

# Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is December 16 at 8:00pm

## A New View

by Elaine

There were 51 ladies at the **Cross-Port** meeting last month. We had a very good turn out. I would like to welcome the new people that came to the meeting for the first time. Danelle, Rachael, Rondha and Joe. I would also like to thank Victoria, Denise and Michelle from **The Crystal Club** who came to the meeting we hope they had a good time.

As you might or might not be aware I am trying to buy a house. Well I was in a girlish mode so I decided to go as Elaine. I wore a business suit cinnamon silk jacket and black silk skirt and my 3 inch black patent pumps. I am always amazed at how different people treat me as my fem self as opposed to my male self.

When I went as my male self they show me workshops and bar areas. When I go as Elaine they show me Kitchens and wall paper and ease of cleaning. I am more interested in the way people treat me as a woman than as a man. There is also a difference in the way people talk also I notice that even men talk softer around a woman than a man. Maybe you already noticed this yourself when you are out.

Well it looks like **The Lone Star Saloon** will not be opening and that **The Golden Lion** will be our regular meeting place. So T.T.F.N. I will see you at the **Cross-Port Christmas Party** at the Lion.

## Joyce's World

While I did not attend the

Erie Sisters' "Riverside Gala Weekend" as I had planned, I heard from those who did. They related a wonderful time. The warmth and closeness of a small convention seemed to impress them the most. Then there was the quaintness of the Victorian hotel decked out in holiday finery. This is the same perception I had of the convention last year. It is not too early to be thinking about next year's gala.

With the holidays at hand, I recently decided to visit the Cincinnati Zoo's "Festival of Lights." It was a Saturday evening and the weather was quite cool. So, I dressed warmly anticipating being outside a couple hours. Upon arriving at the zoo, was I ever surprised! The variety of color and number of lights were beautiful. This year, for the first time, they had a half hour Christmas program in which children from the

audience participated. "A couple hours" turned into three and a half hours of consuming hot chocolate, watching ice skaters and enjoying the lights and animals. Being thoroughly chilled by now, I decided to stop at the Vernon Manor lounge to imbibe a couple and be entertained by the jazz combo.

The following Saturday afternoon I set out for Union Terminal, which now houses the historical society museum and the natural history museum. It was late and the place was so crowded that I decided to return on Sunday morning. The place is huge! After wandering around from scene to scene for more than five hours, I called it an afternoon. One could spend days there and probably still not see everything. This is so unlike the earlier period when the terminal had been made into a shopping mall - a total disaster. **This** is elegantly done! I will be going back soon.

A new restaurant opened recently in my neighborhood. Having worked up an appetite by all the walking, and aided by Joyce's natural curiosity, I decided to give the "Longhorn Steakhouse" a try. It has a definite Western motif: country western music and peanut shells all over the place. The food was delicious and the service great. The ten minute wait for a table was well worth it.

Well, the November elections are over. It seems that we have an "I told you so" in our midst. If I've read more into this person's attentions, I apologize. She is, after all, entitled to her opinions. However, I do not subscribe to them.

Issue #3, the Human Rights Ordinance, went down to a resounding defeat -- 62%. The defeat did not surprise me, but it did sadden me. Our "I told you so" claims that this always happens (there has to be a first sometime) and was an utter waste of money. If only issues that did not cost money and were certain of passage had been pursued in past elections. Blacks would still be "slaves," women would not have the vote, and Gays and cross-dressers would not have the freedoms we now enjoy. Should this type of mentality pervade in the future, we will return to those "good old days" when we as Cross-dressers had to fear walking the streets less we be molested or arrested for trying to be ourselves.

Discrimination against one group eventually leads to discrimination against all. Money spent fighting discrimination is **not** wasted. Let's do be practical. People may not wish to be told what to do about human rights, but sometimes it becomes necessary to tell them and even force it by law. In this respect, I feel the money was well spent and the fight

should continue for what is right. Neither the extent of one's education, not their earning capabilities should enter into any consideration as to whether an individual should be accorded basic human rights. After all, this is not a politically correct issue. Discrimination is a basic issue of right vs. wrong!

## IT'S A CINCH!

by: Bobbi L.

