

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is June 15 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

Summer is upon us at last and that means horrible things for cross-dressers. No shaving the legs or chest until the pools close down, heat that makes wearing a wig something out of a Stephen King movie, and of course having all the neighbors sitting out on their front porch until dark. All of these things tend to drive attendance at the meetings down during the summer months.

Last month we had about twenty ladies appear at Christopher's to see the display from the Suggestive Some-Thing Boutique and what we saw was something never before done at a Cross-Port meeting.

Somehow, communications got mixed up between us and Christopher and he had scheduled a group of three male strippers from Texas to be there that evening. As a result, for those of you who were unable to attend, Barb Baily and the Boutique will be at our June 15 meeting so you get a second chance.

Laurie said the strippers were really good, and being the only G.G. at the meeting, that makes her an expert on male strippers. The rest of us were "treated" to something that made half of the group head down to Perkins a bit early. Chris was sorry about the misunderstanding but explained that he was locked into a contract with this particular show.

One of the strippers asked us if the people in Monroe were all on valium, so we explained to him that they were performing for a bunch of "straight" cross-dressers. He was a bit taken aback at that and said he thought that we were just a group of really bad drag queens. Endearing little chap, eh?

Anyway, their show started late and ended pretty early (for a show) so those of us that stayed had a pretty good time. Laurie did have a better time than most.

For those of you who got the impression from the last newsletter that we had been considering moving the meetings to the Copa, relax. That was just an idea for a *second* meeting during the month. We have no intentions at this time of moving either the meeting time (third Thursday of the month at 8PM) or place (Christopher's Lounge).

The drawing for the raffle Linda mentioned in her article last newsletter will be held at the June meeting, you need not be present to win. Chances are a buck, and as long as you send us one before the meeting, you'll be in. The prize is a travel makeup kit with a mirror, 3 blushes, 12 eye shadows, 2 lip and 2 eye liner pencils, 4 lip glosses, applicators, lip brush, mascara, 2 finishing powders and 2 cream concealers.

May was I.F.G.E. month and we raised \$150.00 for that organization. Linda will be presenting a check to I.F.G.E. at the Be-All weekend in Chicago.

The people at Out Front (which takes the place of Gay Cable Network) want those in the Warner Amex Cable viewing area of Cincinnati to know that beginning the first week in July, there will be new viewing times. These will be Tuesday at 10 PM on public access channel 7, and Wednesday and Friday at 10 PM on public access channel 10. For those who live in the Storer Cable area in northern Kentucky the times will remain Monday and Thursday at 9:30 PM on public access channel B16.

The International Foundation for Gender Education has announced the establishment of the Christine Jorgenson Memorial Fund. This fund has been established with the consent of Christine Jorgenson's family and the IFGE Board of Directors.

The purpose of this fund is to create a method by which individuals may provide (through financial contributions to IFGE) a living memorial which will contribute to the ongoing objectives of outreach, education, community identity, and services of the foundation.

It is the wishes of Christine Jorgenson's family that this fund assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives and address other transsexual issues.

Contributions to the Christine Jorgenson Memorial Fund may be sent to: c/o IFGE, P.O. Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

Recognition of contributions will be made to the Christine Jorgenson family, and, unless otherwise specified, published in the TV-TS Tapestry Journal.

Cross-Port Finances

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

Beginning Balance as of April Newsletter
\$1109.47

May Expenses:

Phone:	\$19.00
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$45.00
Meeting Expenses:	\$15.13
IFGE Contribution:	\$150.00
Copier Repairs:	\$50.00
Bank Charges:	\$ 1.20
Total Expenses:	<u>\$280.13</u>

May Incomes:

Meeting Collection:	\$78.00
Dues, Etc.:	<u>\$72.00</u>
Total Income:	<u>\$150.00</u>

Ending Balance as of June 8: \$979.34

We also mailed three intro packets this month. Some interesting statistics: For every seven intro packets we mail out, we receive one returned response. Two thirds of those actually join Cross-Port. The average time between an intro packet being mailed and a response being received is almost three months.

An Open Letter to Cross-Port

We received this letter at our P.O. Box. It was unsigned, but was postmarked May 20 from Indianapolis. It is a disturbing letter because of the unhappiness of the anonymous author. The address on the envelope was very bold as a pen had traced and retraced the letters that made it up as if that would help in the decision to mail it. As the letter went on, the writing became more and more erratic as more and more emotions went into it.

We print this letter because there are two sides to cross-dressing. We are most often concerned with how we are affected by it personally, but there are those others who are either unwilling or unable to comprehend the desire or need to cross-dress who sometimes get left behind

To whomever reads this!

