



PUBLISHED BY:

CrossPort
PO Box 1692
Cincinnati,
OH 45201
(606) 581-3711

FUTURE FUN

Aug. 8
CrossPort
board meeting
and dinner,
Contact a board
member for
more details
7:30 PM.

Aug. 15
CrossPort
regular monthly
meeting and
dinner,
Meet at the
Bamboo Garden
at 8:00 PM for a
business
dinner, then
we'll go to Old
Street after
dinner for more
business and
socializing.

Sept. 26-29
Southern
Comfort
Conference
Atlanta, GA

Political Action Arm For the TG Community

by JoAnn Roberts

EDITOR'S NOTE:

Permission to reprint this article was granted by the author. This article first appeared in the July 29th edition of Transgender Forum on the Internet World Wide Web (<http://www.tgforum.com>).

I don't plan to regularly "surf the 'net" for newsletter stuff, but this one seemed appropriate! They are not the only Political Action Committee (PAC), but they definitely have a transgendered political agenda! Enjoy. - ed

**"Time
to do it
ourselves."**

It was June 1995 at the Be All in Cincinnati, Ohio, where it all started.

Riki Anne Wilchins
(Transsexual Menace)
and Lynn Walker

(Congress of Transgender Organizations) approached Alison Laing (International Foundation for Gender Education) about creating a Political Action "arm" of IFGE. Wilchins had spoken earlier in the day at the luncheon about community activism and afterwards people approached her offering monetary support.

Nor wanting to appear as if these activities were a "Riki-thing," she and Walker approached Laing in the hope that IFGE would manage the money people wanted to donate for political activities.

Laing, to her great credit, saw that such activities should not be "managed" by a single organization (and IFGE had been harshly criticized in the past as not being community-minded), and approached representatives of other organizations present at the Be All.

On the evening of June 8, 1995, Laing, Wilchins, and

Walker met with Angela Gardner, Outreach Director of Renaissance National, and JoAnn Roberts, who at the time was Chair of the board of AEGIS. The five agreed that their respective organizations would create and back an advisory committee for transgender political activism. The committee would be called GenderPAC. It was also agreed that other national transgender organizations would be asked to support GPAC.

Shortly after the Be All had concluded, the committee for GPAC expanded to include representatives from Tri-Ess, ICTLEP, FtM International, and TOPS. Most recently, a representative from It's Time America! was added.

An Unexpected Direction

GPAC played no direct role in organizing the

(Continued on page 2)

Political Action Arm For the TG Community

(Continued from page 1)

first National Transgender Lobby Days (NTLD), although all of the GPAC organizations were represented.

While the first NTLD was a great success, it also had its problems, not the least of which was the issue of who was "in charge." Both Phyllis Frye (ICTLEP) and Riki Wilchins (The Menace) had worked very hard to get people to come to Washington for NTLD. Once there, however, their styles of leadership clashed. To both their credit, they managed the problem and did not let it disrupt the lobbying activities. But, the damage to their former friendship was significant.

It was believed by many of the community leaders present that this problem could be avoided in the future if GPAC were to take the lead in planning and sponsoring such activities. GPAC, backed by national organizations which had learned how to work together under the Transgender Alliance for Community (TAC), could avoid the question of "who's in charge?" because these activities would be sponsored and led by organizations, not individuals.

To that end, GPAC has announced the Second National Transgender Lobby Days for May 5 - 6, 1997.

Another Interesting Turn

It is July 1996 and Riki wants to talk about a transgender legal defense fund. An informal meeting is held to discuss the feasibility of starting such a fund. Attending the meeting are Abby Saypen and Alison Laing of IFGE, Riki and JoAnn Roberts of Renaissance.

The discussion of what GPAC can and should do ranged far and wide over several hours. It quickly became clear that GPAC has the potential to be more than a simple advisory committee. It could be the single most important uniting force in the community. The participants decided to call the GPAC members together to formalize GPAC's structure and to establish working groups for: lobbying, public relations, public education, grassroots organizing, legal defense, fund raising, and media watch.

