

It's revitalized:

The Rho Tau Newsletter

June 2003

Feature Articles

A Lesson Learned The Hard Way. One wife's experience.

The Fashion Show. Anna Lee discusses her participation in our Spring fashion show.

Phenotypes in Williamsburg. The roving reporter from Chi Epsilon Sigma provides an overview of our joint Spring fashion show.

Phenotypes and Fashion Shows. Lucy replies to the Chi Epsilon Sigma roving reporter.

... and much more.

The Rho Tau Newsletter

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June 2003



Richmond-Tidewater, VA

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Don't forget to attend the gala weekend with our Chi Epsilon Sigma sisters in Baltimore, June 27-29.

- ***Start by attending the dinner Friday evening.***
- ***Visit the Baltimore Aquarium Saturday morning.***
- ***Attend the chapter meeting and makeover session Saturday evening.***
- ***Bid a fond farewell to everyone at breakfast Sunday morning.***

This month's newsletter is an attempt to develop a new format that will provide a fun way of improving communication between members. It is the fondest hope of your executive committee that it will not only meet with your approval, but also stimulate everyone to become contributors.

From the President

As you can see, we are putting together our newly revitalized newsletter. The Board has decided that we needed to get our newsletter out to all of us, the members, so that we will all be apprised of what is happening within our group, what plans we are having and items that will interest us as we pursue our ladylike interests.

We will be looking to you as members to participate in the bringing of this newsletter to fruition by offering articles of interest. Suggestions on how to make it better and using it as a form of information as to what we are all doing.

We have looked at newsletters from sister organizations, talked to them about their newsletters, and we have added some of their ideas in addition to ours to make our newsletter special to our needs.

This newsletter will be posted on the Rho-Tau website and egroup monthly, and we hope that all of you will read it and enjoy the articles and points of interest. You can look to our group becoming more active in raising attendance and making our meetings and events more exciting.

ANNA

Executive Committee 2002-2003

Annabelle Lee, President

Robyn Paige, Treasurer

Pamela, Secretary

Catherine Lawrence, Program Chairman

Lucy Stone, Membership

Tiffany Michelle, Webmistress (Non-voting member)

Rho Tau Meeting Schedule

Most regular chapter meetings are held on the third Saturday of each month. Sometimes adjustments are made for holidays, so always consult *The Rho Tau Newsletter* for the latest updates. The schedule for 2003 is:

June 21	Picnic	September 20	TBA	December 6	Holiday Party
July 19	TBA	October 18	Halloween Party		
August 16	TBA	November 15	TBA		

Special Events in the Transgender Community

Dignity Cruises - Cross-dressing events (For more information write melp@mindspring.com)

November 16 - 7 Days, Galveston to Belize, Carnival *Elation*. From \$260

January 24, 2004 - 7 Days, New Orleans to Grand Cayman, Royal Caribbean *Grandeur of The Seas*. From \$410

September 24, 2004 - 12 Days, Vancouver to Hawaii, Carnival *Spirit*. From \$910

Please help us by contributing information about additional events.

A Lesson Learned The Hard Way

By Joan Stone

Lucy and I have archived all of our newsletter articles on a web site called "Joan and Lucy's Corner" (<http://joanandlucy.tripod.com/index.html>) The following letter was sent to me by one of our readers. I found this lady had, after much trauma and soul searching, come up with some insights into crossdressing that I decided just had to be shared with others. Lucy and I hope they continue on their path to recovery.

Joan,

When I found out that my husband was a cross dresser (after 8 years of marriage), I became very insecure and moved out. Now it is a year later, and after not having had much communication during this last year, and listening to my friends call him a "freak", I found that I missed him like crazy and started up the relationship again. He has come out of the closet to a much greater extent since we've been separated, but I knew that I still loved the

... I still loved the man I married no matter what he wore!

