



Lipstick & Lace

The Space Girls out for Pride!

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Presidentially Speaking

The first week in June is "Pride Week" for the GLBT Community and there are many reasons why we, the Transgender, Cross-dressing Community, should feel Proud of who we are, both as individuals and as a community.

It takes a great deal of inner strength to overcome all the stresses and fears we have about our own personal desired to express our feminine sides in a way that makes us feel "complete".

Many of us have dealt with those issues ourselves. Not knowing where to turn to for support when we needed it the most. Or out of fear of asking the questions.

We've learned how to cope with the worries about "people find out", overcoming the fears of being "outed", gone through the stresses of making sure a very important part of ourselves was "hidden" from everyone, and often hidden from even ourselves, and work very hard to rid ourselves of the shame and guilty feelings so often felt by many in the TG community.

Those are not weaknesses at all. As we've achieved each step along the way, we become stronger, both as individuals and as a community, for which you should feel very Proud.

I've met many girls who have "Just found out they are not alone" and who are absolutely beautiful. With receiving help from only themselves that's quite an accomplishment and a reason to feel Pride when they look in the mirror!

The Girls of Masquerade have come a long way since I joined back in 2001. From meeting in Mary's basement when it still meant asking someone still in drab to go pick up milk for the coffee, to giving our members that little boost they needed, to feel that Pride within themselves.

Yet Pride goes well beyond our community as the past few years have shown. The society so may feared would reject us has embraced our community and

is accepting it as part of their own.

Many of the people our members have gotten to know over the years ... the clerks at cosmetics counters and department stores, our printers, waitresses at our favorite restaurants, our favorite movie theaters, Shandi's wedding customers, our friends at KeyCon, all who are not part of the TG Community, show us by the way they welcome us with a warm smile, that they are genuinely Proud to call us their friends, customers and so on.

Most importantly... there are the wives and girlfriends of many in the TG Community, those we fear opening up to the most, who are Proud to walk beside their husband or boyfriend as he expresses, rather than suppresses, a special part of himself.

There are many who may read this and think ... "How can I feel Proud of myself? I could never walk out of the house".

Being Proud of who you are doesn't mean standing at Portage and Main shouting it to the rooftops. It's a feeling that radiates from within and goes for anything we do. From there it's our choice as to whom we share it with.

So the next time you put on your favorite dress and heels, touch up your makeup and run a brush through your hair, take a good look in the mirror and feel that Pride you most certainly deserve.

You GO GIRLS!

Sabrina



Being Proud of who you are ... radiates from within

Shandi's Corner

Well girls, as you know there aren't many places where I feel uncomfortable going now-a-days. It's taken me a long time to get here, and I'm happy to share these experiences in hopes of showing those who are fearful of leaving their "closets" even to attend a Masquerade meeting that the world is not something we have to be afraid of.

Now as most of you know I have a very busy life outside the group and am involved in many things that keep me on the go. But, as I'm sure happens to a lot of you, there are days when you just have to say "Enough! Today is my turn!!" Saturday May 13th,

was one such day. It was the day before my birthday this year and since my daughter's party had been the night before, and it was Mother's Day the next day, I decided that this day would be a girlie day for me.

I took my time getting ready, enjoying the process for a change instead of rushing to go somewhere. By the time Charm got home from work I was ready, relaxed and eager to go shopping! There was an event coming up in a few weeks for Pride, the "What Womyn Want" annual boat cruise. This year's theme was "White Hot on the Water!" and everyone was supposed to wear white. Neither of us had a

lot of white outfits, so it was the perfect reason to go shopping together. Afterwards we had planned to go to a movie. We decided that since one of the movies we were thinking about seeing was at Grant Park and the other out at Cinema City that it would be a good idea to shop out that way.



There was a nice mall and a Payless shoe store out at Kenaston and McGillivray, and lots of stores in between, so that's where we went. On the way we stopped at Gio's to pick up our cruise tickets, and soon we were happily crossing the parking lot to of all places, Walmart. Now I know what you're thinking, it's soooo public, there's kids, and all kinds of people. Exactly. All kinds of people, myself among them!

