

Lipstick & Lace

Masquerade

November 2001

Volume 4, Issue 4

Busy Girls are Happy Girls!

Well, it's been a while since I've done a "what we've been up to" column. Seems that it's about time. A few months ago at a meeting I brought up that we should be doing more things together. It had been a while since we'd really done anything besides club meetings, and the occasional party. I was beginning to get anxious about doing something more. Well after that was brought up I said I want to go out at least twice a month more than I had been, asides from meetings. Since then we have started having much more fun! Natalie who is our social event coordinator, Sabrina our outgoing new member, and Vanessa and I have done some really fun

things! We've started up the "Space Girls" again for fun so we've been meeting regularly for that, we've been to Club 200 for Joan Costalotsa's step down party, Sabrina and I had a day out shopping in Polo Park, and around town that was so cool! Natalie organized a pool evening at Happenings, we've had a party for Nat and Ardra, gone to the B&B, we've been to the Opium Night Club for Halloween, I spent the day dressed at work, and took my girls trick or treating.

Wow that's a lot of stuff to pack in to a few weeks! But you know something it's so wonderful to actually be doing things! That's why I joined



Masquerade, to do things!

More on these stories inside! If you want to be a part of it all let me or Natalie know and we'll be sure to include you!

SHANDI

What "Passing" has come to mean to me.

For almost all my life, whenever I left the house dressed for one of my many long walks or evening drives, I was always worried about "What would people think?" Would I be right away seen as a guy in a dress. Would I be laughed at, or worse?

I can remember being laughed at in 1987 by a female member of the R.C.M.P., when I got spot checked

during an evening drive. That really hurt me, and had a lasting, long term effect on what I thought others would think of me. Yet at the time, I didn't realize that the male member, who did all the talking, never once asked why I was dressed as a girl! I forgot the good experience, and only remembered the bad one, for a very long time.

Over the years, during my

evening drives, when I could enjoy the evening as a girl, within the safe space of my car, I would give myself little tests. I'd do things like stop and use a pay telephone, looking around, watching, waiting, just to see how people saw me, or reacted to me. Never going too close to others, fearing the worst!

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Special points of interest:

- Party Photos!
- Pool Night Photos!
- Lot's of Photos!
- Humour!
- Birthdays!

Joining Masquerade "A Life Changing Experience"

They say that many times through our lives we experience "Life changing" events". I believe joining Masquerade has been just that for me.

After meeting the girls of Masquerade in July, and becoming a member of the group in August, I have thought back to the many years of being alone, when I wondered about why I cross-dressed, and wondered if it was right or wrong, or if I was the only one, those kinds of thoughts. Never having anyone to talk to or ask a question of. Thinking about it now, I don't know how I survived being alone with my feelings all those years.

Making friends on the internet, in chat rooms, was also a life changing experience for me. Because no one really knew who I was, it was like a safety net, yet I was still alone. However, without it, I may never have found such a wonderful group as Masquerade.

Since joining Masquerade I feel so complete and have never had so much to look forward to as far as my feminine side was concerned.

Plus, the stress level in my everyday life has dropped considerably. I was always too stressed out, never knowing when I'd have private time to "get pretty", yet now, I don't even think that way, and it seems like my life is becoming more "balanced". I look forward to the meetings and the wonderful learning experiences they provide, and for the outings to clubs and to parties when I can meet with friends who share many of the same feelings as I, and have a great time being a girl!

Over the last year, I've made some wonderful friends all over the world, whom I've never met face to face, yet are so very special to me. Joining Masquerade gave me the opportunity to make very special friends too. It has been a wonderful experience, just being myself around friends the way I've wished to be for so long.

Wish for all you want. Wishes do come true!

Thanks everyone!

SABRINA



Me in Polo Park!

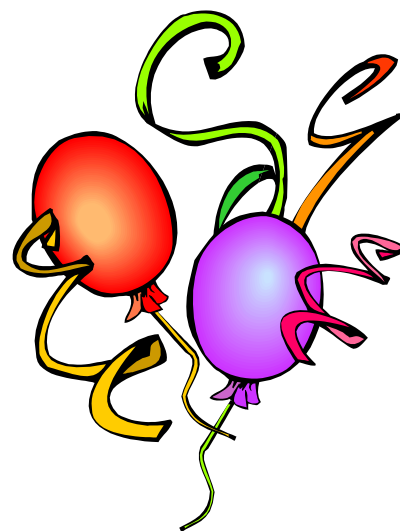
**Wish for all you
want. Wishes do
come true!**

Birthday Girls!



