



PUBLISHED BY:
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Future Fun

Sept. 19
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

Oct. 10
CrossPort
board meeting
and dinner,
7:30 PM. See
Trans-1-Jenna
for more info.

SPICE Conference Report

by Paula Ison

I recently had the good fortune to attend the annual S.P.I.C.E. conference in Wilmington, Delaware. Even though my schedule only allowed me to attend the last day of the three day event, it was well worth the time and I hope to go again in the future. SPICE, short for Spouses-Partners International Conference for Education, is sponsored by Tri-Ess and endorsed by I.F.G.E. My fiancée, Jan, also attended with me.

SPICE is for genetic Females in committed relationships with cross-dressers. It is designed primarily for the wives and girl friends of cross-dressers who want to know about what their men are into and how to cope with or handle various situations facing them.

The ideal genetic female attendee is one who wants to know more about cross-dressing so she can resolve issues facing her such as how to explain it to her children (or do you tell them at all), maintaining her own femininity, bedroom issues, etc.

The ideal genetic male attendee is one who is in a committed relationship, or hopes for one in the future. Where the partnership is searching for answers to unresolved issues.

The conference is a non-dressing event and genetic men should leave their female clothing at home. This is because women that are uncomfortable with cross-dressing will be more willing to attend.

The event is "seminar intensive" with a number of nationally recognized psychologists and counselors either giving lectures or leading discussion groups and serving as panelists. A number of wives served as panelists and were very valuable in sharing their experiences.

The three seminars and Saturday night dinner I went to drew a crowd of about forty women and twenty men. Besides the lectures, I was able to meet a lot of very friendly and interesting people. For instance, I met Diana Sexton, a genetic lady from California who had previously met our own Jennifer and Gina

when several cross-dressers and spouses appeared on the Danny Bonaduce show last fall in Chicago.

I really enjoyed spending the time with Gary Helms who is a minister and family counselor who cross-dresses. We had a philosophical discussion about the right-wingers who think cross-dressing, at its best, is a poor use of our time. We agreed that it was a fantastic use of our time!

Ironically, when I attend a traditional cross-dressing event I often wonder what a cross-dresser looks like as a male. At the SPICE conference, it was the opposite; I wondered what the other guys look like as females!

The conference was absolutely a fantastic time and I encourage everyone to attend if the opportunity presents itself. Next year's conference is July 16-20 in Ontario, California which is fifty miles east of Los Angeles. While it's a bit of a trip, you have an entire year to plan and save.

It's worth it. ♥

Just A Thought...

by Heather [REDACTED]

The Delhi skirt game is over for another year. I can't say that this makes me unhappy. For several weeks, we had to endure the snide remarks and snickers from some of the area radio personalities promoting this charitable affair. Society still views it an oddity for a man to wear a dress or skirt. It has shock and/or entertainment value. I can only wonder why. As a member of CrossPort lo' these many years, I find nothing unusual about seeing a man in a dress. In fact, some of you look better than some of my women friends. If it is not Halloween or something like the skirt game then a man wearing a dress is viewed as an oddity and reason to stare. Why? Because it breaks the traditional taboos for the norms of dress. Women have more freedom in this area. I can dress as I please as long as it is appropriate for the occasion. I wear everything from jeans and tee shirts to dresses and no one bats an eye. Men aren't that lucky. If a man wore a skirt to the office, eyebrows would raise and he would be asked to leave. We all know that this is considered as socially unacceptable. Why do it then? I have been told to express your feminine side. If I am strong and show traits that are attributed to men then I may be viewed, by some, as a "bitch" or a "dyke", but, I am still respected by most men and women. The same doesn't hold true for men. If a man exhibits traits that are viewed as female then by most he is viewed as weak, a sissy or even a "queer". This is double standards in re-

verse. Isn't there something wrong with a society that enforces such rigid standards of conduct that it generally views sensitivity in its men as a liability? Sensitivity and nurturing, according to our society, are assigned to the female of the species. A man is not supposed to put his family before his job. He can not cry unless it is for something of catastrophic proportions. Tears cost Edmund Muskie his party's presidential nomination. Hugging other men is at best suspect. How absurd!

I have an idea for a solution. Let's have a national skirt week. Everyone, both men and women, will have to wear a skirt or dress for that entire week. Before you think my girdle is on too tight or I have completely lost it, I am only kidding. I doubt, in my lifetime, that society will ever accept a man in a skirt or a dress. Yet, the 90's have tried to move toward allowing its men to be more sensitive, more nurturing. We are not there yet, but we are moving in the right direction. So guys, when you go into your office or place of work, hug your male coworkers. Then duck - chances are they haven't read this column.

Then again, this is just a thought.

Post Script.

Hey where is "Up the Street and Around the Corner"? For several months, I have been critically reviewing what has appeared in that column as compared to the original premise. Over two years ago when I decided to write "Up the Street and Around the Corner", it was to be a column that talked about things to do and places to go. Very few columns fit that premise. In

the submitted July column, I plugged several future WGRR concerts. This was removed before print and I didn't even protest it. That brought into focus what has been milling around in the back of my mind, I have for the most part abandoned this original premise. Writing about serious topics in a column called "Up the Street and Around the Corner", I believe, tends to make them seem less important - more frivolous. So if I have something to write that fits "Up the Street and Around the Corner" that column will appear, otherwise I'll share "just a thought".