More than likely, this organizing meeting will be held in conjunction with another event -- probably the NGLTF Creating Change Conference to be held in November in Washington, D.C. A formal announcement will be made at a later date.

GPAC Needs Your Support

The significance of GPAC is that it has brought together the national transgender organizations in a way that almost no one believed was possible.

There is a limited amount of money circulating in the community and transgendered people certainly aren't "out" in the way that gay, lesbian and bisexual people are. This community has an uphill struggle in front of it -- recognition of transgender rights -- the right to be who we are and to be so in a public way without fear of harassment or discrimination. Any meaningful political activity on the part of the transgender community is going to require money and lots of it. If we wish to sit at the same political poker table as the G/L/B community, then we have to bring a commensurate amount of chips to the game.

The GPAC partners bring with them some level of measurable resources but, by far, GPAC depends on the contributions of people like you and me. I've personally given a couple hundred dollars to GPAC. My partners and I have given \$500 of the profits from Transgender Forum to GPAC. What can you give? Even \$5 will help get flyers printed or buy stamps. Every little bit counts. Please send a tax-deductible contribution today to

GPAC

c/o PO Box 229

Waltham, MA 02154.

© 1996 by JoAnn Roberts

© 1996 by GPAC &

3-D Communications, Inc. ♥

Kristine on... A Feminine Voice

By Kristine Jones

Imagine you are out for an evening alone and you decide on dining out. You have read all Kristine's other articles, so your hair or wig is impeccably styled, you are fashionably dressed, and your makeup is flawlessly applied. The hostess shows you to a table and you follow with a feminine walk. Safely to your table, you relax, cross your legs and survey the scene. An attractive gentleman joins you and offers to be your dinner companion. He wants to pay! You'd like to accept his offer, but you sound like the bass member of the Drifters. Your voice would reveal your secret instantly. What's a woman to do?

Whether living full time as a woman or if you just wish to be passable, feminine voice quality is crucial. It is often the case that a TV or TS masters the grooming, style and mannerisms of a woman, and the final struggle is learning to speak as a woman.

It is accurate that for most of us, changing our appearance is easier than changing our voice. The likely reason is the area of origin of the elements of speech in our brains. Research indicates that while speech and language are left brain hemisphere functions, speech melody, rate, loudness, resonance, intonation and emphasis are right brain functions. Another part of vocal expression is movement, body posi-

tion, eye level, smile and touch, so some of those elements are discussed in this article.

First, the obvious challenge is creating a more feminine pitch or timbre. The best result is likely raising the pitch to the bottom of the female range. The hard part is avoiding an artificial, strained, or squeaky sound.

The recommended method is to get a base line pitch, which is a level within your own range that is comfortable, sounds relaxed and does not strain the nodes of your vocal cords. A speech and language therapist/pathologist or qualified ear, nose and throat doctor can be of assistance here. If that is unworkable, try a session with a friend whose voice is convincing and who will be honest. However, it is critical to remember that the importance of pitch is overstated, as many women have voices lower in pitch than most men. (ex. Bea Arthur, Cher, Suzanne Pleshette, and Marlene Dietrich). The average difference is one octave or less.

Another technique is to utilize the breathiness of the voice. Women use more breath than men to say the same words. Not only does it convey a feminine voice, but using a lot of breath makes it easier on the vocal cords. Listen to Marilyn Monroe; her voice was very breathy, even to the point of exaggeration. Nevertheless, it conveyed her sexuality, even without regard to her physical attractiveness.

A dead giveaway, even if pitch is mastered, is inflection or intonation. Inflection is the vocal change in pitch within a word. Intonation is the modulation in pitch through a phrase or sentence. Women have higher variations in pitch and are more likely to use a rising pitch pattern within a phrase. Similarly, they will more often end a sentence in a higher pitch, almost as if asking a question.

