

Cross-Port InnerView

P.O. Box 12701, Cincinnati, OH 45212

The next meeting is August 17 at 8:00

A New View

by Cathy

Well, Linda and I were quite surprised at the turnout at the July meeting. Christopher's was filled by thirty-four people who came to the Cross-Port meeting. For a hot and sticky month, it is good to see that many out and about. With the last two meetings pushing hard to get more than twenty, we didn't expect that many until October. On top of that, we had *five* new faces in the crowd. Welcome to all of you.

During the meeting, the main discussion concerned the Cross-Port phone situation. Historically, the phone has been very important in that Cross-Port is one of the few groups in the country which provides a "hot line" support for those who need help now. Heather has been providing this support by herself as long as Cross-Port has been in existence.

Heather has studied more than anyone else in Cross-Port the reasons behind why we do what we do and has an extensive library of research and outreach material to back her up. This and several years of speaking at educational and public forums makes her extremely hard to replace.

The other main topic of discussion was brought up by Dana who came in from Indianapolis. She had with her several issues of the *New Works News*, a gay newspaper published out of Indianapolis. The headline of that publication read **INDY BARS BAR DRAG**.

According to *NWN*, since the closure of the 21 Club and G G's (formerly the largest gay bars in Indianapolis), the drag queens, transvestites and transsexuals who would hang out there began frequenting some of the smaller gay bars. Three

of these bars, Our Place, Jimmy's and the Varsity had all come up with new dress codes which effectively ban cross-dressers from entering. According to bar management, this discrimination was started because of complaints from "regular" customers.

The newspaper came out strongly against the discrimination and also published letters to the editor from IXE by Kerry Gean, Sharon Allyn and Bobbi Alyson which outlined the forms the discrimination took. The newsletter also sent a reporter to attend the regular IXE meeting to get a better idea of what cross-dressing is all about. Thank you *New Works News!* We all appreciate your stand. We also congratulate IXE for the strong public stand they have taken.

Fortunately, Cincinnati is blessed with a group called the Greater Cincinnati Gay/Lesbian Coalition (GCGLC). This group goes a long way to relieve the stresses which spring up between various factions of the gay community. Cross-Port is a member of GCGLC and has been almost since we began. With their help, what has happened in Indianapolis will never occur in Cincinnati. Susan Lovelace is our representative to GCGLC and Heather is the alternate.

Speaking of Susan, at the last meeting she mentioned to me that she would like to create an activities committee which would organize events in which Cross-Port members could participate. For those of you who have been wanting new and different things to do (including weekend gatherings), this is your chance. Write us here at the P.O. Box and we will pass your names and how you can be reached to Susan.

Our newsletter is getting around. Both Alpha Omega and the Crystal Club reprinted the article Guess What! from our April issue in their newsletters, and the open letter from the ex-wife in Indianapolis is appearing in the editorial

section of the next *Tapestry*. Linda's cartoons have also popped up in a few places, such as the last issue of *Tapestry*. It's nice to know that word gets around. Thanks ladies!

My company sent me to Dallas, TX earlier this month. I had written to the Tri-Ess chapter in Dallas and while they had no plans to get together during the time I was visiting, they did give me a contact name and phone number of one of their members.

I had been a little bent out of shape at the accommodations, having been booked into a Holiday Inn by the client I was visiting. These places are fine if you have a car, but I didn't have a car (which also ticked me off a tad).

Anyway, I made contact with Tina when I got down there and she gave me the names of a couple of places to go. The real shocker came when after I told her where I was staying, she informed me that the motel where I was staying was where their group holds their monthly meetings! That was the last time I bitched about the accommodations. We tried to make arrangements to go out together but were unable to make connections.

I have to admit that travelling by taxi across a town I'd never visited to go to a bar I'd never seen in a neighborhood I knew nothing about by myself was a bit too heavy for me to handle. Especially since the lounge where I was staying was an OK place to hang out. I opted for the easy way out and hit the lounge where I was staying. In return I met some interesting people.

