

Cross-Port InnerView

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Next Meeting April 21st At 7:30 **CROSS-PORT BASICS**

Linda began her discourse at about 9:30 to a group of about 25 ladies and/or gentlemen. The turnouts for the meetings seems to be holding steady at about that number. We thank everyone who takes the time out of their busy schedules to come and give their support. We are also glad that we can be there for you.

Heather gave a report about some of the happenings around the country and about the activities of the up and coming Gay Pride Week. It has been decided that Cross-Port will not run its own booth this year but will offer the work at a booth with another group from the coalition. The festival will run for two days and there is little chance of finding sufficient women to run the booth.

Yvonne Cook reported that she will be moving to Boston to work for I.F.G.E. One of her primary duties will be to get the Tapestry back on schedule. She will also be trying to raise funds.

Our sister group in Indianapolis reported a turnout of 32 people at their last meeting. That beats our record of 29 and there are only about a year old. In attendance at the Cross-Port meeting were several girls from IXE. We appreciate their making the long trek to be with us.

Linda began a lively discussion about Cross-Port activities. She proposed taking one meeting per quarter to invite a guest speaker. We would meet at a motel down the road from the current meeting place. After the speaker we would then be free to stay and chat at the motel or move to Christopher's Lounge. An alternative would be to start the meeting at 6:00 pm and have the speaker at Christopher's.

We have had offers from both Chris Adams and Kevin Palmer to do a makeup / hair workshop. There seemed to be some support for both proposals but as usual, when the smoke cleared there was no decision made and no one would make a commitment.

The business meeting ended about 10:15 and everyone went on partying for several hours.

A DOWNTOWN SHOPPING TRIP

by Cathy

I have finally done something that six months ago I thought I would never do-- walk around downtown Cincinnati in a skirt. While that may seem to be no big feat, to me it was especially when it was in the middle of the day. You see, not only was it the first time I'd ever gone shopping while dressed, it was also the first time I'd ever gone out while the sun was shining.

According to some of the more experienced cross dressers in Crossport, the best time to go shopping while dressed is on a weekday, preferably in the morning. These older (figure of speech girls), wiser heads have also deemed Saturdays to be one of the worst times to shop due to the scrutiny of pre-teen girls looking for fashion role models. Since I have one of those jobs which demands that I be at the office from 8 AM to 5 PM weekdays, this "best time" has always eluded me until I took a week's vacation in early March and managed to reserve one weekday for going shopping. This is how it went.

My wife Laurie and I arrived downtown about 11 AM and parked near Lazarus. We went there first to "test the waters". Wandering through the various departments, none of the other shoppers seemed to notice anything strange about me as we looked at scarves, jewelry, dresses and lingerie. One of the clerks did ask me if I needed any help in sizing a corset, but when I said no, she withdrew to lie in wait for another unsuspecting customer.

Emboldened by my apparent success, the next place we went was the Payless Shoe store across the street. I went crazy in there as they had several racks of size 10's in both regular and the wide width. I think I tried on every shoe within reach. Laurie made me whittle my selections down to three pair even though I thought six was a much nicer number. She picked out a pair too, and we headed for the next store, Pete's Photo World. I didn't need anything from there, but Laurie needed a new lens cap. While at Pete's, Laurie and I were the only femmes in the place, but I was totally ignored by the male patrons. It seems that photography nerds are almost as single minded as computer nerds.

The next place we went was Brooks, but we didn't actually go there as the store has been closed. Disappointed but undaunted, we made our way to Stuart's. At Stuart's I was picked out by several of the other shoppers but it was nothing worse than looks and whispering. Though busy, one of the clerks went out of her way to say hello to me which put me more at ease. I came out of there with a new top and Laurie purchased a new dress as well. There were a couple of things I would liked to have tried on, but the booths in the dressing rooms at that store have no doors or curtains or anything. I'm smart enough to know I don't pass that well.

After Stuart's we had lunch at Scully's on the Skywalk. The waitress was very courteous and the New York style deli food was good. I was really glad to sit for a while at this point after having run around on concrete in four inch heels for more than two hours. Now I know why Laurie never wears tall heels while shopping downtown-- even when you are used to them, they'll turn on you in a second.

Across the Skywalk from Scully's is Blue Chip Cookies, Laurie's favorite Cincinnati landmark. You need to go down a short corridor and up some narrow stairs to get to it. On the way back down these stairs we ran into a group of ten high school aged boys who were just "hanging out". They figured me out almost immediately and we had to listen to some rather loud and obnoxious comments as we passed them. The escalator off the Skywalk was immediately at hand so we made a quick turn, and headed down it, and were soon out of sight and hearing. This turned out to be the only unpleasant experience of the entire day.