By avoiding a monotonous tone and adding a lilt to the voice, you can add a melodious sparkle and expressive nature that is common to the female sound. As children, most boys limit their intonation range to avoid sounding female, whereas most girls play with their intonation to convey pleasantness and show expressiveness by painting a verbal picture with the voice.

Women are more likely to clearly and distinctly enunciate than men. Men are far more likely to let the voice tail off at the end a sentence. Accordingly, do not drop the final consonant in a word and likewise do not breeze through the middle syllables. Also, soften the consonants that are used, to avoid the sharp nature of masculine speech. Try also drawing out the vowels that are used, which will also relax the voice. The telephone accentuates the tendency of the voice to fade, so open the

(Continued on page 4)

Kristine on... A Feminine Voice

(Continued from page 3)

mouth and let the sound come out.

As the changes to enunciation and intonation occur, the rate of speed of speech will slow. The slowing of speech will convey believability and relaxation (tension is a big giveaway). A slower rate of speed will allow more opportunity for gestures and facial expressiveness.

Women, simply put, gesture more. They have a tendency to "hand dance" during a conversation; that is to make gestures and movements from the elbows to the fingertips in order to emphasize their speech. Men limit gestures or make aggressive gestures.

Body posture is equally important here, because a woman's body posture is more relaxed. Also, women tend to create less distance or "personal space" between themselves and some else (male or female) in a conversation. Finally, body movement during speech conveys femininity also. Slow is the rule here also. As stripper Gypsy Rose Lee said, "Anything worth doing well is worth doing slowly"

As you speak, you will need to use more facial expressions. A woman will move her lips and face more when she speaks. Women tend to lower their eyes, and therefore make less direct eye contact. Men stare. Women smile more than men.

They tend to laugh more, but the laugh is a giggle, twitter, or snicker. Accordingly, women are more sensitive to non-verbal cues of others.

The tone focus of the male voice tends to originate from the chest, whereas the female voice emanates from throat, mouth and cheeks. To the extent that the resonance from the chest is eliminated and focused in the throat, the voice will convey a lighter quality. Similarly, smiling makes the mouth cavity smaller, so as to likewise limit resonance.

Change to a more feminine word usage. Do not use slang, profanity or hostile verbs and try not to use the words "yeah" or "right" in conversation. Agreement is best expressed by "mm hmm" or "yes." Women use "so" and "such" to add emphasis- (ex. we had such a wonderful time). Things are now "adorable", "lovely" or "darling". Women use tag questions, such as "don't you think so?" or "isn't it?"

Feminine content is different, too. Men talk about the abstract or impersonal and women discuss feelings, their bodies and their relationships. Females will use psychological state verbs more; "happy", "sad", "lonely", etc. Women are generally less assertive or demanding and more caring. An apology is more likely to come from a woman, whether at fault or not, especially when there is

a risk of hurting someone's feelings.

A speech therapist is best able to assist in the development of a female voice, and there is no "quick fix". It may take years to develop the voice and someone's listening and gentle critique is invaluable.

Further, while these are some guidelines, there are no absolutes. Suit yourself in how you choose to shape your feminine voice. Have a sense of humor when you are starting. I have to compare my first attempts at a feminine voice to the cartoon character "Snagglepuss", so nothing you can do will be much worse.

Oh, and tell your attractive gentleman to order for you; whisper to him that you have laryngitis. ♥



Real Men

by Paula Ison

I came across an article in the July 5, 1996, edition of the Washington Post that you may find interesting. It was entitled: "Transvestite Volleyballers Encounter Clothed Minds."

[Ed. -- I do not have the original article, nor have I seen it, so I am going to cover my sweet derriere and say that Portions of This Article are (probably) Copyright © 1996 by the Washington Post.]

