

Lipstick & Lace



Shandi & her daughter!

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**More
inside!**



Presidentially Speaking

We are well into the summer months now it has been the perfect weather for mini skirts, summer dresses and perhaps even a cute and stylish hat to complete the fashion statement!

During the summer months "Night Life" tends to start later in the evening. But that doesn't stop the Girls Of Masquerade from getting out and having a great time!

Many thanks to Liz for hosting a backyard Bar-b-que at her place on a Saturday afternoon where our girls got the chance to get out and have fun without having to wait till "After Dark"!

As I'm sure many will agree, a lot of us grew up with the feeling that crossdressing was something for "After Dark". (Those 3 am walks around the block...can you relate??)

Perhaps this misconception comes from a feeling that we grew up with ... the need to be hiding from the world. When in a way we were hiding from ourselves.

Many of us have already seen for ourselves, by going Out & About and experiencing the world, that the society we

feared the most is perhaps more accepting of us than we were, in the beginning.

For those who are just begin-

ning to experience the world they wish to explore, Masquerade is a wonderful support group where you can learn from the experiences of others. Keep in mind that you'll never know the answers to your questions unless you ask them.

Of course you shared the experience with those you choose too and in many ways expressing our feminine sides and sharing it with those we choose to share it with is much like that.

And just like that car, "Girl time" is a lot more fun when you "take it out of the garage"!

Sabrina



ning to experience the world they wish to explore, Masquerade is a wonderful support group where you can learn from the experiences of others. Keep in mind that you'll never know the answers to your questions unless you ask them.

Life is meant to be fun and why should our girl time be any different!

Our Events Coordinator, Chantal, is doing a wonderful job planning events well ahead to time giving everyone time to plan for the event, arrange babysitters, or go shopping for the perfect outfit.

Can you imagine the excite-



Those 3 am walks around the block...can you relate??

Shandi's Corner

The past few months for me have been an opportunity to get back to doing what I enjoy. Recent changes in work for me and my sweetie took a long time to adjust to, some other responsibilities have been let go and troublesome details cleared up. All changes for the better.

So needless to say my quality girl time has increased too! Why in the past few weeks I have been to the Pride Cruise, Social and Parade. Had

friends over for movies, gone to see X-Men III at the movies with my family, walked to Liz's place for a barbeque, and spent an afternoon shopping around town with my daughter. It's been wonderful! Why, just this past Sunday we went to a wedding and a barbeque and my sweetie was surprised that I wasn't dressed! (no time that day!)

I think perhaps that the most fulfilling was the Saturday of Liz's Barbeque. We had plans for that and then that evening some friends were coming over to reconnect and watch movies.

Friends that we reconnected with at our friends' wedding in April.

My daughter was coming too, and we had decided to walk to her place, which is only about 20 minutes or so from where we live. We were fortunate



enough that we missed a downpour by a few hours so this meant the streets were clean and the air was fresh. We could not have asked for a more beautiful day.

We walked with our barbeque contributions in hand down the streets, right by a sporting event, past parents, children, other pedestrians and traffic. Smiling and chatting all the way. It was so fun!

Just to note for those who are thinking it, we passed hundreds of people and not a sole pointed a finger, ran and screamed, or paid an undue amount of attention to us.

Although I hope my short denim skirt got some attention while I wasn't looking!

We arrived and even interacted with Liz's neighbours and their tiny dog before going in. Again nothing.

Are Winnipeggers getting complacent with the site of us "girls" in everyday life? Am I that good at it? I hope both responses are true! For indeed a few years ago I was terrified to consider walking outside in broad daylight or letting anyone see me.

Sadly the barbeque was moved indoors due to the return of the rain, and later we had to ask for a lift home from Vanessa as it had started to rain again.

Once we got home we had to prepare for company. Soon our friends arrived and we were deciding what to order for dinner and what movies to watch and catching up etc etc. It too was great!

All evening I was "one of the girls", my friends had accepted me as such and behaved no differently towards me. I had fun playing hostess and being able to be myself without pretext.

The best part was picking up dinner. We had decided to order from a Chinese restaurant where we love to go, and had been (in drab) many times before. We

(Continued on page 4)

Are Winnipeggers getting complacent with the site of us "girls" in everyday life?

Shandi's Corner cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

placed a larger order and before I knew it I was on my way to pick it up. Taking my eldest daughter along to help carry it and to stop at Burger King for her, due to her dislike of Chinese food.

