

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is February 20 at 8:00pm

A NEW VIEW

by Elaine

At the January meeting we had a good turn out considering the cold weather. There were about 30 people at the meeting. Many of you know Bob Curtis, co-owner of **The Thing Shop**. He was not at the meeting as he has been for several months because he and Mary were recuperating from pneumonia. Mary has also had bunion surgery so she was not at the store. I stopped in at the shop and he was feeling much better now. By coincidence, while I was there I meet someone who wants to come to a meeting. Our numbers are still growing as more people come in out of the cold.

I was fortunate to meet Yvonne Cook from I.F.G.E. as she was in town to be on The Jerry Springer Show. On the show with her were Melony, Dalee, Shirley, Lisa, a therapist and an antagonist from the Moral Coalition in Washington DC. It was a very interesting show. Yvonne did a very good job of putting the CD point across to the audience. By the first break she had the audience asking the intelligent questions instead of

ridiculing the panel. The show will be aired on Monday, February 17, 1992. You might not recognize me as I was in drab as was Linda. Before the show started the shows production team put Jerry's face on Norma Rashed's body up on the monitor. Jerry then explained how there were no women at the station. They were just men at the station; himself, sports caster, weatherman crossed dressed. After the show Linda and I went to T.G.I. Fridays for lunch with Yvonne and the members of the panel. A good time was had by all.

On Behalf of BILLIE ISAACS "My BJ"

Shortly after the 14th of January I was made aware of your issue which was allegedly a "tribute" to Billie Isaacs. I'm glad I was forewarned. The article was inaccurate, offensive and reeked of bring selfrighteous.

For those of you who do not know me... I have been in TS circles for a long time and am known as Rita Obrian. On the personal side I am

Jim, Billie's life partner and after her surgery we were to be married. I referred to her as "My BJ". She meant everything to me and I loved her more than life itself.

Your comment that BJ did not inform me that she was HIV positive is very misleading. It insinuates the BJ recklessly exposed me to the HIV virus. That is NOT true. Since you know nothing about the nature of our relationship you should not have commented. Billie DID take steps to protect me while at the same time choosing to carry the burden of her illness by herself. I know why she choose this path and I am not angry with her for doing so. Just for the record...I have tested Negative and so have all the others close to Billie, for the HIV virus.

Where did you get your information that Billie acquired the virus via unsafe sex? Certainly not from me or the one person I have spoken to on December 19th at Christophers. I didn't even get the simple courtesy of a phone call or a letter/card before this so called "article" was published.

In reference to the lecture on Aids, I would that a call be made

to the Aids Hotline and you will find that the information is more inaccurate than it is accurate.

Billie is gone and she cannot speak for herself. Her troubles are over and she passed on secure in the knowledge that I was angry with her and understood that she loved me and wanted to be together with me.

I also know that she would have been deeply offended and betrayed by your article.

BJ's Jim

Dear Rita,

I am sorry that you took offence at the article in question. No offence was intended. We spoke to Cathy about the article and she told us that the article was meant to be a warning against HIV infection as opposed to a tribute to Billie. She also said that upon rereading the article yes, it seems to imply that Billie acquired the infection through unsafe sex, though that was not intentional. Cathy stands by her statement that not informing a partner is wrong, even if done for the best of intentions. She said if you support her reasons to not inform you, that is a decision only you can make. Cross-Port sympathizes with your loss, everyone who met Billie liked her, and we are sorry that she is gone.

-- Eds.

THE ACTORS THEATER

by Cathy

Thanks to Jeaninne, I get to do

the most wonderful things! I got a call from her in January, asking me if I would like to attend a play with her at the Actors Theater in Louisville. Of course, never having attended such an event *en femme*, I just had to accept.

The play was on a Saturday, and that morning I got up and dressed in one of my more casual female outfits (blue jeans) for the drive from Cincinnati to Louisville. I actually was ready an hour earlier than I expected, so that extra time I spent shopping at a couple of favorite places in downtown Cincinnati.

The drive to Louisville was uneventful (I hate it when there's nothing exciting to tell, but who wants to go looking for trouble?) and I met Jeaninne at the motel where she was staying. She told me that the Actors Theater has a restaurant in the basement below the two theaters, so we decided that for convenience that we would try eating there. We made the reservations for 7pm as the play started at 9pm.