If you would like to comment, you may write to me at:

Ms. Heather [REDACTED]
P.O. Box 58739
Cincinnati, OH 45258-0739



“...because
Christmas is
gettin' mighty
close!”

by Paula Ison

Mark your calendars for December 19th when CrossPort hosts its annual Christmas Party. Last year's party was a blast, which included a visit from Mrs. Santa Claus. I wonder if we can persuade her to come again this year?

Please do not hesitate to make suggestions or volunteer to help with the party. I can be reached at [REDACTED] ♥

Kristing on... Body Shaping

Prosthesis, Brassieres and Foundations

by Kristine Jones

Alluring female breasts can be imitated non-surgically by a few methods; by taping, or with breast forms. The feminine figure can be further refined with hip and buttocks prosthesis.

Nonexistent breasts can be enlarged by taping the fat and muscle on your chest upward and together at the center with first aid or athletic tape. Place three strips, stretching above the armpit, down under the pectoral muscles, and up the other side, gathering the fleshy chest tissue upward and toward the sternum. Pushup pads can then be used maintain the uplift and create a flattering form. Another option is using bunion tapes, such as Dr. Scholl's Krotex, which are skin colored and the moleskin covering is soft.

The "cleavage" you create can be enhanced by dusting brown blusher toward the hollow, and pearly highlighter on the top slopes. By careful blending and use of translucent powder, the makeup can be made to look natural. Spritz the décolletage with perfume before powdering. A charm dangling between the breasts will enhance the appearance of cleavage and bust size. Another tip is to purchase one of the pushup bras on the market, and use it alone or in conjunction with taping. These bras usually have removable pads to adjust the amount of cleavage created. Purchase the bra one size smaller than your frame size.

To find your bra size, measure your chest up under the arms, below the bust and shoulder blades,

just where the bottom band of the bra goes and add 5 inches to that measurement. If you get an odd number, round up to the next number. Then to determine cup size, a woman would measure the fullest part of the bust, over the breasts. If the difference between the two is 1 inch you are an A cup; 2 inches, a B cup; 3 inches, a C cup and 4 inches, a D cup.

You can pick your cup size to match your breast forms or by how much padding you want to put in

your bra cups. Many men have fairly large pectoral muscles (especially if they are muscular or have fatty chests). Therefore, it is best to buy the forms the next size smaller than the cup size you want.

There are many varieties of breast forms on the market. They have a variety of attachable and non-attachable silicone and cloth breast forms, as well as a selection of brassieres.

The attachable forms are silicone, which secure to the chest wall with a "L" shaped adhesive strip that can typically be worn up to a week. After that period, the skin support probably needs replacement, depending on activity levels, bathing or swimming frequency, or amount of perspiration. The forms are available in a range of sizes and skin tones.

The non-attachable forms are either silicone or are cloth-covered. The silicone forms have a concave back with a gel-like consistency, so the back will mold over the male pectorals and give the best fit. The front has a softer, matte/skintone covering and tapering edges. While most have a triangular or teardrop shape, some have a slight underarm extension, which would replace a woman's tissue removed from that area by a mastectomy operation. With these forms, you can wear a special mastectomy bra, a regular bra or in case of an attachable version, you may go braless, as you may prefer. A mastectomy bra has pockets, into which the prosthesis are placed.

The second least expensive way is to purchase the cloth-covered forms that mastectomy patients

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Kristine on... Body Shaping

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use right after surgery, before they have a silicone form fitted. They fit into the pockets of a mastectomy bra and won't move. They're adequate for the new woman and are inexpensive.

My advice is to call a mastectomy shop, explain the situation, and ask for a private fitting. Many won't care if you come cross-dressed or not. While that may not be the least embarrassing way, at least you can peacefully, privately get an accurate, appropriate fit. And considering the cost of the forms, I think mail order, where there is no personal fitting, is a bad idea.

Now the cheapest solution. For the enterprising among us, it is possible to create realistic-looking breast forms that are also realistic in feel for a fraction of the cost of mastectomy forms.

For materials, collect: 2 large craft balloons (cost about \$5.00 each). These will be about 36 inches in diameter when blown up or about 10 inches in diameter before inflation. They are available at craft stores in a variety of colors. Then, obtain 100 to 125 of the 4 inch soft fishing lure worms (cost about \$10.00). Look for these by mail order or in bulk at hunting or fishing supply stores. Then, you'll need 2 Tupperware lids or gallon plastic milk containers, etc. The plastic needs to be firm. Finally, one pair of flesh colored pantyhose or stockings.

To assemble, count out the correct number of worms into a tall glass with a narrow mouth, counting approximately 20 per cup size. (ex. 20 for an A, 40 for a B, etc.) Then carefully stretch the lip of the balloon over the mouth of the

glass and dump all the lures in the balloon. Fill the balloon with water until the rest of the air space is eliminated by forcing the air out and tie the top *tightly*.