We walked right in and headed for the women's wear department. In amongst the other shoppers, women, girls, men, children all around. None of us paying any attention to anything that wasn't on sale! We were taking our time, looking for just

the right items on each rack. White is so hard to shop for as there are many degrees of "whiteness" and some just don't look good together. We looked and compared and found some really nice tops, skirts and capris.

Now we all know things don't look as good on the rack as they're supposed to and there's only one way to be sure. Try it on! I had double the allowable limit in my arms and Charm had about half of that. I even found a KISS t-shirt in my size that I just had to have!!! As well as many other treasures. Over to the change rooms we went!! Now, understanding that I was in Walmart, and expecting some kind of reaction from a sales associate unfamiliar with a trans person I was quite prepared to be required to defend myself and my right to be there. Imagine that, a few years ago, I was too terrified to go anywhere, and here I was ready to champion the cause! We counted our items with the sales girl, decided what to leave with her and into the change area we went. No defense required.

There in the little room I hung up my treasures and began to assemble the combinations I wanted to try together. The KISS tee and capris were fantastic! I couldn't believe how good they looked together! Out into the hallway I went, excited to show Charm and get her opinion. I was practically swooning! Here I was preening in the mirrors with other women, judging the fit of the clothing, hoping it didn't make me look fat, my bare feet and painted toenails on the carpet standing tippy toed to judge the look in heels, and loving it! We

(Continued on page 4)

Here I was preening in the mirrors with other women, ... and loving it!

Shandi's Corner cont'd

(Continued from page 3)

spent nearly thirty minutes there, and came away with several wonderful finds. Not a gasp or whisper was heard.

Mission accomplished. We had the white outfits! What to do now? We still had plenty time before the movie. What else do two girls in a store do? They shop! So we wound ourselves around the store of course checking out the shoe department, where Charm found a cute pair of sandals with daisies on them. Then over to housewares where we looked at some ideas for decorating and sprucing up our home, chatting and shopping all the while. It was fantastic! We spent way too much money, but it was sooo worth it!

(See the receipt!) The icing on the cake was using my credit card at the cashier. Once again prepared to be questioned, but I was

treated as any other customer. However as my luck would have it I had found the only KISS t-shirt in my size, without a price tag. The cashier paged for help, but it took too long in coming. Since the rack was only across the aisle Charm headed over to find one with a tag. The cashier and I began talking when she commented on how brave I was, to be purchasing all white outfits. I explained the theme of the cruise how I could use some of the items with other pieces I had for the summer, and how I hoped it would be a lovely summer so I could enjoy them. We chatted until Charm came back, I paid for everything and wished her a good evening. It was a pleasure to talk with such a nice person. It's too often unexpected in such a place.

Off to Grant Park for a showing of "Kinky

Boots!" A great fun film which I will certainly purchase on DVD. Our other choice was "The Pink Panther" but we wanted to see this in the theatre more. We got our tickets, snacks and drinks and headed to the theatre. Finding some decent seats, in not overly full

theatre we sat and waited for the show to start. Uh oh! After all the excitement my body had now decided that nature needed attention. I couldn't very well sit through the movie, drinking pop, and make it to the end of the movie. Just before the show started we all but jogged to the ladies room. Hurrying lest someone appropriate our seats and popcorn!

So another bastion fell that night. A public restroom. A ladies room. All the discussion we have had about it at various times

over the years, somehow didn't matter because there was no place else to go, and I had to. Hurrying into the stall, sitting down, and getting done as quick as I could was what I remember most. But looking in the mirror as I exited the stall, seeing myself there, was well worth it. I don't think I'll ever worry again. If it wasn't that the show was about to start, I would have freshened up my makeup too!

Leaving the theatre in the cool night air after such an enjoyable evening, I couldn't help but think about how nice it was to just be me, out doing what I wanted to do. No apologies, less worries. It's quite empowering. I know that so many other girls not only here in Winnipeg, but around the world, feel trapped by what they perceive as a scary intolerant world. But as I've said before and will likely

say again, "it's all up to you." Do what you have to do to be you, and be happy. Make intelligent choices, based on good information and not unsubstantiated fears. Be the girl you can be and be true to yourself, and you will be happy. I know that I am.

