

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 54657, Cincinnati, OH 45254

The next meeting is October 21 at 8:00pm

A New View

by Elaine

There were 41 ladies at the meeting last month. This is a very good turn out. We wish to thank the ladies from the Crystal Club who came to the meeting. We also hope the new people who came had a good time and we hope to see them again this month.

We still don't know when the new place is going to open there is a sign on the door that says "opening soon" but as yet we don't know how soon. We took a vote at the last meeting of those ladies who wish to stay at the Golden Lion or to petition the new place to let us go there when it opens. The vote was in favor of going to the new place.

I am in excellent spirits as we are approaching my favorite time of the year. Halloween is my favorite time of the year. Doubly so for me as it is the anniversary of the first time I left my apartment fully dressed as Elaine. Before I used to get everything and either go to Joyce's to put on everything or I

would put on everything but my hair and slip some pants on over my skirt and a trench coat and race to my car. Boy am I glad I don't have to do that any more. I also look forward to all the parties that occur at this time or year.

I would also like to point out to you who would like to write articles, but can't seem to find the time to come over to my apartment with it may now download it to my system. If you give me a call ahead of time to turn it on. My number is (513) 528-4980. You have to have a modem to do this. Thank you for your support!

MOM'S CLOSET

by: Gina P.

Dear CrossPort,

I've finally got the courage to discuss my crossdressing with my mother. And to my surprise she was not upset about it. I feared that by me telling her, she would disown me, and never talk to me again. First thing I did was start a conversation about my childhood, asking was there anything out of the ordinary that she noticed while I was growing up. She said not to

her knowledge, so I said, "Here, look at these pictures." She looked and said, "So, there's nothing strange about these pictures. Who is she, one of your old girlfriends? (I'm married). I laughed and said, "C'mon, Mom, don't you know who 'she' is?" She looked again and said, "No, I don't think I've ever seen her before."

I said, "Mom, that girl in those pictures is actually me!" She said, "No way! She's too pretty to be a man, much less YOU!" So, I said, "Mom, wait here. I'll be right back." I went home and changed and came back. I knocked on the door and when she answered, she said, "You're the girl in these pictures. My son, Jerry, was just here talking about it being him." I said, "Mom, it IS me." Her mouth dropped, she was silent for about 15 seconds, then she said, "Wow, it IS you!"

We sat and talked over coffee and she asked me everything imaginable. Then she went to her closet and pulled out seven outfits and asked me to put them on so she could take more pictures. This lasted about two hours and we both had a great time. Here all along the one person I feared would reject me, has turned out to be my biggest supporter.

After the fun we had that day, I told her my biggest regret was that I didn't tell her sooner. Now "Gina" not only has a new best friend, but also a new wardrobe.

Love, Gina

P.S. I'll bring my pictures to the next meeting to show.

INSIGHT #44

by:Barbara Jean

Hello girls, this is Barbara back with some more insight. Last month I said that we would address the issue of fear this month, the fear that we must overcome in order to tell our wives or girlfriends of our feminine side.

What is fear? Well Webster's defines it as painful emotions excited by apprehension of impending danger.

Fear is a rather strange thing. Many of us have been in combat, W.W. II, Korea, Viet Nam, or Dessert Storm; yes we were afraid, and I think it was because of that fear that we were able to return. It prevented us from letting down our guard.

But the fear that we faced in combat or any other dangerous situation just cannot compare to the fear that we face in telling our wives, our girlfriends, our parents our..... about our crossdressing. What is worst is the fact that our fear is self perpetuating, it is our fear itself that keeps us from overcoming our fear.

What is there too fear in telling someone of our femside. We fear

hurt on their part, rejection and ridicule. The rejection and ridicule I think is what makes the fear of telling so uniquely different from any other fear that we may experience.

Any of you who have been thru a divorce know the pain that is felt. I think it is a pain that is most similar to that which we fear will occur in telling that someone close about our femside. We desire love, and we desire to be loved, and we fear that we will lose that love that we cherish and desire.

Ridicule, our society has not yet fully come to accept the idea of men dressing as women. We fear becoming the butt of the town gossip. Many of us are in a professional position and we fear that the ridicule will lead to loss of social and financial status. We fear being looked upon as someone less than normal.

It is these things we fear that makes overcoming our fear so difficult, and yet we **MUST** overcome our fear of fear if we are to overcome that which we fear.

What is worst is that our fear causes us much mental anguish. As crossdressers we are people very strong in feelings. The inability to share those feelings with those we love, the need to keep those feelings secret, places an extra heavy burden on our mind.

How much easier would it be to overcome our fear if we could reasonably predict the outcome from telling someone about our femside. If we could gauge the

persons reaction, then we have a reasonable idea as to if that person will accept. The major problem here is that our fear has already caused us to make biased prediction against telling the one we love. In order to make a reasonable prediction we must put aside that bias, and become observers.