Cut the plastic bottle into a teardrop shape for the form back, making the top of the teardrop rounded. File all edges of the plastic smooth. The thicker the plastic, the easier this is.

Next, insert the narrow end of the plastic into the opening of the stocking, working down all the way to the toe, pulling the open end of the stocking down and over the plastic. Then, insert the balloon assembly carefully. The pantyhose are then cut off, about 10 inches from the toe. Pull the stocking into a slip knot on the open end, tightly around the balloon and plastic. A small, tight knot will look like your nipple. Finally, wrap the open end of the stocking around the balloon again and tie it off, knotting it at the point of the teardrop.

When worn with an underwire bra, the underwire will hold the bottom of the breast, while the strap holds up the top. The balloon move somewhat against the plastic, giving you a jiggly feel as you move. Many CDs use bird seed, but it doesn't move like plastic, and I have a fear of movie scenes from Alfred Hitchcock's *The Birds*.

Another consideration is padding the hips and minimizing the waist. Studies show that no matter how much a woman weighs, men are attracted to 0.7 waist to hip ratio (the circumference of the waist divided by the hip circumference). An example of a perfect 0.7 ratio would be a 27" waist with a 38" hips. That's why the ideal woman's measurements are characterized as being 36"-24"-36".

One way to minimize the waist is with a waist cincher or other "toner" or "shaper" for the waist. Try the bodyshapers from Bali, Lily of France, or Olga. Many can shave off an inch or two from the waistline. Usually stretch nylon and lycra can tuck the tummy and lift the derriere somewhat.

The best way to pad the hips and derriere is with a fake butt. These are basically panties with pockets sewn in where pads can be placed. There are usually two pads on each hip and two pads over the cheeks of the rear. The pads are made of sponge rubber or other springy material. ♥

Coming Events

September 19 thru 26

Paradise in the Poconos
King of Prussia, PA

Contact: CDS at [REDACTED] or
on by Internet mail at
[REDACTED]

September 26 thru 29

Southern Comfort
Atlanta, GA

Contact: Southern Comfort Convention at [REDACTED] or by
Internet mail at
[REDACTED]

October 31 thru November 2

Fall Harvest '96

Cedar Rapids, IA

Contact: Iowa Artistry at PO Box 75, Cedar Rapids, IA 52406-0075

November 6 thru 10

Holiday en Femme

Chicago, IL

Contact: Chi Chapter (Tri-Ess) at
PO Box 40, Wood Dale, IL 60191-0040 or at [REDACTED] ♥

Trans-A-Jennda

by Jennifer Marquette

Wondering where to wear that special gown you purchased before July's meeting at Glitter's? How about a convention? There are a number of regional ones coming up and one or more Cross-Port members will be in attendance. Paula and Gina will make their yearly sojourn to the Riverside Gala in Erie, Pa. (Nov. 22-24).

Prior to that is Holiday en Femme, Fall Harvest, JoAnn Robert's Paradise in the Poconos, and the very diverse Southern Comfort in Atlanta. (See *Coming Events* on pg.4 -ed.) I have brochures for some but not all of these events

Speaking of convention related news. During the Republican National Convention, Time Magazine came up with my favorite cover of all "time". They had the good fortune of relating the two top stories of the week - Dole's choice of VP and the Mars rock. The bold headline at the top of the cover read: "LIFE ON MARS" and the cover photo was a dual head shot of Dole and Kemp. You can't convince me that was inadvertent. Makes you believe in a higher power when serendipitous juxtapositions come together just so.

So what else is in my mailbox? Esquire's yearly "Women We Love" issue cited Dennis Rodman under the category "Women who can out re-bound us" (or was it:

Women who need a serious makeover). A more curious heading though, was "Women we love even though they can kick our ass". In the company of Pam Grier (currently playing an MtF war-



lord con in *Escape From LA*), the animated uberchick - Aeon Flux and the actress, Lucy Lawless (Xena), is none other than the TG community's very own New Jersey cop, Janet Aiello.

So much for my mailbox; what I want to know is who on Playboy's editorial staff is receiving IFGE's *Transgender Tapestry*? Citing *Tapestry* as the source, the October issue recounts the "Nixon was a crossdresser" bit from Malcolm Tenniper's new book under the After Hours column. So why am I looking at Playboy? I modeled for the cartoon on page 71.

Librarian Wanted

Do you look good in glasses and marmy clothes? Can you say "Shhhh!" in a feminine yet commanding way? Then you could be the CrossPort librarian. In October I'll have the system set up and ready to go and in need of someone to take care of biz. Just so you don't get the wrong impression, the most prurient item we have is the Tula autobiography. Again, thanks to everyone who made donations and a special thank you to Dallas Denny of AEGIS who contributed a copy of "Identity Management for the TS".

Due to everyone's generosity (including the general membership fund) we'll have close to forty items initially available.