One thing must be understood, I am not a nut. I know about life and I have not always had it easy. I am a real female writing.

Until recently I knew nothing of cross-dressers; had never heard the term or anything. I have only been around normal men. Men who weren't ashamed to be men. I'm not saying that men shouldn't cry or show emotion, because they should.

But, how in the hell is a woman going to look up to a man who looks like a sissy. If dressing as a woman is a job for entertainment, fine. But, when it messes up a relationship or marriage as well I know, how can it be good.

Most men who cross-dress get so wrapped up in what they are doing they don't give a damn about the women in their lives that they are hurting.

If it was reversed and a woman went around with a beard or mustache and a hairy body and wanted to be a man would they understand -- NO!

Would you want to bleed every month and have cramps and also give birth and go through the pain -- NO!

Why can't men be happy with who they are. They need mental help and there should be a place where they can get it because they are such

sick people. If God had meant for everyone to be the same sex He would have made us that way.

I have been divorced for a while now thanks to my ex-husband. And never again will a man ever touch me because you never know who's PERVERTED and who's not.

-- Thank you.

Dear Writer,

I'm sorry that you are hurting. I hope that being able to express on paper some of your hurts has helped you deal with what has happened in your life, and I am glad that you had someone to mail your letter to.

You did make a good point. Cross-dressing can be a very selfish pastime. It is very "me" oriented. Often the cross-dresser goes out while the S.O. stays home and worries. The cross-dresser is not the only one who fears being recognized while dressed, their S.O. often worries even more. What will the friends and neighbors say; how will the children be treated by their schoolmates; what will people say about me for allowing this to go on

Other fears creep in. The question of fidelity comes up, but with the added pressure that the cross-dresser may be out with a man. That is something the S.O. can't compete with and it further isolates them. Of course much of this occurs in an atmosphere of "do what you have to do- I don't want to know anything about it" but often their minds are occupied by it nonetheless.

Your letter, however, is full of misconceptions. You do not really know what cross-dressing is all about. We can understand it if a woman felt the need to be a man. Most transsexuals would give anything to experience a period, pregnancy, labor and birth.

I'm not ashamed to be a man, I actually enjoy being male most of the time. One thing I do not want is for anyone to "look up" to me simply because I am genetically male. If you are going to respect me, do so because of the *person* I am between my ears not my legs.

There is also your inability to realize that the person who cross-dresses is the same person you fell in love with and married in the first place. If your relationship was fine before you knew about the cross-dressing, what difference should some clothing make? Of course, there are big differences between transvestites and transsexuals

and what they want from life. It would help to know which your ex-husband is.

Of course the saddest part of all is that you have decided to abandon any hope of a future relationship because there are no guarantees. Would you have made the same decision if your husband had gunned down a group of school children with a semi-automatic rifle? Is not your decision as perverted and destructive as you perceive cross-dressing to be?

I hope that you will be able to talk to someone professionally about what you have been through and how you feel; not because you are a nut but because it would be horrible for you to spend the rest of your life alone. I say this as one human being to another -- we all need help in our lives at one point or another from many different sources -- don't isolate yourself from any of them.

With love -- Cathy

Acceptance

by Laurie

In San Francisco and in Cincinnati, I've been asked "how come" I accept crossdressing as well as I do -- because the lack of acceptance by a loved one is a terrible area of pain in many people's lives. I'm never quite sure what to say about why I'm one of the lucky ones. I almost start to laugh because I didn't handle it well at all when I found out. Time and life experience helped. Maybe I have a higher tolerance for the differences in people because I'm a nurse and felt less threatened than some because of basic self esteem. Maybe my acceptance is because I am younger and our relationship has never had strict role definitions along gender lines. Even given that, I have sadly seen couples younger than us break up over dressing.

So what words of wisdom do I have, somehow finding myself an unofficial authority, a position for which I never applied? Well, it's probably best to leave the rest of the world out of it at first. *Of course* you have learned attitudes, the shoulds and shouldnots of your life, the how you thought things would be, the what would the neighbors (the church, your mother, fill in the blank) say. The key word here is *learned* attitudes. Take a deep breath, swallow the fears for now, and remember the person you care for. Then take the strength of that thought and use it to learn what you can about crossdressing from

informed, nonjudgemental sources. Then take that knowledge and apply it to the emotional aspects of the situation. As Cathy points out in her reply to the distressed letter elsewhere in this issue, they're still the same person with whom you fell in love. All relationships, with "dressers" or not, call for a certain amount of giving of yourself; it is this giving that makes you a better person when you are in love.

