel a like the Chap Stick I often wore. I was wrong. Chap Stick was greasy feeling and the odor was, well, Chap Stick. What was now on my lips felt creamy, luxurious. And I recognized the aroma as something I associated with women. My mom went and got a hand mirror (I still have it) and held it up to my face. Wow. I looked sort of like a girl. Not as a Brooks Shields beautiful girl but a girl, nevertheless. Then my mom surprised me when she said, For the rest of the night, your name is going to be Eileen. What, I stammered. Why? Because, she said, that was supposed to be your name when you were born. My doctor told me all along while I was carrying you that you were a girl and when you were born a boy he was quite surprised.

That night, I had the time of my life. I had my dress, my hair, my make-up and a little piece of information that made things make just a bit more sense. I was supposed to be a girl. It awakened a desire in me to explore more and deeper.

I have a lot more to share but I am out of space for this time. Please let me know if you want to hear more.

Holly (not Eileen - another story J).

DINING OUT EN FEMME



Blue Ox Central

by

Rosaliy

It's the 8th of August. Monday girls night out was at the Blue Ox Central on Eastern back of the airport. Nora, Holly (finally settled in here in Vegas), my sister Karen and I all got together.

Like the other Blue Ox's, Central is a cozy neighborhood bar and grill. The food was good, hot and reasonably priced

The service was friendly and prompt and we enjoyed conversation that wasn't drowned out by the music. All in all a good dining out experience.

The location is a good one and easily found. The noise of air traffic at the airport, readily apparent outside, did not at all intrude inside.

Good location; good food; good service; reasonable prices.

On Passing - Context Switching By Susan



Passing, most crossdressers consider this to be taken for the sex you are presenting as and for many is considered to be a holy grail of crossdressers. So many strive for this goal without really understanding what is necessary to "pass." Over the past several years I have done a lot of thinking on this subject and have come up with some ideas on "passing."

An important concept to keep in mind while talking about passing is perception. When we try to pass, we are in essence trying to alter somebody's perception of who we are. In order for perception to occur context is required. It is the information that we receive through our senses that provide the context we need in order to form a perception. Too many crossdressers think that appearance is the number one criteria that generates context. In my personal experience I have found this to be completely in error. I would like to provide two examples of this.

First, I did an experiment awhile back where I went out into the public in half-Susan mode. In this mode I wore Susan's breasts and let my hair down, I have hair that goes well past my shoulders which I normally keep in a ponytail, but otherwise wore Mike's clothing. What I wore did not stand out in any way, I wore a simple blue shirt and blue jeans, something that could be seen on both men or women. I went to a number of grocery stores and a crowded mall and observed those around me.

For starters, not one person took a second look at me and everybody that I did interact with saw me as female and gave absolutely no indication that they had thought differently. I was not wearing makeup, but was clean shaven, I was wearing gender neutral clothing. The only indicators of my sex were my breasts and that I was wearing my hair in an untypical style for a man. This was enough to skew my context to the point that I was taken to be a woman without makeup, feminine clothing or a wig.

The second example is actually a lot more interesting. One night I woke up in the middle of the night unable to breathe. My wife took me to the ER and when they saw that I was having breathing trouble a nurse came and got me straight away, before filling out any paperwork or providing any identification. I was wearing clothes similar to above, but obviously I was now not wearing Susan's breasts nor was I clean shaven (My last shave was over a day earlier) and yet this nurse constantly referred to me in the feminine with "Miss", "Ma'am", "Good girl" etc. It was not until after she stabilized my breathing and asked for my name that she learned I was actually male. This example is very telling what is important for providing context. In this case there was nothing added to my appearance to skew the context, Other than I had long hair (In a ponytail), since I could not speak, voice also did not contribute to the context, what then made this nurse believe I was female?

The incident with the nurse was a number of years ago and I have had a lot of time to think about it and starting thinking about context. Something about my context is what allowed that nurse to perceive me as female. In that case it was clearly not appearance nor voice that provided the cues to my context so there had to be more to it. Too often we think in black and white terms, male/female, feminine/masculine, but we as crossdressers know that black and white terms do not apply to gender, instead there is a spectrum between masculine and feminine and now I believe there is a spectrum between masculine and feminine context that allows others to perceive us as they do.