Two transvestite volleyball stars who led a team of cross-dressers to a men's championship two weeks ago, gave up hopes of making Thailand's national team. They know they're not wanted, even if they are the best.

"We have to admit that we want to be beautiful, wear makeup and have long hair," said Pitsanu Pleankum. "So we know and accept that we can't be on the national team and have to think about our country's reputation."

Pitsanu and Danupol Changeung, sparked front-page controversy last week when they claimed that Thailand's national volleyball authorities snubbed them because they wear makeup and women's clothes. They proved they were good enough by leading a mostly transvestite team, to the great amusement of the crowds, in beating conventionally dressed men's teams in a national tournament. Administrators denied discriminating against the players for their sexual orientation. Still, an official hinted that transvestites on the team would cause problems.

"I've heard other players gossip about how many men these two get after a competition. If we let them on the national team, what will happen to our REAL men players, who are young and impressionable?"

Compared with most societies, Thailand takes a relaxed view about cross-dressers. Some Thais were surprised when told that fans from other countries might jeer if transvestites played in international matches. But Thai culture also frowns on conflict, demonstrated by the grace Pitsanu and Danupol showed when they bowed to the inevitable. "We don't want to cause a problem for society," Pitsanu said.

It's too bad that these two worried more about their country's reputation than they did their own personal happiness in yielding to the pressure. Their attendance at the Atlanta Olympics would have generated tremendous public awareness of transgendered people.

If they had played well, the public would have said, "Weird but harmless," like they do with gender-bending Dennis Rodman, the basketball player who is considered a cult hero among young males. Unlike the volleyballers, Dennis doesn't bow to the "inevitable" pressure of being himself.

It's also amusing that the volleyball official was concerned that the cross-dressers might negatively influence the "real men" on the team. Who gave

him the right to define what a "real man" is?

"Real man" Dennis Rodman mixes his wardrobe with a lot of halter tops and satin pants and uses some makeup. In his book "Bad as I Want to Be" he says he enjoys wearing feminine things and considers himself a cross-dresser although he doesn't wear lingerie or dresses. There is hope for Dennis yet.

I wonder if the volleyball official thinks Dennis is a "real man." Dennis has the size (6' 8"), the muscles and tattoos of a real man but enjoys wearing women's clothes which no "real man" would ever do.

The volleyball official is just mixed up. We don't need real men or real women, just "real people" who regardless of their outerwear, work hard and make positive contributions to our communities. ♥



Common Sense

by Paula Ison

Let me add a post-script to Heather's and Jennifer's stories last month about Heather's run-in at a redneck bar in Campbell County. When Heather told me about the incident, I said "You mean that seedy little place near my apartment? The one I pass every night and wonder why there are so many pickup trucks in one place?"

After I heard her story, I just had to go there just to see how bad it really was. Late one night, I dropped in as my male self to mingle with the "real men" of Campbell County. After I was there a few minutes I thought to myself, "This place

isn't so bad!" My visit to the bar re-confirmed what I always tell myself, if it's not good enough for my male self then it surely isn't good enough for my female self.

So why did Heather go there? Because as she said, she forgot her common sense as all of us have done, including myself, on occasion. It's understandable and forgivable so long as we don't make a habit of it.

Jennifer is right about one thing. Heather's experience was definitely NOT typical. For every less-than-fun outing, the other ninety-nine you have will go well. Every time someone gives me a stare at my local dance hall, twenty others say hello and

ask how I've been. A 1994 outing to a local restaurant resulted in the manager becoming a good friend of the gender community. Enough so that the manager attended our 1995 Christmas party.

And on and on.

As Jennifer concluded her story, there are some risks involved. Just choose wisely, use your common sense and have a great time! ♥



POST-Opinion

by Diane Torrance

At the last CrossPort meeting I spent a few minutes shouting over the juke box. I tried to explain the position of the transgender community with respect to the Sixth Circuit Court's anticipated re-decision on Issue 3 in Cincinnati. At the conclusion of my discussion, Linda Buten wanted to know why we even bothered. She wanted to know what we were going to do if "they" just repeal the entire Cincinnati Human Rights Ordinance.