Have you been contemplating a frank discussion with that significant other in your life? Does that discussion involve a revelation about one's preferred wardrobe choices? Would you like to have a few resources handy once those inevitable questions begin? Well, the public library has several titles on transvestitism available and you needn't worry about awkward intrusions at the card catalog. How is that possible? Thanks to the miracles of modern technology, anyone with a PC and a 2400 baud modem is now able to access over 800,000 volumes cataloged by the Hamilton County libraries.

Called "Dial Cinch" the service is accessed by dialing 369-3200 and following the prompts. It's a bookworm's heaven-at-home.

The basic setting parameters follow:

Baud.....2400

Bits/character..8

Stop bits.....1

Parity.....none

Terminal type:  
VT 100 or 102

Mode.....ANSI

If these settings don't bring results, call 369-4599 for tech help. It's available Monday through Saturday, all day (except 4:30-6:30 AM when "down" for maintenance) and Sunday (except 5:30 - 11:00 AM).

I made one call to establish the settings needed for the Macintosh. The very next attempt to establish service connected. I have had a blast since then searching for the many topics which intrigue me.

By the way, CINCH lists 7 subject areas for "trans-vestitism," with 6 titles available. Of course, there is no indication whether the books are on the shelf, but there is information concerning which branches might have the titles you seek.

Dial Cinch and read on!

## **GROUND HOG DAY?**

by Paula Harmston

At the start of the movie "Ground Hog Day," Bill Murray hates the town of Punxsutawney. He has no use for the place and can't wait to depart. By the end of the film, though, he loves the town and doesn't want to leave. Such was my experience upon visiting Cambridge Spring, Pennsylvania for the Erie Sisters' "Riverside Gala."

Getting to Cambridge Spring looked easy on a map: just go to Columbus, cut across to Youngstown, avoiding Cleveland, travel north on I-79 to the Meadville exit, then ten miles on some backroads and I'm there! I was told it was a four or five hour drive.

I arranged to take Friday afternoon off work, planning to leave Downtown Cincinnati at noon, arrive around 5pm, attend the 7:30 pm reception, and enjoy the weekend. Piece of cake! Wrong...

My first problem was that at 11am Friday, a fellow employee, Tony, became violently ill and was taken by ambulance to the hospital. I don't like Tony so it was no big deal to me, until my boss ordered me to go to the hospital to see how Tony was doing and call back with a report! I tried to get out of the assignment but we were short handed and I had to do it. As a result, I didn't get out of town until 2pm.

Next, it rained cats and dogs the entire way...every

single mile of the trip. This slowed me down considerably and I began to develop a foul mood. I second-guessed myself the entire drive for not taking off the entire day as Gina did. She left at 8am and, no doubt, was already there by noon, relaxing by the pool, while I was putting up with knuckle head drivers who wouldn't get out of my way. Then I kept thinking about that idiot, Tony, at the hospital. My dislike for him grew immensely as I inched towards Cambridge Spring.

And then, the Pennsylvania speed limit is only 55 (and I drive A LOT faster, especially when I'm late). Crossing into PA reminded me of the \$100.00 speeding ticket I got two years ago on the turnpike. Further, mysteriously, most of the lights at the intersections were out and I missed the turn north onto I-79 (which cost me an extra 20 minutes and just made me madder). Finally, I reached Meadville and turned up state road 6-19, your basic country two-lane. Wouldn't you know it, I crept along at 20 - 30 M.P.H. behind every hay wagon in the area!

When I **did** arrive in Cambridge Spring, I drove through town, what there was of it, and didn't see the Riverside Inn. Twice I stopped for directions. When I found the Inn at last (8:45pm) all of the good parking spaces were taken and it was still raining hard.



## THE BARON SPEAKS

Hello, Girls. This is the IL Duce' of Inflexibility, The Baron Bob von Monshausen speaking. Thank you so much for the new title, Lady Kristine, I shall use it at all the upcoming Court functions.

The term of office for Joyce (The Duchess of Inflexibility) and me (IL Duce') ends March 12, 1994. I challenge you, Lady Kristine, to run for the office of Baroness or Baron (whichever suits your needs the best). Joyce and I have inflexibly announced that we will not be available to head the Barony for another term. Two years of leading this new Barony have been very tiring. We are pleased to have raised some money for charities (A.V.O.C., P.F.L.A.G., Equality Cincinnati, and St. Elizabeth's Home Care Hospice). All Gay organizations, you say? Perhaps so, but girls, what affects Gays also affects Cross-dressers. Sexuality and Gender are lumped together by our foes!