There are a number of ways we can use to gauge a persons reaction. One way would be to watch some of the talk shows like Sally Jessie Rafial, or Jenny Jones and then to discuss the topic of the show with the person that we wish to tell about ourselves. By discussing topics other than that of crossdressing, we do not tend to lead suspicion as to our motive for the discussion, and tends to give us an idea of that persons attitude to all people of difference. If there is reason to believe that a person will be acceptant of crossdressing, it is that they are open minded enough to accept people of all differences.

Another tool that we may employ are things like dressing for events like Halloween or Mardi Gras, or crossdressing for bedtime fun. Of course these kind of things can only be done if you are one know to do things just to be somewhat silly at times. If you are one who is always serious, never doing anything just for a laugh, then there will be cause for suspicion.

How well educated is your wife? It has been found that the better educated a woman is the more likely she is to accept your femside, but at the same time, many women who have an average or less than average education have

been just as accepting. My own wife has never completed high school and yet she is very accepting and sometimes even helpful.

We must of course be mindful of the "this kind of thing only happens to other people, never in our family" concept. This is the big shock, and the deeper we are into the relationship with a wife/girlfriend, the bigger the shock. With parents there may be the tendency for self blame, a desire to know what **THEY** did wrong. Children pose another problem which will be discussed in a near future column. For the time being let us concentrate on telling the wife/girlfriend.

Perhaps the biggest factor in determining if a wife or girlfriend will accept will be the condition of the relationship. **IT MUST BE ON SOUND FOOTING!** While things like ultra conservatism, personal bias, religious and family upbringing will play against us, if the relationship is sound and there is nothing that would make her otherwise consider ending the relationship, then the chance of acceptance is far greater than the chance of rejection. If there are others problems in the relationship, then **THESE MUST BE RESOLVED BEFORE THE INJECTION OF ANOTHER CRACK!**

Of utmost importance also will be your attitude **AS A MAN** towards women and women's rights. Do you help in the house, do you encourage your wife to be all that she can be, how well could you accept the concept of her being the major bread winner in the

household? If you do not consider her to be truly equal to you, then there is little likelihood that she will accept your femininity. Your chances of being accept really are dependent on how you treat her, not only as a wife, but as a person. If you have always treated her as an equal, than you really have nothing to fear, but if you have treated her second class, then how can she understand your desire to be like one that you consider to be of a lower class of being than you consider yourself to be?

How should we tell our wives? The operative word here is **GENTLE**. While no matter how we opt to tell there will be shock, we should do all that we can to invoke as little shock as possible. I myself prefer the idea of a letter. The written word allows us to think out our exact wording beforehand, and we are unhampered by questions or the shock of the person we are telling. However this is not the only method, use what is comfortable for you.

What should we say? Here compassion and concern for her, and our own education as to why we crossdress will be the rule. Of utmost importance will be that we also convey our feeling of love for the wife/girlfriend, **AND THAT OUR LOVE FOR HER IS UNCONDITIONAL** to her acceptance.

We must recognize that our wives also have fears. Her first and biggest fear that she will have in finding our about our femside is that we are gay or that we are planning a sex change. She will view our crossdressing as a threat

to the security of her marriage, and one which she will have no weapon that she can fight back with. We must calm this fear, and show her that our being crossdressers does not mean we plan to leave her for another man or to becoming a woman ourselves.

If we are to have any hope of her accepting our femside, we must show her that our femininity is an extension of who we are, and is what makes us the person that we are. As I have said before, to me femininity represents gentleness, it means being compassionate and concerned, loving and kind, and above all caring about others. Are we this when we are dressed as males? If not, it will be difficult to show her that our crossdressing is a tool used to improve our personality, to make us the type of husband that she can be proud of being married to.

She will fear that her children will also be crossdressers and she will fear her own rejection by friends and family. These are also issue that will have to be addressed eventually, but they are not the major concern at this time.

There are a number of good books on the market today that will help your wife to better understand this phenomenon of crossdressing. Having one or all of them prior to telling the wife is highly recommended. At the end of this column I will provide you with a list of those books and where to obtain them from.

In the end I think the real tool to eliminating our fear of telling our wives or girlfriends of our feminine side is self education.

Educate ourselves about our own crossdressing and our need to crossdress, and most important educate ourselves about our wives. Learn her feelings, and learn her fears. Once we know her feelings and her fears, we can prepare ourselves to address those feelings and fears. Perhaps the one biggest thing that will be done in telling our wives/girlfriends about our crossdressing is that we will further open the lines of communications between our wives and ourselves. Once we open those lines completely, we will be able to discuss the issue without fear.

Well that is all for this month. Do take care and be good to yourself. YOU are worth it. I love each and every one of you girls. Now below are some good books to use in aiding your telling your wife of your femside and where and how to obtain them. I highly recommend all of them for your own personal library.

MY HUSBAND WEARS MY CLOTHES

By: Dr. Peggy Rudd Ed.D.
P.M. Publications
P.O. Box 5304
Katy TX. 77491-5304

THE TRANSVESTITE AND HIS WIFE

By: Charles Virginia Prince PhD
Chevilier Publications
P.O. Box 194
Tulare Ca. 93275

COPING WITH CROSSDRESSING

By: JoAnn Roberts Ph.D
CDS
P.O. Box 1263
King of Prussia Pa. 19406

CROSSDRESSING WITH DIGNITY

By: Dr. Peggy Rudd Ed.D
P.M. Publications
P.O. Box 5304
Katy Tx. 77491-5304

WIVES PARTNERS & OTHERS

A collection of articles
I.F.G.E.
P.O. Box 367
Wayland Ma. 01778

Publication Notice
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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.

