

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is February 17 at 8:00pm

A New View

By Elaine

There were 35 ladies at the Cross-Port meeting in January a very good turn out for the weather. It was very cold the night of the meeting. We had a very good dinner at the **Gaslight**. I wish to thank all the people who braved the cold to come out and party with us at the Golden Lion. We wish to thank Cynthia and her S.O. Carolyn for coming to the meeting for the first time. We hope they had a good time and will be coming back.

I have started a job at the Impressions consignment shop. It is an interesting job and you meet a lot of nice people. I also get first pick of all the really nice clothes and shoes. They have also given me permission to have people in after hours by appointment for shopping on Wednesday and Thursday evenings (you must call and make an appointment. The number is (513) 232-0917.

Joyce and I are going to **Miami University** for a question and answer session with some students. Either she or I will fill you in on what happens.

THE VIEW INSIDE

by Bobbi L.

Hello again, Ladies! I certainly hope all of you have safely weathered the winter so far. And were you able to take advantage of all of the post-Holiday sales? Beverly and I made a few favorite purchases ourselves at one of those wonderful outlet malls in our area. Of course, a couple of pairs of heels were discovered and acquired!! We're hoping to look our best at the upcoming Barony Ball in March. And speaking of "looking her best," an attractive blonde by the name of Jill Arnold is the subject of this month's T.V.I."

I made the acquaintance of Jill at our Christmas party. What a wonderful surprise for me. I am having such a great time learning about our lovely members. I hope all of you are, too!

T.V.I. Jill, how did you happen to choose your femme name?

D. B. It seemed feminine and not flashy. I just like it.

T.V.I. If you don't mind my asking, how old are you, and what are your measurements?

J.A. I don't mind at all.

I'm 47. My birthday is December 12. I'm 5' 9" and weigh 154. My measurements are 38 - 32 - 37.

T.V.I. Jill, what are your earliest and your most favorite recollections of cross-dressing?

J.A. December of 1978. I'd had a chance to talk with other cross-dressers on my job. Then I started trying on a few of my (ex) wife's things.

My favorite memory is of my second Cross-Port meeting. I felt really wonderful, feminine - and accepted by our nice members.

T.V.I. Jill, how long have you been a member of Cross-Port? And how did you learn about us?



J.A. I have been a member for about a year. I had seen the club ad in magazines years ago, but never acted on it. Then I was reminded of it by a former member.

T.V.I. How long then have you been coming to the meetings?

J.A. Only since the first part of 1993.

T.V.I. If the girls from Cross-Port were to follow Jill around what would they most likely see you doing?

J.A. Bobbi, you just might find me camping or hiking. I also love to go dancing. My musical tastes include country & western, big band, classical and 50's/60's rock & roll.

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

J.A. For me, it's the "feeling" of feeling feminine. When dressed, I find serenity and peace... with the world and myself.

T.V.I. What most disturbs you as a cross-dresser?

J.A. That I am unable to dress full-time, because of my job and the "snobs" in this area.

T.V.I. Jill, are you married or involved at this time? Does the other know about Jill?

J.A. I am now single and just coming out of a relationship. She knows about my other self, but does not totally approve or accept it. In fact, I believe that she is beginning to think it an evil practice.

T.V.I. When Jill does make an appearance, what are her favorite styles?

J.A. Bobbi, I like skirts with hemlines one inch above the knee to mini length. However, in dresses I prefer a hem from just above, to just below the knees. I wear size 14 or 16. My shoes are usually pumps with 3" or 4" heels. Those are a size 11 1/2 W. My wigs are blonde, straight. They end just below the shoulders.

T.V.I. Can you offer any tips on

presenting a more realistic facade?

J.A. Yes, to help keep my skin smooth, I use a scouring pad and Oil of Olay soap on the parts of my body I shave. This greatly reduces the number of ingrown hairs by removing the dry skin over them. It also helps make them stand up for a smoother shave.

T.V.I. You know, that's similar to the advice Beverly gave me early on about using a Buff-Puff and exfoliating lotions. In the future, I'll try it before I shave.

T.V.I. Jill, would you like to get on the "soapbox" and air a complaint or two?

J.A. Certainly. Really, I have only one peeve: There aren't enough get-togethers for Cross-Port. I'd love to see us have more activities.

T.V.I. In closing, would you share with us what you imagine the future holds for you?

J.A. I plan on working to refine my femme self. Also, I plan to dress more often and go out in public more. I'd like to get more involved in Cross-Port while in this area, and become active in similar organizations when I retire and move to another city.

T.V.I. Well, Jill, Cross-Port certainly welcomes a more active membership. Let us know what you'd like to contribute. And let me say that I'm not looking forward to seeing a lovely lady like you leave us. Thanks for sharing with all of us the view inside the world of Jill Arnold. Stay Healthy. Stay Beautiful. Avoid Runners.