I am going to put this on a 0 to 10 scale, with 0 being 100% perceived as male and 10 being 100% perceived as female. On this scale we start at 5, androgynous and subtract points for masculine traits and add points for feminine ones. Most men have larger builds than women, which subtracts 1 or more points, most men have deeper voices for another point. The way men and women move is different, so another point there, mannerism between men and women are different, another point lost there. Based upon these traits most men are going to be 0 or 1 on the context spectrum, easily identified as male. I am sure you have seen somebody who you were not sure if they were male or female, these would be around 5 on the scale, needing additional cues in order to be sure of their sex, usually this comes when you hear them speak. The goal then in passing is to have your context number at 5 or above.

I have given a lot of thought to what contributes to context and have come up with the following list:

1. Setting
2. Appearance
3. Mannerisms
4. Voice
5. Body language

This list is in order of easiest to hardest to obtain and not necessarily in order of importance.

1. Setting

People see what they expect to see. If you are in a setting where women are expected to be seen then you can gain a point to your context. For example, if you are in a dress shop, makeup store, salon, etc. Obviously if you are in a place where women are rarely seen you are going to stand out like a sore thumb and will be scrutinized for it. So the easiest thing you can do to help you pass is to be somewhere where women are expected to be. We have now gone from 0 to 1 on our context spectrum, clearly still male so more needs to be done.

2. Appearance

Appearance covers a wide gamut of things, from your physical build to what you wear. I heard in a seminar once that virtually every trait possessed by men can be found on women. For example, men typically have broad shoulders and narrow hips, while women tend to have narrow shoulders and wider hips. I have actually seen women who have broad shoulders and narrow hips. I once even saw a woman that had a full beard! but yet there was no doubting that she was actually a woman. Years after I saw this woman I had learned that there is a genetic abnormality that allows what would be a normal woman to grow facial hair like a man. So to a great degree you can throw out your masculine physical traits unless they are overly masculine. For example, if you are extra hairy, have extra large hands, are taller than average, are very muscular, etc, these things will work against you but most can be overcome.

The second part of appearance is how we dress. To be perceived as a woman you need to be wearing at the very least gender-neutral clothing but the more feminine the clothes the stronger the impact. There is a caveat here tho, if you are wearing clothes in a setting that is not typical for a woman in that setting then you actually lose a point instead of gaining one. Clothes must be selected that are appropriate to your age and appropriate for the setting, otherwise they will cause you to stand out, people scrutinize what stands out and they will take a much closer look at you and will most likely "read" you.

Third is makeup. Proper makeup application can all but erase the masculine traces on your face. From concealing your beard to shading, you can create a feminine face from any face. I once saw an episode of RuPaul's Drag Race where they were transforming other guys into drag queens. One of these transformations was absolutely astounding, The person had an ultra-masculine face but when the queen was done transforming him you would have been hard pressed to not believe the guy was really a woman.

Appearance will grant you 1 or 2 points. You get one point if you do not have an overly masculine body and another point if your dress and makeup are appropriate. Now you are at 2 or 3 on the context spectrum. Still not enough to be seen as female and yet it is appearance that most CDs rely on so heavily and yet by itself is not nearly enough to allow you to "pass."

3. Mannerisms

Now the hard parts. Mannerisms are different between men and women. The best way to learn about mannerisms is to watch the men and women around you. Men have a tendency to be looser or more relaxed, look at how they sit in comparison to how women sit. Look at how men stand in comparison to how women stand. Look at the differences in how men and women walk, men tend to walk rather rigidly, I have seen it often described that men when they walk are constantly falling forward and they catch themselves with the next step. Women when they walk tend to be more fluid and more upright. When you walk, where is the weight on your feet? Men tend to have their weight far forward on their feet while women tend to have their weight further back which gives a more balanced look. Men tend to slump their shoulders and have them positioned more forward, women tend to have their shoulders further back. The way men and women eat is different. Men tend to eat quicker and take larger bites, most men have that tendency to just shovel it in. Women on the other hand tend to eat much slower, taking more time between bites and taking much smaller bites. Women have a tendency to put the utensils down often whereas men tend to hold their utensils throughout the meal. The differences in mannerisms can be learned and actively used, but does take time and a lot of observation. If you can present more feminine mannerisms than you do masculine ones then you gain another point on the context spectrum, putting you at 3 or 4. Getting much closer to where you need to be.