I'm trying to restrain myself, but I'm infuriated by Linda's attitude. She has consistently and publicly opposed basic hu-

man rights. For example, Linda wrote, "I am a small business owner... Because my business is small and I do not contract with the government, I am not forced to follow any minority employment guidelines, I do not have to hire protected minorities."

Linda uses the example of businesses which hired minorities who didn't work out, were fired and subsequently sued their former employers for discrimination. She goes on to say, "The bottom line is, if there are plenty of qualified people for the job, why take the chance and hire someone who may later be a detriment." The implication of course is all minorities (that's

African-Americans, Jewish-Americans, Physically Challenged Americans and Homosexual Americans as well as Transgendered Americans) are detrimental and should never be hired.

Linda also owns "some apartments," about which she says, "...while we try to please everyone, we constantly must watch our back for the minority gold diggers." Well, if we minorities can't get jobs, we certainly can't afford to rent one of Linda's apartments, either.

Others have taken Linda to task in national publications

(Continued on page 7)

Post-Opinion

(Continued from page 6)

asking how the **Chairman Of The Board** of the International Foundation for Gender Education (IFGE) can be opposed to basic human rights for those his organization supposedly represents. While I also fail to understand that, my concern is local. If Linda openly voices discrimination within our community, you have to wonder what she is saying at gatherings of "straight" organizations in the greater Cincinnati area. Linda obviously possesses significant financial resources, what causes does she contribute money to defeat? It seems the only time Linda thinks diversity is okay is when she is wearing a dress.

So, to answer Linda's question, we'll start all over again, and again, and again ... until human rights for all humans are a reality. The Constitution and Bill of Rights of the United States of America were written by and for landowning Caucasian males of European descent. Those of us who don't fit that profile have had to contend for even the right to vote. Of course if you ask Linda, she probably thinks we don't deserve that either.

Cindy Abel

Many of you know Cindy Abel, the executive director of Stonewall Cincinnati. Cindy has tendered her resignation from Stonewall effective the

end of this month. Her next mission? She's off to North Carolina to defeat the other nemesis of diversity, Jesse Helms.

During her tenure Cindy transformed Stonewall, which was reeling spiritually and financially from the Issue 3 campaign, into a solvent, highly respected fixture on Cincinnati's political landscape. Stonewall is a contributing member of the Charter Change Committee, an organization working to streamline city government. Under Cindy's leadership, Stonewall not only embraced transgender in its by-laws and mission statement, it also assisted less traditional allies whenever their rights were threatened. During the last two years Cindy has been an eloquent spokesperson on issues affecting the gay/lesbian/bi-sexual community. To merely say she will be missed is a gross understatement.

I know I'm not the only one Cindy influenced with her substance and her style. Jesse Helms had better watch out!

Issue 3 Update

Our friends at the Sixth Circuit Court, right here in Cincinnati, are doing everything they can to stonewall (pun intended). After the Supreme Court ruled Colorado's Amendment 2 unconstitutional in *Romer v. Evans*, they remanded Issue 3 back to the Sixth Circuit to rethink their previous decision. The court has apparently strung out the

timetable to the fullest extent of the law. The pro-Issue 3 attorneys have until August 28th to submit their written arguments. Our side has thirty days to respond. The court then has two months to consider these before oral arguments are presented (that's after Thanksgiving, folks). Rest assured the court will use every minute it can before rendering its decision.

