

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is January 19 at 7:30

Can We Talk?

by Heather

Well it is the start of a new year and I hope that everyone got what they wanted from Santa for Christmas. Even though the holidays were a little rough for me, the one Christmas gift I have asked for ever since I can remember was granted to me this year I am living as a woman

On the job market, I have had a couple of interviews but nothing solid has turned up. I continue to work part-time with computers for a property management company. At this time my schedule calls for a talk in Dayton on January 11th and an appearance on the Dick Wolfsie Show in Indianapolis on February 6th. From February 10th to the 12th I'll be on a retreat for Gays and Lesbians. If no job pops up by then my plans are to move to the Boston area to help work with I.F.G.E.

As for my New Year's resolutions, I only make one, "To continue to be the very best person I can be." Leo Buscaglica, a professor of "Love 1A", says that a bum once told him that the secret to life is, "To keep your mind full and your bowels empty." It is such a shame that so much of the world is the other way around.

A couple of us attended the "Miss Christopher's Pageant" this year. Those who went last year will remember that they had 10 contestants. This year they only had two. We suggested that they pick a member of the audience as second runner up but the suggestion was declined. The show went on and was actually pretty good (they had a couple of other entertainers on hand). Miss Ashley West is the new

Miss Christopher's. Miss Norma Lee was the first runner up

Our Christmas party was not as well attended as last year but there was plenty of food and everyone seemed to be having a good time.

A reminder that your \$18.00 is due if you wish to continue to receive the newsletter after this issue. Please include the mailing label from your envelope so we are sure to know who you are.

CORRECTION: Last month there was a line which was dropped by the copier in the article about religion. While it does not change the article it does change the references. At the bottom of the page it should say: In the Book of Wisdom, Wisdom is a desirable woman and Wisdom is God. In the Song of Songs, God is a male lover.

Heather

The New View

by Cathy, Jennifer & Linda

Well, we did what we said we'd do. Here this the first issue of the InnerView as printed on a laser printer. Looks pretty good, huh? Now if only we could talk Linda into spending several thousand dollars on an IBM compatible system...

The editors wish to thank Heather for the wonderful job she's done on the newsletter for the last three years. You don't really understand all of the logistics involved until you have to do

it yourself for the first time. We would also like to thank all of you (especially Hazel and Jeannie for their consistency) in helping to do the grunt work necessary this past year in getting those newsletters out. Tongues do get furry from licking stamps in a hurry.

We still have a ways to go with the InnerView. We aren't yet happy with the masthead and we still haven't found an enticing site to do the collating, but things are starting to fall into place for us. We'll see what kind of progress has been made on those topics next issue. 'Til then...

Cross-Port Finances

Here is the current status of the Cross-Port Treasury:

Beginning Balance as of December: \$197.62

December Expenses:

Phone: \$19.00

Paper & Stamps: \$54.41

Christmas Meeting: \$15.00

GCG/LC Dues: \$30.00

Bank Charges: \$1.20

Total Expenses: \$119.71

December Incomes:

Meeting Collection: \$52.00

Dues, Etc.: \$96.63

Donations: \$250.00

Total Income: \$278.92

Beginning Balance as of January: \$476.64

We also sent introductory newsletter packets to twelve new prospects and two new groups joined the mailing list; Integrity, an episcopalian religious group and The Crossdresser's Bureau, a newsletter published by Gloria Wright (subscriptions are \$12.00 annually, send check or money order to: G. Wright, P.O. Box 172, Gurnee, IL 60031).

Feminine Footprints

by Arlena Maria Parrish

These last few weeks have been and still are very trying times for me in my new feminine-

masculine lifestyle. I have started to slip into depression, sometimes very deeply, and the thoughts going through my head are not very pretty ones. They range from revenge to going back into the closet to suicide.

On the 11th of November I was fired from my job of over eight years. The reasons given to me were my work performance and my attitude. I believe the real reasons were sexual harassment, sexual discrimination and bigotry. The powers to be and everyone else where I worked knew of my crossdressing. The four top company officials also knew that I am a bi-gendered transsexual.

During the final two months of my employment I went through much sexual harassment and discrimination. Jokes were made about me behind my back and to my face, my feminine name and mailing address appeared on the company bulletin board (along with IXE's), and on my wall calendar was written. "Arlena Marie Parrish - Crossdresser convention at 8:00 pm". This was the last entry on it.