4. Voice

Believe it or not, voice is far more important to your context than your appearance is and yet few CDs ever take the time to really work on their voices. It is a common misconception that the only real difference between male and female voices is pitch, this is completely wrong! The pitch range of women and men overlap considerably. You can have perfect appearance, mannerisms, and even body language but without a proper voice you will get "read" every single time you talk. Too many CDs either talk using their male voice or else go into a falsetto which is even more telling. The real difference between male and female voices has little to do with pitch and much more to do with harmonics. The best way to see this is listen to a lot of different women talk as well as men talk. The first thing that you should notice is that women's voices tend to be much "cleaner" they have simpler tones due to fewer harmonic frequencies being generated by their voicebox. If you understand music, this is like pressing a single key on a piano, you get a simple, clear, clean single sound.

Men on the other hand tend to have very "rich" voices, with lots of harmonics which makes the male voice sound more complex, there are sub-harmonics that make the voice sound richer, this is akin to playing a chord on a piano.

Adjusting the voice to sound more feminine takes a considerable amount of effort to get it right. I once read an article on developing a feminine voice that talked about two sets of muscles that control the voicebox and that through practice you can learn to use only one set and when you learn this your voice will have fewer harmonics and therefore sound more feminine. The technique the article taught was if you place your fingers on the top and bottom of the your voicebox you can feel the vibrations, through concentration and practice you can eliminate the vibration from one set of muscles.

This is NOT easy! and will take considerable effort and practice to master, but once you have learned how to do it, the overall affect is amazing. If you can accomplish removing the harmonics from your voice, then there is another point for you.

The next part of voice has to do with intonation. Men have a tendency to speak in a monotone while women tend to raise and lower the pitch of their voices as they speak, almost as if they are singing when they speak. Men will have a tendency to use the same pitch in their voice no matter who they are talking to whereas women will raise or lower their pitch depending on who they are talking to. This is another place where observation of others will help you tremendously to learn intonation.

The last part of dealing with your voice is your vocabulary. Women tend to use a much larger set of words when they talk than do men, they tend to be far more descriptive of what they are talking about in other words, they tend to use more adjectives. Men tend to stick to simpler concepts when they talk, for example, if specifying a color, men will say red, or blue, or green, whereas women would say azure or rose or emerald. A good piece of advice, go and buy a color wheel and learn your colors so that you can learn the difference between toupe and cyan. Just remember women tend to use more flowery descriptive language.

If you can learn proper intonation and vocabulary give yourself another point.

5. Body Language

The last and probably the hardest attribute that contributes to context is body language. Body language is mostly subconscious and you use it without even realizing it. Because it is a subconscious process it takes considerable concentration to recognize it and learn to use it yourself. Again observation is in order, notice how women move their bodies when they speak versus how men move. Things to look for are movements of the hands, fingers, eyes, eyebrows, mouth, shifting of weight as well as other movements of the body. Body language occurs mostly when we speak but can also occur when we are just sitting quiet so this must be observed as well. In order to use feminine body language you must first defeat your subconscious use of male body language and then substitute in the female. Although difficult to do, with a lot of practice and concentration you will be able to pull this off and if you do then you have earned another point of context.

Depending on how much of the above you have learned then you can shift your context as much as 6 or 7 points towards the feminine, more than enough for even masculine men to be seen as women. In order to be successful tho you must practice all the above factors and put them into use.

I would like to finish up this article with one last thing about passing, is it good or bad to pass? For the individual CD, it is probably more good than bad, after all, if you are seen as a woman instead of a man in a dress you will be more secure than if the wrong person perceives you as a man in a dress. However for the CD community itself, passing is not necessarily a good thing. When we blend in to society then society does not see any of the positive traits we possess as CDs and the incorrect stereotypes of us persist.

If society at large knew what we are and see that we are moral upstanding people and good members of the community it would help to break down the misconceptions about us and help to make us more acceptable in society. Plus, when we are "read" there is the opportunity for education, where people can learn about who we are and why we do what we do.

One other positive aspect about not passing. The first crossdresser that I ever ran across that told me that I was not alone happened to be one that did not pass. I easily "read" her and for the first time in my life knew that there are others like me. It would be many many long years before I would connect into the gender community, but just knowing that there were others out there like me was a very reassuring thing.

The important thing really is that you are comfortable with who you are. When we project a positive confidence in who we are, that strengthens us as well as those around us that may be interested in learning more about us. Just be yourself and do not worry so much about passing and strangely enough you will actually pass better.

**TO ACCESS
ALL THE BENEFITS
OF MEMBERSHIP.
BECOME A MEMBER**

soon !!