

HEAL THE BROKEN HEARTED BOYS

OR

Where have all the young girls gone?

He just stands there
with pleading eyes
Why she left him?
His future dim,
He moans
I sigh
He cries out
"Why?"
Same old story
No ending
Fantasy beginning
she left him broken
A loveless sad token
Poor dreary child
His eyes get wild
Now he wants to get revenge
I just yawn,
"We are all Pawns."
I weakly try to heal him
"It is over now."
Make it somehow."
Cliche comes tumbling after
I did not see Jack around
Buckets of water
pour down his cheeks
He decides to leave the city
To Europe-Get around
My phone rings deep in the night
His voice trembles with fright
"I just need her to lean on"
Poles are for leaning
and split rail fences
Not a Golden Girl in sight
Hang up the phone at dawn
It is taking too long to fall
asleep
Vaguely remembering some pain
Far away
I decide he will survive.

L. Mesch

T.C. and Company

"The club with a difference."

L. Mesch

Women are not strangers to the Long Island bar alternative to lonely Friday nights. Clubs are designed for men. Men who wish to have a few drinks and shoot a game of pool and pinball are free to drop in on any corner in Nassau. Men who need the comfort of "stray ladies" when the "Mama at home" looks a little ragged around the edges are free to "buy the lady a drink" and possibly burp her up afterwards. Disco clubs like Penrods in East Meadow offer obvious opportunities for women. All you need is a two hundred dollar pants suit and the ability to "Hustle" just right. Heads and Tails in Roslyn caters to the less than graceful dancer. Every woman there quickly becomes aware that half the room considers themselves the "Heads" and the other half is expected to provide the "tail." For the floating androgyne (sorry about the spelling - it is not in the dictionary) there are alternatives. In all fairness there are "liberated" mixed clubs like the Back Barn and My Fathers Place where the men are careful to come on intellectually rather than like a bull during mating season. These clubs however are few and far between and still cater to male needs. Men set up the sound systems. Men crowd around the game machines and men walk off with the prettiest long haired hipster lady.

Chris Kistler and Trish Hartog dared to create an atmosphere catering to the needs of women. On Feb. 12th, 1976 these two women opened a terrific alternative to isolation. The bar, T.C. and Company is located on 121 Woodfield Road in West Hempstead. Chris states that the bar does not exclude men totally but it is all too clear upon entry that women run the club. The crowd around the pool table and pinball machine is female. You can actually bend over for a difficult shot without turning to find a hungry male animal telling you you hit the 8th ball into the wrong pocket. The price of beer and liquor is minimal and there are many activities planned for the outer limits. A softball team is in the planning stages. A photo and poetry workshop is also forming for the future. Sunday night features women musicians, solo or in bands. Tuesday night is free pizza night and there is no cover during the week. A two dollar minimum on the weekends is good for two drinks and a one dollar fee for Sunday night entertainment is a small price to pay. Open tryouts and auditions for live performers take place between 6 and 7 weekday afternoons. Chris added that a camping weekend on the Delaware River will be scheduled for the summer.

The club is not only a bar but is also a center for activities. The people are open and friendly. On Sunday night April 4th Lynne Bunn gave a live performance on guitar. There to provide sound assistance were people from Middle Earth Switchboard. Lynne writes all her own music and after Sunday night's performance headed out for L.A. where she will be playing her tapes and attempting to break into the music business. Her songs range from rock to jazz and sometimes folk. It was hard to define her music. The tunes were so haunting and unique many did not move during the performance for fear of breaking the magic aura around Lynne. Nearly all her songs were for and about women. One inspirational number written especially for Trish and Chris had everyone rocking and rolling to a driving rhythm. It was hard to believe that all that music was coming from one person.

When someone buys you a drink you don't feel uncomfortable. No return payment is expected other than conversation and gut level communication which is lacking in male dominated bars. Trish and Chris tend bar like they have been doing it all of their 24 years. Joyce Hartog is Trish's sister and waits the tables smiling and making you feel like there is one waitress alive who is not in it for the money.



Photo by Linda Mesch

The club is available free for private dinners and parties. It is open to all women's groups and will provide the space on weekdays and weekends. Men are allowed to visit but few really show up. Chris made it clear that men are welcome but that the bar is primarily planned for women and only the curious pop in.

The amazing feature of the club is the home like atmosphere and the happy smiling faces one so seldom sees in bars. Few sit around getting plastered and feeling sorry for themselves. This is a common club syndrome T.C. and Company is free of. The women there are happy and open. The club is not a threatening arena where a lady has to get her defense mechanisms in gear. T.C. Company is not a place where one has to zip a cosmic suit on tight to make an impression. There is no demand for approval and better yet women are not on display for the "highest" bidder. If your pants are baggy, your face dirty, your hair awry people still smile and talk to you. And there is a lot to discuss without interruption. In fact many would be surprised at how much women have left unsaid due to male intervention. T.C. and Company saved a few lives last weekend by providing an atmosphere free of gender games and verbal masturbation encountered in mixed clubs. The sub heading for the club should be: "The club with a multitude of differences."

If you are bored and sick of hit and miss bar experiences and want to meet some fine active and talented women drop in to T.C. and Company. If nowhere looks like home this club will feel real good.

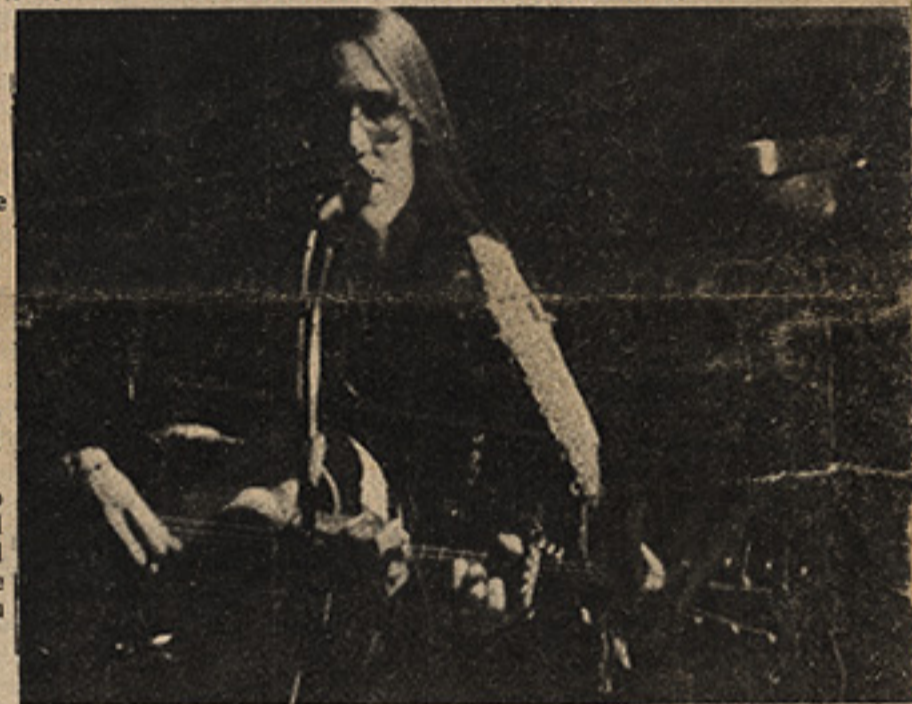


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