More Opportunities

At the last Board Meeting, Kristine Jones volunteered to take up the new member prospecting program. She will need some help both in the Cincinnati and Dayton areas. If possible, I would like to make new member follow-up, pen-gal and a Big Sister program also part of this development area. We are looking to extend our reach by placing ads in a variety of sources within our region. If you have any suggestions or wish to help out - and you don't need to be a veteran of the group - contact me or Kristine.

Along those lines, CrossPort's Home Page will soon be appearing on the Internet in the Transgender Forum web site's Community Center. Thanks to the generosity of JoAnn Roberts and her partners, this will be a free listing.



By the way, the next Board meeting will be on Thursday, Oct. 10 most likely beginning at 7:30 at the Golden China in Erlanger. Again, not only is the general

membership welcomed, but *encouraged* to attend. I especially like to hear from new people so don't be shy. The meetings are business dinners in a private room and last till 10pm or so. Afterwards we usually go out for a drink and try to talk Kristine into dancing on the table.

Since our monthly meetings don't provide good forums for doing much business, these board meetings are important for you to attend if you want to be more involved and have some input. Prior to last year, CrossPort was primarily governed by the unilateral decisions of one or two people. After we saw how well we produced the Be All convention last year as a team, we applied the same consideration to the group as a whole and the last year has been a very productive one. This by no means slights anyone who did the zillions of thankless tasks in previous years, it's just nice to have the burden of group doings spread over a number of shoulders. Several of us veterans have been especially pleased with some of the newer members and the attitudes of selflessness and doing for others that they have quickly developed.

I have a list of the "regulars" who attend the business-dinners but if you would like to be added to that verification list, please contact me.

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Trans-A-Jennda

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Come to the Cabaret, My Dear, Come to the Cabaret

Where's a neat new place to go? Carol of Carol's Corner Café has opened her second floor cabaret. I haven't been there yet so I don't know what things are happening. You can have dinner or drinks downstairs, then go up to hear Hootie and the Blowfish. Well, maybe not them, but probably somebody better and less "fratboy".

Carol's is at 825 Main St. (651-BOOP) and is "Family Friendly." (That means us, the G,BLT sandwich, not the Christian Coalishin' who are welcome too as long as they're nice.)

Stonewall Update

Michael Adele has been appointed interim director of Stonewall Cincinnati in the wake of Cindy Abel's departure to the North Carolina Mobilization Campaign. Michael's a great guy and a wonderful selection for this post. Hopefully, he'll be there for the long run.

On Tuesday, Sept. 24th, is Meet the Candidates night at St. John's Unitar-

our
congratulations to
paula and jan
on their
wedding vows
this month.

ian (320 Resor, down in Ludlow not far from the Golden Lions) starting at 6:30pm. I believe CrossPort made up about 15% of the audience last year.

Memorial

Back in the beginning of July, a young man was arrested for the murder of his former roommate. He is apparently TG and was apprehended while dressed. I was initially wrangled because the media used that item to "tease" their news with the titillating inflection of, "A man, DRESSED AS A WOMAN!! was arrested tonight for murder at a local nightclub." None of the local media could resist that "hook". The effect, of course, is mainstream people seeing us as evil.

The newspaper made similar mention and also carried the name of the victim,

Gerald Keyes. The name didn't register. A couple weeks later, Bobbi [redacted] told me who it was. It was Geena, or "short Geena" as we affectionately called her. Few of us knew her original name. We haven't seen her at monthly meetings since last Fall. A number of CrossPort gals recall her first meeting when Gerald showed up in a three-piece suit, literally shaking like a leaf. Then it seemed within weeks Geena was in transition and living full-time.

The reason for her murder is unknown to me but the word on the street confirms it wasn't gender motivated. This does not make her loss any easier to take though. I think Geena would still be alive today if she did not have to "give up" certain things to go through transition. A variety of pressures contributed to a chain of events which led to her murder. I know it's a big conclusion to jump to from her losing her job to her death, but there is an undeniable gender thread that runs through it. And it makes me sad. Rest easy, Geena, I'm sure you made a successful final transition.



Don't Shoot the Messenger Just Yet...

by Linda Buten

A week hardly passes by, before I see my name being trashed by someone in the gender community. I am surprised that anyone could put so much effort into an article without researching the source or getting first hand feedback from its author. Not one of my critics has ever sat down with me and asked where I stand on gender politics or human rights issues. The main source of information is one part, of a three part article, written two and a half years ago, and reprinted in Crosstalk. The article was originally part of a series we did in our local newsletter in Cincinnati about gay rights. This was

never meant to stand alone, and was certainly not intended for national publication. I do not know how Crosstalk came across this segment, but I assure you I did not send it to them, nor did I give them permission to print it. [The CrossPort Innerview is reciprocally sent to all national organizations and publications (including CrossTalk). Traditionally, in the gender community, articles from publications are freely reproduced as long as proper credit is given. See our publication notice on page 9. -ed.]