After much changing of outfits to ones which would be more appropriate to attending a play, we made our way to downtown Louisville. Except for construction closing a sidewalk we wanted to use, we had no trouble finding the theater and arrived there about fifteen minutes early.

The restaurant was very nice, a little more 'artsy' than many, but what do you expect from a restaurant in a theater complex? From previous experiences in restaurants of this type, I expected the quality of service and food to

be a bit below par. In both of these areas I was glad to find out that I would be disappointed.

Even though we were early, we were seated right away. Our server was a young lady in her early twenties who read us right away, but she went out of her way to make us feel comfortable. She actually seemed glad that we were there. The food was excellent too. The portions were about fifty percent larger than I expected them to be as tasted wonderful. Just ask Jeaninne who had her first experience with grilled grouper. The desert was good too. I just couldn't resist the chocolate-cherry puff pastry. When it arrived, it barely fit on the plate! Fortunately for me, it was truly a 'puff' pastry (being 90% air on the inside).

The prices weren't bad either, about fifty dollars which included two meals, one dessert, wine and tip. They also have a service where, if you want to have a drink during the play intermission, they will reserve a table for you and have the drinks waiting for you when you come back down for the break. After splitting a carafe of wine, we decided not to take advantage of this service. Who wants to watch a play sitting next to a couple of tipsy cross-dressers.

The play itself was a comedy called "Lettice and Loveage" and was performed in a theater which seated about six hundred people. Since we got our tickets late, our seat was in the balcony, but we could still see and hear easily. The play was set in contemporary England and was about two women who worked for the British Historical Trust (their version of

the National Historical Society). One woman was in charge to setting up the tours and the other was a tour guide who, when the actual history wasn't exciting enough, made up her own version of what actually happened.

This was a long play in three acts with a fifteen minute intermission between each act. For the most part, the comedy aspect was subdued and tended to be based on juxtapositions of points of view. To my mind, knowing a bit about British history and society would improve your enjoyment of the play. The first act went well enough and we found it mildly amusing for the most part with a few high points scattered about.

The second act was a problem. It concentrated on the development of the relationship between these two women as they become good friends and was not what I would describe as comedic. To illustrate a point, the group sitting in front of us got up during the second intermission and did not come back.

Unfortunately for them, the third act was the best of the three. It starts with a solicitor (that's lawyer to you American folks) explaining to the tour guide that she is up on charges of attempted murder filed by her friend. The friend then shows up and the three of them then act out what actually happened. Parts of this act were downright hilarious. I'm glad we decided not to leave after the second act, but it was a close call.

Of course, after the play was over, we headed for the Connection and partied there for a couple of

hours before heading back to the motel to sleep.

It was a good time, although there is one bad thing you need to know about the Actors Theater. It deals with, of course, the bathroom situation. There is only one bathroom for each gender for the restaurant and both theaters (and they do have two plays running simultaneously). There was a line stretching out the door of the ladies room from the time we arrived at 6:45 until the time we left at 12:15. I can tell you that after a carafe of wine plus water at dinner, we showed some remarkable bladder control during that time period until we got to the Connection.

Thanks, Jeaninne for getting me out for another new and pleasant experience.

A NIGHT OUT

by Joyce

A lovely sister from up state Ohio was in town on a business trip the 23rd of January many of you meet her at the Christmas party in December Laura called me. Would I like to go out for the evening? I assured her that I would be delighted and so began a wonderful evening.

She arrived about nine o'clock and we got reacquainted with some girl talk, during which we decided to head for the Copa Club. Being a Thursday night the crowd was pretty sparse, but friendly. We enjoyed the drinks and talking to the people. As it turns out, she had been there before. This was a first for me. A little after one

o'clock we left with the intension of stopping at one or two other places. However both places we tried were already closed. We returned to my place for a night cap and to chew the fat a little more.

Laura extends best wishes to all and invites us to attend the meetings at the Crystal Club. They meet on the fourth Saturday of the month. For time and place call their hot line number (614)-237-4321.

Love, Joyce

SHARING WITH CHILDREN

by Nora

Hello Friends

I would like to share another experience with you. As an S.O. (significant other), I have read several articles concerning telling children re: should they know and how do you explain the transformation. There are a lot of pros and cons on the matter. Some are adamant that the children should not know. So they have chosen to hide thier female side. Either in fear of rejection, confusion to the children and/or by request of thier S.O.