Probably the most interesting was a guy who said he was an apparel salesman (men's apparel unfortunately). He read me relatively quickly (said my profile gave me away), and that was what prompted him to come over and talk to me. First he wanted to know if I was TS and when I told him no, he had a lot of questions about being TV. Seems that occasionally, very rarely, he got off on wearing women's... you get the picture. After a while he even asked me if I thought he could "pass".

The second best part about this conversation was that he wouldn't let me pay for any of my drinks. My expense account and I both appreciated it. The best part, however, was when I went to the rest room. Seems that the bartender's daughter got a bit worried about this guy, and while I was gone informed him that I wasn't "really a girl". She seemed a bit confused when her "revelation" didn't phase him. All in all, Texas worked out OK for Cathy.

Cross-Port Finances

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

Beginning Balance as of July Newsletter:	\$906.64
July Expenses:	
Phone:	\$19.00
Printing Charges:	\$52.75
Envelopes & Stamps:	\$26.13
Bank Charges:	\$ 1.05
Total Expenses:	<u>\$98.93</u>
June Incomes:	
Meeting Collection:	\$83.50
Dues, Etc.:	\$45.00
Donations:	\$9.87
Total Income:	<u>\$138.37</u>
Ending Balance as of August 10:	\$946.08

We also mailed three intro packets this month.

Rest Room Dilemma

by Jeaninne

As cross-dressers we have all read, heard or experienced the problem of which rest room can or should we use when in public. An incident occurred while I was attending the recent Be-All '89 in Chicago which is worth sharing with my sisters. I'm usually on the lookout for the more humorous aspects of life, especially when I'm wearing a skirt. I guess it's the natural feeling of being more carefree and lighthearted when cross-dressed.

About 150 of us girls attended a Thursday evening dinner playhouse as one of the scheduled Be-All events. Even with so many of us there, the majority of the patrons were made up of typical couples. We had previously been advised that with so many G.G.s in the audience, we were to use a specific ladies room located in a more remote part of the lobby rather than the main rest room in order to minimize any potential problems.

As intermission time arrived, I gathered my purse in hand and headed for the prescribed ladies room. Upon arrival I was greeted by a rather long line of my sister C.D.s waiting their turn in the aisle and lobby near the rest rooms. There was both a mens and a ladies room side by side so our girls were using both in alternating

fashion, depending on where a vacancy next occurred.

After waiting my place in line a few minutes, a rather attractive GG approached the ladies room and was courteously informed by one of our group that several cross-dressers were inside. She seemed more amused by this than disturbed, and with a smile replied "OK, if you guys can use the ladies room why can't I use the mens room?" With that, she promptly entered the mens room (which was also filled with cross-dressers)

While we were still chuckling (better yet, giggling) about this situation, who should arrive on the scene but a very nice, sweet little old man who simply wished to make a routine visit to the mens room as he had a thousand times before, without incident. However, one of our sisters politely stopped him short of the door and informed him "There's a real woman in the mens room -- would you be kind enough to wait until she comes out?" Although understandably surprised and somewhat confused, he was very sweet and agreeable about it and waited until the real lady emerged, although he did shake his head a few times and ask "You're sure you're not kidding me?"

After the older gentleman finally entered the rest room, a younger more brusque man approached the mens room just as two cross-dressers were coming out. He took a quick surprised look and remarked "What the hell is this, a co-ed rest room?" He quickly mellowed however and became quite amiable, possibly because he was greatly outnumbered by our bevy of Amazonian beauties.

Can We Talk!

by Heather Peerson

Well, after a couple of months off I have returned and all the news is good. As Cathy reported last month, I started a new job the day after Memorial Day. I am once again working with computers and making the kind of money I was one year ago and I am doing it as me (Heather). I was only on the job about three weeks when I had to go to our San Francisco office for a week, which is why I was not at the last meeting.

I am also writing for the Transsexual Voice and what little time I have had to write I spent doing articles for that publication. As part of my agreement with Phoebe my articles on

"Transsexual Issues:" will appear first in the Transsexual Voice then in InnerView.

On top of all that I have moved into my own place. My new phone number will be given out to any one who calls the old Cross-Port number for about two more months. After that I will not be taking calls directly for Cross-Port so, if you want to reach me get the number now by calling. I don't plan to publish it as a Cross-Port number and it is not to be listed in publications.