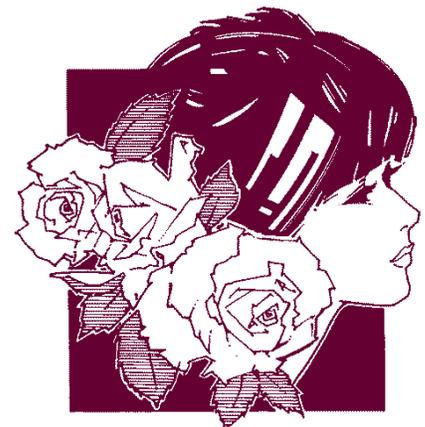
Luv Shandi



Here I am in the windy parking lot, a week later, wearing one of the outfits I bought! We were having such fun the first time I'd forgotten I had the camera in my purse!



The receipt!



Upcoming Events!!

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

May 13th—Watkin's Party at Laura and Rosalie's

June 2nd— 4th Annual Boat Cruise! Tickets \$20, see ad on Page 9!

June 1-11, Celebrate the 20th anniversary of the first Pride March in Winnipeg for more details visit <http://www.gaypridewinnipeg.com/> dance at the Convention Centre plus much much more!

June 24th - BRING IN THE SUMMER SEASON afternoon picnic or BBQ party - location and time TBA

July 8th - Movie and dance night - movie @ Grant Park theatre around 7pm *depending on show times* followed by dancing at Gio's

Hope to see you there!

Upcoming Meetings!!

July 11, 2006 - Program - 8:00 PM

An evening of "Fun and Fashion" at Masquerade's very own "Fashion Show"! Walk down the runway modeling your favorite outfit to the music of your choice! Models will be judged and prizes awarded so get to work and put together that "Perfect Outfit. (More info to be posted)

**Make-up/Dressing tip of the month -
Learn how "Colors" affect your appearance**

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

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

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!



All Faces, All Races

It's funny how life can turn around at the drop of a hat. One minute it's all going so good you could scream for joy and then the next minute it all unravels and you're left with a pile of wool at your feet. But then there's the flip side ...

one of those days when the sun pokes out from a dark sky and warms up your cheek. *"That's life"*, as they say. Well I had one of those *"sun comes out moments"* on the day of the 'Girls Gone Wild' event.

I got to Winnipeg on Thursday night with an eye to going shopping "en femme" with Chantal on Friday and going to Gio's on Saturday night. But

when I phoned she told me her work schedule had been changed around and I was on my own for the Friday. The clouds rolled in. Not being shy though I thought I would just go to Polo Park, Dots, and Danier Leather as Beej to see how much damage I could do to my Visa card. And when I went by the Mac Counter in the Bay I was floored to see the number of women working there. And all young and hip.

When I got back to the hotel I started thinking. *"Gee if they're young and hip I wonder how they'd deal with Beej if she wanted a makeover?"* So I phoned and told them my story. I explained I wasn't shy to come out to the mall en femme but really didn't want to offend their regular customers. Nancy was all over the idea and said the way they saw it was, *"All faces, all races!"* She continued, *"I mean Ru Paul was our first big face. Besides we love a challenge. You have to see Caroline."* My heart skipped a beat. *"Well I can give*

Caroline a real challenge with my 56 year old face. Could I get her to do my face tomorrow?" Nancy looked at the appointments and said they were booked a week ahead. My heart fell out onto the floor. I told her I was from out of



Gotta love the Mac Ladies!

was handy excuse.

But then the phone rang. And it was Nancy. *"I got your number from call display and you know what? Caroline has an opening at 4 tomorrow. I mean, if you want?"* And to me it felt just like the sun had come out and life was perfect again.

The next day was everything I wanted and then some. Caroline was too much fun. And she made me look as femme as I will ever look. The best part is that all you have to do for a one hour makeover is buy \$40 worth of Mac products. Wow, that was real hard for me! And all the Mac ladies kept coming over and offering such great comments. It was

one of the sunniest days ever for me.