All the harassment and discrimination was aimed to force me to quit. This failed so I was fired instead. Now, after four weeks of looking for a new job, I find that I have been blackballed from further employment by my former bigoted bosses. They are telling prospective employers that I am a crossdresser, that I go out publicly as a woman and that I am gay, which I consider an invasion of my personal privacy. I have contacted a law firm and the ACLU and will be filing suit against my former employers and the people involved for harassment, discrimination and invasion of privacy.

Lately, I have come upon a piece of literature that has started to affect my life and my outlook. I include it with this article in my own edited version. I hope you will like it and use it to soothe your troubles. I am not a very religious person, but it is helping me to stay sane.

"Feminine Footprints"

One night a woman had a dream. She dreamed she was walking along the beach with the Lord. Across the sky flashed scenes from her life. For each scene she noticed two sets of feminine footprints in the sand; one belonged to her and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene in her life shown before her, she looked back at the footprints. She noticed that many times in the path of her life there was only one set of footprints. She also noticed this occurred at the lowest and saddest times of her life.

This bothered her and she questioned the Lord about it. "Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you'd walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times of my life there is only one set of footprints. I don't understand that when I needed you the most you would leave me."

The Lord replied, "My precious child, I love you and I would never leave you. During your times of trial and suffering, when you see only one set of feminine footprints, it was then that I carried you."

Transsexual Issues: Sexual Preference

by Heather Peerson

I am still amazed that so many transsexuals who say they understand that Gender Identity and Sexual Preference are not the same, still ask questions like, "why would someone go through all of this only to end up living in a relationship with another woman? Why not just stay a man?"

As long as we continue to think of heterosexuality as normal and homosexuality as abnormal we will continue to ask such questions. We must learn to accept the fact that just as transsexualism is a normal part of our society so to is homosexuality. By normal, I mean that both are naturally occurring phenomena which have existed throughout time in almost all civilizations. Since each is a separate phenomenon it is logical to assume that there would be a development of both heterosexual and homosexual transsexuals.

Just as it is believed that Gender Identity is established by the age of two years old, sexual preference is also established at a very early age. A person may find they have a gender conflict but they may not have questions about what they are attracted to.

The relationships between two men, two woman and a woman and a man are all different, whether we speak of sexual or social relationships. For me, the ways in which I interacted with men and women on a social level as a man never felt proper and my body image is wrong for a male. These have nothing to do with my being attracted to women or men as sexual partners except that

I was also expected to perform as a man with a woman. This relationship also felt wrong.

We are a people of proof. We seek proof for the existence of God and we seek proof for the existence of life. When a person died in the past, we held that when the heart stopped so did life. We now know that as long as the brain is functioning there is a chance that life exists. It is the brain which determines life. So too we must learn that it is the brain which determines gender and not the body. I recently saw a show in which a young boy appeared. He had no body from the waist down. The fact that he has no genitalia does not make him less of a man. His brain tells him he is a man. Yet what if he determines that he is really a woman. Would the fact that there is no genitalia make it easier for society to accept his change?

My decision to live my life as a woman is based on the signals my brain has continued to send me ever since I can remember, my social relationships and my body image. It is not based on my sexual preference. I do hope that one day I will be able to find a woman who will accept and want me as a woman, both before and after my operation. If not, however, I am able to say that even if I spend the rest of my days without a partner I must spend them as the woman my brain says I am.

From Our Readers

I've enjoyed reading *Innerview* every month as it helps me to keep abreast (no pun intended). In the November issue "Linda's Corner" the first 2-1/2 sentences trouble me:

"If there's one thing all cross-dressers have in common; its that we all like to be noticed by men."

I'm sorry but I can't agree with or believe that statement! I hope that you understand my position. I want to be noticed by Women!

I understand that there are quite a number of cross-dressers and women outnumber males in cross-dressing. I also know that many male to females are potential transsexuals- some are just interested in attracting men.

I'm not condemning these people for what their reasons are for cross-dressing- I'm sure there are many.

With me- if you want to call me a cross-dresser- my behavior may be more androgynous

than that of a typical male, but my reasons for cross-dressing are perhaps different than the mainstream of individuals who frequent Cross-Port.

While I enjoy the softness of the fabric from the clothing and the jaunty swish from the skirts, I love the overall "pretty" silhouette of the style.

It's a style and comfort that allows me to be as strong as I wish, as soft as I wish, and basically a relief from elevated machismo in everyday generalized beliefs that some members in society expect from males.

I wish not to have surgeons change my body, nor do I wish to pretend I'm something that I'm not. I only wish to live in a harmonious state where all people can be what they want to be without peer pressure.

So I say to those of you who cross-dress to gain the attention of men- Go for it and enjoy yourselves- you only live once!

As for me; I will continue to cross-dress for my own self pleasure and hope to perhaps be appreciated by a real woman!