Those of you who have been following my work history know that one year ago I was fired for dress code violations at my old job because I wore a skirt suit to work. I applied for Unemployment Compensation from the state of Ohio and received it until it ran out in December. Shortly after that I received a notice that the company had filed a request for reconsideration. In February I had to appear before a state review board. I was represented by a person from Legal Aid. If I lost I would be required to repay the state all the money I received.

In June I received my Decision. The following is an excerpt from that decision. I am printing it here for two reasons. First it is a positive step forward for transsexuals in Ohio and second it is one of the best written non biased statements I have read.

Statement of the Facts.

In January, 1988 the claimant informed the employer that he had been under treatment with a psychiatrist and the recommended course of treatment was for the claimant to do, or work at doing, a gender transition, from male to female. The claimant informed the employer that he would begin to assume the outward appearance of a female by clothing changes, use of cosmetics and jewelry, etc. The claimant assured the employer that what he was doing was not for immoral or illegal purposes, but part of a recommended regimen for mental health.

The employer was not pleased with the situation because of the effect the claimant's actions might have on the remainder of the work force, both office and plant. The claimant was told that he would continue to use the "mens" room at the work place and he was told that dresses and skirts would not be tolerated.

The situation of the claimant's continued work and the progression of the more feminine life style proceeded without any major incident. On May 31, 1988, the claimant was notified, toward the end of the work shift, that the blouse and slacks outfit worn that day was not acceptable because the blouse was of such

material that any observer could ascertain that the claimant was wearing a brassiere. The claimant was sent home before the end of the shift and told to change clothes, but since the shift was almost over the claimant was not expected to return to work that day

Claimant was ill the next two days and the employer was properly notified and the absence was excused for illness. On June 3, 1988, the claimant reported for work wearing a skirt, which was part of a feminine business suit. The claimant was dismissed for alleged insubordination and disruptive behavior

The Decision:

The employer presented no probative evidence to establish any disruption of a magnitude which would justify taking someone's livelihood from that person. The claimant's activities did not go unnoticed, however, nothing major occurred. The claimant did disobey the employer's prohibition concerning the wearing apparel, however the clothes which the claimant wore were not unreasonable or unsuitable for the work place. The dress code which the employer established just for the claimant was unreasonable and the claimant's violation of this specific code did not constitute misconduct in connection with the work, which would justify the suspension of the claimant's unemployment compensation benefit rights.

Under Ohio Law the company had the right to fire me even if it was unjust but this decision does say that at least in some of the cases, the company will have to pay for that right. It shows that as far as unemployment compensation is concerned, the company should have taken into account that this was an approved medical condition and that the fear of the company that "there might be trouble" was not just grounds for dismissal.

This I feel is a major step toward the day when the laws will also protect us from discrimination. If I had it to do over again I would handle it in the same manner however, each of you must decide the best course of action for you at your work place if you should decide to move in the same direction.

It has been a rough year. It has required a strength that I received only from the conviction that I am a woman no matter what anyone else says or feels and that I have a right to live as such even if the laws don't protect that right.

I feel I got my job because I was willing to go out and interview even when it seemed hopeless just for the experience and as a means of

building my own confidence. I am sure there were times I was laughed at or that people made fun of me, but I always walked away with my head high, proud to be a woman

Arlena's (New) Jewel Box

by Arlena Maria Starchild

I am in the process of setting up a sub-board on "The Cosmic Express" computer bulletin board system, 317-685-8437. My new sub-board, "Arlena's Jewel Box" will be in full operation starting July 14, 1989.

For the time being, this sub-board will be closed to the general public. It will be open to all cross-dressers, not just members of IXE. This sub-board will act as a clearing house for information concerning cross-dressing. It will also offer the exchange of both public and private messages of sisters who have access to the system.