And get this. I needed a pair of flat lady's shoes. So when I left the Mac counter I went up the escalator to Payless Shoes. I was in a hurry as the store was just about to close. A middle-aged clerk came around the corner and started to talk. *"Can I help y..."* She stopped as she saw my face. *"Oh my god you are so beautiful!"* She literally gasped as she said it. She knew I was a man but she kept telling me how good I looked. And you know what? She wasn't kidding.

I told Caroline all about "Masquerade" and she and all the other Mac ladies told me to let all of you know that they would love to see each and every one of you.

So here ya' go. Phone the Mac counter (975-3228 ext 321) at the Bay at Polo Park and talk to Christine (or any one of the

the other Mac ladies ... would love to see each and every one of you



Enjoying Dinner at the Paradise!

women) and go get your own dose of sunshine. Trust me it will be well worth it. You can bet I'll be going back.

Beej



Where the Girls of Masquerade Shop!

Lady Godiva Boutique
Lingerie - Adult Toys - Lotions

832 Corydon Avenue, Winnipeg, MB, Canada R3M 0Y2 Ph: (204) 452-1100 Fax: (204) 453-7758

Enhance your feminine mystique at



<http://stores.ebay.com/Brendas-Closets>

Or www.brendasclosets.com

Friends of "The Girls of Masquerade!"

Another First Day Out!

Waking up on a clear sunny day. I had decided that this was the day that I went out dressed and shopped. Getting to this decision was not a simple or easy road for me. There was a lot of support and advice from my sisters in Masquerade. Also my night out at the movies also had an impact. I recently got new breast forms that are attachable (another article) and they helped give me a whole new view of myself.

I was not fearful of violence because I was heading to a large mall in the city.

My biggest fear was getting laughed at or something similar. There was pride and joy in me to offset this fear as I went out as woman.

My first stop was



seeing Mary and getting the final approval from her. After a brief visit I journeyed out. My first stop was Pennington's in St. James. They were very helpful asking me what my size was and what style I was looking for. They even said please try them on to see if you like them. The ladies there didn't treat me any different than any other customer.

By this time it was lunch and shopping makes you hungry. I visited the Smitty's in the St. James area. My waitress Roxanne was a very pleasant woman. She treated me as a woman and we ended up talking about shopping. I did see a few looks from other patrons in the restaurant, but that was it. Later I hit the mall, Polo Park.

WOW, as I was about to enter the mall a gentle-

man opened the door for me. I said thank you and he nodded and went on his way. Walking in the mall I thought that everyone would be stopping to see me. Well they did not. If anything only a few noticed me and fewer cared. The worst encounter that I had were two young ladies (teens) that blatantly got out of my way and snickered, as I was leaving the mall.

The Bay Polo Park staff was great. Very professional and courteous and treated me as the woman that I am.

I discovered that it was also about attitude. I am a woman therefore I was treated as a woman. I had a lot of fun at a lot of stores made a few purchases and looking forward to shopping again. This time I will have pictures. Happy shopping girls.

Linda



Hey Girls

Show your support!

Get your Masquerade Pin today!

Only \$6.00

Available at every meeting!

She asked me "Why?"

I live dangerously sometimes. My partner doesn't know that I cross-dress, and so far has not put together the cues.

My partner sees the panties I openly wear, and even sometimes confuses them with her own -- but as UndyWorld and Sears and The Bay sell men's thongs and microfibre bikini briefs, she does not realize that most of mine were bought from various Womens' Intimates departments.

When I go to and from work, I often carry bras, forms, and tops, and sometimes skirts, pantyhose, wig, cosmetics, or shoes. My partner sees me carrying the often-full bag, and I leave it (with contents) half in sight in an open main-floor closet -- but she doesn't look, and she doesn't ask what I have so much to carry.

Recently, after my partner had left for work, I grabbed my bags of gear and had them all in the main bathroom while I tried some new clothing combinations. I took everything with me to work, but when it came time to head home, I could not find my cosmetics. I had checked for stray articles before I left home, but the cosmetics were not with me.

With visions of found lipstick and mascara that I would not be able to explain, I sighed to myself, "Well, I guess this is it then." I took a skirt home with me to use as evidence of sincerity in the discussion surely to follow. Fortunately, once home, I found the cosmetics secure in their hiding place, where I myself had overlooked them, so "The Talk" was avoided... that time.