Edwina — De-
cember 10

Stephanie —
January 2



A Goal Achieved!

Well, I finally did it! It was a wonderful experience and thanks to my friend Sabrina I achieved a goal I set for myself too long ago. We spent the afternoon together shopping! But my goal for quite sometime has been to go to a shopping mall. The few places I've gone to beforehand were all CD friendly and although initially nerve wracking, they were good experiences. Nothing in comparison to going to a major shopping centre, which I almost did two years ago, but chickened out. So we were able to coordinate our days off and off we went to Polo Park Shopping Centre! Arguably the largest mall in the city, with two floors of shops and services.

We spent about an hour and a half walking around and even sat down on a bench and chatted for a while. And YES we did in fact shop! Much of it was window shopping, but Brie did end up buying some cool knee high platform boots at the Payless. We checked out the Zellers for some dresses that she'd seen on sale at another location on the weekend, but sadly they weren't to be found. So like the true shoppers we are we went right across town to the store she bought hers at and I found an awesome metallic snakeskin halter dress!

After all the shopping I was a little hungry, so Sabrina treated me to some fries and a sundae at of all places McDonald's! We went in and ordered and sat down and chatted some more while we ate.

After that we decided that it was such a great day, why should it end there! We drove over to Assiniboine Park and spent a while at the duck pond, and walked around the Leo Mol Garden. We looked at the lovely statues there, and took some photos, before I started to get a little chilly as the sun began to go down for the evening. We stopped at a drive-thru on the way home and that was how we ended it! Brie told me that she didn't get enough so she went on her own to St. Vital Shopping Centre!

All in all it was a wonderful day. Next time it will be an all day event! With plans for the evening too! We want to go to a movie next! We spent a lot of time in the presence of people going about their business, interacted with people and salesclerks, all without any negative reactions. The only time I thought we might've been "read" was when to teenage boys began talking loudly after passing us getting off the escalator. But as they didn't turn and point and stare I'm not sure they even noticed us.

I want to thank Sabrina so much for sharing this day with me. It was a dream come true, and I know she was as thrilled as I am! But you'll have to read her version on her website! See her photo on the previous page!

LIV SHANDI



ME!!!! In Polo Park!!!!



Sabrina and I in McDonald's! We had so much fun!

Working Girl on Halloween!

Halloween was just a couple of weeks ago! And as I've been hoping to do for quite some time I went to work "dressed" in "costume"! Little did they know! What a fabulous day! Even though my feet were sore after working in heels ALL DAY!!!! It was worth it! After some of my co-workers got over the initial surprise I received compliments from them and customers alike. One or two even jokingly asked me out on a date! One female customer was so impressed she was asking me about makeup and where I got my dress and what size it was! It was all I could do to hold all the girlie stuff inside and not gush! One customer's husband, a police officer, said I looked good enough to come work at the Vice Squad! Later that day the owner of the company did a double take as I walked out of the bathroom! And boy did I get compliments on my legs!

So after work, I briefly changed to some more comfy shoes and took my daughters trick or treating. Which was also quite cool, especially in my short dress! It was a shame that the humidity ruined my hair. I chatted with the neighbours who are "in the know" and she thought I looked good!

Then we went to the bar with some friends. My sweetie and I met up with Vanessa and Natalie at The Opium, where the bouncer and the ticket girl were quite complimentary. But after a while the other friends we were with (My KISS friends from last year) decided to try another bar. We all went to the Tijuana Yacht Club. Where we met up with my sweetie's boss, who hugged me! Not at all the reaction I expected! We saw so many cute costumes, drank and danced and had a great time. I even said "Hey Sailor!" to a cute guy in a sailor suit! He replied "Hey Babe!" it was so much fun! But the most memorable part came when I went to order a quesadilla. I walked up to the food service counter where the young woman was sitting idly reading her magazine. As I approached her counter she smiled and prepared to take my order. When I spoke she literally jumped! She did not expect my voice to be male! So needless to say I was quite proud of myself, humidity ruined hair and all!