The legal opinions I've heard within the queer community are generally the bad guys have some points with their, "the city is the smallest political entity and should be entitled to enact this initiative." However the good guys believe the majority opinion in *Romer v. Evans*, which says laws denying due process to a segment of the population are unconstitutional, will have to be applied to Issue 3. In either case, it will be Christmas before we find out. ♥



Up The Street And Around The Corner

By Heather [REDACTED]

Two hundred and twenty years ago Thomas Jefferson and his fellow colonists served notice upon King George III that we were a free people - and we have been fighting ever since to be free. Blacks, women, and even the handicapped have had to fight for their basic rights. Each minority that has successfully won their rights very easily could have had their efforts thwarted by the label "special rights not equal rights". Today, we in the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered communities are fighting for our rights. What radical demands do we have? To compete with the rest of society on a level playing field; to be treated like everyone else. Is that special or equal rights?

Recently, the House of Representatives voted not to recognize same sex marriages. If the purpose of marriage is defined as a union solely for procreation, then I can agree same sex marriages should not be allowed. At the same time, if a couple is unable to have children or chooses not to have them; they too should be denied permission to marry. On the other hand, if the purpose of marriage is for two people to bond together to provide an environment of mutual love and support, what does it matter if the spouse is the same or opposite sex? Level playing field? I think not!

Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgendered persons are having jobs and housing denied them solely because of their sexual ori-

entation or gender identity. How does this differ from the plight of other minorities? Are we on a level playing field in jobs and housing? I think not!

The desire to be judged solely on one's abilities is not special, but equal treatment. The transgendered community is struggling to obtain that equal treatment under the law. We are trying to have gender identity language added to ENDA. If we are to be successful, it will take the effort of not just a few but the entire transgendered community. We need to show solidarity. A few weeks ago, I had an opportunity to read an article written by Mr. Bob Davis which appeared in a major transgender publication. Mr. Davis was questioning the abilities of the current IFGE board of directors. This of course is Mr., Davis' right. I question the wisdom of his bringing back into focus an article written by Linda Buten supporting Issue 3. I agree with Mr. Davis that the article did not serve the transgendered community, however, neither does Mr. Davis revival of something that should have been left buried. What Mr. Davis has accomplished was to promote dissension in our ranks at a time when unity is essential. Now is not the time to publicly air our dirty linen. We need to work together to secure our level playing field. I can only hope that those in our community that find it hard to support our efforts will remain silent, and at least give the ap-

pearance of solidarity. Then again, this is just one woman's opinion.

EDITOR'S NOTE:

In the last "Up the Street and Around the Corner", the editors of the article wish to clarify one point. The article as edited may have conveyed the impression that Heather and those with her were personally welcomed to the WGRR Oldie Concert described in the article. The facts are that they were admitted like all other attendees to the event, but were not personally welcomed to the event. We regret any confusion this may have caused.— ed.



How to go for it — the super-red mouth

- Cover lips with water-based foundation.
- Dust over with loose powder.
- Apply red liner - tip should be sharp!
- Use brush to paint on lipstick.
- Blot by first pressing, then biting tissue.
- Reapply lipstick again with brush.

Editor's Escritoire

by Jennifer [REDACTED] Editor

Apparently I have some space to fill this month. (I hope it is not because of some bad perfume of mine! ☺) Since I have the chance for a change, I'm going to take this opportunity to tie up a loose end or two.

Just as a reminder, the new deadline for articles is the meeting before that month's issue. In other words, the September issue's deadline is the August meeting. Again, if you have any questions, please see me. If you need my e-mail address, also see me. Sorry, that item and the password to my diary are not for publication here.

In case you were wondering, "escritoire" is a French term for a writing desk. I found it in the computer's electronic thesaurus when I was looking for a synonym for desk. This was just one of those things. You know, like when you try on that certain dress and just KNOW it's YOU as soon as you see yourself in a mirror. I thought it fit rather well.

I would like to again thank JoAnn Roberts for giving me permission so quickly to reprint her Internet article on GenderPAC. As this issue goes "to press," her article is only a week old. Isn't e-mail wonderful?