The International Court System has been fighting to cross-dress, yes, CROSS-DRESS, since 1951 when San Francisco passed ordinances prohibiting men from wearing women's cloth-ing except at special functions. Cross-dressers (maybe you call

them Drag Queens) or-organized "Functions" where they could legally cross-dress. They formed "clubs" that evolved into the Empires with Emperesses. Since Emperesses need Emperors, who need Princes, etc., we now have the whole gamut of court titles - all pretend, of course, but fun. And what were these "Special Functions" which they or-organized? Fund Raisers! These "Special Functions" have been great support groups for CROSS-DRESSERS, both Gay and straight! Yes, there are Gay and straight people in the Court system. All are welcome.

Lady Linda, your last two columns have infuriated me. You have the constitutional right to your views and I will fight to the death (have fought in WWII and Korea) to protect that right, BUT I have the con-stitutional right to oppose your views. I, too, have a small business. The Thing Shops have now been in business for nearly 25 years. We have always hired the best help available without discrim-inating against any one or any group. We have had 2 African-American store managers. Both did great jobs. We have had several seamstress who were African-American, several Gay, several straight, and even one German national. All of them made excellent employees. We also had some who did not "work out" so we let them go. We

have had only one file for employment comp. (a straight Anglo woman. Her claim was disallowed by the state).

I am extremely proud of our business record! We have not become rich or famous, but we have, by our standards, achieved success. We are now slowing down and closed some of stores as we are nearing retirement.

We feel we have been successful because we have never discriminated against anyone. We have never had the need to be in "high society" or to be "politically correct." Any who have heard our radio programs or seen our television appearances in the 60's and 70's can attest to these claims. We will fight discrimination with all our might until we die!

By the way, Mary and I are very proud of the titles conferred upon us by Cincinnati's morning newspaper. Because of our outspoken, open fight against the Religious Right's fight to close all of Newport's night life, and to censure our Newport stores, we were "hot" news for some time. We were even threatened by the Catholic church. They told us to either "tone down" our show windows or they would picket our stores (we had 3 locations in Newport at that time). We stood up to them and won! Because of our interviews (newspaper and T.V.) we were dubbed the "King and Queen of the Newport Undie World."



Lady Linda, I know you are financially successful; you travel in the "best circles of society;" you head a great business and chair a worthwhile organization; but can you sleep nights with your views of "minorities?" I can and do!

Girls, I'm sorry in a way to bring all this up in our newsletter, but I feel this controversy is good for any organization. I refuse to let my views interfere with my friendships. Linda and Kristine, I love you both and am praying for you! Let's bind our wounds and keep fighting to make this world a safe place for people...all people.

**Baron Bob**

**THE VIEW INSIDE**  
by **Bobbi L.**

Last month I introduced, complete with the "bugs" which are inherent in most new endeavors, the first of what I hope will be many interviews with the ladies of our fine organization. I received many enthusiastic compliments about the need for this type of column. Thanks to those of you who responded. This month I shall continue with an interview of a Cross-Port lady who was at the very first meeting Beverly and I attended. This tall, attractive and friendly member has attended most of

the other times we were able to show up. Sadly, it has only been in the past few months that we have really gotten to know her. Indeed, she is one of the reasons I wanted to do this type of interview. I know that there are many others who "see" Paula D. but never get the chance to chat with her.

Ladies, let me give you that chance.

T.V.I. Paula, thank you for taking this time to help the rest of us get to know you better. First off, tell us all the numbers which GG's hate to reveal.

P. D. If by that you mean age, weight, etc., I'm 49 (August 21); 6' 2" & 185 lbs.; 38-32-38. I wear an 11 1/2 shoe and a 16 P dress.

T.V.I. How about Paula's style. What do you look for when shopping for clothes, shoes, wigs, etc.?

P.D. Generally, I buy dresses which end at or just above the knee. I like short, tight skirts. I prefer solid colors. In tops I look for those with lacy lapels or bows. My shoes are usually pumps, low cut on the sides and showing lots of toe cleavage. I'll choose those with 2 1/2 inch heels. My wigs are all styled by a friend (I'm really not very good with hair). Most are brown, curly, full, and slightly teased.

T.V.I. What keeps you busy in your spare time, you know, hobbies, personal interests, those kinds of things?