Vanessa and Nat had fun too. Natalie had quite the time chatting with our cute flirty waitress and got special treatment when she was able to use the staff restrooms. Vanessa however being the brave girl she is, walked right into the ladies room without incident!

Here's a couple of photos!

LUV SHANDI



Me in my office!



Three hot girls in a bar near you!

The Awakening. (Edited and revised by Colleen)

A time comes in your life when you finally get it. When in the midst of all your fears and insanity you stop in your tracks and a voice in your head cries out - ENOUGH!

- stop hoping and waiting for something to change, or for happiness, safety, and security to come over the next horizon.

- accept the fact he is not Prince Charming and you are not Cinderella. Fairytale endings and beginnings are rare.

- accept you are not perfect and not everyone will love, appreciate or approve of who or what you are ... and that's OK. You have learned the importance of loving yourself, and in the process, a sense of new found confidence is born of self-approval.

- stop blaming other people for what they did to you, or didn't do. The only thing you can really count on is the unexpected.

- realize people don't always say what they mean or mean what they say. Moreover, not everyone will be there for you, and that it's not always about you. So, you decide to stand on your own, take care of yourself, and in the process, develop a sense of safety & security born of self-reliance.

- stop judging and begin accepting people as they are, overlooking their shortcomings. In the process, a sense of peace & contentment is born of forgiveness.

- accept that much of how you view yourself, and the world, is a result of all the messages and opinions that have been ingrained into you. Sift through all the crap you've been fed about how you should behave, look, and weigh, what you should wear, where you should shop, what you should drive, how and where you should live, what you should do for a living, who you should marry, what you should expect of marriage, the importance of having and raising children, or what you owe your parents.

- open up to new worlds and different points of view. Begin reassessing

and redefining who you are, and what you really stand for.

- recognize the difference between wanting and needing.

- discard the doctrines and values you've outgrown, or should never have bought into, and in the process learn to go more with your instincts.

- realize it is truly in giving that we receive, and there is power and glory in creating and contributing. Don't maneuver through life merely as a "consumer."

- remember principles such as honesty and integrity are not outdated but the mortar which holds together the foundation of one's life.

- appreciate you don't know everything. It's not your job to save the world, and you can't teach a pig to sing.

- distinguish between guilt and responsibility.

- get to know the importance of setting boundaries, and learning to say NO.

- realize the only cross to bear is the one you choose to carry and that martyrs get burned at the stake.

- understand more about romantic love and familial love, how to love, how much to give, when to stop giving, and when to walk away.

- accept you will not be more beautiful, intelligent, lovable or important because of the man on your arm or child who bears your name.

- look at relationships as they really are and not as you would have them.

- stop trying to control people, situations, and outcomes.

- realize that alone does not have to mean lonely.

- stop working hard at putting your feelings aside, smoothing things over and ignoring your needs.

- understand that feelings of entitlement are perfectly OK, and that you can want things, and even ask for what you want.

- know that you deserve to be treated with love, kindness, sensitivity, and respect, and don't settle for less.

- recognize that your body really is your temple, and you need to take care of it and treat it with respect.

- spend more time laughing and playing. Just as food fuels the body, laughter fuels the soul.

- realize for the most part, you get what you believe you deserve, and much of life is truly a self-fulfilling prophecy.

- see that anything worth achieving is worth working for. Wishing for something is different than making it happen.

- know that in order to achieve success you need direction, discipline and perseverance, and no one can do it alone, and it's OK to ask for help.

- know the only thing you must truly fear is FEAR itself. To give into it is to waste life living under a cloud of impending doom. Fear takes away the right to live on your terms.

- accept that life isn't always fair. One doesn't always get what one thinks they deserve and sometimes bad things happen to good people. So don't personalize things. God isn't punishing you or failing to answer prayers. It's just life happening.

- understand negative feelings such as anger, envy and resentment must be understood and redirected or they will suffocate your life and poison everything around you.

- admit when you are wrong and build bridges instead of walls.

- be thankful for the simple things we take for granted. Things, millions of people on earth can only dream about - a full refrigerator, clean running water, a warm bed, a hot shower.

- begin to take responsibility for yourself and not settle for less than your heart's desire.

- make it a point to keep smiling, trusting, and staying open to every wonderful possibility.