Our last stop was Accent Fashion Wigs, which was once across from Lazarus on Seventh Street, but which has now moved to Main Street, between Sixth and Seventh. The Korean ladies who operate the store were very nice and offered to let me use a private fitting booth in the back. As we were the only customers at the time I told them that wasn't necessary, and soon had a second wig to act as backup. Laurie surprised me by also purchasing a wig. I'm going to try and talk her into wearing it to the next Crossport meeting.

By this time we were both beat and our feet were killing us so we headed for home. I got a number of stares over the course of the day, a few were smiles, a few were grins, but only a couple were frowns. All in all I had a really great time and Laurie enjoyed it too. Thank you Crossport for giving me the support I needed in order to have the courage to enjoy this side of my life.

Be All You Want To Be

(A Press Release)

1988's "Be All You Want To Be" weekend will be held near Detroit on June 8-12. This sixth return of the annual event promises to be the best and biggest yet. An earlier "Be-All" was regarded by Fred Berry of the Transvestian as "One of the best TV events ever".

1988 will be no exception; excellent and friendly accommodations are already arranged. Femme dress will be welcomed at all events. There are programs planned that will interest everyone in the TV/TS community.

They include:

A 1 day beauty course for the person who is just coming out or wants to learn more.

A 1 day intensive workshop for the transsexual. It will be conducted by Johanna Clark, A post-Operative transsexual who has since joined a religious order.

A lingerie fashion show narrated by a professional fashion coordinator and modelled by some of your loveliest sisters.

A Hawaiian Luau with a professional floor show.

A professional, on-premise, female impersonator show featuring some of the most talented and prettiest impersonators in the country.

A "Strut Your Stuff" fashion and talent show by and for the weekend participants.

Separate programs and activities for wives and significant others including tours and seminars.

Seminars on sexuality, fetishes, religion, communications, hormones, and a report from Richard Doctor Phd. about his research on the TV/TS community.

Keynote speakers include: Sylvia Hacker, Phd. a noted educator and author from the University of Michigan, and Dr. Virginia Prince who has played a significant role in making the crossdressing community what it is today.

You'll have a chance to meet more than 200 of your sisters from around the country this June and you'll have the chance to be yourself and enjoy yourself for five days.

Everything you need is included in one or another of our package plans: rooms, meals, and admission to all events. "Be-All" is a cooperative effort, sponsored by Transpitt, Paradise Club, Crossroads, and Chi Chapter. For complete information write to "Be-All",

c/o PO Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135.

Note: The "Be All" weekend is also the same weekend in June. On June 11th, Sister Mary Elizabeth (Joanna Clark) will moderate a special seminar on Transsexual Issues - 1988. Much of the session will not be open to the rest of the people as the weekend, and there is an additional cost for the program. You can pay and attend just the seminar. There are a number of plans available starting at \$45.00. You can call me at (513) 631-0732 or write to Crossroads, c/o Milesa Phar, P.O. Box 196, Garden City, MI 48135.

CAN WE TALK!

By Heather Peerson

If April showers bring May flowers, what do May flowers bring? Wrong not pilgrims, but warmer weather and time for many of our crossdressing friends to put away their skirts and dresses until the fall. We at Cross-Port hope that you will however, keep the girl in you out of that box when you pack it away. Just because you may not be dressing as much is no reason disregard all the feminine feelings that you have come to enjoy. Take time once in awhile to reflect on the good feelings that you have experienced this past winter while you were able to let the woman in you out. If you do, maybe the summer won't seem too long.

Well it happened again, I received a call from the Rich King show (55 WKRC radio) on Tuesday. I talked to them on Wednesday, and I was on the air for a one hour talk show on Thursday. I didn't have time to really tell anyone. The show went very well I feel and we had no negative calls during the show. Rich admitted that he was uncomfortable with the subject before the show but he was less ill-at-ease by the end. I do have a tape of the "BROAD"cast. If you would like a copy please bring a blank to the meeting. I'll copy it and bring it back in May.

I will be giving a talk at the University Of Cincinnati for a meeting of the Lesbian-Gay Academic Union on Monday, May 9 at 8:00 in room 806 of Swift Hall. Everyone is welcome to come to the meeting and meet with the people there. I hope some of you will join me there.

Last month we managed to put the InnerView together in record time. We were finished by ten o'clock and those present were able to sit down and watch "I want what I want".