If you lived in Cincinnati when Issue 3 (The Human Rights Ordinance) was a hot topic, you would have viewed the

article in a different perspective. It drew front pages headlines and first run nightly news spots for months. The term "special rights" were the key words of every story, not mine, but necessary to use to get the point across. The primary focus of the articles was based on gay rights, not gender rights. I did relate gender into the articles and try to bring out valid points expressed on both sides that could affect us. The majority of the people had no problem with equal rights for gays, it was in the way the amendment was written and passed, that created the controversy. Transgenderism had nothing

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Don't Shoot the Messenger Just Yet...

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to do with Issue 3, and was never uttered by a single news media.

The Human Rights Ordinance had been talked about for several years in Cincinnati by the gay / lesbian community. About two years before it came to council, I approached some of the people drawing up the issue, about letting me speak on behalf of the gender community. I felt we needed to play a part in the drafting of the ordinance. I was told in so many words that people like me will only muddy the water. You've heard the line before, "Thanks but NO THANKS." (Does ENDA ring any bells?)

Regardless of what my critics may say, my personal stance is, that I am very much in favor of equal rights for everyone, and I stress the word equal. My problem is I have a hard time supporting certain issues when it singles out particular groups. Everyone has something unique about themselves. If the city had a Human Rights Ordinance that said you may not discriminate against anyone for any reason, this would seem fair. Unfortunately, it would also open up a Pandora's Box.

When the subject of Human Rights or Gender Politics arises, I will usually voice concerns, and ask questions. I am one of the few who at least seems interested. Before I can even get the words out of my mouth, glaring stares tell me that I am a traitor to the cause, and to shut up and be quiet. If one will not or cannot convince me of the importance or the need, how is one going to fare up against the general public. Believe me, I am on your side, and more than a willing student.

In a decade where politicians are preaching less government, enacting new laws are going to be very difficult. When I spoke about small businesses, there was no intent to put anyone on the defense, only to open the eyes of those who always want to look before they leap.

It is one thing not to understand my original intentions, and if I offended someone, I do apologize. What is so astonishing is how people respond with fists held high as if they are entering a boxing ring assuming some underlying conspiracy. They read between the lines, selecting certain words and phrases like an attorney examining a deposition. Their findings are filled with evidence to prove a case that does not need solving.

...I cried as [Riki] presented her message. The emotion of the patrons was overwhelming, and at lunch that day, Gender PAC was born.

For the last 20 years, I have worked with my local legislators, been active in a fairly large PAC, and worked with lobbyist in my state, so I am not new to the political arena. I have told people like Riki Ann Wilchins that I do not necessarily agree with many of her methods and ideas, yet I believe she has a right to be heard. When I accepted the responsibility of hosting the BE ALL WEEKEND in Cincinnati in the summer of '95, I found myself with new opportunities to help the community. I had met Riki in the fall of '94, and was impressed with her spirit. I told her she needed a public forum to speak with the community. I kept my promise by asking her to speak at the Friday luncheon. She was perfect, and I cried as she presented her message. The emotion of the patrons was overwhelming, and at lunch that day, GenderPAC was born. Unfortunately most of you missed that historic event.

In my home town I do not publicly out myself because of my family, but I am one of the very few people who have always strongly supported the cause.

The main reason I have attended the last two Stonewall fund-raisers was to support the work of Diane Torrance. I really do not care if she likes me or not, but if she is going to stick her neck out for me, she deserves whatever support I can give.

I am constantly amazed by a few national leaders. They act like the guardian angels of the community, yet their responses always carry an evil sounding undertone. When anyone disagrees, they feel compelled to publicly respond in a fashion where the everyday reader can picture darts flying back and forth. The very people who always want to know why can't we all work together, are the same ones continuously trying to poke holes in the other guy. If you want to bring the community together, you must publicly show caring, understanding, dignity, and above all unity. Disagreements should be settled privately between the parties, not blasted in public. How do they expect the community to react? The professionalism they expected is buried in the bickering they witness among their peers in matters as trivial as the unintentionally misuse of a pronoun.

I want people to realize, that I am a very practical person, and I do care. I am always more than happy to discuss everything. Just don't shoot the messenger before you hear the whole message. ♥



If the Founding Fathers Wore Wigs, Why Can't I?

by Jennifer Marquette

Politics and religion are the two topics to shun if you wish to avoid controversy. Religion has always been a topic in the gender community - mostly in an effort to ameliorate being Christian with being transgendered. For the record, some of the most Christian people I know are TG folks, whether they feel they are religious or not. The last time I heard topical disgruntlement with the newsletter was last year when we happened to have three articles on religion in one issue. That was before the last issue which contained three articles involving politics.

Politics has become part of nearly every gender group's agenda, be it national or local. It is by far the most controversial and fastest growing aspect of the gender community. Years ago Heather Cox, CrossPort's founder, was involved politically as part of her involvement with the Greater Cincinnati Gay/Lesbian Coalition. They weren't ready for TG inclusivity then. Last summer during the reorganization meetings, it was agreed by majority (as all decisions were made) that further cooperation with the Gay/Lesbian community would be beneficial socially and politically and that there would be a political action facet to our organization. This was later reinforced more formally during the Sept. 23 planning session. Diane took point position on this with the assistance of a number of others. In about six months, Stonewall Cincinnati amended their bylaws and mission statement to include TG. Really quite an accomplishment.