--- Cynthia [REDACTED]

Again, Cynthia reiterates that although we all have crossdressing in common, the reasons as to why we dress are as numerous as we are. --- Eds.

Dear Heather & Cross-Port,

Keep up the good work! Nice club, nice newsletter, nice people! Best wishes and kind regards for 1989.

--- Laura [REDACTED]

We would like to take the time and space here to thank Laura for her generous donation to Cross-Port. It is because of the unselfishness of sisters like Laura that groups such as Cross-Port exist at all for the rest of us. --- Eds

Gender Research

Cross-Port was contacted recently by a university professor working on a research project involving passing women and female-to-male transsexuals. While the vast majority of our readers are genetically male, we are including her

request for assistance as a public service to the cross-dressing community because she wishes to get information from women who have, at any time in their lives, lived as men.

Holly Devor, the researcher and author of Gender Blending: When Two is Not Enough, stresses that (1) complete confidentiality will be observed at all times, (2) that she is a researcher and is not involved in the medical or helping professions, (3) contacting her for further information implies no commitment to participate in any further activities related to this or any other project, and (4) participants may choose what parts of the project they wish to participate in if they prefer not to complete all parts.

The project includes two interviews or a questionnaire about your life and two fill-in-the-blank tests. For further information write to Holly Devor, Women's Studies Dept., Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6, Canada or phone (604) 874-1387.

Publication Notice

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InnerView is a monthly publication of Cross-Port for its members and friends. Subscription dues are \$18.00 per year payable in January of each year. It is our goal to support the TV, TS and Gay communities and in return we need your support.

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The opinions or statements contained in InnerView are those of its authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of Cross-Port.

Contributions of articles are welcomed but may be altered, with the author's intent retained, or may be rejected, whether solicited or not. Absolutely no sexually explicit material will be accepted or printed.

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



**Next Meeting
February 17th
at 7:30 PM**



PROGRAM SCHEDULE

"COMING TOGETHER" CONVENTION 1989

Unless otherwise stated, the programs are included in your registration fee.

(For pre-payment of the outside activities programs sponsored by ETVC and Significant Other Support of N. CA., send your payment to: ETVC, P.O. Box 6486, San Francisco, CA 94101)

(For pre-payment of the special programs presented by JoLynne White, send your payment to: J.L. White, 259 W. 15th St., Apt. 2C, New York, NY 10011)

MONDAY, APRIL 3: Theme of the day: Getting in the mood

All-day Pre-Registration - IFGE staff in charge

- 9-5 Wine Country Bus Tour - \$65.00 (includes lunch)
Sponsor: ETVC
- 10-4:30 Shopper Stopper Bus Tour - \$35.00
A tour of fashion houses and outlets. Includes continental breakfast, lunch at Juke Box restaurant.
Sponsor: ETVC
- 7-9 Group Dinner - \$20.00 per person
Sponsor: ETVC
- 9- Bar Visit, or Specialty Entertainment
"Puttin' On The Glitz" F.I. Show - \$20.00
Sponsor: ETVC

TUESDAY, APRIL 4: Theme of the day: Personal development, fun

All-Day Pre-Registration - IFGE staff in charge

- 9-12 Personal Development, Session A - \$10.00
Voice taught by Carol Friedenberg, Modeling by Francesca, owner of a San Francisco modeling agency.
Sponsor: ETVC
- 9-12 Personal Development, Session B - \$10.00
Make-up taught by Herman, Wardrobe Color by Gratia Husseni.
Sponsor: ETVC
- 1-4 Cable Car Tour - \$15.00
Tour of Lombard Street, Golden Gate Bridge, Presidio, Museum of the Legion of Honor, Cliff House, Golden Gate Park with Arboretum, Japanese Tea Gardens, Museums. Participants can return on motorized cable car, or remain at park and take public transportation back.
Sponsor: ETVC
- 4-6 Personal Development - \$10.00
Scarf tying workshop. Bring your own scarves.
Presenter: JoLynne White
- 7-11 Chinatown Dinner Tour - \$35.00
Includes dinner in Chinatown, Coit Tower, Fisherman's Wharf, Bay Bridge and evening view of San Francisco, Nob Hill. Participants can return with group or remain at Nob Hill and return by public transportation.
Sponsor: ETVC
- 8-11 Reception for Organization Representatives
A chance to meet and share ideas with the leaders of the TV/TS Community in a relaxed social atmosphere.
Sponsor: IFGE Board of Directors

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5: Theme of the day: Who Are We? Where Did We Come From? Where Are We Going? (From Gauguin's painting)