We get so caught up in being assertive about our own needs just at the time we most need to go with what is the most loving for the other person. Heather presented to me a devil's advocate point of view -- what if your husband or boyfriend asked you to never wear jeans or pants because he is only able to envision you as a woman in a skirt, hence that is the only way he could accept the whole person that is you? Most of us would scream sexist! in a hot half second.

Often the crossdresser can assist acceptance in a "zen" sort of way by letting their loved one not accept. It sounds contradictory, but think about it. It makes the person who dresses life easier if their significant other can deal with it, so getting their acceptance could become a selfish endeavor. Acceptance, like love, can't be forced or bought or any of those good things. It has to grow in its own time if at all. That kind of patience is a scarce skill in our instant world of microwaves, fax, and Fed. Ex. I was never pushed. I did vacillate in my feelings. When I did come to the meetings it was because I was curious what Cathy was all excited about, not because she wanted me to or (worse yet) made me.

Part of my acceptance, too, is in my nature as a fairly practical soul. When I found out it wasn't something for which I was responsible, and that it wasn't going to go away even if I wanted it to, I actually felt a certain relief. It occurred to me that several things could happen:

Cathy could try to stop dressing and be a very unhappy person (and I found out that doesn't work over time anyway).

Or she could continue and we could entertain ourselves forever by having rousing brawls interspersed with quiet snits,

or I could deal with it. Which is what I decided, tentatively, and waited to see how it would work out. I didn't want to waste the energy of the relationship living in constant conflict.

Basically acceptance is influenced by trust issues in the relationship, and the willingness of the partner in their desire to understand. It is complicated by fear of the unknown, intolerance of diversity, and some past attitudes. Talking

helps, doing hateful things to each other doesn't (since talking with others, I've heard stories of unkindnesses that I *wish* were incredible). A support group like Cross-Port helps, too. Sometimes you're too close to a situation to make sense of it. Perhaps the person who cross-dresses explaining it to their partner isn't all that sure of themselves to start with (remember the guilt, the purging of throwing out clothes, the self promises some of you have been through?)

A support group helps because you find out your loved one isn't the only person in the world who does this, and you meet others with varying degrees of self acceptance -- some with quite high self esteem, and most having a lot of fun at the meeting, which is contagious. Once I got to know some of the personalities involved (in Cross-Port's case I should say characters!) I've come to look forward to the meetings to see friends -- something I never ever imagined happening at the beginning of this journey of learning. Actually, when I first found out, I didn't think it was the beginning of anything but perhaps the end. Good thing I'm not right about everything or I would have missed so much.

Book Review

by Rupert Raj

TRANSVESTISM: A Phenomenon Misunderstood,
Jennifer Constance Darling, 1988.

Over-Priced (at \$12 for a 28 page "book"), the author (a male cross-dresser) presents a philosophical argument -- unsubstantiated by clinical observations, literature review, historical or sociological perspectives, statistical data or empirical evidence of any kind -- that "the Transvestite" or "Extrasexual" is a social anomaly who is in a transitional stage of human sexuality. The true goal of which (whether society knows it or not) is Androgyny and, as a direct result, has advanced development as a species, evolving from Homo Sapiens to "Homo Contentus".

Not really a new theory, the concept of "Extrasexual" (in which Darling lumps together Nudists, Transvestites, Transsexuals, Bisexuals and Hermaphrodites), is reminiscent of Edward Carpenter's 19th century "Uranians" or the more modern-day "Androgynes", "Pansexuals" or "Humansexuals". (This term I personally prefer as nominative because, to me, both "hetero-" and "homosexual" are meaningless labels.) She defines "Extrasexual" (E/S) as "any person whose zone of

sexual interest and sense of identity exceeds the physical limits of their form." (pg. 9).

The writer emphasizes that "the Transvestite" (who she says should more accurately be called a "Transformite" -- referring to the phenomenon of a higher consciousness -- that is, oneness, wholeness, unity, harmony, integrity -- struggling to evolve in the individual), is a being set apart from either the "Heterosexual" or "the Gay". She is especially critical of the latter:

"Across the centuries, it has been the Homosexual, with his irresponsible disregard for the proprieties of social order and his passion for promiscuity that has given all sexuality its bad name." (pg. 24).

It is noteworthy that although the author does make minor mention of the female transvestite -- who has the "desire to be strong, courageous and daring" and who is "trying to solve the problem of a penis" -- the real subject of the book is, without a doubt, the male cross-dresser -- who is "motivated to be pretty and feminine."