Hendi Danielle Pierce was elected Chairman of the Board of I.F.G.E. at the board meeting after the convention. Wendi's first goal will be to try to get the "Tapestry" back on the four per year schedule. A major undertaking in and of its self. Second will be provide a better information service to the various groups around the country by have quarterly updates. Third is the formulation of a congress of groups which will meet at the next convention to help set goals, policy, activities and board membership. Lastly she will continue to concentrate on I.F.G.E. sponsored events like the San Francisco Convention. Of major importance, I am sure, will be trying to get I.F.G.E. on a more firm financial footing. I'll be saying a little more about that in the next few months. We wish Wendi success and offer our support.

The March 16th issue of a rag magazine call the New York Post had on it's cover a picture of Naomi (of Chicago) taken by Mariette Allen. The headline read, "TAX \$\$ PAYING FOR MEN IN DRAG". It was written by a sleazebag named Fredric Dicker. He had no less than three articles about a grant which the New York State council on the arts gave to Mariette Allen. Mariette as filed a law suit for copyright infringement because they used her pictures without permission. All this just when I thought the world was getting better.

Now you can dance to your favorite TV song with TV ROCK. A collection of four songs recorded by Rachel C. Titles include, Wearin' Satin, Be He - Be She, Silk stocking Faces and that unforgettable hit The Devil Loves You, Too. Send \$5 (which includes \$1 p & h) to HiHeel Records, Box 12293, Albany, NY 12212. This is not an April Fools girls. I got the ad to prove it.

The Gay Pride Week festival is rapidly approaching and I have yet to here from anyone wishing to work at it. I will assume that you do not want Cross-Port to have a booth or to participate as a group on the basis of the lack of your enthusiasm. For information about the Boat Trip on June 10th call Bruce Beisner at 281-5831.

I will have a signup sheet at the April meeting for anyone wishing tickets for Gay Pride Day at Kings Island. If you buy your tickets through GC6/LC they cost \$14.00. If you sign up, we would appreciate payment at that time so that the coalition does not have to foot the bill.

There will be a Walk-A-Thon to help raise money for the Pride Week celebration on Sunday May 1st at 1:00. The walk will go from Mount Adams (All Saint's Chapel) to Burnett Woods.

The Self-Help Aids Related Effort (SHARE) is sponsoring a "drag show" at Tramps on April 28th starting at 10:30. (PM -- Gay people aren't up at 10:30 AM.) I am not sure what a "drag show" is. It must be about car racing. RIGHT?

We had our annual spring copier cleaning, and purchased news-letter supplies this month leaving us with a balance of about \$380.00 in the pot. That is a little low for this early in the year. Dues renewals were low, we lost about twenty people. I hope they are getting along alright.

In the last six months we have sent out over 50 introduction InnerViews to inquiring persons. Only about 7 or 8 have sent the information back and actually come to a meeting. I continue to receive about 4 to 5 new phone calls per week.

I have bag of clothing which I will bring to the meeting (If I can remember it). Anyone who would like to look through it may do so and take what they want. I was thinking that we could have a Cross-Port rummage sale where everone could try to pass off to others what they have tired of, but considering the response to the meeting proposals.... If anyone would like to head up such an activity.

I have some forms from the State Advisory Council on Gay and Lesbian Issues. They will be holding hearings on discrimination based on sexual orientation. If you or anyone you know has been discriminated against either because of sexual orientation or because of gender issues, please consider filling out one of these forms. Their finding will be presents to the governor in September of 1988.

Finally, congratulations to Robin Lee, who is on her way to a new job in California, and to O'Day who managed to find three days to be herself.

Heather **Publication Notice**

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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.

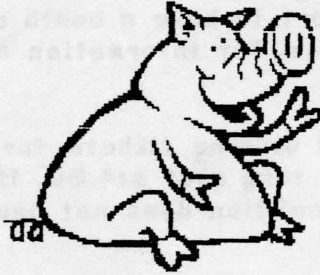
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Cross-Port is a not-for-profit support group which meets solely for the support of crossdressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.

Linda's Corner



FIXING YOUR FIGURE

What can I say? Thank God we all wear clothes. With their help, we can hide all those imperfections, and create that, which don't exist. Come on girls, almost all of us stuff our bras with anything from bird seed to toilet paper. But, this is not just about tits honey, we're talkin over all body shaping.

Especially in the beginning, most cross-dresser will if anything, overdo the stuffing in their bra. Since most males will have a larger chest to begin with, it stands to reason, the bigger the breasts are, the larger the overall chest appears to be. Actually we should be toning the upper area down and adding to the hip and buttocks areas.