Through yours and other websites, I've learned that 1) He's not homosexual, nor is he interested in being with a man rather than a woman, 2) He married me because he loves me, not because he was trying to "prove something to himself", 3) He's the most sensitive heterosexual man I've ever known, and 4) Contrary to popular belief, clothes don't define the man!. I've finally come to understand his need to CD and it doesn't change him into a different person than the one I married, just a more comfortable person with himself.

Let my friends say what they will, we are rekindling our marriage slowly, and it's much better than it ever was. All he ever wanted was to be accepted by me. I also kind of like him as he is now, with no pretenses and hiding nothing. There's a new honesty in our relationship.

We are building toward living together once again, but for right now, seeing him daily has to be enough. He was my best friend before I married him, during our years together, and are still best friends. Only now it doesn't matter to me that he likes to wear women's clothing sometimes. After all, I wear pants and t-shirts!

(Name withheld)

Several weeks later, she sent me this follow-up note, indicating how well their relationship is progressing:

Hi Joan...

Just to update you on what's happening here. My husband and I have pretty much decided to move back in together. He has to vacate his apartment next month, and we both are finding more and more that we are unhappy living apart. We have been spending time together daily, and the more he crossdresses, the more appealing I find him and it. He has great taste in clothes and I'm thinking about letting him start doing some shopping for me. He's already picked me up some things that he had that I admired.

Tomorrow night we're going out for the first time with him dressed as a woman. I must confess that I'm a little nervous, but with the wig and makeup he can definitely pass. He's very excited about the prospect of doing this together, and I guess I am too. I'll let you know how it goes. Thank you for your ear and all your help. . .(Name withheld)

The Fashion Show

By Anna Lee

We all staked out our little corner of the room and started getting dressed . . .

The night was finally here. This was the one night all of us girls had planned for. We had all picked out our special outfits and coordinated our shoes and jewelry to match.

At this special event, we had invited our sisters from the Baltimore Chapter to join us for the fashion show. The evening started out with our always-great pot luck dinner, which was followed by our monthly meeting. As soon as the meeting was over, all of the ladies retired to the changing room.

This was where the fun started. We all staked out our little corner of the room and started getting dressed for the first category that was when dresses started flying off and on. We had to get ready as soon as we could because Tiffany wanted us all to be together in the waiting area prior to the first girl walking down the runway. After each of us made our walk down the runway, we hurried back to change into the next outfit. Some of the girls were in all five categories and really had to rush. I was in only three, but I still needed to hurry. I made a slight mistake. I thought that I could get dressed quickly with my long nails, but I was wrong. I needed help several times to button up my blouses.

We all had a fun time, and I know that I will be looking forward to the next fashion show in 2004. I must add that all of the ladies looked very pretty, and we were all winners.

Phenotypes in Williamsburg

By the CES Roving Reporter (Reprinted from the Wild Rose of the Chesapeake, May 2003)



Five years ago Chi Epsilon Sigma (X E Σ) was formed in the Baltimore area. Not long after that, Lucy and Joan Stone coordinated a weekend in Williamsburg for the sisters of X E Σ . That was a memorable weekend for all of us. We had just found the warm and welcoming environment of Tri-Ess and were making new friendships with sisters we never knew we had. The trip to Williamsburg was the first opportunity some of us had to travel and interact in public in our feminine phenotypes.

When *Rho Tau* (P T) was formed shortly after, P T and X E Σ entered into a very close relationship. So when P T invited X E Σ to join them for their March meeting and Fashion Show, the sisters of X E Σ were more than eager to "put on their best" for their sisters at P T .

In the best traditions of southern hospitality, P T welcomed their northern sisters with open arms and a bountiful table. Ten sisters from X E Σ were able to enjoy this hospitality: Marsha and Doneene, Chrissy and Pattie, Leslie and Martha, Kim and Kathy, Terri Lynn, and Rachel. Some of the X E Σ girls arrived on Friday, meeting for dinner that

evening. During the day on Saturday, we went in various directions. Some went to Colonial Williamsburg, or the Pottery Factory in Lightfoot. Others chose historic Jamestown, which is preparing to celebrate the 400th anniversary of European settlement in Virginia in 2007.