Daring states that it has taken 50,000 years of squandered humanity to assemble her picture of the Transvestite/Extrasexual, and she cites the Kama Sutra (the ancient "Hindu Book of Love") as a guide for human sexual behavior that comes closest to comprehending Humankind's true sexuality.

This reviewer would not recommend this "treatise" (which the author says is a fragment of a larger work that she "rushed into print due to the nature of the findings and their potential value to the Transvestite.") to the sex researcher, helping professional or to the significant others of cross-dressers. Nor does he believe that it can offer much in the way of edification for the transvestite himself. Notwithstanding this he does laud the effort Darling makes to improve the self-image of male transvestites and androgynes. Regrettably however, her good intentions do not translate into a piece of work that has any substantial redeeming value.

Transvestism: A Phenomenon Misunderstood is available from: Chemin-Chemin, Box 16892, So. Lake Tahoe, CA 95706-0892.

From our Readers

Dear Ladies --

I'd like to thank Michelle for letting all us girls here in Dayton know about the Suggestive Some-Things Boutique in the March InnerView. I took her advice and checked it out. I can vouch for her description of Barb Bailey as one super lady.

She treated me as an old friend and made sure that her assistant, Judy, had met me. I have since been there a second time and both times was treated with the utmost respect and they even helped me with sizes.

Keep up the good work.

-- Rhonda

According to a story sent to us from the National Enquirer, a judge in Wales, Great Britain, has awarded custody of a divorced couple's three children to the former father. What makes this particular story interesting is that the former father is a transsexual and has been living full time as a woman since 1984.

Toni Hamilton-Smith, the winner of the two year long custody battle was awarded custody of a son 13 and two daughters ages 8 and 5. Apparently a big deciding factor in the case was the fact that the mother had already allowed the children to live with Toni for a year before deciding that she wanted them back. This gave Toni the advantage of having a proven track record of child caring before going into court, something few individuals in her position are able to have. Another important factor in the case was that the children all chose living with Toni as being preferable to living with their mother.

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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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 cross-dressers, transsexuals and their family and friends.



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It is the wishes of Christine Jorgensen's family that this fund assist in the implementation of transsexual education objectives, and all other transsexual issues which may be presented.

This fund will assist in the publication of J2CP's 'Legal Aspects of Transsexualism', Jenny Stevens' 'how to' book on transition, and other publications still in the planning stage.

Contributions may be sent to: IFGE, P.O.Box 367, Wayland, MA 01778.

Recognition of contributions will be made to the Christine Jorgensen family, and, unless otherwise specified, published in the TV-TS Tapestry Journal.

At the convention on this year in San Francisco, the IFGE Congress of Representatives became official.

The idea of a Congress got started at the second convention. The Congress was to be made up of one representative from each group from around the world. Each representative would work as a liaison between her group and IFGE.

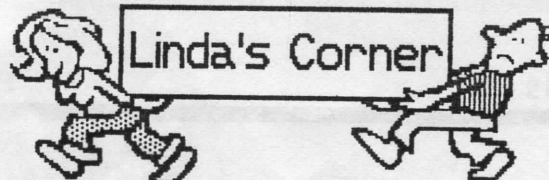
Through much work of Olivia Jensen (Transvesties Au Montreal), an informal communications network of 25 representatives was formed. (By the way, I was one of those.) By the time the 3rd convention was held in San Francisco, the number had swollen to 52. However, the group still had no official status, no clear cut responsibilities, and no operating procedure. The convention staff concluded that the single most important thing that could be accomplished at the convention was the official formation, description, and recognition of the IFGE Congress of Representatives.

That week, on Thursday night, representatives from 27 separate organizations, got together on that project, and saw it through to resolution. It was an extraordinary display of cooperative effort unprecedented in the history of the gender community.

On Sunday, the IFGE Board of Directors approved the proposal and the Congress of Representatives became reality.

So from now on, you will receive all official IFGE information as it is released, by way of my report.

I plan to keep everyone informed about happenings in our own group to IFGE, and in turn will keep you up to date about them.



As most of you read this, I will be in Chicago at the "Be All" weekend. I only plan on being there for half a day on Friday, and all of Saturday. Of course I would love to be there for the entire time, but a lack of time and money, will cut it short. At least the "Be All" is always within a reasonable driving distance from Cincinnati.

I'll be bringing my whole family with me again this year, but this time no one seems to be bothered by that, like they were last year.