P.D. Mostly just working around the house. I love working on old cars. My spare time is usually occupied by keeping caught up on my "honey do's." Occasionally, I do get to ride on my new Harley, though. As far as my other interests go: well, I like country music and any movie with Jack Nicholson or Clint Eastwood.

T.V.I. Paula, at risk of stirring up a hornet's nest as I did last month with this question, do YOU have a favorite "gripe" which you're brave enough to share with the readers?

P.D. My only gripe is that some of the existing Cross-Port members do not seem very friendly or receptive to first timers at our meetings.

T.V.I. That seems a legitimate enough concern. Let's hope that your speaking out will correct that problem. And speaking of "first timers," how long have YOU been a member of Cross-Port and how did you learn about the organization?

P.D. I have been a member for about one year now, although I've been coming to the meetings for

about two years. I learned about Cross-Port from a friend.

T.V.I. What is your earliest recollection of cross-dressing?

P.D. Probably about 5 years old. I remember trying on Mom's clothes. I'm sure a lot of us got started that way.



T.V.I. And thinking about Gina P.'s recent article, a select few of us **still** get to try on Mom's stuff! Paula, what is your favorite cross-dressing recollection?

P.D. I guess going shopping at the Dayton Mall en femme. Also, I particularly like shopping for shoes.

T.V.I. Ooooo, **now** you've touched on **my** favorite kind of shopping adventure!

Paula, are you married or involved at this time? Does your S.O. know about "Paula," and, if so, what their role or attitude toward your femme-self?

P.D. I am engaged to a wonderful woman. She knows of Paula and is **very** supportive. Sometimes she attends the Cross-Port meetings with me.

T.V.I. What is the most satisfying aspect of cross-dressing for you?

P.D. I really love attending the Cross-Port meetings. I love meeting new people and exchanging ideas, especially on the subjects of dress and make-up.

T.V.I. What is the most disturbing aspect of being a cross-dresser?

P.D. The thing that disturbs me most is the potential for being hassled by law enforcement.

T.V.I. Paula, can you offer any "tips" on **creating the illusion**?

P.D. Other than wearing clothes that fit correctly, be sure to have a color match done for make-up. Another very important thing we all forget from time-to-time, is our poise. How you stand and

sit and walk. If you dress like a lady, **act** like a lady!

T.V.I. What do you imagine the future holds for \_\_\_\_\_?

P.D. **Cross-Port**. I hope it continues to grow, drawing more and more members.

T.V.I. Paula D., this has been a real pleasure. Thanks for taking time away from all those "honey do's" to give us all a view inside one of **Cross-Port's finest members**.

### THE COAT on PAGE 70

by: Paula Harmston

When I came out of the closet in May of 1993, I needed to expand my wardrobe. May is a beautiful month with warmer weather and a whole summer to look forward to. It was fun buying clothes for the various functions I was going to for the first time. It all went well until early September when it finally crossed my mind that, in Cincinnati, it didn't stay nice all year long. With the winter approaching there was one article of clothing I had completely omitted from my wardrobe - a coat.

The first thing I did was buy a white, button sweater to cover my arms and shoulders. This got me through several

chilly September nights. Then I bought a multi-colored, lined jacket to take care of deep-freeze January weather when I was dressed casually. The sweater and jacket had been easy to select and not very expensive, but as I turned my attention towards the more formal heavy winter coats, I could see that this purchase would test my ability as a shopper.

I started my search by visiting the area department stores: McAlpin's, Lazarus, Penny's, etc.. I didn't see anything I liked and the prices were shocking, at least to a neophyte like myself. In my ignorance, I had hoped to keep the cost under \$100.00. Imagine my sticker shock as everything I saw, ran \$150.00 to \$300.00. On the advice of a friend, I went to the Burlington Coat Factory Outlet near Tri-County, but I didn't like their selection or their prices.

I then tried the catalogs: Penny's, Roamans, Lane Bryant. It was hard determining what the coat would be like just from the pictures, but at least the prices were better. After my heart debated with my pocketbook, I placed an order with Roamans for one of their cheaper coats. Unlike some catalog companies, what is in their catalog **really** is in stock, and their delivery is top notch. The coat arrived just four days later.

Unfortunately, the quality did not match the service.

First, the material was inferior: it looked cheap and it didn't appear to be warm (the prime reason for the purchase). Worse, the sleeves were too short. I'm 6' 11" with fairly long arms. These sleeves were about an inch short. I checked the construction of the coat and "letting out" the sleeves didn't seem feasible. It was depressing, to say the least.