They had selected five categories for the competition:

- Business Attire
- Casual Attire
- Holiday (St. Patrick's Day or any other holiday)
- Just Pulled This Out of My Closet
- Club Wear

The ladies of P T and X E Σ strutted their stuff in one or more of the categories. P T 's Barbara did a fabulous job of being the emcee, even though she

Phenotypes and Fashion Shows

By Lucy Stone

I certainly enjoyed the visit of our sisters from Chi Epsilon Sigma at Rho Tau's March meeting, but I am afraid it's true that I introduced the little used term, "phenotype" into a conversation that was apparently overheard by CES's roving reporter. You are probably wondering why I -- seemingly being of sound mind -- would do such a thing within earshot of a roving reporter. After all, she was in town to cover the Rho Tau fashion show, and the use of a term that one would expect to be uttered during the deliberations of a high school biology class certainly seemed inappropriate in such a setting.

You can imagine my concern when I heard it rumored that my unfortunate use of such an obscure term on the evening prior to the Rho Tau fashion show had shocked this sensitive Baltimore lady of

was drafted into the job at the last minute. But she proved up to the task, adding several ad libs like, "This gown is from I've Got a Secret". The two X E Σ entries in the Fashion Show were Chrissy and Rachel, both of whom won prizes for their categories. Rachel proved herself to be quite the clothes horse, and the only entrant to model in all five categories! In fact, it's rumored she and Terri even had to rent a car to have enough room for Rachel's suitcases.

All too quickly the evening was over. After hugs all around, it was agreed that P T would visit X E Σ this spring, probably in May or June. Stay tuned for further announcements about that.

Oh, and about the title of this article. Ask Lucy. Phenotype seemed to be her favorite word for the weekend.

considerable refinement. Several ladies told me that it had taken her several hours afterward to recover her sense of propriety. Further, it was rumored that the stress of the evening caused her to oversleep, and she ran behind all day Saturday. As a result she almost missed the first runway appearance of her editrix, Rachel.

While I don't know if the rumors that I cited were at all true, I certainly hope they are not for I would not like to get the reputation for carelessly inflicting

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harm on other ladies of refinement. In my defense, I would like to remind everyone that it was the very nature of this occasion that brought this bit of obscure scientific jargon to mind. For the word "phenotype" refers to the appearance of an organism in a given environment. And I could not help reflecting on how often many of us whose phenotype in public expresses our sex will don clothing that is more in harmony with our feminine side when we are in an environment where we feel less threatened. And certainly a fashion show is the best of environments for satisfying the need of each of us for a friendly environment where our suppressed gender can blossom forth.

I cannot help but feel there was some truth to the rumors that circulated concerning my unfortunate choice of words. For it is evident that the trauma from the experience had a lingering affect on the good lady from *The Wild Rose*. This is apparent from her choice of title for her fashion show article, "Phenotypes in Williamsburg." However, I am relieved that she was sufficiently recovered by the time she wrote her article for the April issue of *The Wild Rose of The Chesapeake* to demonstrate her usual literary excellence. How wonderful it was to see all of the ladies of both sexes from Chi Epsilon Sigma come together with the Rho Tau ladies of both sexes. Everyone looked so wonderful dressed in their feminine finery that no one, other than those of us present, would have suspected that the sex of many of us was opposite our presented gender.

Recipe Corner

BARBARA'S LASAGNE

Brown one pound of Jimmy Dean Italian sausage and drain well.

Add two jars tomato and basil spaghetti sauce. Cover and simmer twenty minutes.

Mix one thirty ounce ricotta cheese with parsley flakes and add some parmesan cheese; MIX WELL.

Cook approximately ten lasagna noodles.

Add sauce to cover the bottom of casserole dish, lay down noodles, add cheese mixture, add mozzarella (slices or shredded) cheese, add sauce. Then repeat.

Top with parmesan cheese.

Bake at 375 degrees F for twenty-five minutes.

ENJOY!