



Special Beauties

By Lindsay Watts

Los Angeles' nightlife offers scores of bars and clubs, something for everyone. This particular Friday night I decide to venture somewhere new, Club 7969 in West Hollywood. The scene inside the club is familiar enough- loud music, dry ice, wandering eyes. The men are fairly average looking, but the ladies are different. Many look like Amazon women and are tall, beautiful and expertly made-up.

None of these "ladies" were born female.

"The reason we come here is we can be happy, we can be ourselves and we don't have to put on a front about what we have hidden," says Veronica Delmonico, a beautiful brunet in a tight black bustier.

Delmonico and her girlfriend Monique frequent this club on Fridays for "tranny night." The place is packed and all eyes are glued to the stage where women in elaborate costumes perform stripteases. These ladies have exquisite faces and they ooze sex appeal.

I feel plain and demure in my t-shirt and jeans, but I guess I don't stand out too much because Monique asks me if I'm "pre-op or post-op."

The men here far outnumber the women, and most stand by themselves, watching. Jake Tripplehorn says he thinks the guys that come are like him, not attracted to other men, but drawn to transgenders.

"I've been married, I have girlfriends and yet I'm always intrigued with these special beauties if you want to call them that...which they are, I mean some of them are extremely attractive," says Tripplehorn.

He tells me he'd like to find a nice transgender to settle down with, but it's hard at this club because there are so many call-girls.

"There's a dollar amount associated unfortunately, so it's hard to find someone," he says.

By the end of the night, many have paired off, but Tripplehorn is still standing by himself. Outside the club, Delmonico and Monique hop in their black BMW and speed off, laughing. As the valet pulls up with my car, I have to admit, I'm a little reluctant to leave this fascinating scene.