- 9-10 Welcoming Statements and Previews
Meet the leaders, and preview the major events and objectives of the convention.
Presentors: Community Leaders (TBA)
- 10-11 'Opening The Shutters' Slide Show and Commentary
Showing our Community through pictures.
Presenter: Mariette Pathy Allen
- 11-12 'Living Full Time'
Examine alternatives to sexual reassignment surgery.
Presenter: TBA
- 10-3 Cultural Tour for Significant Others - \$15.00
Includes box lunch, art galleries, Fort Mason, Palace of Fine Arts (lunch on the green), Exploratorium.
Sponsor: Significant Other Support of N. CA
- 12-2 Keynote Speaker's Luncheon - \$15.00 participant, \$25.00 non-participant
Speaker: TBA
- 2-5 'Clearing The Air'
A panel discussion with audience participation, with representatives across the spectrum of the TV/TS Community. Examining the variety of needs, feelings, and relationships, and reaffirming that, while we are all different, we all have common objectives towards which we can work together as a family.
Moderator: Ken Pool, Panel: TBA
- 7-11 Buffet Reception
Welcoming you, introducing you to who's who at the convention, and party.
Presentors: IFGE Convention Staff

THURSDAY, APRIL 6: Theme of the day: Positive Action

- 9-5 All Day Program for Transsexuals
Presentors: Dr. Mildred Brown, Kim Hellman, Veronica Brown, Lou Sullivan, David Maxwell (panel subject to change)
Schedule: TBA
- 9-10:30 'Going Public - As An Individual'
Outline and discuss issues involving coming out to family, friends, job.
Presenter: TBA
- 10:30-12 'Going Public - As A Movement'
Review recent positive actions, note what we can learn from them, and discuss future plans.
Presenter: TBA
- 10-3 Cultural Walking Tour for Significant Others - \$15.00
Sponsor: Significant Other Support of N. CA.
- 12-2 Keynote Speakers Luncheon - \$15.00 participant, \$25.00 non-participant
Speaker: TBA

- 2-5 'Public Speaking Workshop'
For people who will be appearing on television or radio, speaking to reporters, teaching educational classes, lecturing, etc. A most important workshop for future or unskilled public speakers. This workshop will teach public speaking skills, provide a practical exercise workshop, and how to deal with confrontations.
Presentors: TBA
- 2-3:30 'Counseling Techniques'
To examine counseling techniques currently in use.
Presentors: Roger Peo, PhD, Niela Miller, LCSW
- 3:30-5 'Developing The Woman Within; An Experiential Workshop'
To examine what every woman knows, but persons not raised as women may not know.
Presenter: Niela Miller, LCSW
- 7-10 Healing - \$15.00
Creating a balance with the male and female within. Learn to love and accept yourself exactly as you are. Fun & music.
Presenter: JoLynne White
- 7-10:30 Open rehearsal of ETV's 'Show Time', Kimo's Bar, Polk Street
Open to any registered participant interested in participating in ETV's Sunday afternoon show.
- 6-8 Dinner for Organization Representatives - Ala Carte
Sponsor: IFGE Board of Directors
- 8-11 Organization Representative Caucus
To present proposals and projects, and share ideas.
Sponsor: IFGE Board of Directors

FRIDAY, APRIL 7: Theme for the day: Psychology, fun

- 8:30-9 Professional Program Orientation (Professionals only)
Presentors: Roger Peo, PhD, Niela Miller, LCSW
- 9-9:30 'Introduction To The Gender Community'
Presentors: Mariette Pathy Allen, Niela Miller, LCSW
Slide show, discussion.
- 9:30-12 Professional Panel
To explore theoretical models, give general information about therapy in transgender situations, and interact with the audience.
Moderator: Roger Peo, PhD, Panel: Mildred Brown, PhD, Lin Fraser, EdD, Kenneth Pool, PhD
- 10-12 Personal Development - \$10.00
Scarf tying. Bring your own scarf.
Presenter: JoLynne White
- 10-12 Significant Other Cultural Tour - \$5.00
Tour of the Haas Lillienthal Victorian Mansion. Transportation by mini-vans furnished.
Sponsor - Significant Other Support of N. CA.
- 12-2 (During this time period participants will make their own ways to the dock - instructions will be furnished, but no special transportation is planned. Not much time for lunch, but food will be available on the boat.)
- 2-5 San Francisco Bay Cruise
Sponsor: ETV
A special event in a special city
- 5:30-7 Professional Program Debriefing (Professionals only)
Presentors: Roger Peo, PhD, Niela Miller, LCSW
- 6-7 Mini-vans to Chez Mollet
- 7-8 Cocktail hour at Chez Mollet - Ala Carte
- 8-11 Prime Rib Dinner, ETV Social - \$15.00
Sponsor: ETV