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Discrimination has been with us for a long time. The faces have changed, but the meaning stays the same. Each time discrimination occurs we wish we had done something to stop it. Now is the time to say NO.

Issue 3 is Discrimination.

On November 2nd, Cincinnatians will vote on Issue 3. The Issue proposes making a permanent change to our City's charter — our constitution. Approving Issue 3 would prohibit the City from enforcing the law of equal opportunity for all of its citizens. It will permanently prevent the City from passing laws to provide equality for all. Specifically, Issue 3 promotes discrimination against gay, lesbian, and bisexual people. No group should ever be singled out for discrimination.

Issue 3 is a concern of all who believe in fairness and equality. It is time to stand up and protect the rights that belong to everyone. We must vote NO on Issue 3.

Discrimination is Wrong.

There is a group of fervent Cincinnati citizens drawn together by the common belief that only they know what is right for the rest of us. They are hard at work, trying to impose their view of Cincinnati on us. And it's not a pretty picture. This right-wing extremist group operates with the deceptive name of Equal Rights Not Special Rights. They are manipulated by Citizens for Community Values, an organization whose long history of repression has harassed Cincinnati. Its effort here is one link in a chain of oppression being promoted and financed by people outside of our city. An amendment similar to Issue 3 passed statewide in Colorado last year and at least a dozen more initiatives are set to be on the ballots in other cities and states in 1993 and 1994. We must not let Cincinnati be another test case in their hate-filled strategy.

Using scare tactics, lies, and distortions, they are asking Cincinnatians to support discrimination against gays, lesbians, and bisexuals. They are trying to divide our community at a time when our nation should be pulling together. Issue 3 is a threat to everyone. It promotes a kind of discrimination that comes from another place and another time. We know from history how dangerous this can be. Discrimination is wrong. We must vote NO on Issue 3.

We Will Not Tolerate Discrimination.

Equality Cincinnati/No on 3 is a diverse coalition of people and groups committed to fairness in our city. We are from every political party, every religious denomination, and every ethnic background. We are men and women, gay and straight, people of all colors, young and old, rich and poor, able-bodied and disabled, labor and management, and everyone in between. We are business people, clergy, students, homemakers, and retirees. And we are all united in our opposition to Issue 3. It is of grave concern to all of us. Join with thousands of responsible Cincinnatians working to maintain equality for everyone.

Issue 3 promotes discrimination. If it passes, the only question left will be "Who is next?"

We've been here before and we know better. Discrimination is wrong. There is no room for it in our city.

Vote No Never Again

On Issue 3

Paid for by Equality Cincinnati PAC, P.O. Box 271, Cincinnati, Ohio 45201, R. Buchanan, Treasurer, (513) 541-8000

CULTURAL DIVERSITY or HUMAN SEXUALITY

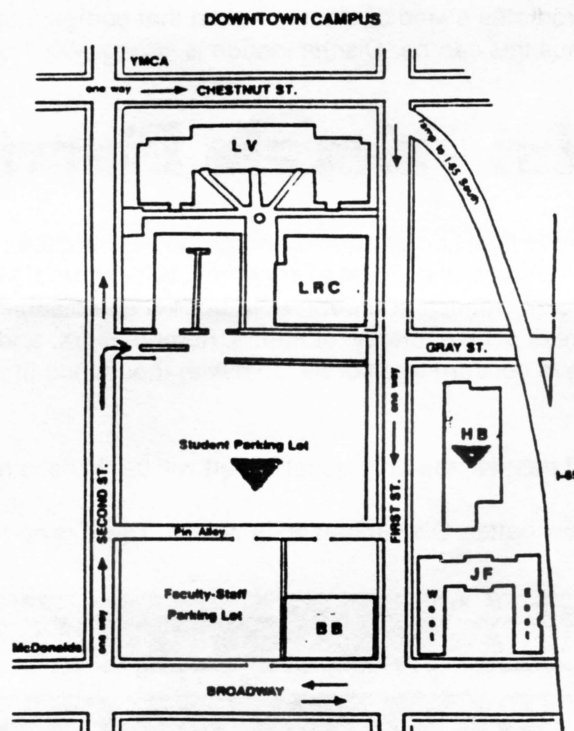
The *Louisville Gender Society* in cooperation
with *Jefferson Community College*

would like to announce a lecture and presentation
by the well-known sexual reassignment surgeon

Doctor Eugene Schrang

Saturday October 16, 1993
6:30 PM - 8:30 PM

In the Basement of the **HB Building** (Rooms 006 & 008)
at 1st and Grey on the Downtown Campus of J.C.C.



For more info : **Barbara** [REDACTED] or **Lori** [REDACTED]