For those of you who are afraid that CrossPort is becoming too political - don't. Like I said, it is but one facet of our group's organization. Believe me, nobody's going to ask you to storm the Bastille in a petticoat (unless you want to, it takes all kinds as we know). There are many elements to our group, some are still in need of more development. The TS programs, spouse/partner issues, public and media outreach, and the helping professionals education program all need more development.

This takes time, energy, and people. Diane felt strongly and passionately about the political programs so a lot got accomplished. I would like to see a TS member come forward who can take the reins of *that* particular area. I would like to see a spouse co-develop partner programs. I, and the few others who take care of biz, can only do so much.

Linda is a friend of mine. Diane is a friend of mine. I have made some very close friendships in CrossPort. It is the single most important reason I am still involved. Diane had her say last month. Linda provided a rebuttal this month. That is it. We are not going to have a second act of the Linda Buten-Bob Curtis diatribal counterpunching

... nobody is
going to ask you
to storm the Bastille
in a dress.
(unless you want
to, of course)...

that went on three years ago. What started out as a debate of differing perspectives ended up as divisive and counterproductive, yielding nothing. Linda's excerpted views continue to haunt her on a national level.

I asked Diane months ago to provide national and local social/political reportage and editorials to the newsletter to give our local readership a sense of what is going on outside the CrossPort closet. We are not an island organization. I also asked Kristine "Miss Be All" Jones to provide a monthly presentation and how-to article. We have articles from significant others, from first-timers, fiction, general news, places to go to get into fights, hopefully Bobbi will return with her Potpourri

article and, of course, submissions from you are welcome anytime. And although Jennifer Caden is a new editor, she understands the diversity of what should be in the newsletter. After all, how many articles can you read about "My first trip to the ladies room" ?

For a variety of reasons, it seems relevant that CrossPort develop a written position for its political stance. This was new business at the last board meeting. This stance will be a directional platform, not a plan of action or specific agenda. A social-political statement is implied by our mission statement. The Political-Social Statement will be a guide by which we'll navigate this aspect of our organization.

Diane, Kristine and Linda will develop this stance with input from others. If you would like to also have input, contact one of them or myself. Whether you feel like we "shouldn't rock the political boat" or if you want to camp out in front of Councilman Winburn's home in ponytails, this is your opportunity to get in ground floor input. Do not Monday morning quarterback this thing, do not share with me your post-hoc second guessing conclusions, if you wish to have a viable say, get involved now.

Because the gender community in our area that is out even enough to join our group is small, we feel we have to meet a staggering diversity of needs. If you are gay in Cincinnati, you can join a dozen different groups that range from purely social, to educational, to political, to community minded and more. We only have ourselves and we feel it important to cover as many bases as resources allow us.

The two basic needs I receive most often on the phone and in the new member questionnaires I get back say they wish to meet other people like themselves and get some help on their presentation. The social

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Editor's Escritoire

by Jennifer [REDACTED], Editor
What a month! First, I must apologize for this issue getting out so late. There is a good reason, though: I suffered a major disaster of the computer kind: My main hard drive "crashed." Yes, I did lose some data, but fortunately, I had all of the important stuff stored on the newer of the two drives. It has taken me almost two weeks of 1 AM (and on two nights, 3:30 AM) sessions to get everything back to where it belongs, but here we are.

The restaurant we meet at for dinner on meeting night recently changed its name from Mark Pi's to the Bamboo Garden. It's still the same owner (George), same everything else, just a name change. I apologize for any confusion last month.

We tried to make our new deadline last month, too, and missed. (We will start getting InnerView out sooner, I promise.) I hope it didn't cause anyone to miss the board meeting. Seriously, try and attend the one in October. Girls, it takes more than words and high heels to make this group run. That's why we're a support group, not a social club.

On the lighter side, I saw a magazine that fits nicely with Heather's article, too.

The magazine in question has super-model Claudia Schiffer on the front cover in a modest long black gown. The headlines trumpeted an article inside that covered wigs, makeup, hair removal, plastic surgery, shapewear, and other 'vanity' items. So what, you say, that's Cosmo or Elle. Wrong. Try Fortune. Yes, I said Fortune, the Time/Life "entrepreneurs" magazine. OK, big deal. Oh, did I mention this article is titled "He's So Vain" and discusses the \$9.5 billion dollar a year and increasing men's share of these markets? Do I have your attention now?

This issue, dated September 9, 1996, discusses subjects we find all too familiar. For example, the author talks about wigs with a fine lace cap that, once applied, makes it indistinguishable from skin. On the flip side, he gave hair removal more than just an honorable mention, too. Seems men are getting their backs waxed regularly to avoid offending that special someone. Don't believe it? Try this ad slogan, "Sadam Hussein has a hairy back, but you don't have to!" (No, I did NOT make that up!!! Honest!!!) One company is talking quite seriously about placing laser hair removal salons in malls so that any guy could stop in and have a tattoo or unsightly nose or ear hair removed. When's the last time you saw Hulk Hogan or the Macho Man with a hairy chest?)