One writer noticeably absent this month is Jennifer Marquette's Trans-A-Jennda column. Jenn has been out of town recently and didn't have time to do her column. Rest assured she will be back with us next month. With the help of a slightly increased type size this month and some wonderful clip art supplied by none other than our own Miss Be All 1995 herself, Kristine Jones, we made it all fit. Thanks, everyone!

Back in June, I ran RuPaul's List of Top Ten Drag Queen Tips. Number 4 was, "If someone clocks you and starts to dis you, pay them no mind." Back then, I had no idea as to what RuPaul was trying to say. Now I know. I read recently that dis meant disrespectful. So, Ru was saying that if someone gives you trouble and acts disrespectful to you, just ignore the sucker. They don't deserve your time or bother. That's good advice.

R-e-s-p-e-c-t

Speaking of respect, I have found that respect is something you spend a lifetime earning, but you can lose it in a second. I think you know what I am leading up to saying, as diplomatically as possible.

It seems we have a small controversy of national proportions going on right now in our little group. Most of the parties involved seem to have very strong opinions on this matter. This puts me as InnerView editor right in the middle, and not very comfortably at that! So exactly what will InnerView do? As far as our editorial policy goes, most of you probably know by now just how we will handle this thing. In any event, this will put it in writing.

I will print arguments for both sides as long as the subject is continued to be presented in a mature manner. However, as editor, I have a responsibility to all of our readers and to CrossPort. Therefore, I have to reserve the right to edit, or even refuse to print, any article. I want to be fair, but I have to be firm.

With that, I will wrap up another edition. Again, a BIG Thank You to the unsung heroines of this little tabloid, the *InnerView* Staff. I absolutely could not do it without you! Until next time, Peace. ♥

Publication Notice

InnerView is a monthly publication of CrossPort gender support group, Cincinnati, Ohio. The entire contents of this publication are © Copyright 1996 by CrossPort. All Rights Reserved. Opinions, statements, etc. expressed in this publication are those of the respective author and are not necessarily those of CrossPort. Unless specified otherwise, permission is granted to reprint any articles contained in *InnerView*, provided credit is given to the author and CrossPort *InnerView*. Please send a copy of the issue containing the article to CrossPort at the address on the front cover. Articles may be submitted for publication at any time. Please contact the editor for submission details. CrossPort is a not-for-profit support group for cross-dressers, transsexuals, their families, and their friends.

Seven Ways To Tell If Your Boyfriend Is A Crossdresser

by Teri (from Illusions: Vol. 5, Issue 3.)

Lots of people have written about the issues facing spouses and crossdressers, but what about those lucky (?) ladies just beginning a relationship with a CD who may have been too shy so far to reveal the secret? With this group in mind, I have prepared a brief comparison of crossdressers and "typical guys" so they will not be too shocked when the topic eventually comes up for discussion:

Crossdresser

- has at least two full lengthed mirrors in his apartment
- says hes going bowling the second Saturday and fourth Saturdays of each month
- has a car with the driver's side vanity mirror lights burned out
- leaves disgusting ring of "whiskers" in the bathtub.
- buys a pack of Polaroid film every week but never seems to have any photos he wants to show you
- gazes longingly into your eyes wondering what type of eyeshadow you have on and how he's going to get some

Typical Guy

- has one clean spot on the bathroom mirror just large enough to avoid life-threatening injuries while shaving
- says he's going bowling the second and fourth Saturday's of each month (but actually goes bowling)
- has a car with the driver's side vanity mirror rusted shut
- leaves disgusting ring of whiskers in the sink
- buys a pack of Polaroid film once a year and takes pictures of drunken friends you don't want to see
- gazes longingly into your eyes wondering what type of underwear you have on and how he's going to get them off

BENT OFFERINGS By Don Addis

7-3



© 1996 Creators Syndicate, Inc.



I enjoy being a boy, or a girl, gay, heterosexual, bisexual, transgendered, a crossdresser, a drag queen, queer, straight -- or whatever.....!