- take a stand, and with courage in your heart, and God by your side, design the life you want to live, and do it as best as you can.

ANONYMOUS

What's in a "Name"

When we are born, our parents all gave us our names, and we have to live with them the rest of our lives. Oh, yes, we can change them if we like, but just how many people really do??

Growing up, experiencing the feminine feelings inside me, I never really thought about having a "Girl" name. Well, with all those years of dressing alone, keeping to myself, it didn't really mater now did it?

In the fall of 2000, when I really started to turn my focus inward, trying to figure out what was really going on with my feelings, I stumbled into Debbie's Den, now TG Chat (<http://transchat.sister.org>). I was reaching out for any kind of help I could find, and that seemed to be just the right place. But who was I. Everyone posted the "Girl names" in the room. Now I had to figure out who I was!

The name I have always liked, ever since Kate Jackson played on Charlie's Angels, was "Sabrina"! And I

always loved the way she dressed, not to sexy, but still gorgeous:-) And since I related so well to Sabrina Duncan's type of work, it was only fitting that it would be my chosen name to!!

When I signed on to Hotmail to open an e-mail account, I was given another choice to make. I needed a second name!! Well, I won't go into detail about why I chose "Markes", other than to say I like the "Whole Name", and feel it really is my feminine side.

They say a person's name to them is the most special word they will ever hear. Ever since first seeing my name being written in the chat room at Debbie's, and now hearing it being said at the Masquerade meetings and when out with so many wonderful friends. I feel like it has been the icing on the cake, that lets me know that my feminine side is very real, and very special. So I hope you all feel the same special way when someone calls you by name!

We are born with the names we get, yet we are the names we chose.

HUGS

SABRINA

Visit my home in cyberspace
http://www.geocities.com/sabrina_markes/

They say a person's name to them is the most special word they will ever hear.

This Really Puts life Into Perspective!

We convince ourselves that life will be better after we get married, have a baby, then another. Then we are frustrated that the kids aren't old enough and we'll be more content when they are. After that, we're frustrated that we have teenagers to deal with. We will certainly be happy when they are out of that stage. We tell ourselves that our life will be complete when our spouse gets his or her act together, when we get a nicer car, when we are able to go on a nice vacation, or when we retire. The truth is, there's no better time to be happy than right now. If not now, when? Your life will always be filled with challenges. It's best to admit this to yourself and decide to be happy anyway.

Happiness is the way. So, treasure every moment that you have and treasure it more because you shared it with someone special, special enough to spend your time with...and remember that time waits for no one. So, stop waiting....

--until your car or home is paid off
--until you get a new car or home
--until your kids leave the house
--until you go back to school
--until you finish school
--until you lose 10 lbs.
--until you gain 10 lbs.
--until you get married
--until you have kids
--until you retire
--until summer
--until spring

--until winter
--until fall
--until you die

There is no better time than right now to be happy. Happiness is a journey, not a destination.
So-work like you don't need money,
Love like you've never been hurt,
And dance like no one's watching.
If you want to brighten someone's day,
pass this on to someone special.
-I just did.

MS. HILARY BROOKES

Imperial Crown Princess, 2nd Imperial Sovereign House of Simplicity for the Court of Winnipeg and All of Manitoba

Why Women Cry

A little boy asked his mother
"Why are you crying?"

"Because I'm a woman", she told
him.

"I don't understand", he said.
His mum just hugged him and
said, "And you never will"

Later the little boy asked his father,
"Why does mother seem to
cry for no reason?"

"All women cry for no reason",
was all his dad could say.

The little boy grew up and became
a man, still wondering why
women cry.

Finally he put in a call to God;
When God got on the phone, he
asked, "God, why do women cry
so easily?"

God said: "When I made the
woman she had to be special.

I made her shoulders strong
enough to carry the weight of the
world; yet, gentle enough to give
comfort"

"I gave her an inner strength to
endure childbirth and the rejection
that many times comes from
her children"

"I gave her a hardness that allows
her to keep going when everyone
else gives up, and take care of her
family through sickness and fatigue
without complaining "

"I gave her the sensitivity to love
her children under any and all
circumstances, even when her child
has hurt her very badly"

"I gave her strength to carry her
husband through his faults
and fashioned her from his rib to
protect his heart" "I gave her
wisdom to know that a good husband
never hurts his wife, but sometimes
tests her strengths and her

resolve to stand beside him
unflinching"

"And finally, I gave her a tear to
shed. This is hers exclusively to
use whenever it is needed."