Not long after, I left my knee highs on and

covered them with socks, intending to covertly remove the knee highs once home, as I have sometimes dared before, but I forgot them when I went out gardening.

My partner noticed the knee highs peeking out and asked me why I was wearing two layers of socks. Somehow I got away without answering at all. I had to ask myself why I deliberately risk wearing pantyhose or knee highs at home. Do I want to be caught?! Do? I? WANT? To? Be? Caught?

I think about this sometimes, and I just don't know. I do not want to make my partner unhappy, and I'm not sure how well our relationship would survive the revelation; and I am relatively sure she would tell her parents (who would likely be more confused than condemning). But I am unhappy at hiding from my partner, unhappy about the lies and silences and lies of omission. I think she would be able to handle that I may have a better eye for womens' fashion than she does, and she would be glad that I found people to socialize with.. but would she be able to handle my dressing so often or my saying that I want to go out for the night with the grrls?

Do I want to be caught? I know that I would not feel humiliated if I were... but do I want to be caught? Ummm, maybe, sort-of. What I really want is to be accepted, but I'm afraid to just outright reveal myself.

Tess



Masquerade Fashion show Rules

If you wish to participate in the fashion Show at the July meeting, please bring 2 outfits to model. Judging will be on make-up , walking, and on the way you present yourself. Prior to the fashion show, please submit on paper your name, and what you are wearing to Rhiannon, the Program Coordinator. Please also provide or pick 2 or 3 songs to help present yourself to Sabrina. The only other detail I recommend is to have fun with it!!

Thanks!

Recent Event Photos!



Linda and Ardra, enjoying the night air on deck!



The Boat Cruise girls! Linda, Chantal, Shandi, Vanessa, Liz, Christie and Ardra.



Shandi & Charm pose in their cute new outfits!

*Girls,
just
having
fun!*



Girls gone wild night out at Gio's! Lots of animal print!



The participants of May's "Short Skirt Night"!



Robyn, Chantal, Shandi, & Vanessa at Phaze!



The Space Girls at Portage & Main for Pride!



Shandi thanks Kassie, the Space Girls float driver!

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

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



EVENINGS > LATE NIGHTS > EVENTS

WEEKLY SPECIALS

MONDAY

Members Night - Really cheap drinks
(a valid 06 mbshp card must be shown)

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.*

**from top to bottom...
we've become VERSATILE**

New colours, new meeting room, new attitude...
The first phase of our renovation complete...
We've come out of the shadowy darkness...
the possibilities, and we finally know who we are.
We're **MORE** than a club or bar. We **ARE** our members
and customers. We're Gio's... and we're **VERSATILE**.

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visit www.gios.ca

SPECIAL EVENTS

SATURDAY, JUNE 3rd
> **Womyn's Night** <

Everyone welcome, DJ Ian at 10pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 4th
> **Anakhnu Pride Brunch** <

The members of Anakhnu (Winnipeg's LGBT Group)
would like to invite everyone to a Pride Kickoff Brunch
Starting at 11:00pm

THURSDAY, JUNE 8th
> **Prime Timers Meet & Greet** <

The Prime Timers will be hosting their Annual
Pride Wine & Cheese Meet and Greet starting at 5:30

SATURDAY, JUNE 10th
> **Comedian and Hypnotist**

Comedian and Hypnotist Trevor Knight will be here
to entertain you! Tickets are \$12
Show at 11:00pm

SUNDAY, JUNE 11th
> **KARAOKE** <

wind down after Pride on our patio!
Karaoke starting at 7pm
Happy Hour ALL Night Long!!!

Masquerade

c/o Lady Godiva Boutique
832 Corydon Ave.

Winnipeg, MB R3M 0Y2

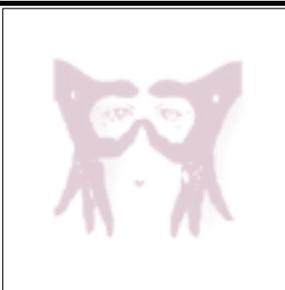
Phone: 204-452-1100

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!

Mary Elizabeth June 3

Belinda

June 9

Martina

June 14

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

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