The main topic for discussion on the public message base will be all of the various aspects of our cross-dressing. Every sister will have the ability to express her personal views about her cross-dressing. The listing of the feminine names and mailing addresses of sisters who wish to correspond will be another feature of the sub-board. It will be similar to the personal listings offered by the TV-TS Tapestry Journal and some other publications. This feature will allow the listing of special interests. Any explicit sexual content will be limited to the private 'E-mail' message base.

For a sister to gain access to my sub-board she will have to become a full subscriber to "The Cosmic Express BBS". This will cost only \$2.00 per month with a three month minimum. There will not be any charge for access to my sub-board after the subscription fee of \$6.00 is paid. My complete feminine name "Arlena Maria Starchild" must be used as a reference in a message to the sysop before access will be allowed.

From our Readers

Dear Cathy;

I certainly enjoyed my first meeting with the group in July. While I was very nervous, everyone quickly put me at ease and I truly had a wonderful evening. The opportunity to be out

in public dressed and to socialize with other people who have similar interests was something I never thought I would ever experience. I can hardly wait until the next meeting.

Looking forward to seeing you and all the Cross-Port girls again next month.

-- Dianne

Diane, that's why we are here. I had the same feelings my first time to a Cross-Port meeting, which was also my first time "out" period. Looking forward to seeing you again too and everyone else, new or old
Cathy

Dear Cathy,

In my original membership application there was a question regarding whether Saturday would be a better meeting night than Thursday. It sure would help me if the girls got together at least sometimes on the weekends as I could stay over instead of having to drive the long miles back home.

Also, I read in an issue of the InnerView that "The Thing" shop was a good place to shop. Could a brief explanation of where they are and what they carry possibly be included in a future issue of the InnerView? Other cooperative stores could be included. I have been to the "Suggestive Some-Thing", they are very nice and helpful but it is a small store and they only carry Frederick's type of intimates.

Hope to see you soon

-- Donna

Saturdays would be nice. I always have to be in "at the office" no later than 8AM on Fridays and being able to sleep in would be a big plus. One problem is that there is no place willing to give up that much space on the weekend. Christopher's has been great in that Cross-Port has never been charged a dime for all the meetings that have been held there, even though we take up half the bar.

We try very hard to keep the costs down for those who attend the meetings. We ask for a donation with \$3.00 being suggested although many times people donate more, less or not at all, depending on their financial situation. It seems to work. In June we had about 24 people attend and in July, 34 attended. The Paradise Club had 24 attendees in June and 22 in July, the Crystal Club, while still a new group had 7, and Alpha Omega had 9 in June and 12 in July. I'm not saying that what we do is better than these other clubs, I'm merely including them as reference. We seem to be doing things OK.

The Thing Shop is in Newport, KY at 811 Monmouth Street. The phone number is (606) 431-4469. They sell a lot of stuff used by the strippers in the Greater Cincinnati area, so their in stock stuff is a lot like Frederick's too. One advantage they do have is that they will custom make any outfit for you at a reasonable cost. If you are the type to pay \$70.00 and up for something off the rack, at the Thing shop you can get the same thing sized to you for the same amount of money. All you need is a picture of the outfit. Talk to Barbara and Michelle at the next meeting. I know both of them have had outfits made there.
-- Cathy

Dear Cross-Port ettes,

Hi. Wow thanks for printing my letter. I hope in some way I am contributing to the group. Well, all is not dull here [in W Va.] About two weeks ago "Renee", her wife and myself went shopping. I got a really neat yellow dress (my first dress). Anyway that was neat. But when you get a new dress you want to go somewhere in it. Oh, well.

What is the range of ages in Cross-Port? How come the meetings are on Thursday nights? Thanks for printing the addresses of local clubs. Ok, lets turn to my idea of the Popular Science ad. Anyway, here goes

Transvestites: for friendship, advice and an organization. write: Crossport P.O. Box 12701. Cincinnati. OH 45212.