Into the restaurant I went, and we waited with the other patrons while the waitress got our order. She was just as nice to me as she had been during prior visits, (remember in drab!) cheerful and professional, as I expect from anyone. It was so nice to be addressed as "ladies" and welcomed as a person.

Back home with dinner we went, and I found that no one had questioned my decision to go. Another sign of understanding.

So what does this mean to you fear reader? Why do I write this here? To brag? Sorry girlfriend, nope! I do it to offer further proof that in order to be happy about this part of your life you have to live it. You have to accept that this is part of who you are, and share it with the people who are important to you.

Now don't run out and just tell everyone just because "Shandi says

so!" As always think about it! But the next time you have an opportunity to let someone know that you are "more of a girl than they think", take advantage of it. If the situation presents itself in such

a manner where you have the chance take it. Don't put up the masculine bravado that you are fighting each time you sense those opportunities. Allow yourself the freedom to be yourself and express it. You'll be a happier person for it!

So what if someone thinks it's weird, chances are equally as good that someone else will think it's not. They will see the honesty there and appreciate you more for the person you are, than the clothes you wear, and that after all is what is more important.

If you need further proof there's my family that so many of you know.

Fact is, that as with anything in your

life, you know what makes you happy. No one else does. Be true to yourself in all aspects of it and you will be happier. No matter what you choose to wear.

Luv always,

Shandi



At the pride rally!



Me walking to Liz's



Our movie gang!



Upcoming Events!!

Hey Girls! You don't want to miss out on these!!

July 20-22 Snowy Owl Monarchist Society Coronation VII, various venues visit www.tanyahide.net for the details!

July 29th, Movie night at Shandi's we will be showing "Transamerica" and "Breakfast on Pluto" doors open at 8! show time is 9 pm sharp. BYOB and popcorn!

August 26th, The Black and Blue Ball

Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Meetings!!

August 8, 2006 - Program - 8:00 PM

Paula will present a video all about her favorite - "Leather"

Make-up/Dressing tip of the month—TBA

Membership attendance draw—Gift Certificate for Lady Godiva Boutique - "Mary Money"

Magazine Swap - Bring your old "Girl stuff" magazines to swap with other girls!

September 12, 2006 - Program - 8:00 PM Programming TBA



Getting stuck with it...

We all started off with using socks or some type of homemade breast form. We would then try to shape them to look natural. Since then some of us have got prosthetic breast forms. Like Silicone ones that warm up to body temperature when worn, thus making them feel more natural. Yet they still roll around in your bra and require a bra to stay on.



Linda

I recently acquired a pair of attachable breast forms, and the recommended glue with them. Using the glue to adhere the breast completed the natural feeling. When I glue on my forms the weight and pull is on my chest and not on the bra straps on my shoulders. Heck, sometimes I don't even wear a bra. Going shopping is so much fun when you do not have to worry about your forms falling out.

First let me say that I have only used one type of adhesive to attach my forms. This is the manufacture recommended glue of Hollister 7730. This is a spray-on adhesive. There are other types of adhesive like Smith & Nephew Skin

bond, or tapes. My experience is with the Hollister 7730.

When attaching forms make sure you chest is clean-shaven and use an astringent to clean of all the dead skin cells. The only time you must wear a bra is to mark and hold the forms in place

while the glue sets. The glue is sprayed directly on to the back of the forms, not on your skin. Wait for three to five minutes then place on your chest where you want them and put on your bra to support them while the glue sets-up. On a day when you will wear a bra all the time I just tack the forms in place with a very light coat. On days where no bra will be worn, two or three coats of adhesive will be necessary. If you plan to go bra-less, keep your bra on for at least ten to twenty minutes to let then set-up well. I usually do my make-up at this time.

Next is removal and clean up. I know glue, skin, Ouch! I don't yank off the

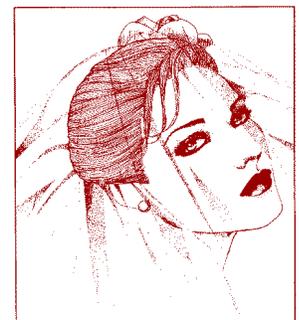
breast in one quick pull, like a bandage. Just gently peel it back working from one edge to the other. If you didn't shave then there will be pain. Otherwise it is a minuscule sting that will soon be over. Once they are off you should clean them. Cleaning the is as simple as using adhesive remover to clean up the glue residue on the forms, then using mild soap and water to clean the form. They are now ready for the next time.