SATURDAY, APRIL 8: Theme of the day: Liberation and reflection

- 9-10 Significant Others Panel
To express some of the constellation of feelings, fears, needs and problems of significant others to the audience.
Moderator & Panel: TBA
- 10-11 'Women's Lib / Men's Lib'
To explore our role in these liberation movements.
Presenter: TBA

- 11-12 'Crossdressing - A Feminist Issue'
An examination of how the feminist movement and the success of women directly affects the success of the Crossdressing/Transsexual Community, and how they are related.
Presenter: Jenny Burleton
- 9:30-12 Outreach Institute Gender Issues for the '90's, Morning Symposium - \$25.00 participant, \$35.00 non-participant
Sponsor: Outreach Institute
- 10-3 Significant Other Shopping Tour - \$15.00
Includes a walking tour of San Francisco's shopping district, lunch at Niemann Marcus, and tea and crumpets at the King George Hotel.
Sponsor: Significant Other Support of N. CA.
- 12-2 Keynote Speakers Luncheon - \$15.00 participant, \$25.00 non-participant
Speaker: TBA
- 2-4 Transsexual Panel
To express some of the constellation of feelings, fears, needs and problems of transsexuals to the audience.
Moderator: TBA Panel: TBA
- 2-4 Dominance and Submission Panel
An examination of dominance and submission role playing in relationships, and fetishistic crossdressing.
Presenter: Tara Tenille
- 4-5 Sum-up and Review of Convention Highlights
To review the important workshops and seminars and how they are interconnected.
Presentors: All major presentors/moderators
- 2-5 Outreach Institute Afternoon Workshop (Professionals Only) - \$45.00 (see registration form)
Sponsor: Outreach Institute
- 5-6 Outreach Institute Wrap-up reception
Sponsor: Outreach Institute
- 5-6:30 Professional Programs Debriefing (Professionals only)
Presentors: Roger Peo, PhD, Niela Miller, LCSW
- 7-8 Cocktail hour
- 8-11 Awards Banquet - \$40.00 non-participant
Entertainment: Wendy Parker and Jenny Burleton

SUNDAY, APRIL 9: Theme for the day: Dedication

- 9-10 Interdenominational Religious Service
- 10-12 Open Forum
To review the objectives for and the successes and failures of 1988, and to set new objectives for 1989.
Moderators: Merissa Sherrill Lynn, IFGE Executive Director, Wendi Danielle Pierce, Chairman IFGE Board of Directors
- 12-2 Brunch, wind-down party
- 2-5 ETV Show Time - \$15.00 non-participant
Sponsor: ETV
- 2-5 IFGE Annual Board of Directors Meeting
Chairman: Wendi Danielle Pierce

Linda's Corner

I'm sure many of you girls who attend the meetings proably have met Roni. As you may know, she spends alot of time down the Thing Shop in Newport. She knows Mary real well and informs me that since she does so much business with crossdressers already, she has decided to put more effort into being a full service boutique, catering to our every need. Roni says they have already placed some orders into shoe companies for the larger sizes. They hope to have makeup and many new and different clothes which she hasn't had in the past. Roni will be working there and invites everyone down so she can help you in whatever way she can.

For you girls who are fed up with those stick tabs you get with the fake fingernails, I have a glue you may want to try. It's make by Sally Hansen, and is called "Quick Bonding Nail Glue". Like the name says, it bonds within seconds, just like those super glue products, but is not harmful to your nails. I've tried it, and I thought it worked great.



Since you're almost the same size as my husband, I was wondering if I could get you to try a little something on.

A few of the girls
at the Christmas
party.

My wife got me some very expensive perfume for Christmas. Her only comments were, "It's bad enough I have to put u p with your dressing. But if my husband has to go out in public, the least I can do is to keep him from smelling like a cheap Binbo."

As you all know, the J.F.G.E. convention will be from April 3-9 in San Francisco. I have already registered for this event and received back some information. I have inclosed a copy of just what to expect when you get there. As you can see the ETVC group will keep us busy as long as our bodies can hold out. They have also enclosed a coupon for 40% off our air fare and a map of the city. I doubt if I will be able to stay the whole week, but I'm sure many will.

I will not be able to see any of you at the meeting Thursday, since I will be in Atlanta for that week. I have contacted some crossdressing friends who live in town, so I will be dressed that night, but I'll just be getting in trouble in a different place.



Big City Woman

by Linda