**BOGEYS
ARE
GOOD!**

by Roberta

I realize this is not the normal

article for InnerView. I believe, though, that this is the only way to inform my sisters of my interest. I am one of the many that unfortunately cannot attend the monthly meetings. This prevents me from getting to know the various members better. I have learned from the InnerView and talking with Joyce that some of the members of Cross-Port do share mutual interests other than cross-dressing on occasion.



I took up golf around four years ago. I have played in leagues since that time. The pressure of always trying to win each hole has taken away nearly all the fun for me. I average 50 - 55 for 9 holes from the white tees. This year I would prefer to find some people just to relax and enjoy a 9 hole round once in awhile. Hopefully, this will enable me to develop new friendships and put some fun in my golf game.

I also enjoy doing a little farm pond fishing for bass and bluegill once in awhile. So, if you would like to wet a line or share a round of golf, you can write to me at:

Roberta
P.O. BOX 11
Cincinnati, OH 45201

Please do NOT send any responses to Cross-Port directly as that would only cause unnecessary delay. Thank you ladies for your attention. hopefully I will be meeting with some of you in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

Roberta

How I Spent My Christmas Vacation

by Paula Harmston

Every Christmas I take a week of vacation from my job and drive back to Washington, D.C. to visit my parents. I always make an itinerary of things to do while I am there and this year I decided to use some of my spare time to try something new: to have an electrolysis treatment!

Well, the part about it being "new" isn't exactly true. At the Eire Sisters Convention last November, I had a three minute introductory session by one of the vendors. I had shaved an hour earlier which forced the vendor to work on the back of my neck. I only had it done to get an idea of how much pain was involved. Everyone kept telling me about "the pain." I assumed that if pain was a problem I'd know it within the first three minutes. The first two minutes were uneventful, not one hint of pain. Then, at the two minute fifteen second mark, I thought to myself, "This could get real annoying really quick," and, "Isn't my time up, please?" When the full three minutes was over, I scrambled out as fast as I could. That brief encounter with electrolysis was enough to eliminate any enthusiasm I had for the process.

But, hey, that had been six weeks ago and I was over it. Bring on the needles and turn up the juice!

In the latest issue of Tapestry I saw an ad for electrolysis by Maureen Schantz of Alexandria, Virginia, near Washington. When I got to my parents' house I called Maureen and set up an appointment for December 27th. I told her I wanted a fifteen minute session so I could better appreciate the process and to get a better idea about the pain. When I arrived I found Maureen to be very pleasant, in her early thirties, with eight years experience working with cross-dressers in her area.

After explaining what she was

going to do, Maureen had me lie down on her examining table to begin. Three minutes into the session she asked me to rate, on a scale of ten, how much pain I was feeling from the current. I told her it was a "one or two." "Fine," she said, and with my implied consent, increased the current.

At the five minute mark the pain was now "four to six" and I noticed that I was pushing hard into the examining table. My anxiety level had escalated dramatically. At the start of the procedure, I had been talkative, but now I was mumbling Buddhist chants to myself, wishing to get this over with.

To that point, Maureen had been working on my chin, but after ten minutes she moved to my upper lip area which was far more sensitive. She quickly hit me with several bursts, easily hitting "12" on my ten-point pain meter. I blurted, yelled, screamed, "Hey, watch it. I'm on vacation! They're supposed to be pleasurable...not masochistic!"

Maureen continued for a few more minutes and then she went back to my chin. When the fifteen minutes ended she asked if I wanted to go another fifteen. Like a fool, I said, "Okay." She stayed away from my upper lip for the most part, and I survived the additional session. Still, I was glad, thrilled, ecstatic, when the entire thirty minute ordeal had ended. And to think that my time was only half of the "normal" hour-long treatment which most of Maureen's clients sit for!

Now, for some good news. Maureen advised me that in October 1993, the F.D.A. approved a topical anesthetic cream called "EMLA" made by Astra Pharmaceuticals. It is a prescription drug sold at \$12.00 per 5 oz. tube. It must be applied at least an hour before the electrolysis treatment and is highly visible (you can't put it on at work and then run off to your appointment). So why buy the cream? Because it reduces pain by fifty to one hundred percent. This means Maureen can increase the amperage fifty to one hundred percent! Seriously, it means that she can work much faster and longer, dramatically reducing the total number of hours needed to complete

one's face. That should result in a substantial savings of both time and money (and pain) to all of us.

All I have to do now is work on my family physician to refer me to a dermatologist to prescribe EMLA.

INSIGHT 4 5

by: Barbara Jean

Hi girls this is Barbara back with some more insight for you. Ok let's try this little scenario.

You have just told your wife that you are a crossdresser, or worst yet, she found out; "You queer pantywaist faggot", "Not in MY house you don't", "You need your fool head examined",..... OK I think we have the picture, this is not going to be one of those cherished A+ type of wives. While we may have hoped for a better reaction, it looks like she will be a pure "F". What now?