Purchasing the adhesive is difficult. The only place that I have found that carries it in Winnipeg is Diamond Medical Supplies on Grant Ave. It costs about \$39.99 plus taxes. They also carry the remover for about \$12 plus Taxes.

This is what I have learned in just a few months. If you have or are using another type of adhesive I would like to hear about it.

Until then, have fun Girls.

Linda



We all started off with using socks...



Where the Girls of Masquerade Shop!

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Or www.brendasclosets.com

Friends of "The Girls of Masquerade!"

Excerpts From an Essay

Those of you know me, know how special my family is to me. I have always been proud of my daughters and the people they have become as they have grown.

Recently my youngest impressed me to the point that I have to write about it here. She is 15 and wrote an essay for school on "The Acceptance of the Homosexual Community" which only got her a 75, but that was due only to poor paragraph structuring.

Here are some excerpts from it that I would like to share here, because not only do I believe that she's right but that we can teach anyone to believe the same about us, simply by showing them that we are not as the stereotypes indicate.

*While learning about their community, my biggest problem was understanding if they were bad people or not...based on the influences of my parents. My biological mother told me that being **gay** was wrong, and that it was for perverts. My biological father and step-mother told me that there was nothing wrong with being gay, and that there is nothing wrong with two people loving each other, no matter what gender. So I grew up torn between both sides of what my parents were telling me, not knowing who was right and who was wrong. But I learned that my biological mother was wrong, when I attended my first **Gay Pride Parade**.*

I don't remember how old I was when I attended my first Pride Parade, I must have been about ten or eleven at the time. As I walked with my parents and

older sister up the grounds of the Legislative Building, I felt a bit uncomfortable because I was not use to seeing a site quite like this. I saw women holding hands with other women, and men holding hands with other men. The next year, when the Pride Parade took place, I attended again, (this time without my older sister cause she finds parades boring). The site that had made me uncomfortable the year before no longer bothered me. Instead of looking at the ground as I walked past the couples, I looked at them and smiled. Since then, I have walked



Me and my wonderful daughter!

proudly with my parents and new friends. Over the last few years, I have participated in floats and walking groups, showing my pride and my acceptance of these wonderful people.

My history of the homosexual community has rewarded me with a deep, deep understanding of who they are. These people are honestly no different from you and me, and if it bothers you to think about what same sex couples do in their bedroom, do the obvious and don't think about it cause it's no ones business but their own. I am so grateful to these people who without

knowing, helped me find my acceptance. This topic is so important to me because all of the people that I am close to, and because of everyone I have met. These are good people, and no matter how many people think that their ways are "wrong", I will stand by their side because these are amazing people.

*Many people who are very close to me are part of the homosexual community. One girl I've known since I was five years old is **bisexual**. Another, I met a few years ago, and I am proud to say that I helped her "out of the closet". She's Catholic, and homosexuality is against her religion, and she so badly wanted to be a good Catholic. I helped her understand that the Bible can't tell you exactly how to live your life, that it's more like a set of guidelines to follow, not rules. I also said that God can't tell you who to be, but if He/She can't accept you for who you are, then ask yourself why you would have faith in them. Of course it took her a few days to take in what I was saying, but in the end, she understood what I had*

meant and decided to come out. I have stood by her side, supporting her along the way, and I can't explain how proud I am of her. A teenage girl against high school society? Not many could survive, but she has and she's still standing strong.

*The closest people to me that are part of the homosexual community are my parents, my biological father and step-mother. They informed me when I asked that they're both bisexual, (though each prefer the opposite sex) and my Dad has been **cross-dressing** since his teens. I don't remember how*

old I was when I found out that my Dad dressed up like a girl, but I do remember holding his hand (with his painted nails, poofy hair and perfectly made up face) and looking up at him and thinking, "Wow, that's my Daddy." Over the years, I grew prouder and prouder of him, and with every passing year, he looks more and more like a middle aged woman than he did when he first started out. My dad goes out shopping dressed, and to movies and special outings. I am proud of his self-confidence and at how comfortable he is out around strangers who would be only to quick to judge him if they knew that he was not really a woman. My proudest moment of him dressing up, was when he shot his old friends wedding photos. He stayed dressed the whole day, and after he had changed into this gorgeous gown, he walked into a room full of strangers, many of who knew his secret. As far as I know, he's never been ashamed of who he is or what he does, and I am glad that he

shared his feminine side with me.