However, in a rare moment of clear thinking, I called Roamans and had the female sales rep pull my order as I had a question for her: Was there anything that could be done to alter the sleeves to make them longer? I had to wait for her response, a pause which I assumed was caused by her searching for the answer. In fact, she was searching for a **question**: "Who's wearing the coat?" Nervously I replied, "I am."

"Oh, well, now I can help you," she cheerfully respond-ed! "Lots of men wear our clothes, and now that I know who the coat is for, I can help you better."

What a great sales clerk!

She explained that the problem might be that my upper torso was too big for the coat: big shoulders pull the sleeves, effectively making them shorter than they really are. Also, some materials stretch more than others. She mentioned that some coats have adjustable cuffs that can be rolled up and down, like the one on page 70. "Gulp," the coat on

page 70 looked nice, but it cost twice as much. We talked about price and she reminded me that you get what you pay for. She assured me that the coat on page 70 was just what I needed, so I bit the bullet and ordered it. The catalog showed it to have a big, furry collar and adjustable, furry cuffs. I ordered it in black. Like clockwork, four days later it arrived, on a chilly October 21...the day of a Cross-Port meeting.

I always rent a motel room to change for the meetings and when I got to my room the coat was still in the box, unopened. I took the coat out and hung it up without trying it on. I turned my attention towards doing my make-up and getting dressed.

When I finished the make-up and dressing I got my purse, car keys and things together then finally returned to the coat. I removed it from the hanger and slipped it on....an incredibly terrific feeling engulfed me. The coat felt and looked so good. I thought I would burst. It was far and away a better feeling than anything I had experienced to date. Nothing comes within a million miles of that feeling. In one of the Tri-Ess books, Carol Beecroft says that we wear women's clothes because "It feels so gooooood!" Right on, Carol! She must have been wearing my coat when she wrote that! Not only did it look good, but it fit so much better than the first coat. The coat on page



70 was of much thicker material and obviously would keep me warm. The big, furry collar looked and felt sensational. The coat was long enough, mid-way between my knees and feet and while the sleeves weren't perfect, they were fine once I adjusted the cuffs. Then I was off to the Gaslight for dinner with some of the girls and the meeting at the Golden Lions.

Since that night I've wondered a lot about why that coat made me feel so good and part of the answer may be that the coat covered nearly my entire body which instantly feminized me from head to toe...a neat trick with just one article of clothing. Also, the coat was feminine looking and feeling. It was no London Fog raincoat (which I find to be "routine").

I may not be right, and I may never know, but one thing is for sure, it's a feeling I'll never forget!

## TV SETS: Picture Perfect

by Bobbi L

Ladies, I don't wish to seem the boorish self-promoter, but I want to warn all of you that at the next meeting, I'll be offering formal portraiture to be done "on site" at the

Christmas party when all of you will be "dressed to kill." I'm offering a color portrait package consisting of 1-8X10, 2 - 5x7's, and 8 wallet photos (in matte finish). The price for the sitting and photos will be \$30.00 (payable at the time of order). I will take three poses of each girl who orders a package. If I choose the best image for printing, the photos will be delivered at the following meeting. Choosing your own image may delay delivery one month.

I believe this to be a fair price for high quality work. Should you be interested in this offer, please have a check or money order made out for \$30.00 payable to B. Lamb.

### *Publication Notice*

© Copyright 1993 Cross-Port

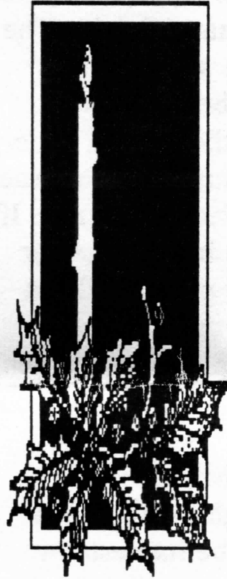
*InnerView* is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year, payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS, and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

Articles and information contained in *InnerView* may be reprinted by other non-profit organizations without advance permission, provided a copy of the issue containing the reprinted material is sent to Cross-Port within two months after the material is published.

The opinions or statements contained in *InnerView* are those of its authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cross-Port.

Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of cross-dressers, transsexuals, and their families and friends.



**Merry  
Christmas  
From all of us**

**Elaine, Joyce, Cathy,  
Bobbi, and Linda**