The author went on to discuss exfoliating facials, pedicures, and whether or not mainstream men would eventually accept concealers or keep using "invisible" makeup. He admitted

that there would probably not be any "Skoal-plus-mascara" dual packs anytime soon. Still, a "sample" cosmetic cabinet ran over \$570. Of course, this didn't come from Wal-Mart, either. What got me was the shapewear. Girdles, bun-boosters ("gives you eye-popping buttocks instantly!"), briefs, tank tops, all to shape and slim you. Are these selling? As one rep puts it, "...the factory is working double shifts."

The author mentioned that women were taking great delight in all of this, having "struggled" with these amenities for many years. Now, could we show them a thing or two, or what, girls? Heather talked about skirts and dresses; apparently some guys are wearing everything BUT a dress or skirt RIGHT NOW — and coming back for more! Don't you feel it will just be a matter of time before you and I could wear a skirt (and heels) to work?

Last minute item heard on the Internet: A "major shakeup" is coming to IFGE after the Labor Day weekend, said to be "long overdue and badly needed." Stay tuned.

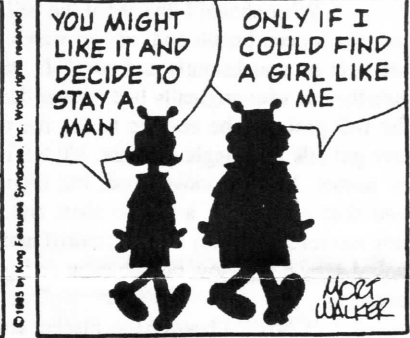
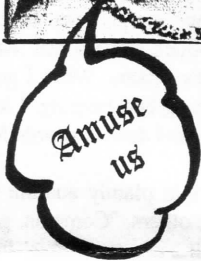
With that, let's tie a nice bow on this issue and wrap things up. The staff and I wish to thank you for the nice comments on the InnerView makeover. I'm really glad you like it! The staff deserves a lot of credit for it, too. Speaking of which, my heartfelt thanks once again to the InnerView staff — I couldn't do it without you! Until next time, Peace. ♥

Publication Notice

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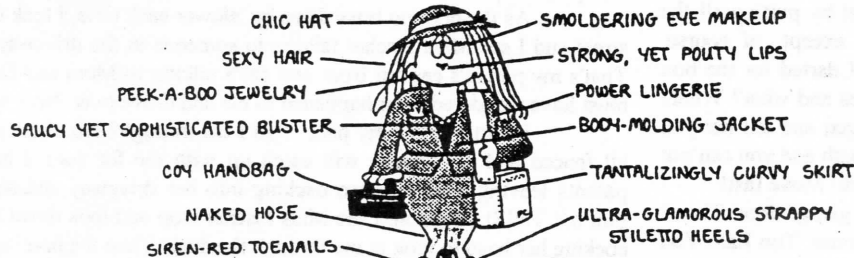


Victoria's gender funnies



Cathy

THE POWERFULLY ELEGANT & ALLURING FEMALE BUSINESS TRAVELLER



THE MALE RESPONSE



OFF THE MARK



"Cutting Miss Fischer's" (Part Three)
an X Dressing Phile by Kristen [REDACTED]

I stood there frozen with my mouth open and my eyes wide in terror. I was so busy trying on Christine's entire wardrobe that I had *completely* lost track of time and now Miss Fischer was pulling into the driveway.

What should I do? What the hell should I do? Okay, okay, just, just take a deep breath and, uh, go watch television. When she walks in just look up nonchalantly and say "Hi, how was the dinner?" After all, she's the one who originally laid out her daughter's clothes for me to wear. She will probably be ecstatic to see me dressed like this. We'll sit and have girl talk and giggle all night. It'll be fine. Now, just check yourself in the mirror. Makeup looks good, the blonde wig looks good, the peach mini-skirt is, perhaps, a bit *too* short and the shimmery blue blouse is a little *too* revealing with its bare midriff and low neck; but I looked good, I looked sexy even. Now just be calm and go wait for her out in the living room.

"Chris?" I heard Miss Fischer call out from inside the garage. I heard the car door slam shut and she called my name again.

"Shit!Shit!" I thought to myself. I can't do this! I looked around Christine's bedroom for a way to escape. I saw my clothes in a heap at the foot of her bed. Fortunately I had kept the room neat by putting all the clothes and such back just as I had found them except, of course, Christine's secret cache of sexy clothing in the box. I darted for the box and kicked it under the bed then I grabbed my clothes and what? What? Go in the bathroom and take a shower and get changed and tell her you were, uh, something - make it up while you're in the bath and you can put Christine's clothes under your own. Yes! That will work! Move fast!

"Chris?" She called again as she closed the garage door. Then I heard her key insert into the door leading into the house. Too Late You Dumbass! She'll see you! The bathroom's at the other end of the house right next to the garage entrance. Now what, you idiot?