Accepting my dad for who he is, was the biggest part in accepting the homosexual community. Here's someone I know inside out and love to death, and he cross dresses. There was no way in hell that I couldn't accept him, and everyone else. If I didn't know how to accept my dad, how would I learn to accept the rest of the world? I owe so much to my mom and dad, for these are amazing people who have shown to me that different doesn't make you a bad person in anyway, it makes you special, and as far as I'm concerned, everyone in this world deserves to be special, no matter what type of person they are.

I'm sure you are all saying "she let her daughter submit that to school!" Yes, I did. You can not expect other to accept you if you yourself do not. So needless to say, I believe that it's our responsibility to bring up our children in an environment of open-

ness and honesty.

In fact I met her band teacher and fellow student at Pride this year, while wearing my Space Girls outfit. And just yesterday met the student again while we were out shopping, dressed as well.

The band teacher has some ideas for incorporating a GLBT* student group into the school next year. And perhaps even having the Space Girls perform at the Annual Barbeque! Keep in mind everyone, that this is my old high school. What a feeling it will be to walk those halls in a skirt and heels, and go there for such a purpose. I do so for myself, for my daughter, and for all those people who need to know that acceptance starts within.

Luv always,

Shandi

Hey Girls

Show your support!

Get your Masquerade Pin today!

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Recent Event Photos!



Rhaina posing by the rare white Bison



Chantal poses by the Winnie the Pooh Memorial



Rhaina sits for a better peek at the fish.

*Girls,
just
having
fun!*



The girls enjoying the patio!



Shandi & Kristina!



Mary and Sonya chatting.



Sabrina distributes raffle tickets like a pro!

Submit your stories and photos to shandi_strong@hotmail.com.

Every issue needs interesting stories and photos
about our members and their own experiences!

More Event Photos!



Vanessa & Chantal



Crystal fills in for the chef!



Shandi waiting for her dinner!



Tess prepares her feast!

Liz's BBQ



The Masquerade croquet event of the season!



Rosalie ready to play!



Ardra plans strategy!



Chantal poses with her mallet.



Vanessa croquet queen!

Submit your stories and photos to shandi_strong@hotmail.com.

Every issue needs interesting stories and photos about our members and their own experiences!

It's a zoo out there!

It seems like the past several years I tend to venture out of the usual cross dressing wanderings like shopping malls, night clubs, and restaurant dining for the spring season and optioned to go visit places that are known as popular attractions. Last spring Sabrina and I took a stroll thru the Museum of Man and Nature. Not to mention a trip to the popular McPhillip's street station casino. The year previous to that I went to the Forks three times.



Me at the zoo!

So where did my wanderings take me to this spring? Well to kick the spring off Vanessa and I explored the Mall of America in Minneapolis. Yes, I know it's a shopping mall but it is one of Minnesota's main attractions. We planned to visit other attractions in Minneapolis but unfortunately most of them were not open. We took in all the sights to see in the mall from 11am till closing. We had a specialty coffee at the one of the Caribou Cafés, checked several stores for deals, had a bowl of real ice cream at a ice cream shop, wandered into the NASCAR simulator and a flight simulator entertainment spots, walked around the amusement park, tried a few skin and nail products from a sampler and had supper at the Rainforest Café. The reception from the people there was quite varied. Quite a few quizzical stares and a few people mentioning that we were guys, but no rude comments towards us. We had several compliments from a few people. One compliment was made by a young teen girl saying how cute my outfit was which really warmed me. Then there where a few waitresses at the Rainforest Café that chatted with us, took pictures and introduced us to a server whom he was about to start into the drag scene. Actually one waitress offered to show us around town the next night, but I had to de-

cline as we were to leave for home that day. An oriental store owner called me a "rich lady" as I paid for some purchases and tried to get me to "buy more buy more... you like, you rich".

The trip to the Mall of America was quite fun but its nothing like venturing out to the local attractions. What would be as interesting to see this year?

Let's see last year it was a journey to the province's largest heritage center which shares knowledge about Manitoba, the world and the universe (Manitoba Museum of Man & Nature). Hmm let's see, I'm still revved up from the Masquerade's Girl's Gone Wild night out. What about going to the wildest place in town.... The Assiniboine park zoo sounds like a fun adventure and appropriate for



Rhaina at the zoo!

a spring day walk. If you didn't know, the zoo is the 2nd largest animal collection in Canada. I haven't been to the zoo since I was young. Rhaina posted a message on Masquerade's message board asking if anyone was interested in joining her on a shopping trip. I replied asking if she'd like to go to the zoo instead and of course she wanted to.