At \$9.35 a word, an amazing \$140 for that. That is a lot. But it is just an idea I've been thinking about

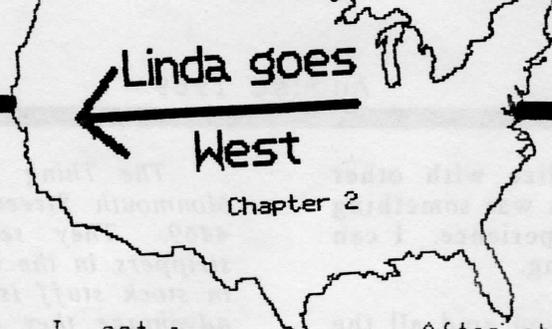
Colorfully

-- Tabettha

\$140 is, I am afraid, too much. Especially with the copier still broken down (seems our old copier repairman is broken too). That has made the cost of putting out an issue of the InnerView double. Still, thanks for the Idea, we appreciate it.

The age of Cross-Port attendees range from the early twenties to the late sixties. There is a heavy concentration in the thirties. We have talked to people younger and older but age limits people coming to meetings at a bar on both ends.

Another request for meetings on the weekend? If anyone wishes to organize something on the weekends and include the rest of us, please do! Susan has already taken the first step on page one. Cindy Lauper Rules
Eds.



While in San Francisco, I got a chance to do a little shopping. I really don't shop much when dressed, but when I'm at one of these weekends, everyone wants to, so I go along.

Before I tell you of this adventure, I want to relay something, someone who lives out there told me. He said if you come to the San Francisco area, there is less chance of passing than anywhere else. It's true that there are many strange looking people everywhere you go. In fact, there are so many, the people who live there, don't seem to react at all. The trouble is, anyone who is androgynous in either dress or actions is suspect.

If you are transsexual and wish to remain anonymous of the male gender, you better be perfect. Although people may not pay attention to you, the people can be just as prejudicial when it comes to being accepted in the work place.

Well, four of us got together to shop the best stores in San Francisco. Put four Crossdressers out on the town, and forget the thought of passing, it just don't happen. The best you can do is not to look so ridiculous the people roll on the floor laughing. I felt three of us were quite good. Unfortunately the fourth was about 6'8" in heels. She was dressed in a heavy wool skirt & top, (keep in mind that it's after Easter, and about 90 degrees outside). She had no idea how to fix her hair, or look and act like a lady. But we didn't care, we were just out for a good time.

Since we were trying to be upper class debutantes, we spent most of our time in stores where a simple outfit would run you about \$1000. We tried on clothes, fur coats, and diamond jewelry. We spent an hour at the cosmetic counters, sampling everything we could get our hands on. We left there smelling like French whores, leaving a scent a blind man could follow.

The tall gal wanted to get some shoes. We looked, but there wasn't much in size 13, so she didn't get to try any on.

After about 4 hours in heels, we all when back on the bus to our hotel.

Another time I went out with just one girl. I wore blue jeans, casual top, and tennis shoes. She also did not overdress. (she was also about 5'6") We hopped on the subway, and went downtown. Shopped a little, and then took a cable car to Chinatown. Here we had lunch which I can say was one of the best I ever had. We both had cameras and we looked just like two girlfriends on vacation. We shopped all the little stores we could find, and I can truthfully say, not one person even gave us a second look. From here we hopped on a bus. The bus requires exact change. Guess who only has a \$10 bill? I had to walk up and down the aisle asking for change while the bus was moving. Finally I found an old lady who thought I looked like her daughter (except a foot taller, and 100 lb. heavier), and she gave me the money.

The bus ride was very short. We'd gotten on the wrong one. But, the driver was nice and gave us a transfer.

The bus took us to the pier, where the group had a planned boat ride in the Bay. The excursion lasted for 2-3 hours and was very enjoyable. Although there were about 200 in the group, everyone acted like ladies, and we had completely fooled the Captin and his crew, until someone got caught in the men's room, standing in front of the urinal.

Once the boat docked, it was now time for us to find our own way back to the hotel. "What luck", I thought as I saw three of our girls grab a cab. I dashed over and jumped in, (after all a cab fare divided four ways looked good to me). Fifteen minutes later I changed my mind. They had told the driver to take them to the other side of town to do some shopping. Now I had the opportunity to pay double, and end up back at the hotel 45 min. after everyone else.

Gee, I bet I saw more back roads and alleys than anyone on the trip.