This year will probably set a record for the largest group of crossdressers ever to assemble for a single function. The "Be All" organizers always try to get everyone to sign up early, but like so many other functions like this, many people come and sign up at the last minute or the day it begins.

Last Saturday I spoke with Naomi from Chi-Chapter (host group) and she said they already had 230 people signed up for Saturday night. That's 30 more than the banquet room holds. At that rate, they could probably fill two rooms.

Of course, when I get back, I will give you an update on what's new on the local and national TV/TS scene.

I have just read the first newsletter from the new group that has recently formed in Columbus. They are calling themselves the Crystal Club. Their newsletter is called the Crystal Chronicle. They plan to meet the fourth Saturday of each month.

A girl whom I worked with a few years back when trying to form a group, named Yvonne [redacted], is getting credit for helping to get the girls organized.

They do have an annual membership dues of \$15.00, and they plan on charging a meeting dues fee of \$15.00 each person. I hope a few of

our girls can make it up to one of their meetings to help them out, and welcome them to a ever growing list of new groups throughout the country

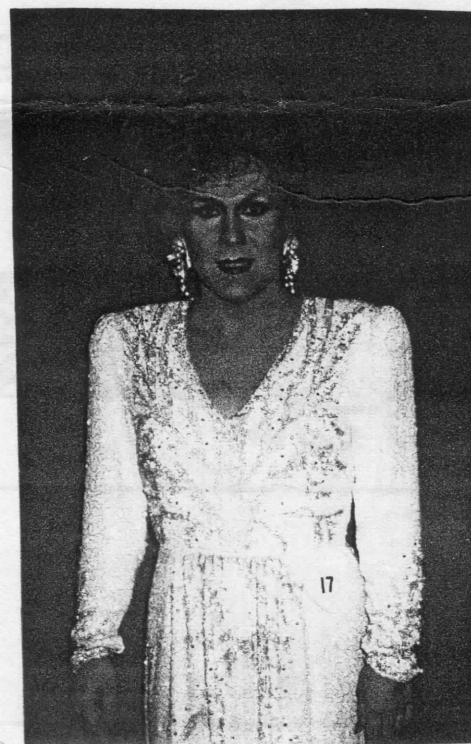
If you would like to contact them, write to:

The Crystal Club
P.O. Box 287
Reynoldsburg, Ohio
43068-0287

If you like to get out in public to strut your stuff, you might look into The Subway. The bar at 609 Walnut St. in downtown Cincinnati, now has 3-4 drag shows each month. They also offer after hours breakfast on Fri. & Sat. nights, and a Sunday buffet at 7pm. Their phone # is 421 1294. Everyone is welcome.

The Copa also still has shows plus a talent night if you care to take part. ph.# 861-3966

Speaking of the "Copa", I got a chance a few months ago to attend the Miss Gay Cincinnati Pageant there. The winner was Windy Martin who lives here in town, and has been on the drag scene for as long as I can remember. I wish her the best of luck in the Miss Gay Ohio contest.

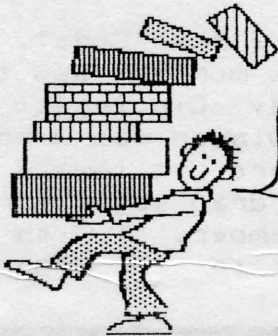
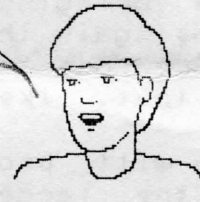


Bee All Weekend?

by Linda

The Chicago Zoo
presents
the annual
"Be All"
this weekend
at the
TOWN PLAZA HOTEL

I was planning
on going to that.
I guess I better
start getting
ready.

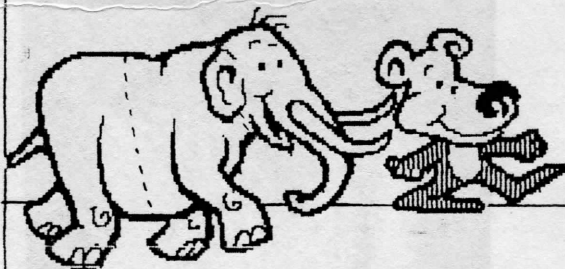


I hope this
is enough to
last me until
the weekend's
over



We'll that's it.
I've tried it all
on, and it fits
great. I feel like
a woman, and this
weekend, I'll be
just another
girl like all the
others.

Welcome Zoo members



Something tells
me that I'm in the
wrong
hotel



Prizes will be
awarded at
10 PM.