After meeting up at Lady Godiva we set forth to the zoo. At the admissions gate the lady was very friendly and as well as a group of teens. I over heard one of the teen girl's say "that's so cute and cool" as we

walked past them. We started our adventure at the duck pond, where a mother and her ducklings were entering the water for a little swim. I just had to stop to get a picture of that as it was one of those sights that just puts a smile on your face every time. We then came across the main attraction of the year, the white bison. Now I've seen bison several times before but it was something else to see a rarity like this one. We stopped to take pictures again but this time with us in the pictures. It was great to have peacocks walk right up to you and prairie dogs crossing your path. The camels, tigers, and bears were a sight to see as they lazed around soaking up the sun or staying out of the shade. The flamboyant colour of the flamingos were very flattering to the eyes. The pacing of the leopard had me fascinated as he paced back and forth in front of the spectators.

Ahhh then we came across the zebras, my favourite species by the way. I had to watch them for several minutes as Rhaina pointed out the vultures

perched as if they were gargoyles. We wrapped up the afternoon walk with a few poses with Winnie the Pooh and then made our way for supper at Kristina's where Mary joined us on the patio.

All in all I'd have to say this adventure to the zoo was the most comforting outing as there was more concentration on the setting than on myself.

Chantal

...this adventure ... was the most comforting outing



EVENINGS > LATE NIGHTS > EVENTS

**from top to bottom...
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the possibilities, and we're MORE than a club or bar. We ARE our members
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WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY
Members Night - Really cheap drinks
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TUESDAY
Sorry, we are closed

WEDNESDAY
Karaoke - Starts at 10:30
Great Prizes!

THURSDAY
* NEW * Gio's Hip Hop Night
Cheap domestic beer & bar shots.
DJ Ryan at 10pm

FRIDAY
All night fun, late night
dancing with DJ Danno

SATURDAY
Weekly events*

SUNDAY
We are open! 4 - 12 p.m.*

SPECIAL EVENTS

FRIDAY, JUNE 30th
> Canada Day Party <
Kickoff your Canada Day long weekend at Gio's
DJ daNNo at 10pm

SATURDAY, JULY 1st
> Womyn's Night <
Everyone welcome, DJ Ian at 10pm

SATURDAY, JULY 8th
> SOMS Candidate Show <
Come down to the club & see your candidate for Emperor
and Empress 06/07 perform! Show begins at 10:30pm

FRIDAY, JULY 21st
> The Out of Town Show <
This is your chance to see the best that other drag
communities have to offer! ALSO... *2 Male Exotic Dancer*

SUNDAY, JULY 23rd
> Gio's Cares Beach Party <
Come down and enjoy our tropical paradise.
Finger food, and great door prizes
See www.gios.ca for more details
Happy Hour ALL Night Long!!!

Masquerade

c/o Lady Godiva Boutique
832 Corydon Ave.

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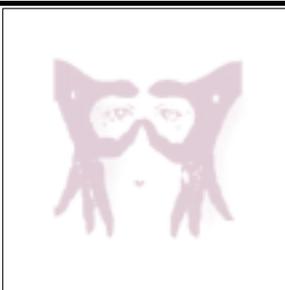
Phone: 204-452-1100

Email:

girlstuff@masquerade.ca

For the girl inside us all!

www.masquerade.ca



ABOUT MASQUERADE

*We are a FUN LOVING support group for
cross-dressers, and transsexuals.*

*Our purpose is for people with like/common interests to
associate and socialize.*

It is not for the purpose of soliciting or engaging in sexual activities.

*All gender gifted individuals, who are 18 years of age or older, and are
prepared to respect our bi-laws, are welcome.*

*Spouses and significant others are encouraged and welcome to attend
meetings and functions and join if they wish.*

We regularly meet the 2nd Tuesday of every month.

The meetings begin around 7:30 p.m. and go until 9 or 10.

Socializing and dancing are done afterwards!

*We endeavour to maintain a fun, friendly, laid-back atmosphere. We
are all there for the same reasons-a place to go to that is accepting,
private and relaxing. Change facilities are available. Dressing for the
first meeting or two is not required, but encouraged!*

Special Girls!

Happy Birthday!

Angela July 5

Lila July 5

Kira July 5

Rhiannon July 27

Rhaina July 31

Legal Stuff: Lipstick & Lace is the official newsletter of Masquerade. Edited by Shandi.

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