A part of her reaction may be due to the initial shock, but the above scenario makes it pretty clear that the relationship with our wife/girlfriend has NOT been on sound footing, that there are other problems, problems that as yet are unresolved. If we are to have any hope of our wife/girlfriend accepting our femside, then we must resolve ALL OTHER PROBLEMS to the relationship. Perhaps at this point it may be wise to seek the advice of a marriage counselor or other professional for the purpose of bringing those problems to the surface. It is important to recognize that there is NO hope of your wife/girlfriend progressing past that "F" point unless we begin to work to resolve all other issues.

While I think it is a good idea to have books like Virginia Prince's "The Transvestite and His Wife" or Peggy Rudd's "My Husband Wears My Clothes" on hand, it is somewhat doubtful that she will even bother to look at them. I think it would be much

better to give these to the marriage counselor so that you can be assured that they are informed on the subject of crossdressing. I would also urge you to direct them to inquire of I.F.G.E. or TRI-ESS for further information. The Boulton & Park Society has a number of good pamphlets also that they may obtain.

Also I think this is a time when you need to listen to her, to try and understand her feelings and her fears. Communications at this point is of the utmost importance. Try and find out what her objection is due to.

You also need to be very careful with WHO you associate with. Now I am not saying to abandon your TS or gay sisters, but don't let your wife know what their status is, it can further intensify any fears that she may have of your being a crossdresser. If you bring any sisters to your house make sure that they understand where your wife sits on the matter. It may also be wise to ask that when they come that they come dressed in male attire. If the "F" wife ever does meet with one of your sisters, be aware that your sisters actions will be a form of education for your wife about YOU.

I have a sister here in Memphis who is in the above situation girls. As a result of an auto accident Kayleen's wife found out about her crossdressing. Dora was anything but accepting of Kayleen, she would not even look at anything written about crossdressing. She simply wanted absolutely nothing to do with it. Kayleen and I are the best of friends, and Dora knows of my being a crossdresser, but for some reason she seemed to sense something different about me. It is as if that which she feared she did not see in me. Dora has progressed, While I don't think she was ever a true F, she did rate a D for a time. She accepted the fact that Kayleen was a crossdresser, but did not want anything to do with it. Today she will at times buy Kayleen a dress or other article of feminine attire, and while she claims that she will not even look at a piece of crossdressing printed material, she had been know to take a

peak now and then. I think now we could at least give her a good C rating.

I guess if I played any part in Dora's progression to acceptance, it is that she did not see me as a threat. One of the problems that we must battle is old myths that people have created about us. Some of the myths that had been created about us in the past are that we are gay or planning a sex change. As a result the wife can often perceive that the other crossdresser is attempting to recruit her husband to these things. I do firmly believe that the prime reason for a woman to enter into marriage is security. She may see our crossdressing as a threat to the security of her marriage. Remove the threat and the cold war will diminish. Your first task will be to somehow assure her that your being a crossdresser does not threaten the marriage or diminish your love for her.

I think the one major thing that we must remember most is that our wife/girlfriend will NOT turn from an "F" to an "A+" overnight, rather it is something that will probably require years of work and co-operation. Will the "F" wife leave? That is a difficult one to call. I think it will depend on just how bad the other cracks are in the foundation of the relationship, and on how well she perceives her ability to survive on her own.

Now next month we will continue this series with a column for those of you who are contemplating telling your children about your crossdressing. Well I think that is all for this month girls. Do take care and be good to yourself, for you are truly worth it. I love each and everyone of you and you are worth every bit of that love.

Publication Notice
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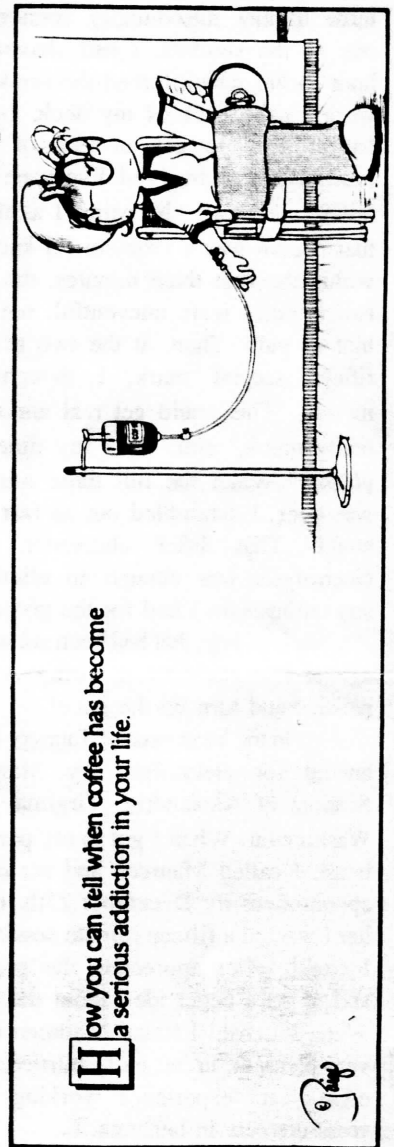
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Hobnob Inn