Most women (not girls) will have a hip measurement close to that of their chest, regardless of what the stomach measures. When a male who has say a 40" chest and a 32" waist adds 5" more to his chest, he's getting more out of proportion then ever.

The fact is, we are usually first seen at a distance. From that point, the observer sees only the shape of the person's body and sometimes the gender of clothing. The problem is, most men in female clothing will usually wear a dress. From a distance, you see a body that doesn't match the clothes. So now the person will probably take a closer look to confirm his thoughts. (People will just naturally do this with out really thinking about it.) When they get right up to you, now it's even easier, for them to read you because something has all ready told them something is not right.

Also, how you carry yourself as you move and act will mean alot. When sitting, posture will play a big roll. Are you dressed proper for that time of day & place? the right season? your right age? If these things are all done right, things like height will never come into play. But I'm here to talk about shape, so I'll get back on the subject.

I guess one of the best ways to get that good shape, and the quickest, is to get yourself something to shift the meat (or fat) around. Probably an old fashion corset will do the best job. You can still get them from places like B.R. CREATIONS, VERSATILE FASHIONS, or HOLLYWOOD ILLUSION STUDIO. They will make it in your size and out of the material of your choice, but be ready to pay at least \$100.

One draw back of course, is they must be quite tight in order to do a good job. If your into pain and prefer to take shorter breaths, this may be just what your looking for. Myself, I sometimes work as a woman all day, and also go out that night. (Even your most masochistic TV has to take a break sometime.) So many prefer to create the hourglass illusion by different method.

I think the best approach is try to be shapely and comfortable at the same time. What many will do is this. They first



pick clothes suited to help their body seem more feminine. Many TV's pick clothes they think look great, and they do, but only on some people.

Patterns (like stripes) are one things that can be your best friend or your worse enemy. How the clothes are cut and the way they hug your body must be taken into consideration. The use of color can draw attention away or attract it.

I feel this is as important as any aspect in being a woman. (I hope that now since we have such good attendance at meeting, we will be able to bring someone in to give us all some pointers on dressing)

Once we got the right clothes we might look into adding a few inches. Yes I said add on. If you add to places like your hips you will achieve a smaller looking waist and more balance to your over all figure. This can easily be done by adding pads sold just for this purpose. There are hip, butt, lower stomach, and even leg padding if you want it. When used right, they can make a world of difference.

I guess what I'm trying to say is, I've been to a number of national crossdressing events, and many of those who attend really do an excelent job in being a woman. When you talk to them, you find they use many tricks of the trade for that overall feminine look. I know I've tried most myself and the only thing I can't seem to do is loose weight. But someday I plan to be the perfect woman just like all of us do, and then I'll probably to old to enjoy it.

News around the US

If you are suppose to get the Tapestry, you will be happy to know at the last IFGE meeting a promise was made that they will start getting it out on time from now on.

Tri-Ess members, I heard through the grape vine that at the fall meeting in Chicago this year, they are planning some major changes in the way they operate.

If you don't know by now, there is a new TV magazine out called Lady Like. The premire issue was floating around at the last meeting. It seems to be real well done with tastefull pictures and articals. It is available at many adult book stores and places like Lee Mardi Gras by mail.

The "Be All you want to be" weekend is coming up the first part of June. This year it is in Detroit. I plan on taking the whole family up. Nothing like taking your vacation dressed.

Yes it's just what it looks like. Connie, (Linda's wife) has found a way to put crossdressing to good use. When Sunday morning rolls around and the dishes are piled to the ceiling, the French Maid is requested to come out. Her duties? Clean the house, rub her ladies back, and made the family breakfast. The only complaint is that the French Maid spends too much time in front of the mirror staying pretty.

"The works not bad, it's the five inch heels that are the killer."



I would do almost anything to look like a girl.....



....just a few drops aday should do the trick.

1

6 months later



Gads! This is taking forever.

2



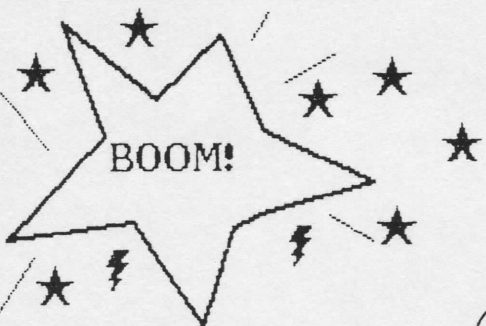
A risky move



I guess I'll just take the whole bottle and see what happens.

3

BOOM!



4

Well this isn't quite what I had in mind.



5