Then there are those who have discussed the matter with thier S.O. and have chosen to expose the children to the world of crossdressing. Slowly, bit by bit, they have shared thier female side. From what I have read so far it is usually a **POSITIVE SITUATION**. They expressed that both parties, the crossdresser and spouse should agree. They suggest

to check your motives. Are they valid? If it is to increase your self esteem or to prove something to your self - DON'T TELL ! Though if the dressing is a social part of your life and the children are usually included in some of the activities - tell them.

In the process of digesting all the information I've been reading. I was contemplating what to do concerning my daughter. Since I'm not a spouse of a crossdresser, some would say no she does not need to know. But I thought the situation should be handled differently for several reasons. I have been dating a crossdresser for several months and have become friends with some of the girls at **CROSS PORT**. We have traveled together, socialized, and visited others homes. Sometimes we go as female to male and other times its a female to female outing. Melissa had become very close to the male side of "Elaine". So when Joyce and Elaine decided to come up and visit Ludlow Fall during Christmas, I had to make a decision. Elaine and I discussed it at length. Melissa had seen the pictures from halloween. I was dressed as "Norman" and Allen as "Elaine". She accepted this as a costume. I was afraid she would think the present situation was supposed to be comical and she would snicker and laugh at the girls. Elaine and I felt that Melissa would be able to read her. So to avoid confusion for Melissa I should try to explain it to her.

My daughter is twenty years old but she is mentally handicapped. She appears to be around 10 - 12 years old. So I had to do some thinking on the matter.

I have always be open with her in all matters of our life. In my opinion, if I'm doing something I have to hide from my children then I should reconsider what I'm doing. So the decision was made. We tell her.

I work with mentally handicapped adults in my profession so I have some insight on how to explain/educate people with special needs. But I still choose to go for professional input. I discussed the matter with a co-worker who is a psychologist. I have the utmost respect for his confidentiality. His suggestion was to try to explain in words that she could understand, do not dwell on the matter and let her digest it for a day or so. This would enable her to come up with her own questions. His parting words were "good luck and remember children usually pick up thier parents attitudes and opinion on new situations."

I started my daughters introduction two days prior to our proposed outing. Thanks to my friend Joyce, I had several books on hand that helped.

I showed Melissa the book "Transformations". It is a book of photos of crossdressers. Some were before and after pictures. Since I have several mens shirts I like to wear I included this in my explanation. I explained "Some women like to wear mens articles of clothing and some men like to wear women's". Her response was, "Like you did on Halloween." The seed was planted. She continued to look at the pictures all evening. I let her digest it until the next evening.

I told her we were having guests the next evening and that Allen was coming dressed as Elaine. He was like the people in the book. Sometimes he likes to wear women's clothes. She replied with " You mean he changes?". I tried to describe to her what Elaine would look like so she would know what to expect. Then I dropped the subject. Later that evening she became concerned with a question of her own "If Allen changes will he still like me?". I'm sorry but I had to chuckle. All the fears I had of her accepting the situation and all she was concerned with was them accepting her !! I explained to her that people are who they are from the heart not by what they wear. If you are a true friend it doesn't matter what kind of clothes anyone has on.

Well, the day finally arrived. Elaine and I were anxious regarding Melissa's reaction but maintained our desicion. When the girls arrived Melissa played little Miss Hostess and proceded to help me with the dinner preperation. When she and I had a moment alone in the kitchen she said "You lied to me that's not Allen, that is a women.". This statement floored me! I may not tell my kids everything but I do not lie to them. When I noticed tears in her eyes I knew she was upset with me. So I called on Elaine for help. When she confirmed who she was and that she had a wig on. Melissa smiled and gave her a hug. Our evening was fun and filled with the Christmas spirit. Since that time Melissa has been included in several of our outings.

I understand that not everyone will agree with our decision but it

has worked out positive for us. So I am able to share my experience into the **Land of Oz** with my daughter.

A TUNA CASSAROLE DINNER

Upon returning from a pleasant Sunday afternoon spent admiring the beautiful flower arrangements at the Kron Conservatory in the company of Elaine and Nora, I preceded to prepare dinner. Everyone was famished. After consulting with the others, I decided to have a tuna casserole. It is fast, filling and sounded delicious.