"You see: The beauty of a
woman is not in the clothes she
wears,
the figure that she carries, or the
way she combs her hair."
"The beauty of a woman must be
seen in her eyes, because that is
the doorway to her heart - the
place where love resides."

(courtesy Can-Am sisters News-
group & Dana)

**When I made the
woman she had
to be special.**

Humour!



Courtesy of Vanessa!

Party Pictures!

On October 20th we had a birthday party for Ardra and Natalie who both had milestones this year. But no further details on age will be printed here! We had a great time with plenty of food, chatting, and new friends! We all finally pooped out at about 3 AM after some dancing!



The Birthday Girls!!



The Party Girls!!

Pool Party!

On October 24th Natalie organized a pool party at Club Happenings for our group. She, Vanessa, Sabrina and Shandi were the only ones who made it, and besides from our friend Pat who we met there were almost the only people in the whole place. Dennis the manager said we are welcome any Wednesday for any group activity, and he is also looking forward to us doing another show. After all it has been over a year!



More Pictures!



Vanessa & Shandi out at a wedding social!



Sabrina & Shandi outside A-channel



Vanessa & Sabrina & a pole!



Shandi, Sabrina, and Vanessa out at the Forks!



Sabrina on the caboose!



Vanessa loves trains!



Shandi & Sabrina in the Leo Mol Garden at Assiniboine Park



Shandi posing on a park bench!



Sabrina enjoying a fall afternoon!



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Club website!
Communities.msn.ca/masqueradeMB

● For the girl inside all of us!
There's Masquerade!

A "Tits"-timonial

Today I had the day free to spend playing in front of the mirror. I have to say, now that I have had time to try on different outfits, the breast forms Tina makes are absolutely wonderful. I have some very tight T-shirts, that I was never comfortable wearing without having a jacket on, when using the home-made breast forms I have been using. I tried them on with the Tina's forms and was amazed just perfect they are, that I would now feel comfortable wearing those T's without a jacket:-). And with the one dress I own, I couldn't believe what a difference they made. I look so damn good!! Besides my wig, that was the best money I ever spent in my life!

After seeing the difference, I put the old home made forms in my bra, then tried T's on, then the dress again, and admit, something didn't look right for sure, but with Tina's forms, the shape is perfect!

SABRINA MARKES

Tina's Tits!
Available from
Lady Godiva
Boutique!



Passing-cont'd

(Continued from page 1)

It wasn't until I started making on-line friends in the fall of 2000, that I really started becoming comfortable with who I was, and why I crossdressed. Reading all their stories about going out and having a great time, I couldn't help thinking that I was missing out on all the fun!

The best pieces of advice I received was "People don't know to look for girls like us!" and "Keep smiling, people will find it hard to give you a bad time if you are happy with yourself".

This year, I got brave in March and walked right into Polo Park and guess what happened?? Nothing bad happened! It seemed like I was invisible. In April, I had my first face to face contact in the lobby of the Hotel Fort Gary, with a guy I met in a chat room. We went to The Keg for dinner, then to a movie afterward. It was unbelievable! I was among dozens of people that evening, and not one bad experience. And sitting in a crowded movie theatre wearing a mini skirt and high heels was a dream

come true for me. Since meeting with the wonderful girls of Masquerade this past summer, I've had the opportunity to venture out into the real world a whole lot more than I ever thought was possible. Meeting other people, T-girls, girls and guys, going out to Club Happenings, Club 200 and to Ms. Purdy's, and walking the downtown streets of Winnipeg, passing dozens of people without one bad experience!! GOD it is such a wonderful feeling being a girl!

I've come to realize that all these years of being worried about being seen as a guy in a dress, is probably because it really was the guy in the dress. I had been so worried about people seeing the me, that I kept the girl inside from coming out! Looking back, so far, the only person that I received a negative reaction from was the female RCMP officer years ago!

Does all this mean I am "Passing"? Or does it mean I am being "Accepted"? I believe it means I am

being accepted, rather than I am passing. That gives me a tremendous feeling of freedom to express my feminine side knowing I don't have to pass. That people do accept me as I am, however they see me.

SABRINA