Without thinking I gathered up my clothes and opened the window which stuck part way up. It was dusk already. I leaned out and tossed my clothes behind the bushes directly below. Then I began to climb out but the window would not budge up an inch further. I need to put "fixing the window" on the to-do list, I thought. Pay Attention, you dope! You're about to be caught dressed as a girl! "Fix the window?" Sheesh!

"Christopher?" I heard her call as she set her key ring on the kitchen table. "Are you here, Chris?"

I peeked out the bedroom door down the hallway. I couldn't see her. Run for it! I stepped into the hallway, scooted around the corner into the living room, shuffled across the carpet with floorboards creaking behind me, flung open the front door as I heard Miss Fischer call my name from the hallway. I slammed the door shut behind me and jumped down the steps somehow managing not to sprain my ankle in those heels.

I know she had to hear me. I can't risk getting my clothes now. I'll wait till it's dark then come back for them and change behind the garage. I can clean the makeup off with water from the faucet. Just hide right now. I ran as well as I could in the tight skirt to the house next door and ducked behind some bushes. I crouched there shaking as I heard Miss Fischer open the front door and call my name again. I waited until I heard the door close and I breathed a sigh. I'll just stay here until dark, I thought. But no sooner had that thought occurred than the elderly neighbor lady came out on her porch with the paper. She would see me for sure. I straightened up and walked out on her driveway with my back to her - she'll just think I'm cutting through her yard.

"Oh, Miss." She called to me. "Miss?" I just continued to walk away, walk away, nonchalant, nonchalant, walk away. "Can I help you, Miss?" I walked down her driveway and onto the sidewalk. Christ! I was outside, walking down the street, dressed as a *girl*!

Just keep walking and think of a place to hide out for awhile. I had walked nearly a block and some guys came by in a car whistling and beeping and yelling "Hey, Baby" stuff. I heard their car pull into a drive and turn around. They came back and drove by repeating their adolescent performance. In the distance I could see them slow to turn around again. I started to sweat. I turned the corner towards my school thinking I could hide out behind the bleachers. I checked back over my shoulder a couple times and when I looked up I stopped dead. Fifty yards in front of me I saw three of my classmates apparently coming home from baseball practice. I saw one of them, Roger, nudge the others and nod my way. I immediately about faced and headed back the way I came. When I got to the corner again the guys in the car sped by hooting and beeping. I knew my friends would be going straight ahead so I turned down towards Miss Fischer's again.

Unfortunately, I could hear Roger in that plainly audible way pubescent boys have of whispering, saying to the others, "Come on, guys, let's follow her. Let's check her out. You can tell she's out lookin' for it. Lookit the way she's dressed!"

Now I'm thinking: How am I going to lose these guys in the car *and* these guys from school? I'm already walking as fast as I can in these heels and my friends are still gaining on me. I hear Roger say in that loud whisper, "Oh, man, check out that ass. I like 'em blonde, don't you, guys?"

As the hooting boys drive by, slower each time, I look down the street and I see Miss Fischer talking to someone in the driveway. Christ! That's my parent's car out front and she's talking to Mom and Dad. They must have wondered what happened to me and drove over. Now what!

I start to slow my pace. Can I cut through? No, these yards are all fenced and my friends will catch up with me for sure. I notice my parents leaving. But they are backing into her driveway and starting to pull out *THIS!* direction. I see Miss Fischer stop and look down this way, cocking her head to look at me through the dusk. Then the hooting carload of dolts passes me slowly and pulls into the drive two doors down, blocking the sidewalk. They are leering out the windows. I stop dead in my tracks. I hear the footsteps of my unknowing friends behind me. "She's waiting for us." I hear Roger say. My parent's car is slowly heading this way; Dad switches on the headlights. I am just about ready to make a run for it in some uncertain direction when a car pulls up right next to me. It is a rumbling purple muscle car of some breed. A guy with sunglasses perched on his head and a bent cigarette hanging from his mouth lackadaisically leans over, flips open the passenger door and says: "Hey, Babe. Need a ride?"

I look at him blankly. I glance behind me at my friends quickly approaching. I look forward at the hooting boys who all of a sudden look confused and upset. They glance at each other trying to divine a way to handle the muscle car threat. I look at the approaching headlights of my parent's car. And then I look at Miss Fischer in the distance. Somehow I can see her worried and concerned look. And I know she can somehow see the frightened look in my eyes.

"So, chick, what's it going to be?" Says muscle car.

I take one more quick glance around at the noose of people tightening around me, I look to Miss Fischer with bewilderment and fear in my eyes and my mouth opens slowly as if to ask for help. Then I leap into the car and we are speeding away before I even have the door closed. A small group of captors is left empty-handed in the stench of burnt rubber.

By the time we passed Miss Fischer's we had to be going at least fifty. I hid my face with my hand but peeked between the fingers. She watched as we flew by and somehow, I knew that she knew.

"So, babe, why don't ya move over a little closer." He said as he grabbed the inside of my thigh and dragged me towards him.

(Continued next month)