Not being a gourmet cook, I used ready made seasoning from a box. None the less, I carefully measured out one cup of milk, two cups of water and a tablespoon of butter and placed it on the stove to heat. As this was being done, I got out a two quart dish in which I placed the noodles and seasoning. After bring the others to a quick boil, I diligently poured it over the noodles, stirring it the whole time. Then I carefully placed it in the preheated 400 degree oven to bake for thirty minutes. Upon removing from the oven, I carefully spread the crumb topping and covered the dish for five minutes till it was ready to serve. Everyone enjoyed it and had their fill, as all was eaten.

It was the next morning when I went to the kitchen cabinet to get the maple syrup for my morning waffles it dawned on me.

I neglected to add the **TUNA**.

Little Miss Homemaker

LINDA'S CORNER

At the meeting last month, you may have seen me come in with a new person named Jeff. This all started several months ago, when he wrote to me through Tapestry. He lives a couple of hundred miles away, and comes through the area occasionally on business. He was going to be in town on Thursday, and wanted to get together to talk.

He's very deep in the closet. He has a small stash of clothes and magazines he hides around the house and in the trunk of his car. I told him I would meet him at his hotel room at six o'clock, but I couldn't stay long, because of the Crossport meeting. About 7:30, I convinced him to come to the meeting, for at least a short time. I said I was going to stop for dinner, and he said that sounded good to him.

On the way to the restaurant, he seemed very nervous. He kept asking what would happen if I got read. I assured him nothing would happen. Of course nothing did. As we left, he couldn't believe how easy that was.

Just as we entered the parking lot, he said he had never been in a gay bay before, and was worried. He was also very worried how the members would treat him. Again I reassured him, that he was all worked up over nothing.

We walked in, and I introduced him to a number of our group. His inhibitions faded, and started to have a good time. I walked away as I left him in the helping arms of Laurie. Soon he was mingling with the crowd, so I new he felt at ease.

He had said he had never met a Transsexual before, and then walks in Bobbie, Lisa, and Barbara. I will say he learn a few new things that night.

About midnight he had to get back, so I walked him back to his car to give him directions. He thanked me over and over again for bringing him. He said he felt better about himself and learnt more about himself that night, then he has in 40 years. He repeated himself by stating that this was the nicest most friendliest group of people he has ever met in his life.

You can't tell, the next time we see him, we may not even recognize her.

Here's a few items I thought I'd mention:

I've been having electrolysis for 33 months, and for the past 5 months I haven't shaved. I often wonder if anyone noticed or not. Last week we went away for a few days, and while packing, my wife asked if I packed my shaving supplies. When I told her why not, she couldn't believe it. She hadn't even noticed.

My six year old daughter said while watching MTV, "I bet your

jealous, you can only wear your pretty dresses when no one can see you, but Paula Abdul can wear a tux anytime she wants."

I was looking at the shoes in the latest Frederick's of Hollywood catalog. You know just a few years ago, you were lucky to find one pair of pumps over the size of 10. The latest printing has 18 styles. Fourteen of those now go up to size 12, with some going to size 13. Old Fred not only know's who's buying what, but even knows he been getting under cut by Jim, The Sexy Shoe Man. They've lower their prices about 40% in the last few months. And would you believe it, Michael Salem still rips off unknowing TVs for \$200 for the same thing. By the way, if your shoes from Michael's don't fit, Too Bad.

I came across a new word the other day. I seen an ad for phone sex, and they claim you will get to speak to a lovely Bimbette. I

suppose that one step higher then a Bimbo.

About two months ago, I wrote Jerry Springer a three page letter. It contained everything he needed to know about Crossport, IFGE, and the gender community. Well it paid off. Yvonne Cook from IFGE called and said she's coming into town with some other girls to do the Jerry Springer Show. As I write this, I can tell you that they are taping the show on Thursday February 6th. If you get this in time, you may want to tune in. It's suppose to be broadcasted locally on February 17 at 10:00 am. Also since February 10 is the beginning of sweep week (ratings week), you may want to check around, I sure there will be many others.

Also, just want to mention that Tapestry will be out later this month. Yvonne tells me there have been a few changes in the format, and she says your really going to love it.

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

CROSSDRESSERS, TRANSVESTITES, TRANSGENDERISTS, TRANSEXUALS

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Thank You

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TV/TS Support Group

REMEMBER -- If your Friend says they did not get their newsletter this month, ask them if they remembered to send in their \$18.00 for the 1992 subscription.